



relationship with God. Jesus also promises to return and make all things right. Sin, death, and evil will be forever purged. In Revelation, John witnesses the coming of new heaven and new earth. The goodness God intended for his children, will become a reality. When enough time has passed according to God's plan, God will make it so.

This may be a strange message for the Christmas season. Yet we must not forget that when the child Jesus was born, he was born into a cruel world, and eventually Jesus would be a victim of that cruelty. Nevertheless, God always has the last word. Appended to the words of the angels, "I am bringing you good news of great joy" would be the Easter proclamation, "He is Risen." We cannot have Christmas without Easter nor Easter with Christmas.

I hope you and your family have a joyful and meaningful Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Greg*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM—NOVEMBER, 2024**

**OLD BUSINESS:** (organ fund)-[MI Foundation]-Made it through the first round. On to the next round of approval. The organ information and history that was given to them they said was very impressive. They were invited to the organ concert on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Lynn says he is thinking some will come.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Worship and Music**- Organ tuners are coming tomorrow, November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the afternoon. Christ the King Sunday on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Advent begins on Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>.

2. **Parish Education**- Christmas Program on Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> during the worship service. Jean would like the stage setup for the program.

3. **Stewardship and Evangelism** – None

4. **Social Ministry** – Had 12 families for November foodbank. Lisa also delivered some to people that did not have a ride to get to the foodbank.

5. **Youth** – Everyone thought the haunted house was great again this year.

6. **Church Property** – Going to set up the stage on Friday December 20. Lynn will let John know what time he can get the help to set it up. The kitchen entrance roof work is on hold till spring.

7. **Budget and Finance** – Organ fund has approximately \$50,000.00. working on radio sponsors for next year. With carrying over the business's we still need to fill 14 empty Sundays. Lynn said he will try to see if the Bird in Hand Bank will sponsor some of the Sunday's. Did not carry over the individuals that sponsored in the past. Went over the proposed budget, motion made to accept the 2025 proposed budget made by Lynn Schadle and seconded by Brenda Flynn. Approved.

8. **Fellowship** – The Bishop's visit and fellowship went great. Next event is the Christmas Tea on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Then cookies and drinks after the Sunday School Program on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Going to do the Murder Mystery after the New Year, possibly in the Spring.

9. **Mutual Ministry** – None

10. **Nominating** – Has 5 people to run for council. They are -Will Rogers, Mike Hartman, Andrew Romberger, John Novinger, and Darlene Novinger.

**New Business** – Going to do a Love offering for a relative of the Barge Family on Sunday’s December 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Doris Flynn and seconded by Lynn Schadle. Approved. Had a discussion about the newsletter with bulk mailing and needing to have 200 to use the permit. Going to keep it the same for now.

**The Pastor's Time** – None

<b><u>2024 GIVING</u></b>	<b><u>2024 EXPENSES</u></b>
\$109,565.14	\$125,458.27
<b>Difference between YTD Giving &amp; YTD Expenses \$-15,893.13</b>	
<b>{For General Operating Fund}</b>	

**“VOICE OF SIMEON” RADIO MINISTRY SPONSORS**

**December 2024**

December 1– Buffington/Reed Funeral Home

December 8– Willing Workers

December 15– Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Schadle

December 22– Hoffman’s Hatchery

December 29- Members of the Simeon United Lutheran Church

We thank our local businesses and individuals that sponsor our “Voice of Simeon” Radio Ministry. It can be heard each Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m. on WQLV-98.9 FM.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD BANK**

Brownie mix, sugar, cooking oil, cake mix, canned tuna, & pasta.

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

The Daily Devotionals for (October-December 2024) are available in the narthex. Pick yours up or have someone get them for you.



**Members** – Brian Mace, Tim Daniel, Craig Schwartz, Celin Sitlinger, Julie Ferster, Janet Rumfelt, Barbara Klinger, Marie Lahr, Clair & Vivian Engle

**Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab.** - Kenneth Mace

**Polk Apartments** - Martha Koppenhaver, *Charles Schoffstall*

**Friends & Family** – *Ester Stoltzfus, Scott Klinger, Jon Bower, Sherry Johns, Jeff Latsha, Linda Sitlinger, Randy Rebeck, Blair & Dorothy Deitrich, Kathie Dresel, Dorothy Lettich Martin, Steve Dagen, Jim Troutman*

**RADIO SPONSORS ARE STILL NEEDED**

Radio Sponsors are needed for the following dates in 2025. *January 26, March 16, March 23, March 30, May 25, June 22, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 21, September 28, October 19, November 30, & December 21.* If you sponsored a Sunday in the past, we did not carry individuals over, only Business’s. If you would like to sponsor any of these dates, please see Tracy Bixler. Cost is \$50.00 a Sunday.

# SERVING IN December 2024 & January 2025

## December 1, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of  
Advent w/ *Holy*  
*Communion*

Greeter: Mike Hartman

Reader: Tracy Bixler

Usher: Dave Strohecker

Glasses: Virginia Moore

Altar: Sharon Erdman

## December 8, 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
Advent

Greeter: Doris Flynn

Reader: Nathan Steinbach

## December 15, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of  
Advent

Greeter: Matt Ferster

Reader: Jason Dively

## December 22, 2024

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
Advent

Greeter: John Novinger

Reader: Lynn Schadle

## December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve  
Service w/ *Holy*  
*Communion*

Greeter: Virginia Moore

Reader: Keith Klinger

Usher: Matt Ferster

Glasses: Brenda Flynn

Altar: Lynn Schadle &  
John Novinger

## December 29, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After  
Christmas

Greeter: Susan Krause

Reader: Sharon Erdman

## January 5, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after  
Christmas w/ *Holy*  
*Communion*

Greeter: Lisa Perkins

Reader: Doris Flynn

Usher: Lynn Schadle

Glasses: Sharon Erdman

Altar: Dennis Barge

## January 12, 2025

Baptism of  
Our Lord

Greeter: Sandra Matter

Reader: Becky Hoover

## January 19, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After  
Epiphany

Greeter: Anna Coleman

Reader: Barbara Klinger

## January 26, 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After  
Epiphany / *Youth Sunday*

Greeter: Youth

Reader: Youth

### SIMEON UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

173 NORTH CENTER STREET

PO BOX 478

GRATZ, PA 17030

*Rev. Gregory B. Lindsey, Pastor*

Church Phone: (717)365-3139

Pastor Cell: (717)521-9402

Secretary Email: [sulc.angel80@gmail.com](mailto:sulc.angel80@gmail.com)

Church Website: [www.simeonchurch.org](http://www.simeonchurch.org)

YouTube channel: Simeon Church, Gratz PA

ELCA Website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Lower Susquehanna Synod: [www.lss-elca.org](http://www.lss-elca.org)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual Sunday School Christmas Program will be held **Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** during the worship service, starting **at 10:15 a.m.** Please join us in worship and hear our young talented youth sing and have fun with various skits concerning the joyous holiday season and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Fellowship Committee will have cookies and drinks after the Service in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite cookies to share during fellowship time.

# Chef's Corner



## Cream Cheese Cranberry Loaf

2 cups flour	2 cups cranberries
1½ cups sugar	2 sticks of butter
8 oz. cream cheese	4 eggs
1½ tsp. vanilla	1½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt	

Preheat your oven to 350\*. Lightly grease two 9x5-inch loaf pans with butter or non-stick spray. In a large bowl or mixer, cream together the butter, cream cheese, and sugar until smooth and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition, then mix in the vanilla extract. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt until well combined. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, mixing just until incorporated. Gently fold in the cranberries, being careful not to overmix. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared loaf pans. Place in the oven and bake for 60-70 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of each loaf comes out clean. Remove from the oven and let the loaves cool in the pans for at least 15 minutes before slicing and serving.

## Potato and Bacon Soup

4 large potatoes, peeled and diced	6 slices of bacon, chopped
1 cup onion, diced	3 cloves garlic, minced
4 cups chicken or vegetable broth	1 cup heavy cream
Salt and pepper to taste	
Shredded cheddar cheese, for serving	

In a large pot or Dutch oven, cook the chopped bacon over medium heat until crispy. Remove the bacon and set aside on a paper towel to drain, leaving about 2 tablespoons of drippings in the pot. In the same pot, add the diced onion and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the minced garlic and cook for another minute until fragrant. Add the diced potatoes & broth to the pot. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let it simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 15-20 minutes. Using an immersion blender, blend the soup until smooth. Alternatively, transfer half of the soup to a blender and blend until smooth, then return it to the pot. For a chunkier texture, blend only a portion. Stir in the heavy cream and season with salt and pepper to taste. Let the soup heat through for another 5 minutes. Ladle the soup into bowls and top with the crispy bacon and shredded cheddar cheese.

## White Hot Chocolate

2 cup milk	1 cup white chocolate chips
½ cup heavy cream	Whipped cream, for topping
Crushed candy canes (optional)	Marshmallows

In a saucepan, warm the milk over medium heat until it's hot but not boiling. Add the white chocolate chips to the hot milk. Stir continuously until the chocolate is completely melted and the mixture is smooth. In a separate bowl, whisk the heavy cream until it forms soft peaks. Gently fold the whipped cream into the white chocolate mixture, blending until well combined. Pour the hot chocolate into mugs. Top each mug with whipped cream, extra white chocolate chips, marshmallows, and crushed candy canes, if desired.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



Sunday, December 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship Service w/Holy Communion /Food  
Collect 10:15a.m. /Christmas Tea 2p.m.

**Saturday, December 7 – Pearl Harbor Day**

Sunday, December 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:15a.m.

Saturday, December 14 - Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, December 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:15a.m.

*Wednesday & Thursday, December 18 & 19 – Little Hands Christmas Parties*

**Thursday, December 19 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.**

**Friday, December 20 - Newsletter Deadline For January Newsletter!!!!**

**Saturday, December 21 – First day of Winter**

Sunday, December 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship Service 10:15a.m. /**Sunday School**  
**Program** & Fellowship with cookies after worship

**Tuesday, December 24 P.M. – Christmas Eve Worship Service w/Holy Communion 7p.m.**

**Wednesday, DECEMBER 25–MERRY CHRISTMAS-CHRIST THE LORD IS BORN!!**

Sunday, December 29 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 31 - New Years Eve**



**Wednesday, January 1 – Happy New Year**

*Monday & Tuesday, January 6 & 7 – Little Hands first days back to School*

**Sunday January 5 –Worship Service w/Holy Comm. 10:15a.m. /Food Collection /Installation of  
new council members**

**Monday, January 6 – Epiphany of our Lord**

Saturday January 11 - Food Bank Open 9-11 a.m.

**Sunday January 12 - Worship Service 10:15a.m. /Fellowship Time with a covered dish after  
worship; Committee Reorganization.**

**Thursday, January 16 - Council Meeting 7 p.m.**

**Friday, January 17 - Deadline For February Newsletter!!!!**

Sunday January 19 - Worship Service 10:15a.m.

**Monday January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Sunday January 26 – Youth Sunday Worship Service 10:15a.m.**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Please Join us on Tuesday December 24, 2024 for our Christmas Eve Worship Service and Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. with Special Music will begin at 6:30 p.m.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Simeon's Constitution defines active members as those who receive Holy Communion **and** make a contribution of record **at least once every two years**. If you have not yet communed in 2024, please join us for worship in December, and sign a communion card if you have not done so this year. It can't be recorded in the church register if you have not signed a card to let the secretary know you were there. Also, please use a 2024 envelope with your name and number on it so that your contribution may be recorded. Thanks for your help.

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE**

The annual meeting of Simeon United Lutheran Church will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, December 8, 2024. All confirmed members are encouraged to be present. The agenda will include:

- **Consideration of the 2025 budget**
- **Election of Church Council and Cemetery Board members**
- **Any other matters that might be brought up**

## **2025 CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE**

The 2025 calendars are here and in the narthex. Please pick some up and give them to your neighbors and friends!!!

## **THE 2025 FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSOR CHARTS**

The 2025 flower and bulletin sponsor charts are in the narthex. Please help by sponsoring flowers or bulletins. *If no one sponsors them, the money comes out of the general fund which is not budgeted.*

## **THANK YOU**

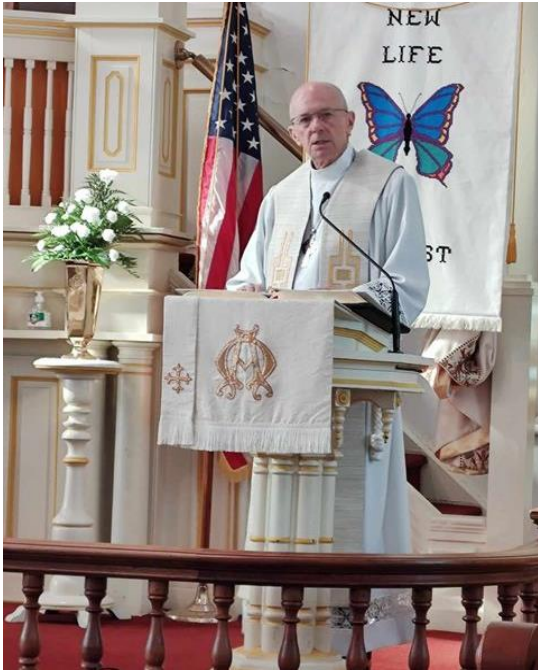
We continue to thank our church members who keep sending their offering envelopes through the mail as well as coming to church in person to worship and donate that way.

## **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS**

Advent Devotionals are available in the narthex, regular and large print. Please pick up a copy for yourself, neighbors, friends, or anyone else.

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

On Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> The Rev. James S. Dunlop, Bishop along with Pastor Lindsey led us in our worship service. Breanna Davis served as acolyte. Your Fellowship Committee organized a meal following the service. There were eight different soups, sandwiches, desserts and too much to mention. We wish to thank our cooks, bakers, and workers for an amazing meal attended by about FIFTY people. Our sincere wish is that we would have had such a large crowd we would have run out of soup but I'm thinking we could have fed the National Guard and still had leftovers.



(I must confess I had my eye on the staff- thinking we could turn our next talent show into the Gong Show or hook Pastor Lindsey if his sermon goes too long).

**The Fellowship Committee** is going to be hosting more events in the New Year and is in the process of obtaining some new kitchen equipment. We understand it's convenient for people to borrow our equipment for events outside of the church but sometimes it's hard to track down where the equipment is. We're also going to be labeling the items so there's no confusion as to who it belongs to. Therefore, we're going to be putting a sign-out sheet in the kitchen. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

**FELLOWSHIPS NEXT EVENT:** Join us on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> to share cookies and drinks after the Sunday School Program. Fellowship will provide drinks but please bring some cookies to share. It's always fun to taste other people's recipes.

### GRATZ HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONCERT

The annual Christmas Concert and Tea of the Gratz Historical Society will be held in historic Simeon United Lutheran Church, 173 North Center Street, on Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. This year the concert will take the form of an organ concert on the historic organ in the sanctuary. Well known organists Jack Umholtz of Valley View, and Rev. Arthur Sonnenberg of Dauphin, will share the keyboard in what promises to be a terrific concert. Following the concert, Christmas Tea and Treats will be enjoyed in the Social Hall and concert goers will have an opportunity to meet with the performers. No tickets are required but a free will offering will be taken. Corporate Sponsor for the event is the Bank of Bird in Hand.



# Music Notes



## Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas  
1854

1 Good King Wen - ces - las looked out on the feast of  
2 "Hith - er, page, and stand by me, if thou knowest it,  
3 "Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine - logs  
4 "Sire, the night is dark - er now, and the wind blows  
5 In his mas - ter's steps he trod, where the snow lay

Ste - phen, when the snow lay round a - bout,  
tell - ing; yon - der pea - sant, who is he?  
hith - er; thou and I will see him dine,  
stron - ger: fails my heart, I know not how;  
dint - ed; heat was in the ver - y sod

deep and crisp and e - ven. Bright - ly shone the  
Where and what his dwell - ing?" "Sire, he lives a  
when we bear them thith - er." Page and mon - arch  
I can go no lon - ger." "Mark my foot - steps,  
which the saint had print - ed. There - fore, Chris - tians

This story is about two men—a bohemian Duke and an Anglican minister—who lived nearly a thousand years apart.

Wenceslas was born in Bohemia, in modern Czechoslovakia, in the early 900's. His father, the Czech ruler, Duke Ratislav, gave him a good education supervised by his godly grandmother. When his father died, Wenceslas, seeing his mother mishandle affairs of the state, stepped in at the age of 18, seizing the reins of government. From the beginning, he proved a different sort of king. He sought good relations with the surrounding nations, particularly with Germany. He took steps to reform the judicial system, reducing the number of death sentences and the arbitrary power of judges. He encouraged the building of churches and showed heartfelt concern for the poor. He reportedly cut firewood for orphans and widows, often carrying the provisions on his own shoulders through the snow.

Wenceslas' brief reign ended suddenly. His pagan and rebellious brother, Boleslav, murdered him on September 28, 929, as he left for church. His people venerated him as a martyr, and today Wenceslas is the patron saint of Czechoslovakia.

He would be hardly remembered, however, but for John Mason Neale, an Anglican minister with a passion for returning church architecture

and music to their ancient grandeur. Neale helped establish a committee to investigate and restore dilapidated church buildings in Great Britain. He was particularly upset at the ugly stoves installed to heat churches in Victorian times.

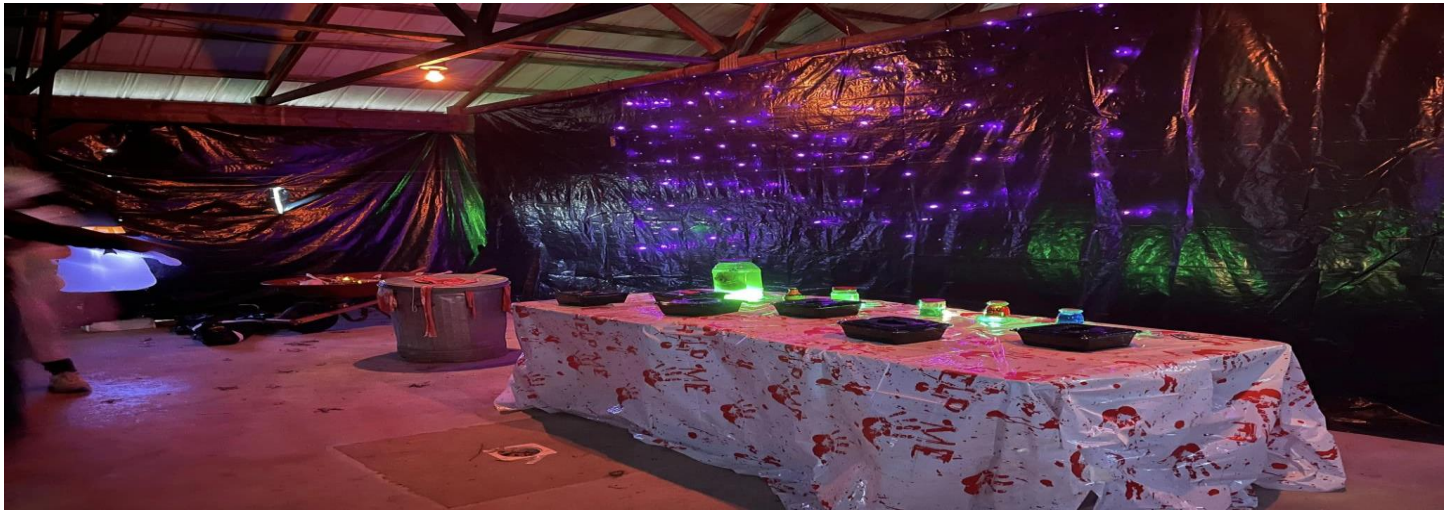
Disliking the hymns of Issac Watts, he sought to return church music to its medieval roots. Neale worked hard to translate ancient Greek, Latin, and Syrian hymns to English. In doing so, he gave us the Christmas carols, "Good Christian Men Rejoice," (a fourteenth-century text set to a fourteenth-century tune), and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," (a ninth-century text set to a fifteenth-century tune). He also translated the Palm Sunday hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor."

Good King Wenceslas is not a translation, but an original poem written by Neale to honor a godly monarch's concern for the poor. Neale himself worked with the needy, serving as warden of a charitable residence for indigent old men.

John Neale's antiquated opinions were widely scorned in his own day, but we're still singing his songs.

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

# YOUTH GROUP HAUNTED HOUSE





## The Story Behind the “12 Days of Christmas”

The song was written by Catholics in England as a catechism song to teach their children about the Christian Faith. The song’s “gifts” help remember the teachings of the faith. “True Love” refers to God. “Me” refers to every Christian.

The other symbols mean the following:

- 1 Partridge in a Pear Tree—Jesus Christ.
- 2 Turtle Doves—the Old and New Testaments.
- 3 French Hens—Faith, hope, and Charity or the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Trinity.
- 4 Calling Birds—The Four Gospels.
- 5 Golden Rings—First Five Books of the Old Testament.
- 6 Geese-A-Laying—The Six Days of Creation.
- 7 Swans-A-Swimming—The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).
- 8 Maids-A-Milking—The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10).
- 9 Ladies Dancing—The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- 10 Lords-A-Leaping—The Ten Commandments.
- 11 Pipers Piping—The Eleven Faithful Apostles, (Not Judas).
- 12 Drummers Drumming—The Twelve Points of Doctrine or Belief in the Apostle’s Creed.

