

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**164<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



# THE ZION NEWS



PUBLICATION OF  
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
TURBOTVILLE, PA  
**JUNE 2020**

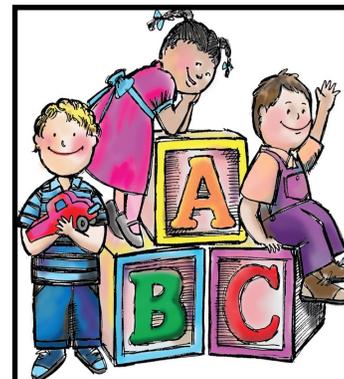


With sincere gratitude and appreciation.  
*Thanks to everyone for your cards and  
prayers during my illness.*

*Jack Yost*

Congratulations to Pastor Steven Middernacht who celebrated 55 years of ministry. He was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on June 9, 1965. May God bless you as you continue to serve the Lord!

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY



Preschool  
Registration

Preschool registrations are being accepted for 2020/2021 school year. If you know of children who wish to apply or have questions contact the church office.

## WARRIOR RUN NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

**TOMATOES** - It's tomato time, but have you seen any ripe ones in your garden as yet? In the meantime, let's shop for the non-perishable kind, those in cans. There are so many uses for canned tomatoes such as in soups, casseroles, sauces or just served as a tasty side dish. So, when you are shopping in July, think "tomatoes" and purchase some cans for our friends. Bring whole tomatoes, crushed tomatoes or any tomato product such as tomato juice, tomato paste, or perhaps tomato sauce. July is tomato time for us; let us bring tomatoes.

*Donations may be dropped off at the church narthex.*



Altar Flowers sponsors are needed

July 19, 26;  
August 16, 23, 30  
November 29  
December 13

The price per set is \$30.00.  
Please call the church office for  
availability.

*Jesus the True Vine - John 15:1-11*

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."*

(This month I offer you a sermon that was preached on Wednesday in the Second Week of Easter.)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this passage from St. John we hear Jesus say the word "Abide" no less than eleven times. But what does he mean by that? Author Catherine Marshall, in an article in Christianity Today, told the story of a good friend who learned something about what it means to abide in Jesus. She writes, "My friend Marge had an experience aboard a plane bound for Cleveland, waiting for takeoff. As she settled into her seat, Marge noticed a strange phenomenon. On one side of the airplane a sunset suffused the entire sky with glorious color. But out of the window next to her seat, all Marge could see was a sky dark and threatening, with no sign of the sunset.

As the plane's engines began to roar, a gentle Voice spoke within her. "You have noticed the windows," he murmured beneath the roar and thrust of takeoff. "Your life, too, will contain some happy, beautiful times, but also some dark shadows. Here's a lesson I want to teach you to save you much heartache and allow you to 'abide in Me' with continual peace and joy."

"You see, it doesn't matter which window you look through; this plane is still going to Cleveland. So it is in your life. You have a choice. You can dwell on the gloomy picture. Or you can focus on the bright things and leave the dark, ominous situations to Me. I alone can handle

them anyway. The final destination is not influenced by what you see and hear along the way. Learn this, act on it and you will be released, able to experience the 'peace that passes understanding.'"

This story speaks to our situation today as we deal with difficulties that have overshadowed us in recent months. We have struggled with the COVID-19 pandemic and now we are concerned about the unrest and division within our nation. We cannot predict how these issues will be resolved, and it may seem that we are traveling to an uncertain destination. As we journey we will certainly take notice of all the dark shadows, and wonder when these dark and ominous times will come to an end. As dark as our moods and our thoughts may become, there is also a brighter side to this life, to which we are also called to pay attention. The bright side of our life is when we abide in Jesus Christ, trusting that Jesus reaches out to us and supplies us with life and hope no matter where we are. It's not so much that we are relieved from the suffering, but we endure the suffering with Jesus Christ by our side. We trust in the Lord's presence, and a peace and joy comes to us that the world cannot give. "Abide in me." Jesus says.

Now, throughout his ministry here on earth Jesus often said the words, "Follow me." Simon and Andrew were casting their nets into the sea and Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." To Matthew, working in his tax collector booth, he said, "Follow me," and Matthew left his old life behind to follow. To the young man who wanted to bury his father before he became a disciple, Jesus said, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead." And on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus said no less than three times, "Take up your cross and follow me." The command to "Follow me" was the chief word that Jesus used in speaking of his relationship with his disciples during his life on earth. When it came time for him to be crucified, resurrected, and to ascend into heaven, Jesus gave them a new word. This word expressed a closer and more spiritual relationship with himself. The chosen word was "Abide in me."

In the gospel of John, Jesus is gathered with his disciples the night before his crucifixion, he says to them, "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches." This picture of Jesus as the vine and his disciples as the branches is not just a clever illustration from gardening. It really harkens back to the Jewish tradition, in which the vine was a picture of Israel. Psalm 80 describes God bringing up a vine out of Egypt and planting it in the promised land. It gets ravaged by wild animals and needs to be protected and reestablished. In the prophet Isaiah the vineyard of Israel is described as having grown wild grapes instead of

### **You can skip outdated scientific works, but not old literature – Edward Bulwer-Lytton**

It's a little ironic that the 19<sup>th</sup> century novelist Bulwer-Lytton's books aren't very widely read today, because he himself was a firm believer in the value of reading old literature. "In science, read, by preference, the newest works; in literature, the oldest," he wrote. "The classic literature is always modern. New books revive and redecorate old ideas; old books suggest and invigorate new ideas." To Bulwer-Lytton, fiction could never be obsolete, because it contained timeless themes about human nature and society that came back around in contemporary works.

### **Check out authors' reading lists for book recommendations – Mortimer J. Adler**

This American philosopher talked about the importance of choosing books that other authors consider worth reading. "The great authors were great readers," he explained, "and one way to understand them is to read the books they read." While you don't necessarily have to read everything a novelist has read in order to fully understand their own work, it's still a good way to get quality book recommendations from a trusted source.

### **Reading so-called guilty pleasures is better than reading nothing – Mary Wollstonecraft**

To the 18th-century writer, philosopher, and early feminist, just about all novels fell into the category of "guilty pleasures". Not a fan of literary fiction, Wollstonecraft admitted that even guilty pleasures can help expand your worldview. "Any kind of reading I think better than leaving a blank still a blank, because the mind must receive a degree of enlargement, and obtain a little strength by a slight exertion of its thinking powers," she wrote. In other words, go forth and enjoy that beach read.

### **You get to make the final decision on how, what, and when to read – Theodore Roosevelt**

Theodore Roosevelt might have lived his own life in an exceptionally regimented fashion, but his outlook on reading was surprisingly free-spirited. "The reader, the booklover, must meet his own needs without paying too much attention to what his neighbors say those needs should be," he wrote in his autobiography, and he rejected the idea that there's a definitive "best books" list that everyone should abide by. Instead, Roosevelt recommended choosing books on subjects that interest you and letting your mood guide you to your next great read.

## LIBRARY NOTES

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

### Reading Advice from Some of History’s Greatest Minds

If there is one thing that unites philosophers, writers, politicians, and scientists across time and distance, it’s the belief that reading can broaden your worldview and strengthen your intellect better than just about any other activity. Here is some reading advice to help you build an impressive to-be-read (TBR) pile.

#### Read books from eras past – Albert Einstein

Keeping up with current events and the latest buzz-worthy book from the bestseller list is no small feat, but Einstein thought it was vital to leave some room for older works, too. “Somebody who reads only newspapers and at best books of contemporary authors looks to me like an extremely near-sighted person who scorns eyeglasses,” he wrote.

#### Don’t jump too quickly from book to book – Seneca

Seneca the Younger, a first-century Roman philosopher and trusted advisor of Emperor Nero, believed that reading too wide a variety in too short a time would keep the teachings from leaving a lasting impression on you. “You must linger among a limited number of master thinkers, and digest their works, if you would derive ideas which shall win firm hold in your mind,” he wrote. “A plant which is often moved can never grow strong.”

#### Shop at secondhand bookstores – Virginia Woolf

According to Woolf, browsing through used books gives you the chance to stumble upon something that wouldn’t have risen to the attention of librarians and booksellers, who are often much more selective in curating their collections than secondhand bookstore owners. She described the merits of shopping in secondhand bookstores, where the works “have come together in vast flocks of variegated feather and have a charm which the domesticated volumes of the library lack.”

good and useful fruit. Other prophets use the same illustration. But now in this case, Jesus is saying that he is the true vine, in other words Jesus is calling himself the true Israel. He is the one that is living out all of the promises of God. Jesus is obediently following the commands of God and doing right what old Israel did wrong. Now Jesus' followers can also be a part of God's people when they belong to him and abide in him. As we abide in Jesus, we produce good works and good fruits worthy of his vineyard, the kingdom of God.

Unfortunately for many of us, we find ourselves in life situations when we do not cling to Jesus Christ, we do not abide in him as a branch abides in the vine. In his book “The Sacred Romance,” Brent Curtis describes that very situation. He writes:

“If I'm not abiding in Jesus, then where is it that I abide?” I once asked myself. I began to notice that when I was tired or anxious, there were certain sentences I would say in my head that led me to a familiar place. The journey to this place would often start with me walking around disturbed, feeling as if there was something deep inside that I needed to put into words but couldn't quite capture. I felt the "something" as anxiety, loneliness, and a need for connection with someone. If no connection came, I would start to say things like, "Life really stinks. Why is it always so hard? It's never going to change." If no one noticed I was struggling or asked me what was wrong, I found my sentences shifting to a more cynical level: "Who cares? Life is a joke." Surprisingly, by the time I was saying those last sentences, I was feeling better. The anxiety was greatly diminished.”

Brent goes on to describe how his abiding place was that cynical attitude and even rebellion. When he was feeling this way he would indulge in things that would make him feel better for a while. He would watch a violent movie, or binge eat, or drink too much, to name a few. None of these behaviors were helpful in the long run, but distracted him from his troubles. He goes on to say, “I had always thought of these things as just bad habits. I began to see they were much more; they were spiritual abiding places that were my comforters and friends in a very spiritual way.” So what was the way out of abiding in all the wrong places? He describes it this way: “The final light went on one evening when I read John 15:7 in “The Message” Bible. Eugene Peterson, who made this contemporary translation of the Bible, translates Jesus' words on abiding this way: "If you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon." Jesus was saying in answer to my question, "I have made my home in you, Brent. But you still have other comforters you go to. You must learn to make your home in me.”

So the question becomes for us, have we learned to make our home in Jesus Christ? Have we learned to abide in Jesus when the one side of life is dark and threatening, when we find ourselves complaining that life is hard and is never going to change? We can learn to abide in Jesus, trusting that he is the true vine and we are his branches, trusting that he is true God and we are his people. We trust in the promises of our baptism. In baptism the Father, who is the divine gardener, has grafted us into Jesus Christ. It is Christ, by water and the Word, who has cleansed us and made us worthy to abide in him. This all happens through the freely given grace of God. Trust that no matter how dark the circumstances of your life, or how deep the sin into which you have fallen, God through Jesus Christ loves you. The vine reaches out to you and stays connected to you, not because we are so good at clinging to Jesus, but because he will never let us go. As Jesus says, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

So we trust Jesus, and we also find our joy in him. As Jesus says "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and I abide in his love. I have said these things to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." Jesus summed up his commandments when he said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, strength, and mind, and you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself." Loving God means that we stay in touch with God by reading the Bible, praying, and gathering in community to worship him. Loving our neighbor means that we look out for the well-being of our neighbor, often sacrificing our own lives in order to care for them. These are ways that we abide in Jesus Christ. Both of these commandments also involve calling upon the Holy Spirit to help us when we feel weak and would rather indulge ourselves. When you want to abide in something other than Christ, call upon the Spirit of God to remind you what is right. Then sit quietly and give the Spirit the time to change your mind, to move you to abide in the commands of Jesus. The Spirit will remind you of your baptism, and the forgiveness that is wrapped around you. Jesus called upon his disciples to do more than simply follow him, after his resurrection and ascension they would be able to abide in him by the power of the Holy Spirit living within them. Let us call upon that power every day, and in every moment of need.

These are difficult times that we are going through. It is so easy to turn to the dark, rather than the light. It's so easy to hear and fill ourselves with negative talk. Yet, our Lord Jesus gives us another way. It is abiding in him. May we be people who keep the words of Jesus in our hearts and minds, so that they are constantly renewing and reviving us. May we be people who turn to the light, to receive the peace and joy that Jesus has promised to those who abide in him.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Roux

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

*Mary Kauffman, Council President*

*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*

*Rick Rovenolt, Custodian*

*Office Hours: M-TH 8:30 am to 4:30 pm - 570-649-5195*

*Church e-mail: [zionlc39@windstream.net](mailto:zionlc39@windstream.net)*

*Church website: [zionturbotville.com](http://zionturbotville.com)*

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

*You Tube Channel: Zion Turbotville*

***Prayer Chain Anchors:***

*Call before 9:00 pm*

*Team 1 Barbara Zettlemoyer 649-5358*

*Team 2 Clissie Sheatler 437-2215*

*Team 3 Martha and Lauren Weidner 649-5438*

*Team 4 Brenda Reasner 649-5749*

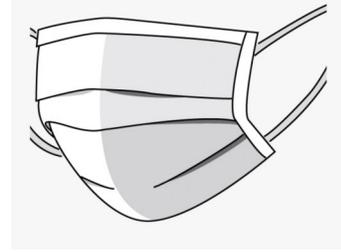


## Current Fund Daily Expenses

Balance brought forward (4/30/20)	20,918.68	7,971.00
	<b>May</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Monthly Contributions	19,593.78	101,553.05
Monthly Disbursements	5,405.48	74,149.07
Balance (5/31/20)	34,914.98	34,914.98

Building Fund—\$13,387.59  
Nave Improvement—\$106,485.07

Do you need facemasks? Facemasks are available free in our church narthex. Please feel free to take what you need.  
*(One note, please do not try them on!)*



# JOLLY BUNCH

Jolly Bunch is cancelled until further notice

**Camp Mt Luther Day Camp will  
return the summer of 2021.**



### Summer Office Hours

*Our church office will be closed on Fridays, through August 28 except for the newsletter Fridays.*



### IS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGING ?

We need your help to maintain our church records and to keep in touch with you. If your address has changed please notify the church office. You can call 570-649-5195 or email us your new address - [zionlc39@windstream.net](mailto:zionlc39@windstream.net)

*"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" - Psalm 122:1*

Dear Friends in Christ,

With the announcement that Northumberland County has entered the "Green Phase" of COVID-19 mitigation, our Zion Church Council voted to resume all in-person worship services in our nave beginning Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, and Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 and 10:30 am. Wednesday 9:00 am Prayer Service will resume Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. As we open for worship, we will faithfully abide by the guidelines for social distancing that are recommended by the CDC and PA Department of Health, which include the following:

- MASKS All attending over the age of two must wear a mask. Extra cloth masks will be available at the entrance door. They are yours to take home with you.
- HAND SANITIZER will be available at entrance doors and in the pews and attendees are asked to use it both upon entering and exiting.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING will be observed at all times. Pews will be closed off to insure a six-foot space between those from different households. Seating in the elevated area in the rear of the nave (the overflow) will be available only to those with disabilities or health conditions.
- DISMISSAL at the close of worship will be announced by pew beginning from the rear of the nave. Please leave the building immediately upon dismissal.
- ENTRANCE AND EXIT To further preserve social distancing, the double doors under the portico at the parking lot will be used as the entrance. You are encouraged to use the Paradise Street door into the prayer garden, the pavilion side door, and the alley side door to exit, reserving the parking lot doors for those who are disabled.
- RESTROOMS may be used by one person at a time. Practice social distancing while waiting for your turn to enter.
- OFFERING PLATES will be placed at the entrances to the nave to receive your offerings.
- IF YOU ARE SICK OR FEEL UNWELL, please stay home!
- THOSE WITH UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITIONS may consider staying home. Please use your best judgement.
- SERVICE OF THE WORD will be offered when we first resume worship. HOLY COMMUNION will resume on the weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and will be distributed in one kind (wafers only).

Although we are offering worship again in-person, not all of you will feel safe or ready to attend yet. If this includes you, by all means stay home. Saturday worship services will be recorded weekly and uploaded to our YouTube channel "Zion Turbotville" to be available on Sunday morning.

A cleaning crew will be established to clean all high touch areas between all worship services. Please contact us if you are able to help with that work. A rehearsal for cleaning crew, ushers and other worship assistants will be held on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, to prepare for our return.

We intend to provide a safe environment so that worshipers can feel confident about returning to worship.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Roux

Please remember in your prayers our members who are homebound, in nursing homes or assisted living, and the military:

*Birthdays are listed*

*At Home*

*Janet Reasner - 1/5*

*Freda Keefer- 10/13*

*Dulcinea Eck—11/1*

*Elizabeth Sampsell 11/7*

*Maxine Reimensnyder - 12/20*

*Watsontown Rehab—Watsontown*

*Eleanor Trefsgger -9/21*

*Wolf Run - Hughesville*

*Joyce Snyder - 6/17*

*Rockwell- Milton*

*Dodie Day - 6/23*

*Manor Care North - Williamsport*

*Janice Metzger 4/15*

*Elmcroft—Montoursville*

*Phil Bower 12/30*

*Elmcroft—Lewisburg*

*Alice Durlin - 6/9*

*Riverwoods - Lewisburg*

*Gladys Durlin - 2/26*

*Joan Webb - 10/10*

*Nottingham Village - Northumberland*

*Joyce Osman - 2/27*

*Joyce McCollum - 12/2*

*Military -*

*R. Scott Keister-3/12*

*Christopher Keister-4/2*

*Alisha Cox Welch - 12/16*

*John Rump-3/26*

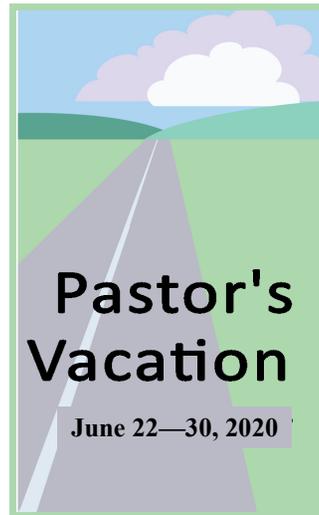
*Keenan Young—6/27*



### **PASTOR AVAILABLE**

Please feel free to contact Pastor Roux at any time for telephone conversations. You may reach him at his home at 570-437-9058. If he is not available, please leave a message and he will return it as soon as possible.

Pastor Roux will be on Vacation Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> through Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you have a pastoral emergency please contact Pastor Steve Middernacht at 570-523-7859.



### *Thank you ...*

...Noah Roux for filming and editing our videos during this time. He is no longer able to help. If you have the skills to film and edit our videos please speak with Pastor



### **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.

### **Your offerings are needed now more than ever**

You may continue to send your weekly offerings to Zion in one or more of the following ways:

- Offerings will be received at our regular worship times.
- By mailing your offering to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, P O Box 277, Turbotville, PA 17772;
- Via the Zion website located at [www.zionturbotville.com](http://www.zionturbotville.com).  
Just click on the yellow button that reads "Donate online to support Zion Evangelical"
- By dropping off your offering at the church Monday—Thursday 8:30 am—4:30 pm
- Through the mobile phone app: GivePlus

