



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
39 PARADISE STREET
P. O. BOX 277
TURBOTVILLE, PA 17772-0277

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

161st ANNIVERSARY

THE ZION NEWS

The star...
came to
rest over
the place
where the
child was.



Matthew 2:9, ESV



PUBLICATION OF
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TURBOTVILLE, PA

DECEMBER 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

Every year our Zion Church Council has the task of distributing money from our congregational endowment funds. The funds come from the interest and dividends of donations given to Zion by faithful persons long ago. The funds are provided for three uses: congregational ministries, community outreach, and worldwide outreach. The stipulation is that they are meant to be completely distributed by the end of each calendar year. The Church Council has a listing of causes and organizations both in our own backyard and around the world to which we donate annually. For example, Haven Ministries, the homeless shelter in Sunbury, receives our help, as well as a Lutheran seminary that was established in Russia by the dean of Gettysburg Seminary after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Some years we get unique requests for help. This year a request came through Pastor Kenneth Elkin who is serving as one of our church organists. Pastor Elkin had been in Chicago at a meeting of a pastor's society and he gave a presentation at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Pastor Elkin describes the congregation and the request in this way:

St. Timothy Lutheran Church is of Scandinavian heritage, but the neighborhood is now all Hispanic. The handful of Anglos left are doing what they can to be a welcoming and helpful bilingual presence in the community. There are photos of the 40-person confirmation classes in the 1960s, but that is not the present reality. The building is basically solid, but of course there are many things that need to be done. We may think of ourselves as of modest means, but we are truly rich in comparison. As visiting outsiders, we developed a list of observations in quiet conversation with Pastor Keith Forni. A number of them are low-cost, and will help them feel more positive about their bilingual ministry there, but one is expensive and is also a safety concern. The slab that joins the entry steps to the sidewalk is sitting at a dangerous angle. The slightest bit of snow or ice on it will turn it into a liability nightmare. I'm making a wild guess that it would be far in excess of \$1000 to replace it. Fixing this would say to the community that they care about folks being able to enter safely. . . Pastor Forni has another ministry in Joliet, an hour away, and it is also a struggling bilingual parish. He has a passion for Chicago and his multi-faceted ministry there.



*“Glory
to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace among
those with whom
he is pleased!”
Luke 2:14, ESV*

*From the staff of Zion Church we
wish all of our faithful members, our friends,
our neighbors, our families a
most joyous and blessed Christmas and a
Happy New Year!*



**WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF
ONE MORE COUNCIL MEMBER TO
COMPLETE THE REMAINING TWO
YEARS OF AN UNFILLED TERM.
PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING.**

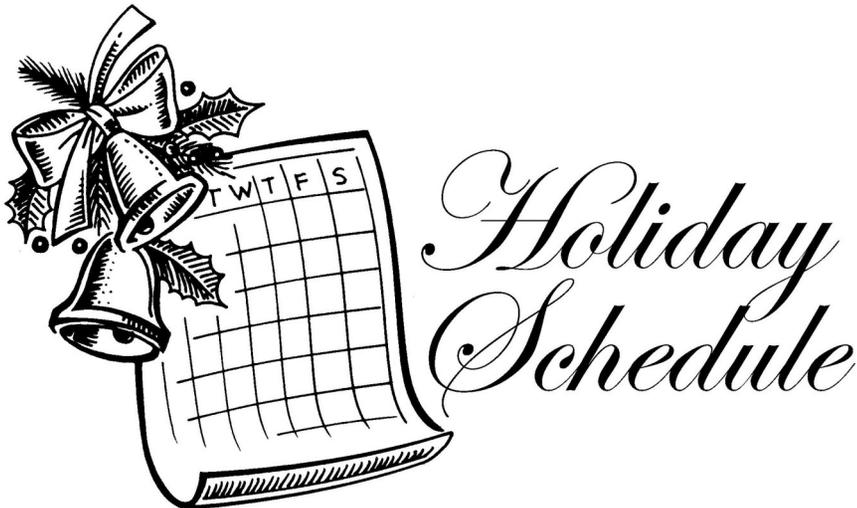
Our Church Council felt that this would be an appropriate use of our worldwide endowment fund and voted to give a gift of \$500. to St. Timothy Church, which will be added to a gift given by another individual. We were pleased to have the opportunity to help another church that is working faithfully to proclaim the Gospel. Pastor Keith Forni wrote in response to receiving the gift:

That's great news! Truly a blessing...thank you SO much for your very thoughtful and generous initiative. I am looking forward to sharing this good news with the people of God at St. Timothy, Chicago at worship this Sunday. In Christ, our light and our life, +Keith

Hopefully, with a few more gifts, the people of St. Timothy will soon have a safe and welcoming entryway to their church building. May the Holy Spirit continue to move the people of that congregation to reach out with good news of Jesus Christ to the people of their neighborhood.

One never knows what may become of a gift we have given for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Faithful saints left a fund at Zion that has touched the lives of people across our nation and around the world. May your giving reach people with the love of Jesus Christ as well.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Roux



***The following schedule will be observed in
the church office during the holidays:
Monday, December 25— Office Closed
Monday, January 1— Office Closed***

Christmas Season Worship

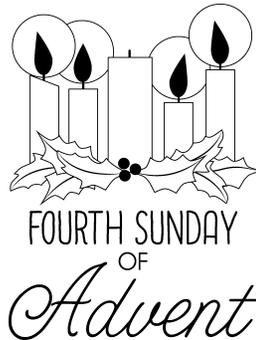
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 23, 2017 - 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 24, 2017 -

8:00 am and 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am



Altar Flowers sponsors are needed for 2018 starting January. The price per set is \$30.00 maybe you would like to share a set with someone, splitting the cost.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Holy Communion

Sunday, December 24, 2017

7:00 pm and 11:00 pm



1st Sunday after Christmas

Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion

Saturday, December 30, 2018 - 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 31, 2017 -

8:00 am and 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am



Mitten/Hat Tree

.....will be in place in November 15th awaiting all those colorful decorations of mittens, hats and scarves for the children. Our tree will stand for those much needed items until the end of December. Cold winds will be blowing, let's keep the little ones warm.



The Epiphany of Our Lord

Holy Communion

Saturday, January 6, 2018 - 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 7, 2018 -

8:00 am and 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages - 9:15 am



In September we noted a special PBS broadcast... "Martin Luther: the Idea That Changed the World." If you missed it, here is a brief synopsis:

Narrated by Hugh Bonneville (Downtown Abbey), the film brings to life the great adventure story of Luther's struggle. Undoubtedly, Martin Luther was one of the last most influential and interesting people of the last millennium. The film vividly portrays the key moments in his story: the massive lightning storm that nearly killed him, the bleak self-punishment of his time in the monastery, the corruption that unleashed his anger, the theological breakthrough that reset Christian thought, his trial before the most powerful man in Europe, the staged kidnapping that helped him escape the death penalty, and his ongoing drive to reform the church.

It was an excellent program and well worth the two-hour viewing time. The good news is, we now have a copy on DVD. Currently, it is on the special Reformation display in the narthex until the end of the year. If you have some down time during the holidays, it would be a perfect time to watch this movie to wind up our anniversary of celebrating the Reformation. But don't let your learning stop with the end of this special event. Use Zion's great resources and continue to push yourself to learn more about your roots and what it means to be a Lutheran so that you, too, can spread the Gospel to those who need to hear the Good News.

EPIPHANY WORSHIP

The Epiphany of Our Lord, will be celebrated on Saturday, January 6th and Sunday, January 7th. Epiphany is one of the principal festival days of the church. The Gospel lesson for Epiphany is St. Matthew 2:1-12, which tells the story of the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus. They are representatives of the nations who came to worship him.



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Middle School and High School Youth Groups
Winter Calendar 2018

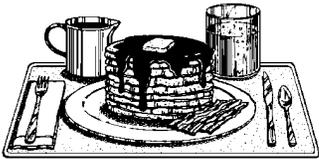
We invite all youth to join us for these upcoming events. Middle School Youth Group is for 5th through 8th grades, and High School is for 9th through 12th grades. Events are for both groups unless noted otherwise. Senior High Youth Advisor is Karrie Ravert. Middle School Advisor is Amanda Stoudt. Call Pastor Roux at home (570) 437-9058 or church (570) 649-5195 with any questions.

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Pre-trip Dinner and Bible study for those who will be attending the Quake in Allentown. Dinner starts at 5:00 pm at the church. We will be done by 7:00 pm.

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to help pay for our trip to the Allentown Quake. Meet at 8:00 am. Breakfast served from 9:00 am until 10:15 am. Tickets to sell will be available January 7. Youth needed to sell tickets after both worship services on January 7 and 14.



Sunday, February 4, 2018

Snow Tubing at Ski Sawmill. We will gather at 12:00 noon and leave by 12:30 pm We'll be back in plenty of time for you to get home for the Superbowl. The cost is \$25.00 for three hours. This has been a great event in the past so don't miss it!



February 9-11, 2018 - Youth Quake in Allentown, PA

All youth currently in 6th through 12th are eligible to attend. Check out the flyer enclosed with this mailing and look at the website, too. To reserve your place, please make a check payable to Zion Lutheran Church for \$95 due Sunday, November 26. Financial aid is available, please ask Pastor Roux. A pre-trip Bible Study and dinner will be held Sunday, January 14. Pancake Fundraiser on Sunday, January 21.

Departure to the Quake after school on Friday, February 9 from the church. We rent a 15-passenger van and will be picking up students who need a ride from school.

LIBRARY NOTES

"There have never been, nor are there now, too many good books."
~~ Martin Luther

A FINAL NOTE ON THE REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY

As we all know, 2017 marked the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Here at Zion we honored this event in many ways throughout the year:

- Monthly newsletter articles and features
- Frequent Facebook 'shares' from special Reformation sites
- Reformation anniversary resource display of books and A/V materials in the narthex
- Lenten mid-week worship series featuring "The Five Solas," the Biblical principles central to the doctrine of salvation taught by Reformation theologians
- Sermons by Pastor Roux which tied in the history of the Reformation and the teachings of Martin Luther
- Reformation themed Vacation Bible School... "A Mighty Fortress"
- Reformation movie night with 16th century refreshments
- Jolly Bunch program on Martin and Katie Luther
- 12-week Bible study... "Reading Romans with Luther"
- Reformation anniversary key tags that were distributed at various service
- Reformation anniversary t-shirts that were designed by High School Youth Group members
- Joint Reformation Sunday service at the Historic Warrior Run Church with Holy Spirit and other Warrior Run area congregations Reformation themed ornaments to add to the Christmas tree

Zion Coffee Break

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need Coffee Break Hosts
after 8 am service for Sundays.

Sign up sheet in the narthex in the
kitchen area

COFFEE HOUR -Coffee hour provides a time of fellowship and many more people linger and talk if there are "goodies". If your last name begins with the following letters, and if you like, you may bring a little something to share. A dozen cookies, or bars, a plate of cake, fruit, nuts, crackers, cheese, pretzels, etc. Anything you wish.

A-D 1st Sunday of month

E-K 2nd Sunday of month

L-R 3rd Sunday of month

S-Z 4th Sunday of month

Months that have five Sundays, Pot luck! Anyone who wants to bring a little something.



FAITH PROMISE THANKS

Thank you to all who responded to our stewardship mailing this year.

Seventy-two people returned their "Time and Talent" sheets from the "Affirmation and Response" packet. This represents a great gift of the Holy Spirit to our mission here at Zion. Forty-nine persons returned their "Faith Promise" cards to indicate their giving commitment. A total of \$143,716.00 was pledged to the Current Fund. This is a tremendous response and shows the faith that members of Zion have in the mission we share. We are grateful to everyone for their financial support and participation in our ministry. Again, thank you for standing with us as we seek to accomplish all that the Lord has set before us in 2018.

Electronic Giving Option

The Simply Giving Program

Endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union

Zion is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form is available from the church office.

Holy Communion Assistants

We have been blessed to have many people serving at the altar in our worship. Assistants set the table and offer the wine by pouring chalice or common cup. We are in need of people to serve at both the 8:00 am and 10:30 am liturgies. We have four teams for each liturgy, so you would be scheduled to serve three months during the year. Please speak to Pastor Roux if you can serve in this ministry.

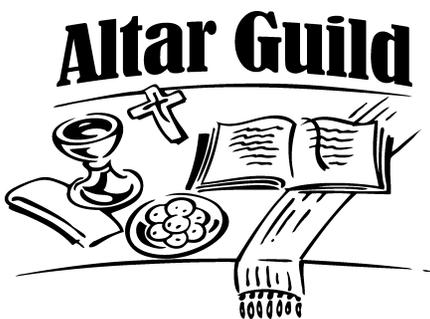


Wednesday Prayer Service

Our Wednesday Prayer services continue at 9:00 am. For those looking for an additional opportunity to receive Holy Communion, the Prayer Group celebrates the sacrament at its service on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Be with us for prayers and the Sacrament on Wednesdays.

Saturday Evening 6:00 pm Worship

This worship is meant to be helpful to those who find an evening worship time more convenient. It is a simple but inspiring service of Word and Holy Communion that includes organ music and traditional hymns. A choir offering contemporary Christian music anthems meets for rehearsal at 5:30 pm before worship. Please come if you would like to sing. If you can play an instrument and would like to join in our praise group, please contact Pastor Roux.



Altar Guild

Altar Guild Help Needed

We need some extra people on a permanent basis to be part of the Altar Guild, please contact Courtney Hamm or Kate Fisher for details. Your work will be greatly appreciated.

IS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGING?

We need your help to maintain our church records and keep in touch with you. If your address has changed (due to 911 implementation or going away to school or whatever reason) please notify the church office. You can call 570-649-5195 or email us your new address zionlc39@windstream.net



Current Fund Daily Expenses

Balance brought forward (10/31/17)	12,306.02	22,318.07
	November	YTD
Monthly Contributions	20,307.00	228,000.43
Monthly Disbursements	26,689.19	238,484.67
Balance (11/30/17)	8,632.83	8,632.83
Building Fund—\$15,610.81		
Nave Improvement—\$21,080.35		
Organ Fund—\$55,695.00		

November Attendance

Total Congregational attendance at services:

- 8:00 am - 297
- 10:30 am - 233
- Saturday Evening - 54
- Wednesday Prayer - 48
- Community Thanksgiving Eve - 30

JOLLY BUNCH

Jolly Bunch will not meet in January.
Our next gathering will be February 14th weather permitting.

Jolly Bunch members with Birthdays in January

Ross McCollum—1st
Richard Eck—2nd
Janet Reasner—5th
Shirley McCollum—17th
Terry Anspach—19th
Marie Gardner—26th

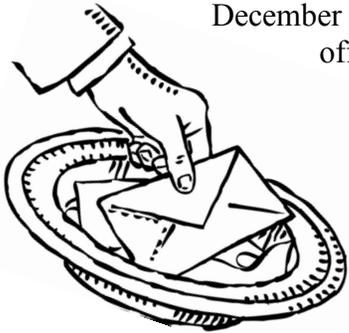


Annual reports should be submitted by the committee chairpersons **NO LATER** than December 31 in order to allow time to compile the annual report of the congregation.

Offering envelopes for 2018 will be on the table in the narthex. It would be helpful if you would take a neighbor's or relative's who might be unable to pick up his/her own. This will keep the cost of mailing them to members to a minimum. If you do not have envelopes, please contact the church office. **Please do not use the 2018 envelopes until January 7th, this includes the "initial offering envelope", the envelope number may vary from year to year.**



The last date for 2017 offerings will be Wednesday, December 27th. Please have all offerings to the church office by that time in order for credit to be received on your giving records for 2017. Contributions received after the 27th will be posted to the 2018 contribution statement.



Please note: Sunday, December 31 will be posted into the giving year of 2018 NOT 2017.

Committees are reminded that they should make plans to reorganize for the new year. Chairpersons of committees need to be appointed and interested persons invited to join the committees. We're grateful to all who have served on council and committees in 2017.

COMMITTEES AT A GLANCE

MONDAY

Disaster Relief Team 1st Monday at 7:00 pm
Barbara Kilgus—Chairperson

TUESDAY

Outreach 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm (note time change)
Pastor Roux—Chairperson
Brenda Reasner—Council Rep
Stewardship 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Barry Durlin—Chairperson
Bob DeHart—Council Rep
Property 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Lynn Watson and Lee Bieber—Co-Chairs
John Kauffman—Council Rep
Social Ministry 4th Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Valli Rovenolt—Chairperson
Garry Ritter—Council Rep

THURSDAY

Executive Committee 1st Thursday at 7:00 pm
Church Council 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm
Worship and Music 3rd Thursday at 7:00 pm
John Craven—Chairperson
Carolyn Bieber—Council Rep
Staff Support 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm
Melissa Kilgus—Chairperson
Deb Webb—Council Rep

SUNDAY

Christian Education meets quarterly at 6:30 pm
Ann Gardner—Council Rep

Rev. Erwin C. Roux, Pastor (570-437-9058)

Rick Rovenolt, Council President (570-649-6385)

Michael Yohn, Organist

Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Organist

Rev. Steven Middernacht, Minister of Music

Cathy J. Kelley, Secretary

Jennifer Woland, Preschool Teacher

Wendy Wood, Preschool Helper

Dennis Sheatler, Custodian

Telephone: 570-649-5195

Church e-mail: zionlc39@windstream.net

Church website: zionturbotville.com

Facebook: [zionturbotville pa](https://www.facebook.com/zionturbotvillepa)

Prayer Chain Anchors:

Call before 9:00 pm

Team 1 Barbara Zettlemoyer 649-5358

Team 2 Joe and Mary Lou Murray 437-2478

Team 3 Martha and Lauren Weidner 649-5438

Team 4 Ashley and Janet Reasner 649-5658



January Newsletter
January deadline is
January 10, 2018

Are you aware that we have ...

... large print Portals of Prayer?

...devotional booklets located on the table in the narthex and at the back of the church?

Large print bulletins are available for all worship services.

Children's bulletins are also available for worship services.

Just ask an usher.

Church E-Mail: zionlc39@windstream.net

Website: zionturbotville.com

Facebook: [zion turbotville pa](https://www.facebook.com/zionturbotvillepa)

Check out the pictures on Facebook

2018 Newsletter Deadline

January 10
February 7
March 7
April 11
May 9
June 13
July 11
August 8
September 12
October 10
November 7
December 5

WARRIOR RUN NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Soon, yes very soon we shall welcome a new year! Each year, each day, each hour is a gift from our Creator God. Let us all take a few moments to reflect on these wondrous gifts. Impossible, isn't it to count all our blessings. We have been richly blessed to be a blessing! For many years, we have shared these blessings with our neighbors and friends; let us resolve in this coming year to continue this ministry. As the scripture says in Mt. 25:40, "Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it unto me."

DECEMBER – Vivid colors mark this season; golds, reds, greens and the sparkling white of snow; all so festive and bright. At our family gatherings, our homes are decorated, gifts are bedecked with colorful wrappings and ribbons and our dinner tables overflow with our best culinary efforts. Nestled among these dishes we find the traditional tangy dish of cranberries or cranberry sauce. Let us ensure that our friends have cranberry sauce for their holiday tables by bringing cans and cans of cranberry sauce this month. All are needed and so much appreciated.

JANUARY

It's here- one of our coldest months of the year! What delicious food always warms us all the way from head to toe? Why, it's soup of course. Any kind of soup is welcome on a cold wintery day. So, this month let's stock our neighbor's shelves with soup. Bring large cans, small cans, any variety. Some cans serve only one, some two, for some we must add water, some are creamed, some chunky. Bring them all. It's going to get cold outside, let's warm our friends with soup.

For many years, I've had the privilege and joy of speaking to you concerning the needs of our friends and neighbors. In the coming year, you will hear a new voice bringing you these messages. My heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to support this ministry.



Please remember in your prayers our members
 who are homebound,
 in nursing homes and the military:
Birthdays are listed

At Home

Earle Jarrett—2/28
 Hannah Jarrett—4/15
 Alice Durlin – 6/9
 Emily Gottschall - 10/10
 Joyce McCollum—12/2
 Maxine Reimensnyder – 12/20
 Elizabeth Sampsell
 Freda Keefer

Watson town Rehab—Watson town

Eleanor Trefsger –9/21
 Finley Stahl

Rockwell—Milton

Janice Metzger 4/15
 Dodie Day 6/23

Elmcroft—Montoursville

Phil Bower 12/30

Riverwoods—Lewisburg

Nancy DeHart—12/26
 Gladys Durlin—2/26

Military -

R. Scott Keister-3/12 John Rump-3/26
 Christopher Keister-4/2 Keenan Young—6/27
 Wayne Meckley-8/16 Alisha Cox Welch - 12/16



*Social Ministry Committee,
 Thank you so much for the delicious
 turkey dinner. It made a couple meals
 for me.
 Thanks again,
 Elizabeth Sampsell.*

*Thank you for the delicious Thanksgiving
 dinner, it was greatly appreciated.
 Jack Yost*

*Would like to thank you for
 the vegetable soup and the
 Thanksgiving dinner. I en-
 joyed them.
 Dolores Yost*

Thank You, Thank You
 The committee that represents Zion Evangelical Church in the planning of the Turbotville Ninth Annual Thanksgiving Dinner would like to thank members of our church who donated money, a dessert, or their time for the dinner. The dinner is organized by four area churches: Trinity UCC, Paradise UCC, Holy Spirit, and Zion. Zion was the host church this year. We would also like to thank Cathy Kelley for all her extra work and ideas this year. The dinner was a huge success. There were 370 dine-in meals served and 220 take-out meals. Through patron donations, business donations and donations for the meal funds were raised and after expenses \$2,581.82 remained. The planning committee that represents the four churches donated \$400 to the Turbotville Community Hall committee, \$100 to Montgomery House Library, and the remainder to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. All the leftover food was delivered to Haven Ministries in Sunbury. The meal was a time to show thankfulness for the blessings of community and friends and to come together to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Again Thank YOU for your generosity.
 Sincerely,
 Linda Shupp,
 Glenda Yost,
 Linda Hopewell

Thank You!

Dear Zion Family,
Just to let you know that, thanks to all of you, we had a banner apple dumpling year. Our first bake was our biggest ever, and our second bake was larger than many of our November bakes. We thank you and want you to know once more,

how very much we appreciate your support. That support comes in so many forms. Our dumplings start with the people who peel, core and check for quality control. Then the wrappers take over, and it's a beautiful thing to see. So many busy hands, and so much fellowship happens around that island! From there, the dumplings get filled with sugar and into the oven they go. We are fortunate to have a baker "extraordinaire". Finally they are cooled, packaged and sent on their way. We have been so blessed to have several new people working with us who have recently retired, and are now using their various skills to help our bakes run smoothly and efficiently. Kudos to all of the above. And kudos to all of you. You support us by buying and selling dumplings. We receive generous donations from some of you. And I know that many of you offer prayer support for the things our team does. Our Disaster team doesn't consist of just its members. It is made up of all of you who support us in so many different ways. Please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation. God bless you.

Dear Zion,
Thank you to the Disaster Relief Team for making the delicious Thanksgiving meal and to Shirley and Ross for delivering it. We so appreciate your thinking of us.
God Bless,

Hannah and Earle

A big "thank you" to High School Youth Group members, Kailey and Grace; their advisor, Karrie Ravert; and painting teacher, Marie Gardner and her assistant, Lydia Nugent for the beautiful Reformation inspired ornaments that are part of the Christmas tree decorations this year. Marie designed the ornaments and instructed the group, who had a wonderful time painting them.

Thanks!
Ann



THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING

For quite a few years now, the Senior High Youth Group has shopped for local children at Christmas. Turbotville Elementary school knows the families in our area with the greatest needs and provides area organizations with wish lists for them. Our youth group receives index cards listing a child's age along with clothing and shoe sizes. This year we received cards for eight children. The congregation generously gave \$1,206.00. to the Christmas shopping project this year. We want to say a big thank you for your help year after year with this project. We hope that all of the children we shopped for have a good Christmas from what we were able to give them.

Sincerely,
Zion's High School Youth Group

