

The Simeon Spirit

SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH



March 2023

PO Box 478
Gratz, PA 17030

Celebrating Our Faith

Pastor Gregory Lindsey
Church: (717) 365-3139
Cell: (717) 521-9402

A Word from the Pastor – You will find it where the wind blows.

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. (John 3:8)

Pastor Johnny Dean shares a memory:

I remember growing up in the South, in cotton country, in the summer, before air conditioning became something almost every home had. Several of those summers I spent working on my uncle's cotton farm, down in the Mississippi delta, just outside of my birthplace, Cleveland, Mississippi. It was hot work, hard work, bringing in a cotton crop. It still is, but technology has made it a lot easier than it was back then.

When the crop had been tended for another day, the weeds chopped from between the cotton plants, in the evening everyone would gather on the front porch. We would rock and talk and laugh in a futile attempt to escape the ever-present heat and humidity. And sometimes, on a really good day, the leaves of the trees would begin to rustle. And the conversation would die down, and everyone would just sit back and enjoy the summer breeze, the gift of the breeze. We didn't know where it came from. We didn't know where it was going. But we knew it was there, because we could feel it.

I appreciate Dean's reflection. So often we trample through life completely unaware of God's presence and movement in our lives. We fill our lives with so much stuff and things to do that God goes completely unnoticed. Trust me. If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, the spirit is working its way through your comings and goings. It is up to us to sit back and enjoy the gift that is God. Once you experience it, you get hungry for it. Soon enough you find you cannot live without it. That is when you know you have arrived.

Yours in the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Pastor Greg

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY, 2023

OLD BUSINESS: AED machine has been received. Discussion was held regarding training. Tracy Bixler will contact Tim Daniel to see if he is able to assist with the training. Cleaning of the church – motion made to have Miriam Byler clean the church 2 times a month at \$50.00 each time made by Matthew Ferster and seconded by Lynn Schadle. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship and Music** – 5-week Bible study on the Women of the Bible will be held on Wednesday's during Lent at 6:30p.m. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services will be held.
2. **Parish Education**- Eggs have been ordered for the egg hunt.
3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** -Planning a meeting for March, to plan things for summer.
4. **Social Ministry** – Food Bank had 14 families in February. Received a large donation of meat and bread.
5. **Youth** – No snow tubing. Youth Sunday went well.
6. **Church Property** –Alarm system works.
7. **Budget and Finance** - Audit was completed on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.
8. **Fellowship** –Church picnic September 10, 2023, at the Gratz Park. Meeting to be scheduled in March to plan events. May 27, 2023, the Borough is having an event we may want to participate in.
9. **Mutual Ministry** – NONE.

New Business – Flag stones down by the lawn shed and the fencing need to be cleaned up. Discussion was held. Discussion was held regarding taking down the curtains that make separate space in the basement.

The Pastor's Time – 2 funerals this week. Transfiguration Sunday is coming up. Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023.

Open Discussion – None.

2023 GIVING

\$16,069.99

2023 EXPENSES

\$13,461.42

Difference between YTD Giving & YTD Expenses \$2,608.57

{For General Operating Fund}



Mark your calendars! September 10, 2023

The annual church picnic has been moved to the Gratz Park on the date above. We will be looking for some volunteers to help transport those shut-ins wishing to attend. Fun and games are in the works! Stay tuned for more updates.

“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS

March 2023

March 5 – Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

March 12– Willing Workers

March 19 – Sunset View Contractors LLC

March 26 – Deppen’s Farm Inc.

We want to thank our faithful sponsors in continuing to help with this important ministry of our church especially during these trying times. God bless you and be safe.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH

Wednesday, March 1- Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 5 – 2nd Sunday in Lent/Worship Service/ Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 8 - Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 11 - Food Bank Open, 9 -11 a.m.

Sunday, March 12 – Daylight Savings Time/ 3rd Sunday in Lent/Worship Service

Wednesday, March 15 - Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 16 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, March 17 - Newsletter Deadline/ St. Patrick’s Day

Sunday, March 19 – 4th Sunday in Lent/Worship Service

Monday, March 20 – Spring Begins

Wednesday, March 22- Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 26 – 5th Sunday in Lent/Worship Service

Wednesday, March 29 - Lenten Bible Study 6:30 pm

APRIL

Saturday, April 1- All Fool’s Day

Sunday April 2 – Palm Sunday Worship Service/Passion Sunday/Holy Communion

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Service 7pm

Saturday, April 8 - Food Bank Open, 9 -11 a.m.

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday Worship Service/Holy Communion

Sunday, April 16 - Worship Service

Thursday, April 20 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.

Friday, April 21 - Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, April 22 – Earth Day

Sunday, April 23 - Worship Service

Wednesday, April 26 – Administrative Professionals Day

Sunday, April 30 - Worship Service

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE’S

Please schedule your reorganization meeting and fill out a reorganization report that is in the conference room and return it to the office as soon as possible.

SERVING IN MARCH & APRIL

MARCH 5, 2023
2ND SUNDAY IN
LENT/ HOLY
COMMUNION

GREETER: Cameron Smeltz
READER: Steve Welker
USHER: Matt Ferster
GLASSES: Susan Krause
ALTAR: John Novinger

MARCH 12, 2023
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

GREETER: Darlene Novinger
READER: Jenny Sracic

MARCH 19, 2023
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

GREETER: Dave Strohecker
READER: Dennis Barge

MARCH 26, 2023
5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

GREETER: Virginia Moore
READER: John Novinger

APRIL 2, 2023
PALM/PASSION
SUNDAY/HOLY
COMMUNION

GREETER: Doris Flynn
READER: Virginia Moore
USHER: Dave Strohecker
GLASSES: Brenda Flynn
ALTAR: Dennis Barge

APRIL 6, 2023
MAUNDY
THURSDAY/
HOLY COMMUNION

GREETER: Matt Ferster
READER: Ashley Welker
USHER: Lynn Schadle
GLASSES: Sharon Erdman
ALTAR: John Novinger

APRIL 7, 2023
GOOD FRIDAY

GREETER: John Novinger

APRIL 9, 2023
EASTER SUNDAY/
HOLY COMMUNION

GREETER: Mike Hartman
READER: Doris Flynn
USHER: Mike Hartman
GLASSES: Linda Koppenhaver
ALTAR: Lynn Schadle & Doris Flynn

APRIL 16, 2023
2ND SUNDAY OF
EASTER

GREETER: Leah Schade
READER: Cameron Smeltz

APRIL 23, 2023
3RD SUNDAY OF
EASTER

GREETER: Remington Schlegel
READER: Lynn Schadle

APRIL 30, 2023
4TH SUNDAY OF
EASTER

GREETER: Cameron Smeltz
READER: Sharon Erdman

ORDERS are being taken for Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinth. Karen or Linda will be in the narthex to take your order and money. **Deadline is, March 19th.**

Number Lilies_____ \$14.00 each

Number Tulips_____ \$11.00 each

Number Daffodils_____ \$11.00 each

Number Hyacinth_____ \$13.00 each

Name_____

Lily in honor of_____

Lily in memory of_____

Tulip in honor of_____

Tulip in memory of_____

Daffodil in honor of_____

Daffodil in memory of_____

Hyacinth in honor of_____

Hyacinth in memory of_____

THE FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS

The charts are in the narthex. Please help by sponsoring them. If no one sponsors them the money comes out of the general fund which is not budgeted.

PRAYER LIST:

Prayers requested for: Carol Koppenhaver, Celin Sitlinger, Barb Klinger, Cathie Wilkinson, Tiffany Wilkinson, Clair & Vivian Engle, Jean Hess, David Hartman, Jim Neiswender, Kenneth Mace, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Rahn Erdman, Marie Lahr, Christy Warfel, Jeff Latsha

Polk Apartments: Helen Michael, John Kissinger, Charles Schoffstall

Mt. Carmel Nursing & Rehab: Ruby Leitzel

WREATH MAKING CLASS

A wreath making class will be held on **March 26th at 2pm** in the basement, please see Lisa Perkins for more information. A **limited number** of spots are available so **get your spot now!!!!**

2023 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

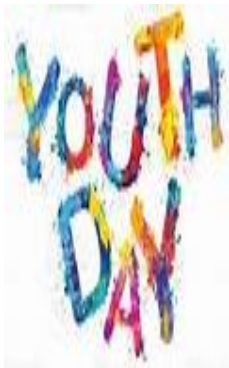
The 2023 calendars have also been placed in the narthex. Again, ask someone to see that you get them, if you feel unsafe to come to church. God is with you, wherever you are, and He will see us through this pandemic. Have faith!!

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The Daily Devotionals for January-March, 2023 are also available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you if you don't feel okay to come to church.

Youth Sunday

If you missed Youth Sunday – you missed an amazing display of talent. This is an event we all look forward to seeing and we weren't disappointed.



Chefs Corner



Broccoli Casserole

2 pkgs. Frozen broccoli
1 can cream of mushroom soup
¼ cup butter
¾ cup minute rice (uncooked)

1 can cream of celery soup
1 small jar Cheez Whiz
½ cup onion
Paprika

Cook broccoli as directed and drain. Melt butter and mix in onion, soups, cheese, and rice. Layer in a buttered casserole dish the broccoli and soup mixture. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake uncovered at 350* for 30-40 minutes.

Chili Macaroni

1 lb. ground beef
1 cup onion (chopped)
1 green pepper (chopped)
1 (30oz.) can chili beans

1(8oz) can tomato sauce
½ cup water
1 cup uncooked macaroni
¼ cup parmesan cheese

Brown Beef and drain fat. Sauté onion and pepper until onion is translucent. Return beef to skillet. Add beans, tomato sauce, water, and macaroni. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and serve.

Baked Praline Popcorn Crunch

1 cup butter
2 cup brown sugar
½ cup light corn syrup
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. vanilla
6 qt. popped popcorn
1½ cup pecan halves
1 cup sunflower seeds

Bring butter, sugar, syrup, and salt to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil, without stirring for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in soda and vanilla. Pour syrup over mixture corn seeds, and pecans. Mix well. Bake in large baking dish at 250* for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

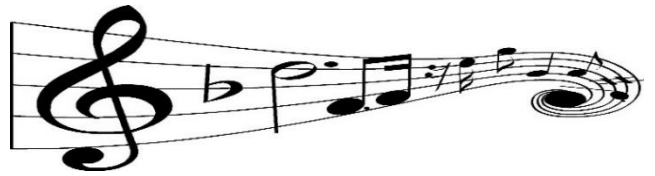
Pretzels for Lent

1½ cup warm water
1 pkg. active dry yeast
½ tsp. sugar
½ tsp salt

4½ to 5 cup flour
1 beaten egg (for glaze)
coarse salt

Add dry yeast sugar, and salt to warm water in a bowl, stirring to dissolve. Mix in flour, forming a ball. Knead on a lightly floured board and let rest for 1 hour or more. Roll pieces of dough 6 inches long and ½ inch thick. Form pretzel shape and place on cookie sheet. Brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 425* for 12 to 15 minutes.

Music Notes



Jesus Paid It All

276

Jesus Paid It All

1865

1. I hear the Sa- vior say, "Your strength in- deed is small,
2. Lo!d, now in- deed I find your pow'r and yours a- lone,
3. For noth- ing good have I, where- by your grace to claim—
4. And when, be- fore the throne, I stand in him com- plete,

child of weak- ness, woe and pray, find in me your all in all,
can change the le- per's spots and melt the heart of stone.
I'll wash my gar- ments white in the blood of Cal- v'y's Lamb.
"Je- sus died my soul to save," my lips shall still re- peat.

Refrain
Je- sus paid it all, all to him I owe,

sin had left a crim- son stain, he washed it white as snow,

It was Sunday morning at Monument Street Methodist Church in Baltimore. Rev. George Schrick was droning on in a lengthy prayer while, up in the choir loft, Elvina Hall's mind was wandering. She thumbed quietly through the hymnbook, then began doodling on the flyleaf. By and by, these words came to her, which she scribbled on the front flap of her hymnal:

*I hear my Savior say / Thy strength indeed is small,
Thou hast naught my debt to pay, / Find in me thy all in
all.*

*Yea, nothing good have I, / Whereby thy grace to claim,
I'll wash my garments white / in the blood of Calvary's
Lamb.*

*And now complete in Him, / My robe His Righteousness,
Close sheltered 'neath His side, / I am divinely blest.*

*When from my dying bed, / My ransomed soul shall rise,
Jesus paid it all / Shall read the vaulted skies.*

Elvina's poem fell into the hands of John T Grape, a coal merchant and the church organist at Monument Street Methodist Church. As it happened, the church was being renovated, and the small organ had been taken to Gape's house for safekeeping, there he composed the music to "Jesus Paid It All."

Through the years, the words of this hymn have been edited and altered, but its great theme of redemption has remained untouched.

The colorful preacher, Rowland Hill, was once preaching to a crowd of people when the wealthy aristocrat, Lady Ann Erskine, drove up in her coach. Seeing her, Rev. Hill changed his sermon.

"I have something for sale," he suddenly declared.

"Yes, I have something for sale. It is the soul of Lady Ann Erskine. Is there anyone here that will bid for her soul? Ah, do I hear a bid? Who bids? Satan bids. Satan, what will you give for her soul? 'I will give riches, honor, and pleasure.' But stop, do I hear another bid? Yes, Jesus Christ bids. Jesus, what will You give for her soul? 'I will give eternal life.' Lady Ann Erskine, you have heard the two bids—which will you take?"

Lady Erskine, realizing Christ had purchased her soul with His life's blood on the cross, took him.

Taken from the book "Then Sings My Soul" By Robert J. Morgan