

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

164th ANNIVERSARY



THE ZION NEWS



**Ascension Day
May 13, 2021
7:00 pm**

PUBLICATION OF
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TURBOTVILLE, PA

APRIL 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

This month I share with you a sermon that I preached on the Fifth Wednesday in Lent. The theme, “The Mystery of Christian Suffering,” was taken from the Lenten devotional book that we shared, “The Road Back to God.” It is based on the following passage from The Letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 12:3-13

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children—

“My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.”

Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Many years ago I was visiting with a retired pastor whom I had met through our work together in a local community services agency. When I got to his home he met me out in his yard where he was chopping wood for his fireplace. He told me that his nephew had spent the day with him but had just left. This teenage nephew had been helping him to chop wood and he told me that he had to caution him several times about how he positioned the wood, his legs, and how he swung the axe. He was worried that he might chop his foot or his leg. This concerned uncle had served as the pastor of a Presbyterian church camp for decades and he was very familiar with working with youth. When this young nephew rebuffed his uncle's caution for the third time he said that



Turbotville

Community Carnival: June 7th—12th

Our church will be serving food under the Pavilion the first week in June and we will need a community of helpers. We will need food servers, food preparers, pie bakers, and a clean-up crew. Signup sheets are posted in the lobby for both volunteers and donations. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, please designate the donation to the “Zion Carnival”. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Hartline 570-716-3850.

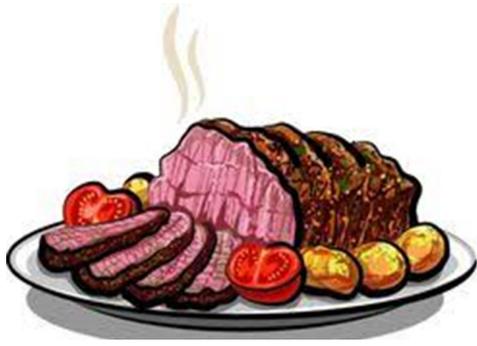
Reminder – all helpers must wear a mask, hat or hair net.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 1, 2021

39 Paradise Street, Turbotville PA
(570) 649-5195

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Drive-through only



Homemade Roast Beef Meal

*Meal Includes: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes,
Stuffing, Gravy, Vegetables and Cranberry Relish*
\$10

he backed off and let him swing the axe whatever way he wanted to. He said "He's just like his father, he doesn't like to be told what to do. I figured, that's okay, if he hits himself with the axe I'll take him to the emergency room!"

The reason I tell this story is that our theme for today from our Lenten devotional book is: The Mystery of Christian Suffering. The question we so often ask is: if God is good, and God is all-powerful, then why do we have sin, suffering, and evil in this world? The truth is that although God speaks to us through his Word his intentions for our lives, and is very clear about his commandments, we often choose to go our own way. We are like the nephew who doesn't like to be told what to do, and we get ourselves in trouble. We might even be seriously wounded, physically or emotionally and spiritually by our insolent independence. But God is always there through his son Jesus Christ, to take us to the emergency room so to speak, binding our wounds and forgiving us.

Some of the suffering that we experience in this life is like that, we are wounded by our own disobedience. But it is just as likely to be true that we are wounded by someone else's disobedience and sin. Suffering comes to us not only by our own behavior, by the behavior of those around us in this life. As the author of our devotional booklet, Pastor Larry Neeb writes: "The dread fact of suffering is evidence of the wrenching separation between the world and all people from God, which is a result of sin." He then goes on to make the claim that the suffering that comes our way in this life may also be used by God to Shepherd us back into his fold and instruct us in his ways. He writes of suffering: "But even here God can use this avenue as a way of reclaiming the lost. Seen in this way, one can accept suffering as a part of his or her own special identity given by God... Evidence that God is at work seeking to reclaim us as his own. Christians bear suffering, knowing that even this difficulty will never outdistance God's grace."

Where does he get this idea that God uses suffering to instruct us and draw us back to himself? It comes from the passage from the letter to the Hebrews upon which he is commenting. In that letter, the author, whom we do not know but we often call the Preacher, is speaking to a congregation who are struggling with their faith. We don't know exactly what their struggles are, they may be a result of their own sinfulness and even weariness with the Christian life. They may be tired of the sacrifice that actively practicing the Christian faith entails. They certainly are also being pursued and persecuted by the Romans for their Christian faith. They are seen as subversive to the Roman government by the way they care for the poor and seem to be attracting many followers, and refusing to acknowledge Caesar as

Lord. Hence, their punishment. In the midst of that suffering, the Preacher gives them a long sermon to encourage them to “lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.”

In response to this congregations weariness the preacher does two things. First, he asks them to remember the example of Jesus: “Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.” Throughout the letter to the Hebrews the Preacher describes Jesus as our forerunner, in other words, he blazes the path ahead of us by traveling over the mountains and through the depths of the valleys ahead of us. Every high and low of life, every glory and suffering, he has experienced before us. We can take inspiration from the endurance of Jesus in know that he walks with us every step of the way by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

The second response that the preacher makes to the congregation's weariness in the midst of suffering is to give them some meaning for the suffering that is tearing them apart. Suffering that is meaningless destroys the soul, however, people can endure intense distress and pain if they know it is not meaningless. It's like when a doctor or nurse tells you that your pain postsurgery means that the surgical site is healing. The suffering is not meaningless, but it has the purpose of providing for our healing. Or it's like when a child complains that their parents are too hard on them, too quick to punish them or give them hard chores. They need the reassurance that their parent's discipline comes out of their love and concern for them. That is what is at the heart of the preacher's explanation of Christian suffering. Quoting from the book of Proverbs he writes, “My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.”

Now a word of caution before I say anything more. Just because the author of Hebrews says that God disciplines his children, does not mean that every bit of suffering that we experience in this world is a result of God's punishment of us. Yes, God may let us go our own way like the nephew mishandling the axe. God may not intervene when other people are intent upon evil against us, or through their negligence hurt us. You cannot explain away the deaths of innocents in warfare or terrible diseases or accidents that strike people as a punishment or discipline from God. The preacher is not trying to explain all of Christian suffering, by any means. Instead, the preacher is trying to make sense out of the struggles his own congregation is experiencing and to en-

6. Historical Fiction and Beyond

One way to encourage a child to extend their reading choices into some other genres is to start with a good piece of historical fiction. During or after reading, dig into some research of informational texts about the time period surrounding the book.

7. Unconventional Tracking Methods

Having your child keep track of the books he/she reads isn't everyone's cup of tea. But it can be a powerful motivator and can give a great sense of accomplishment, too. A simple written reading log is fine, but try an unconventional tracking method for a fun twist:

Use an old board game like "Sorry" or "Candyland" and work your way around the board based on the books read: move one space per chapter, or one space per picture book.

Blow up a number of balloons and let your child pop one after each book read.

Start a necklace and add a bead or a charm for each finished book.

8. Activity-Based Incentives

Some kids don't need incentives to read. But if it helps, using incentives that involve activities and privileges, rather than always a prize, may help. It's important to start with a small goal that can be easily reached (e.g., 3 days in a row reading 20 minutes), especially for reluctant readers. Early success helps get the ball rolling downhill, then you can work towards larger goals and incentives. Combining incentives with a creative tracking system can work really well! You might try something like: choice of movie for family movie night, choice of homemade dinner or restaurant, library date or coffee/hot chocolate date with Mom or Dad, stay up late for an extra hour, have a sleep-over with a friend.

9. Listening Can Create Interest

Introduce audiobooks during long summer car trips... a great way to pass the time with something everyone can enjoy. Bring along copies of the books you listen to so if the kids want to keep reading on their own, they can.

Don't forget that your local public library usually offers a summer reading program, too. That's always an easy way to incorporate more reading into your kids' summer.

Excerpted and adapted from “8 Ways to Encourage Summer Reading” by Michael Friermood, *The Thinker Builder*, May 2015.



LIBRARY NOTES

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

Sparking Summer Reading

Hard to believe, but summer break is on the horizon. From a schooling perspective, the past year has been difficult at best, so the danger of “summer slump” is even more of a concern. Parents should be thinking about encouraging their child to read over the summer. Below are a few thoughtful, practical suggestions for any age group to help achieve this goal.

1. Hunt for a Favorite

A child typically is looking forward to the next book by a favorite author. Try finding a new favorite, either an author or series to read, perhaps based on interest (thriller, fantasy, sports, etc.)

2. Location, Location, Location

Sometimes *where* you read makes a big difference in *wanting* to read. Try finding a new little nook in your home: under the dining room table, in the closet with a flashlight, in a tent in the backyard, a little used space or corner of the basement you could turn into a reading alcove.

3. Book to Movie

More and more books are getting turned into movies. Take advantage by planning a movie night after finishing the book. Don't forget to also take advantage of the opportunities to compare and contrast the movie with the book.

4. "Out-of-the-Box" Texts

Summer reading doesn't just have to stop at books. Try to be more intentional about getting your child reading alternative types of text: the menu when out to dinner, the instruction manual to the new lawnmower, the lyrics to the new Taylor Swift song, the strategy guide to a video game.

5. Parent-Child Book Clubs

Purchase or borrow two copies of a book and try having a book club with your child. Set up a schedule of reading and plan to meet every couple of days to chat about the book. Accountability is built in, but more importantly, it's a great way to spend time together. Take it one step further by writing letters back and forth to each other about your book.

courage them not to fall away from the faith. What he says about their painful experiences and God forming them, is rather, meant to encourage them. Remember, we are talking today about the mystery of Christian suffering, and we cannot explain it all.

Given that, the preacher gives three reasons why God's correction is a good thing.

First of all, it's a sure sign that we are truly God's children. Only children who are unloved or abandoned never receive loving correction and discipline. Second, we can make a comparison between God's correction and our own family in which we were raised. No child is ever happy about parental control and correction, but when we look back on it we realize that it was often in our own best interest. Third, the goal of God's discipline is worth the pain. In time, the Preacher writes: it will yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Again, the Preacher is letting his congregation know that not all suffering is meaningless, but that God can use it for his purposes. The purpose of shaping us as his disciples and children.

Parents, and God for that matter, discipline children for very good reason, they want their children to grow up to be like them, to share their values, commitments, and way of life. Nothing touches a teacher more than when one of the students chooses to follow in their footsteps and make teaching their life vocation. It pleases a mother who loves gardening to see a child in the backyard digging away at the ground, “Just like my mom.” As a parent, God is the same way. God's discipline comes to us so that we will grow up to be like God, to love what God loves, and to mature into the image of God and share God's holiness.

Good parents discipline their children because they want them to grow up to have a life of meaning and joy, they want them to find satisfaction in the good that God the creator provides for us. What a whining child may desire may not be good for them in the long run, and what a parent wants for their child may be just what a child needs, even though the child doesn't think so at the time. The discipline of a good parent has as its goal a child growing up to have a great sense of purpose, and for them to have a life well spent. In the end, isn't it true that when we look back on a time of sorrow and suffering, we may realize that because of it something good and strong and true has been formed in us. It is not an answer to all suffering, but we would do well to consider this great mystery of Christian suffering. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Roux



Disaster Relief Team
Work Week April 5-9



Bobby and Jeannette Calhoun

4' landing with 28' ramp -The team worked on this ramp all day Monday and an hour on Tuesday. While here we also built a smaller ramp at the front door and a small ramp at the patio door to the landing on the ramp. We also trimmed some branches from the front tree and removed a rose bush at the corner of the property for more visibility when exiting the driveway. We had great weather and it was an enjoyable day. Lunch was delivered to site by our lovely and thoughtful cooks.



Steve and Darlene Markiewicz

While here we built this short 8' ramp with 4' landing for Steve's mother who absolutely loved it.

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

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

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.

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

Karrie Ravert, 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](https://www.facebook.com/zionturbotvillepa)

You Tube Channel: Zion Turbotville

Prayer Chain Anchors:

Call before 9:00 pm

Team 1 Barbara Zettle moyer 570-649-5358/570-850-3304

Team 2 Pat Sheatler 570-742-7550

Team 3 Barbara Hartline 570-538-2672

Team 4

Team 5 Brenda Reasner 570-847-8329



Leroy and Ruth Cotner
We worked on Cotner's house on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This ramp had a 4' landing and a 15' ramp that leads to the back door and freezer in the garage. While here we also build another ramp that leads from the garage out the back door. The house and front sidewalk were pressure washed. The back deck was scraped and painted. Leon Hagenbuch made new post caps for the deck and we stabilized the posts at the bottom of the steps on the deck. The front door trim was also painted. Lunch was again provided on site.

We also worked on Martha Weidner's house during the week. We applied waterproofing paint to the basement block walls after removing some paneling. Some cabinets were moved and the downspouts out from were diverted away from the house. A handful of other items were attended to as well.



The entire week we had great weather. Great memories were made once again with this group. If you've ever wondered if you could fit in, the answer is "Yes". We have something for everyone to do. We are always happy to accept new members to the team.





**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA
WORLD HUNGER**

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ELCA World Hunger Appeal this Lenten Season. We received \$730.80 in gifts. May God bless these gifts as they go on to feed this hungry throughout the world.

The Social Ministry Committee



**Current Fund
Daily Expenses**

Balance brought forward (2/28/21)	16,459.39	25,547.82
	March	YTD
Monthly Contributions	25,200.74	62,180.56
Monthly Disbursements	19,598.96	64,242.52
Balance (3/30/21)	21,869.17	21,869.17

Building Fund—\$10,615.24
Nave Improvement—\$30,487.07

The Ascension of Our Lord
May 13, 2021
7:00 pm

The Ascension of Our Lord

In Luke's gospel the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and encourage our mission. We will celebrate the Eve of the Ascension this year on Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 pm.



MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

All youth are invited to join us for an outdoor meeting on Sunday, May 23rd at 5:00 pm. Bring your outdoor games and a friend!



DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

May Newsletter
deadline is
May 12, 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/>

Nave Renewal Update

We are pleased with the progress that is being made on our nave renewal and work is nearing completion. Our general contractor, Gray Builders, has led an excellent team of craftsmen over these past four months. Scheduling of the many trades working on our project dictates our reopening date. As of now, we are confident that work will be completed in the next few weeks and we will worship in our renewed space in the month of May. We will keep you informed on that development. In the meantime, thank you for your support of this project. A special thanks goes out to those who have supported our fundraising efforts.

Pew Refurbishing Project

Our sturdy pews, built in 1968 by Ossit Pew Company, are an enduring part of our nave renewal. They will receive new pew ends manufactured by New Holland Church Furniture that will compliment our new chairs and liturgical furniture. The pews need some minor refurbishing which we can accomplish ourselves, and they need to be moved into the worship space. The Church Council has scheduled Saturday, April 24th beginning at 8:00 am, and Sunday, April 25th beginning at 1:00 pm to accomplish this work. A rain date of the weekend of May 1st and 2nd will be held if necessary. If you would like to help, please come and we will have a task for you.

Entrance Doors in Need of Repair

The entrance doors that open into our parking lot that are framed by beautiful stained glass need repair. The door jambs and hinges are no longer secure and need replacement. Replacement of these parts would be a temporary fix. The Church Council has voted to receive bids on replacing the entire door system and replacing it with handicapped accessible doors. These would include panic bars for safety and a remote button operated opening system. This project will help to make our church truly handicapped accessible. Donations to this project would be greatly appreciated.



Wednesday Prayer Service

Our Wednesday Prayer services are held 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. Join us for prayer on Wednesdays.



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

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.

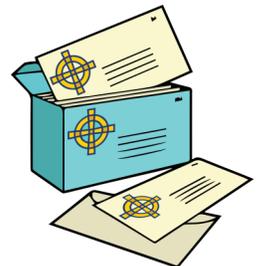
If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

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



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.

JOLLY BUNCH

I am thinking about ideas for a meeting when we can indeed
get back together. Till then, know that I miss all of you very
much.
HUGS to all.
Marie

Jolly Bunch members with Birthdays in May
Phyllis Chaapel—19th



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers sponsors are needed

April 25; May 23, 30; June 6, 13
July 4, 18, 25;
August 1, 15, 29; September 5;
October 3, 17, 31; November 14, 28;
December 19.

The price per set is \$30.00 (2 altar
vases). The flower chart is located
on the bulletin board in the narthex.
Please check for availability.

WARRIOR RUN NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS MAY

Sweet, succulent pineapple is what we shall
bring for our neighbors in May. Bring pineapple
in large or small cans, crushed, chunked, sweet-
ened or unsweetened. Can't beat the taste!
Let's fill our shopping carts with pineapple for
our neighbors this month. Many thanks for your
generosity.



The Scholarship Fund Committee proudly announces that monies will be available for scholarship applicants for the fall semester 2021. The scholarship is a one-time gift per applicant to be awarded after the student completes the second semester of an approved college degree program. **Student must provide:**

- A fully completed and signed application form to the church office by **June 1, 2021**
- Copy of first semester transcripts.
- Recent snapshot/school picture.

Payment will go directly to the college address provided on the application.

Application forms are available through the church office.



MONEY COUNTERS: May

- 2 Ursula Leinbach/Marvene Crawford/Drew Potts
- 9 Jeff Furman/John Myers/Mark Reasner
- 16 Marvene Crawford/Courtney Hamm/Ursula Leinbach
- 23 Courtney Hamm/Karrie Ravert/ Mark Reasner
- 30 Marvene Crawford/Ursula Leinbach/Drew Potts

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

