

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

167th ANNIVERSARY



THE ZION NEWS



BEHOLD,
I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF
GREAT JOY

LUKE 2:10

PUBLICATION OF
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TURBOTVILLE, PA

DECEMBER 2023

PRAYING THAT THIS

CHRISTMAS

FINDS YOU WITH PLENTY OF
PEACE, HOPE, LOVE AND 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!

Dear friends in Christ,

Many Christians can almost recite from memory the Christmas reading from Luke's gospel that begins, "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered" It goes on to tell of a journey, a child born in a stable, and a visitation of angels announcing to shepherds the good news of the birth, declaring that the child is the Savior.

The gospel of Luke, from beginning to end, shows us God's heart for the poor, the downtrodden, and the outcast of society. At the same time, the gospel of Luke shows that the normal signs of power in the world count for very little in God's kingdom. As Luke tells the Jesus story, he points out those in power, both in the world and in the religious community, but he speaks of them in contrast to God's kingdom. In the story of Jesus' birth, we see that Emperor Augustus issued a decree that all the world should be registered. Joseph and Mary complied with that order. But it was God who chose them to be parents of the Messiah.

Likewise, Matthew's gospel also shows how God favors the poor over the powerful. Matthew tells us the good news of Jesus was not good news for Herod. When the wise men came from the east and inquired about the child, King Herod felt threatened. He plotted to have the child killed. But it was God who sent an angel to warn Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt. They stayed in Egypt until Herod's death, when they could safely return.

Throughout his gospel, Luke tells of both secular leaders and religious leaders who did not see "good news of great joy" in Jesus. In fact, both groups often worked against Jesus and, in the end, were together responsible for many of the events that led to Jesus' crucifixion.

The angel and the heavenly hosts had it right when they addressed the shepherds. Shepherds were at the very low end of society. Their testimony was not admissible in court. The religious leaders looked down on them, especially since their job prevented them from regularly observing the Sabbath and kept them ritually unclean according to Jewish law. God could have announced Jesus' birth to the highest levels of society. But God chose the shepherds as the first to hear the good news of great joy. From the very beginning of Jesus' time on earth, God chose to involve people whom the world overlooked and tossed aside as unimportant. Those people were the first witnesses of God in human form. And when the shepherds came to see Jesus, they became evangelists—those who bring good news. In fact, Mary and Joseph only knew about the angelic announcement that night because of the shepherds' visit.

“So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words in her heart.” (Luke 2:16-19)

Do you realize how important the shepherds are in this whole story? Shepherds were outcasts of society. Tell someone they're a nobody for long enough, and they start to believe it. Tell yourself over and over that you don't matter, and you start to believe it and to live as if you don't matter, to other people, to yourself and to God. But God told the shepherds a different story, and they returned to their lives as changed people “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.”

Project Linus “Blanket Fellowship”

About mid-2023 we started “Blanket Fellowship” sessions when we met the second Sunday of each month. Folks gathered to knit, crochet, sew, and tie blankets; share their skills with others; and just enjoy time socializing.

The meetings will continue in 2024 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Social Hall. “Blanket Fellowship” will occur on the following dates. Meetings will be suspended during the summer and in December as these are very busy times for everyone.

January 14
February 11
March 10
April 14
May 12

June, July, August – no meeting
September 8
October 13
November 10
December – no meeting

Bring a blanket project to work on or materials for a project if you would like some help getting started. There will be members who will help you. “Blanket Fellowship” is a come-as-you-are-able activity where we can have fun and get to know each other better as we help a great cause by making and donating blankets for children in need in our area. For questions, contact Ann Gardner.



PROJECT LINUS QUARTERLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

Another busy time for Zion blanketeers! During the final quarter of 2023, 29 blankets were donated and delivered to our chapter headquarters in Lewisburg. The total of 182 for the year surpasses last year's total of 159 donations. Heart-felt thanks goes out to all those using their wonderful talents to create these beautiful blankets!

Our group began its blanket ministry mid-2020 during the Covid pandemic. For many of us, it was a way to keep ourselves busy by doing something constructive. It has developed into so much more – a very real labor of love that benefits children in need in our own area. Zion blanketeers have made and donated an incredible 516 blankets from mid-2020 through the end of 2023!

Pat, our chapter coordinator, has indicated a need for new blanket sizes – 28" x 28" and 30" x 30" – as our local Project Linus is now supplying blankets for several NICUs in the area. These babies are very small and fragile, thus the need for the smaller size. Also, just a reminder to use new materials – fleece, batting, yarn, etc. – for all blanket donations.

If you'd like to become a blanketeer for our local chapter, please contact Ann Gardner for further information. You can also visit the national website at www.projectlinus.org.



Then the incredible good news of great joy grew from there! Jesus continued to speak good news of great joy throughout his life and ministry to the last, least, and lost. He spoke this good news to lepers. He spoke this good news to the woman at the well in Samaria. He spoke good news to Jairus regarding his daughter. He spoke good news to the paralytic let down through the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching. He spoke good news to the Gerasene demoniac. He spoke good news to the thief on the cross. He spoke good news to the disciples after his resurrection as he commissioned them to go into all the world making disciples. You might say that Jesus was born where people needed him most.

Ultimately, through his death and resurrection, Jesus brought good news of great joy to all who believe. He asks us to continue that work and ministry.

Soon we celebrate Jesus' birth. We celebrate God coming down from heaven to live among us and be our Savior. We will sing "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" and feel good about celebrating another Christmas. At the same time let us always remember that Jesus' good news extends even to those who have given up on God, or who have given up on themselves. People feeling beaten down by the ways of this world. We can decide that we will make the effort to spend time with them. You may be just the person to let them know, or help them see, that God has a word for them: good news of great joy! You may even realize that you sometimes feel that you've given up on God and given up on yourself. God has a word for you: good news of great joy!

The shepherds heard God's call to go and see Jesus, and then share good news. Following them throughout the entire history of Christianity there have been faithful people who have also heard God's call on their lives to help others see and hear the good news. Maybe the best gift you could give this year would be to invite others to come and see Jesus and tell them how Jesus is God's good news of great joy to them. Through sharing the good news, Jesus is born where people need him most.

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

Barbara Kocher—6/1

Freda Keefer— 10/13

Jeannette Calhoun (living with Son)— 11/1

Elizabeth Sampsell—11/7

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village - Lewisburg

William Wesner - 8/8

Al Kauffman

Nottingham Village - Northumberland

Joyce Osman - 2/27

Watsontown Rehab - Watsontown

Mike Benfer—8/21

Maxine Reimensnyder - 12/20

Military *Pete Reasner—11/28*

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

Drew Potts, Council President

Michael Yohn, Organist

Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Organist

Cathy J. Kelley, Secretary

Jennifer Woland, Preschool Teacher

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 Zettlemyer 570-649-5358/570-850-3304

Team 2 Pat Sheatler 570-412-4672

Team 3 Viola Pfleegor 570-649-5281

Team 4 Mary Mertz 570-437-3075

Team 5 Glenda Yost 570-649-5751/570-490-5751



Christmas Season!

The Christmas season in the Church lasts from the evening of December 24th through January 5th. It is a full twelve days of celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord. The color of the Christmas season is white, the color of all the festivals of Christ, traditionally suggesting gladness, light, and joy. We will begin this season of celebrating with candlelight liturgies of carols and Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Come, join us for worship. We pray that all members of Zion, and all Christians everywhere, will enjoy a blessed Advent and Christmas.



*Oh, Come, Let
Us Adore Him*

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Worship
December 24, 2023
7:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Current Fund - Daily Expenses

Balance brought forward (10/31/23)	10,675.33	17,683.09
	November	YTD
Monthly Contributions	26,430.23	236,074.82
Monthly Disbursements	24,507.71	241,653.04
Balance (11/30/23)	12,406.85	12,406.85

Building Fund—\$6,058.95

Nave Improvement—\$13,436.01

Current Loan Balance as of 11/30/23 was \$168,821.94

Our Mission Goal for November was \$20,038.00

Your contributions for November were \$26,430.23

Nave donations for November were \$2,515.00

Thank you for your giving.

Our Mission Goal for December is \$24,526.00

Your contributions as of December 6th are \$6,602.34

Nave donations as of December 6th are \$715.00

Our mortgage balance is \$167,973.95 as of 12/6/23

The original loan amount was \$260,344.84

when we began to make payments starting 1/5/22

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

Saturday Evening Worship Service—35

8:00 am Worship Service—180

10:30 am Worship Service—167

Wednesday Prayer Service —40

Thanksgiving Eve Service AM—15

Thanksgiving Eve Service PM—17



**MS HS
YOUTH GROUP**

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP

We invite youth to join us for a meeting on Sunday, January 14th at 5:00 pm. **BRING A FRIEND!**
Youth Group is for 5th through 12th grade. Events. Youth Advisor is Amanda Stoudt. Call Pastor Roux at home (570) 437-9058, cell (570) 916-6264, or email eroux1@verizon.net with any questions.



Facebook Livestream Attendants Needed - If you are interested in helping with the weekly worship live stream. Please use the signup sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the office. Training and documented how-to's will be provided and you will be shadowed by either John Yogodzinski or Macoy Auman. The live stream does not have to occur during 10:30 worship so if you would like to stream 8:00 am or the Saturday 6:00 pm service, please indicate the desired time on the signup sheet. Contact John Yogodzinski at (570)417-6737 or john@thegraphichive.com. If you have any questions.

**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.

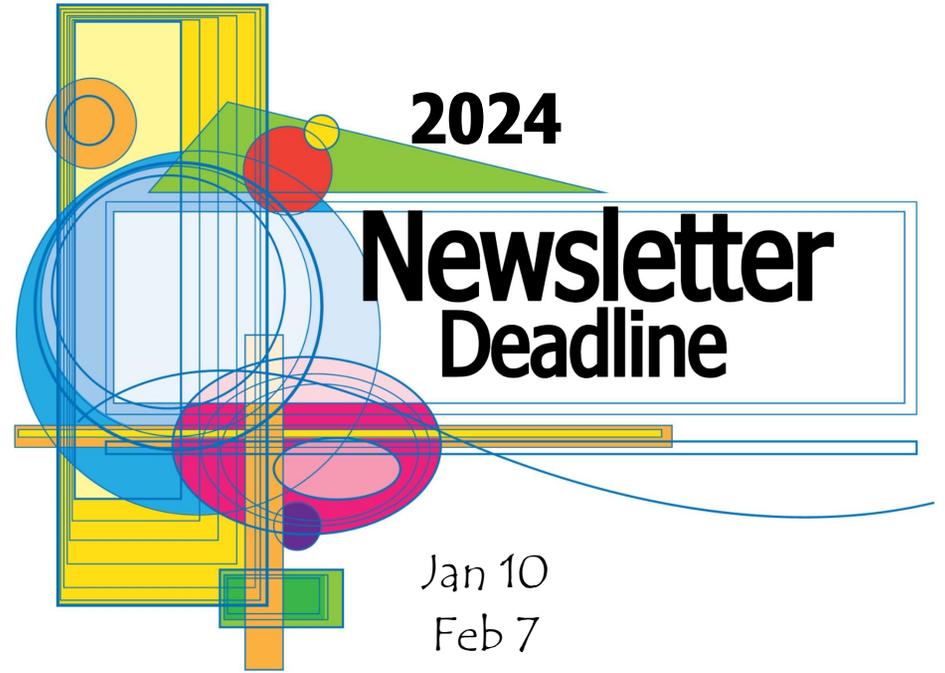
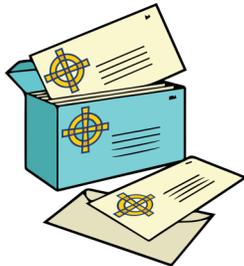
If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

An authorization form is available from the church office.

We thank you for your offerings!

Make 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



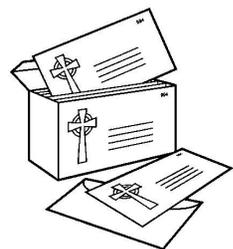
- Jan 10
- Feb 7
- Mar 13
- Apr 10
- May 8
- June 12
- July 10
- Aug 7
- Sept 11
- Oct 9
- Nov 13
- Dec 11

ANNUAL REPORT

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 2024 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 a box set of envelopes and want them, please contact the church office.

Please do not use the 2024 envelopes until January 1st the envelope number may vary from year to year.



The last date for 2023 offerings will be Tuesday, December 26th. Please have all contributions to the church office by that time in order for credit to be received on your contribution statement for 2023. Contributions received after the 26th will be posted to the 2024 contribution statement.

Please note: Sunday, December 31st offerings will be deposited but not put through the banking system until January 2, 2024 therefore, the credit will be on the 2024 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 2023.



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



The recorded 10:30 am worship service will be posted on our Youtube channel: Zion Turbotville immediately following the service.



Thank
you



Funeral Meals

Helen Mathias is our new Funeral Meal Coordinator. Helen will be making the phone calls for funeral meals, her telephone number is 570-490-7129. Please answer if you see Helen is calling.

Thanks to all disaster relief people who helped prepare and serve the Jolly Bunch thanksgiving luncheon. This includes the dishwashers, cooks, pie cutters and pie bakers, servers, salad makers and table decorators and everyone who made this day perfect for the Jolly bunch.

Many thanks to Glenda and Jim Yost who had the entire meal process documented; this made it easy for us to provide this wonderful thanksgiving meal in their absence. We are forever grateful for your many years of experience and support.

Thanks to all who came to enjoy the meal and fellowship. Plan for next year's dinner.

God's Blessings
Jolly Bunch

Thank you to everyone for your cards and prayers.
I miss my Zion family ♡.

Carla Mahaffey

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. We offer classes using the Sparkhouse curriculum. The following classes are available:

- Preschool—Natalie Hamilton
- Kindergarten to Grade 2—Megan Zettelmoyer
- Grades 3 - 6—Amanda Stoudt
- Grade 7 - 12—Noah Roux, Macoy Auman, Cole Shupp and Lindsey Hartman



Stay Up-to-Date with Zion

We have a new way to keep in touch with you. It's called Text in Church. Sign up to receive texts on your Smart Phone. We'll keep you up to date a few times a month with reminders of upcoming events and other important information about our congregation. Go to this URL <https://form.church/zionlutheran> or scan the QR code to complete the opt-in form.

Holiday Schedule

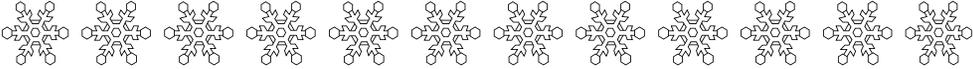


Office Hours
The church office
will be closed
Monday, December 25th
and
Monday, January 1st



JOLLY BUNCH

ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES



What a busy year the Jolly Bunch has had; games, quilting information, Linus project encouragement, a tour of the new Warrior Run elementary school, another organ recital, Carl and Opal Schleppe country gospel music, "Tricks of the Trade" presentation, and our annual Memorial service where we remembered several of our members who sadly have died this year.

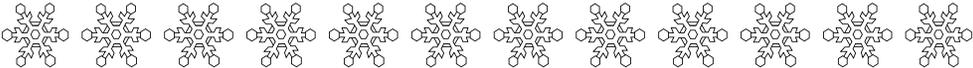
No meeting in January. Relax and get ready for the new year. More to follow in January.

Merry Christmas and a very healthy and Happy New Year. HUGS to all.
Marie Gardner

*NEXT JOLLY BUNCH MEETING:
February 14th, 10:30 a.m.*

Jolly Bunch members with Birthdays in January

- Ross McCollum—1st
- Richard Eck—2nd
- Shirley Menges—2nd
- Valerie Barnwell—7th
- Shirley McCollum—17th
- Kay McCarty—17th
- Marcia Sterner—17th
- Marie Gardner—26th



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



Do you now have a cell phone number and no longer a land line? Please let the church office know of your new telephone number, for our records.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Drive-through only

All soups are \$8.00 per quart except clam chowder for \$9.00 quart

Upcoming meal:

Soup Sales begin Saturday, January 6th 2023 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM then every other Saturday for 5 weeks

Jan 6th Beef Vegetable and Ham & Bean

Jan 20th Stuffed Pepper and Broccoli Cheese and Clam Chowder

Feb 3rd Chicken & Wild Rice and Firehouse Chili

Feb 17th Chicken Corn and Tuscan Zuppa

Mar 2nd Loaded Potato and Pasta Fagioli

Oyster Dinner: Tuesday, February 6th drive through from 4:00 -5:30 PM, followed by dine-in-meal beginning at 6:00 PM

Donut Day: Tuesday, February 13th

Fish Dinner: Saturday March 16th 4:00 – 5:30 PM

**** Frozen soups from prior weeks are often available, please feel free to pre-order as well****



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.

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.

