

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

164th ANNIVERSARY



THE ZION NEWS

For surely
I KNOW THE
plans
I have for
YOU,
says the
Lord...
TO GIVE YOU A
future
WITH
Hope.
Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

PUBLICATION OF
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TURBOTVILLE, PA
DECEMBER 2020

HOPE LOVE



PEACE JOY

**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!**



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 2021 are on the table in the narthex. If you do not have a

box set of envelopes and want them, please contact the church office.

Please do not use the 2021 envelopes until January 1st the envelope number may vary from year to year.

2021 Offering Envelopes



Last Date



The last date for 2020 offerings will be Sunday, 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 2020. Contributions received after the 30th will be posted to the 2021 contribution statement.

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 2020.



Dear friends in Christ,

What are you praying for in 2021? This past year was one of the strangest and most difficult years in recent memory, perhaps in our lifetimes. The COVID-19 pandemic influenced everyone's lives. We look with hope to a new year, approaching God in prayer to ask for healing, direction, and blessings.

Pastors have hopes and prayers for their congregations as this new year begins.

In a survey conducted by Thom Rainer of the consulting group Church Answers, the question was asked on social media: "What are your prayers for your church in 2021?" Out of the hundreds of responses Pastor Rainer received, the answers were amazingly consistent. I have to say that as I looked over the top seven prayers submitted in the poll, every one of them would make my top seven list as well. I would like to list them for you and add my own comments so that you know how I am praying for Zion. You may choose to join me in these prayers as well. Here are the top seven prayers:

Unity in the church. Unity should always be our first prayer when we raise our congregation of Zion up to God the Father. Jesus did so when he prayed for his disciples at the Last Supper. In John 17, Jesus prayed: *"Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one...The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* When we are one, we are protected by the Father and we share the love of God with one another and the world around us.

Embracing the community. We can pray for a renewed conviction to be a gospel presence in our neighborhood. Our church address is not an accident, we have been placed by God in this location to be the loving hands of God to people in need. Can we identify the hurts and hopes of people with whom we are neighbors, and provide loving care? Will we work with the elderly, or youth, or families with children? Could we run something like a clothing giveaway or soup kitchen, or provide a support group to help with a common problem? The Holy Spirit often leads several people in their hearts and minds to begin and lead such an endeavor together. Is the Spirit speaking to you?

More evangelism. It is easy for a congregation to stray away from the priority of sharing the Gospel. Often churches become so busy doing good things that they neglect the best thing, bringing people to salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus made it plain at his Ascension what our top priority must be: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the*



name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) Jesus told his disciples that he would make them fish for people. You can't fish if you don't have a line in the water. Let's pray that 2021 will be the year that we all get busy casting out a line of invitation to the people around us who need life in Jesus Christ.

Embracing change. Change comes to every life whether we want it or not. The same goes for the life of every congregation. Clinging to the status quo leads to the decline or even death of many congregations. The pandemic has forced major changes upon us and we are struggling to find ways to do ministry that serves our congregation and community. We always want to remain faithful to the truth of the Gospel, and to delivering Word and Sacrament faithfully, so what positive changes may we make and embrace that will revitalize our ministry in the coming year? Let us be open to God's guidance.

Eradication of COVID-19. Very few of us really expected the pandemic to last this long at this level of intensity. This virus has taken its toll on our health, our emotions, our marriages and families, our businesses, and our churches. We are all ready for the pandemic to get under control. Let's do what we can to mitigate the spread of the virus, and pray for effective treatments and the distribution of vaccines.

Return of church members. Many of us long to be back together again, and we miss seeing one another in person. We pray that as many as possible are able to gather again in worship services, groups, and ministries this year. It is said that as many as 30% of congregational members may be reluctant to return to their church homes, but we can pray and be encouragers, gathering people back into our fellowship when we are completely safe again.

Eliminate the unnecessary activities. One of the positive consequences of the pandemic is that congregations have been able to evaluate programs, activities, and meetings as to whether or not they really make a difference. The three major goals of any congregation are to worship, nurture the growth of members, and make new disciples. Let's pray that we may resume the ministries that contribute to those goals and create a few new ones that keep us moving in the direction of the kingdom of God. Other activities that have served their purpose but no longer contribute to our goals may be celebrated and released.

These are seven prayers that we may pray for our congregation in the coming year. There are many other prayers as well, and I urge you to pour out your heart to God who listens and provides for us. Thanks to all of you for continuing the ministry of Zion church and the ministry of God's kingdom. May 2021 become a blessed New Year for all of you and for our congregation.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Roux

Upcoming Fundraising Events Mark Your Calendars Soup Sales

All activities are contingent on Covid-19
and the current state mandates.



Zion EV Lutheran Soup Sale

39 Paradise Street Turbotville PA

Drive-through pickup from 1:00 – 3:00 pm each Saturday

\$6.00 per quart unless marked otherwise



Week#1: Orders and Pickup on Saturday January 9th

1. Beef Vegetable Soup
2. Ham and Bean Soup

Week#2: Orders and Pickup on Saturday January 23rd

1. Broccoli Cheese Soup
2. Chili

Week#3: Orders and Pickup on Saturday February 6th

1. Chicken & Wild Rice Soup
2. Clam Chowder (\$7.00 per quart)
3. Stuffed Pepper Soup

Week #4: Orders and Pickup on Saturday February 20th

1. Chicken Corn
2. Pasta Fagioli

Week #5: Orders and Pickup on Saturday March 6th

1. Italian Wedding soup
2. Loaded Potato Soup

Pre-orders are accepted but not required before each sale

Email: dyer4fam@windstream.net (Lori Dyer)

or

Call: (570) 649-5195 (Zion EV Lutheran Church office – Monday-Friday)

LIBRARY NOTES

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

Challenge Yourself in 2021

It's December, the end of another year... a strange and challenging one for most if not all of us. We're looking ahead to 2021 with a great deal of hope and some degree of apprehension. And we are expecting a long winter of staying at home and social distancing.

There's no doubt things have been stressful, and you're looking for ways to reduce your anxiety. You might dabble in meditation or taking breaks from social media. Another activity you might consider to reduce your stress and make those long winter hours pass more quickly is to involve yourself in a yearly reading challenge.

There are platforms such as the *Goodreads Challenge* or the *50 Book Challenge* that can help you develop a yearly reading goal. Though everyone's challenges are different (some don't count re-reads, others do; some go for 25 books, others 125 books), many people who take on the challenge probably do it for a similar reason: they are competitive or goal-oriented and feel like setting the challenge helps them read more than they would otherwise. They like to see the fruits of their reading labors pile up on their page, and they like to see how much other people are reading, too.

As with meditation, many people thrive on singular, focused thinking... on cultivating brains and bodies that are mindful and living in the present moment. Having a yearly reading goal fits perfectly into that spirit. Because, in the end, you can only read one book at a time. By having a reasonable idea of how many books you want to read already set out for you at the beginning of the year, you can allow your new mindful reading to take over. You can give each one you full and undivided attention for a week, or two weeks, or however long you have to read a book based on that final goal.

If you've ever been hesitant to take on a yearly reading challenge, try looking at it this way: goal reading is mindful reading. And mindful reading is some of the most rewarding you will ever do.

Excerpted and adapted from “Why Every Serious Reader Needs to Make a Yearly Reading Challenge” by Kerri Jarema, *Bustle*, Sep. 28, 2017.

Hope: A Bible Study

Join Pastor Roux for a 4-session Bible study on the Biblical basis of Hope. The study will be held by Zoom on Tuesdays beginning January 5th and will be held at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm. Choose the time that is best for you. You may join this study by Zoom on your computer, smart phone, or by telephone. Please contact Pastor Roux for a Zoom invitation by email at eroux1@verizon.net. If you would like to join by telephone call Pastor Roux (570)437-9058 for the telephone number, Meeting ID, and Passcode. A study guide will also be available that can be emailed or sent as a paper copy. Please join us as we study this very timely topic.

Session 1: Finding Hope When Things Look Hopeless

During a dark time in Israel's history, one person—Jochebed—exercises hope—and history is changed. What can we learn from her about hope?

Session 2: People Who Struggle Just Like Us

Our great examples of hope, people like Abraham and David, struggled with sustaining their hope—like we do. But they persevered. How can their example help us?

Session 3 – Becoming Conveyors of Hope

The prophets helped people understand reality—why things are as they are—and where to find hope when life looks dark. Then Jesus, our Hope, arrived. What can we learn about experiencing hope in our own lives, and conveying hope to others?

Session 4 – The Foundation for Our Hope

The worst has happened—God has died—but that's not the end of the story. How does the resurrection give us hope for every situation we face?



EPIPHANY WORSHIP

The Epiphany of Our Lord, will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 6th at 9:00 am. This will be a liturgy of Holy Communion. 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.



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 ten children. The congregation generously gave \$833.00 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 Youth Group



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

Birthdays are listed

At Home

Dodie Day – 6/23

Freda Keefer- 10/13

Dulcinea Eck—11/1

Elizabeth Sampsell 11/7

Maxine Reimensnyder – 12/20

Manor Care North – Williamsport

Janice Metzger 4/15

Elmcroft—Montoursville

Phil Bower 12/30

Riverwoods – Lewisburg

Gladys Durlin – 2/26

Joan Webb – 10/10

Nottingham Village - Northumberland

Joyce Osman – 2/27

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village—Lewisburg

William Wesner—8/8

Military -

R. Scott Keister-3/12

Christopher Keister-4/2

Pete Reasner—11/28

John Rump-3/26

Keenan Young—6/27

Alisha Cox Welch - 12/16

Nave Renewal Update

Our general contractor, Gray Builders, has begun their work on our nave. Construction will continue throughout the winter and we anticipate worshipping in our renewed nave on Easter Sunday. We have moved our worship to the basement Social Hall. There is room enough to be socially distanced for up to forty people. May God bless us as we continue our endeavor of renewing our worship space and living out the Great Commission.

Altar Flowers sponsors are needed for 2021. The price per set is \$30.00 (2 altar vases)



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



MONEY COUNTERS: January

- 3 Jeff Furman/John Myers/Courtney Hamm
- 10 Karrie Ravert/Ursula Leinbach/Courtney Hamm
- 17 Mark Reasner/Marvene Crawford/ Dennis Webb
- 24 Drew Potts/Karrie Ravert/ Leon Hagenbuch
- 31 Ursula Leinbach/John Myers/Jeff Furman

JOLLY BUNCH

Well, here we are in December. Who would have thought in March that we would still be in the middle of the virus. The good news is that a vaccine seems to be on the way. As always we have hope in our Lord Jesus and need to remember that he is always in control and loves us.

Until this is over, continue to follow the CDC guidelines. Stay home as much as possible. Wear a mask, keep distances, and wash hands often. If possible, reach out to others by phone or other media. This helps all of us not to feel alone.

Christmas will most likely be very different this year. Still the reason we cherish Christmas is that we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, and we can do that in other ways this year. Remember how you celebrate this year, so we can share our memories when we are able to get together. Sharing memories will be a good way to share our ways to deal with the problems this world can give us. We can and will get through this with the love and help of our Lord Jesus and our loving God.

Merry Christmas to all and, of course, HUGS.

It is with sadness I must inform you that our member, Lenore Stoffel, has died on December 8th. If you remember we all were so glad when she married a gentleman that she had known years before. They were so happy together. She hasn't been able to come to our meetings for a while, but she will be missed. She always made our auctions of plants fun.

Jolly Bunch members with Birthdays in January

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

2021 Newsletter Deadline

Jan 13

Feb 10

Mar 10

Apr 7

May 12

June 9

July 7

Aug 11

Sept 8

Oct 13

Nov 10

Dec 8

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

Pamela Armstrong, Preschool Helper

Rick Rovenolt, Custodian

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

Church e-mail: zionlc39@windstream.net

Church website: zionturbotville.com

Facebook: zionturbotville pa

You Tube Channel: Zion Turbotville

Prayer Chain Anchors:

Call before 9:00 pm

Team 1 Barbara Zettlemoyer 649-5358

Team 2 Joe Murray 437-2478

Team 3 Martha and Lauren Weidner 649-5438

Team 4 Brenda Reasner 570-847-8329

PROJECT LINUS

As the weather turns toward winter, we will be looking for activities to keep us occupied indoors. We are also still practicing social distancing by minimizing exposure to crowds and staying at home. Blanket making would be a great way to while away the hours.

If you'd like to get started on blankets, here are some suggested sizes to use as guidelines: Baby - 40" x 40"; Toddler - 45" x 50" to 52"; Child - 45" x 60"; Preteen - 45" x 60" to 65"; Teen - 45" x 72". Blankets can be sewn, quilted, crocheted, knitted, or no-sew. There are many tips and patterns available on the national website – www.projectlinus.org.

A large box has been placed in the narthex for your blanket donations. Please do not take them to the office, just deposit them in the box. Please include your name with your donations. For anyone who would like to start making blankets for Project Linus, contact Ann Gardner if you need further information (570-546-5880). Also, for you knitters and crocheters, Mary Kauffman has yarn available for projects (570-204-3819). Some yarn is available next to the donation box.



Ways to Be the Church during this Challenging Time

Ways to Care

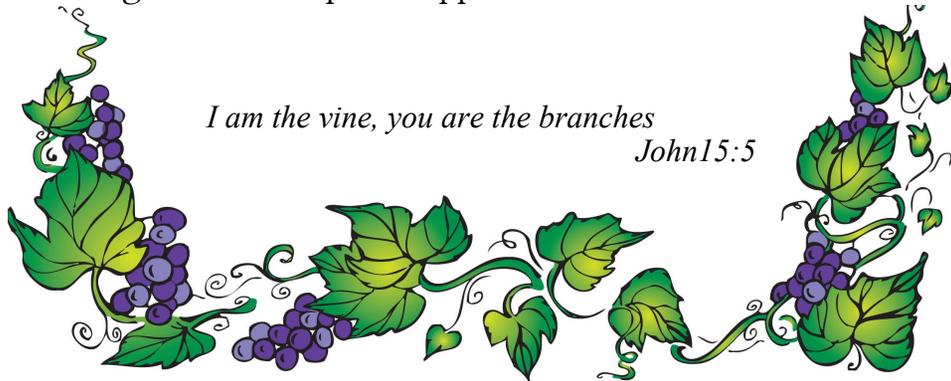
- Pray for our world, our leaders, and our medical caregivers.
- Follow the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and our civic leaders.
- Check on family, friends, the elderly, and those most vulnerable in our community.
- Let the Zion community know where we can help with needs.

Ways to Worship

- Read your Bible, sing favorite hymns, and pray.
- Watch for worship posts Sundays on our YouTube Channel: Zion Turbotville
 - ~Watch our 10:30 am worship service live streamed on our Facebook page.
- Also look for posts on our Facebook page and website.
 - ~Facebook: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Turbotville PA)
 - ~Website: zionturbotville.com
 - ~ YouTube Channel: Zion Turbotville

Ways to Give to Zion

- 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
- Monday—Friday 8:30 am—4:30 pm for days to drop off offering envelopes in the narthex.
- Via the Zion website located at www.zionturbotville.com.
Just click on the yellow button that reads
“Donate online to support Zion Evangelical”
- Through the mobile phone app: GivePlus



Current Fund Daily Expenses

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Balance brought forward (10/31/20) | 29,735.11 | 7,971.00 |
| | November | YTD |
| Monthly Contributions | 20,593.98 | 210,701.89 |
| Monthly Disbursements | 23,785.63 | 185,869.30 |
| Balance (11/30/20) | 26,543.46 | 26,543.46 |

Building Fund—\$11,503.97
Nave Improvement—\$113,635.13



MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All youth are invited to join us for a virtual Zoom meeting on Sunday, January 10th at 5:00 pm. Contact Pastor Roux at home (570) 437-9058 cell (570) 916-6264 or eroux1@verizon.net to receive your Zoom invitation.



**MS HS
YOUTH GROUP**

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

January Newsletter
deadline is
January 13, 2021

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)

YouTube channel: [Zion Turbotville](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Check out the pictures on Facebook

*Synod USS Ark Want to keep up with the Upper Susquehanna Synod news? Here is the link
<http://www.uss-elca.org/uss-ark/>*

Join us for a Livestream of our 10:30 am worship on our Facebook Page:
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (Turbotville PA)



Join us for prerecorded worship on Sundays by accessing our Youtube channel: Zion Turbotville
Worship videos are available by 8:00 am



If you are unable to join us in person or online please request worship bulletins, sermons, and CD's of recorded worship services from Pastor Roux (570) 437-9058.
We will be glad to provide them weekly.

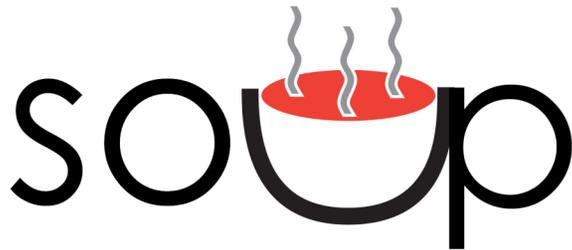
PASTOR AVAILABLE

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.

WARRIOR RUN NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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.



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.
Just click on the yellow button that reads "Donate online to support Zion Evangelical"
- By dropping off your offering at the church
Monday—Friday 8:30 am—4:30 pm
- Through the mobile phone app: GivePlus

