

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

167th ANNIVERSARY



THE ZION NEWS



I will
put my
spirit
within
you,
and you
shall live...

Ezekiel 37:14, NRSV

PUBLICATION OF
ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
TURBOTVILLE, PA

APRIL 2024

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 4, 2024

39 Paradise Street, Turbotville PA

(570) 649-5195

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Drive-through only



Homemade Roast Beef Meal

*Meal Includes: Roast Beef,
Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing,
Gravy, Vegetables and Cranberry Relish for \$14*

*See you at the Turbotville Carnival
June 3rd—8th at the pavilion*

The Ascension of Our Lord Thursday, May 9, 2024

When Jesus walked this earth he was very clear about his mission. In Luke's Gospel he says, "For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." On Ascension Day we celebrate the triumphal return of Jesus Christ to heaven, his enthronement at the right hand of God, and that his mission was successfully accomplished. There are many benefits that Jesus shares with us because he has accomplished his mission.

The first benefit that we have as a result of Christ's Ascension is power over sin, death, and the devil. Without the mission of Jesus Christ, there is not a lot of hope for you when temptation comes your way. You may be a person of unusual willpower, but even you don't have much hope. But Jesus has come and has shown us that it is possible to be tempted and not give in. He was hated, but he didn't retaliate. Instead he responded to his enemies in love and truth. He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he overcame sin. He accomplished his mission to defeat sin, and he has given us the power of God. His power resides within us so that we can overcome sin. We share Christ's power, and this is a new reality because of Christ's successful mission.

What about death? People are naturally anxious about death; they try not to think about it. It's a terror to human existence. But Jesus has come and said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. When I broke out of death, I trampled down death. My mission is accomplished. I have overcome death; you don't need to fear it." Death is not the period at the end of a sentence, it's a comma.

What about the devil? Have you ever felt that you experienced the presence of evil in a situation? You do not need to live in fear of that. Jesus stared down the devil in the wilderness. He overcame him at every turn and he ultimately defeated him at the Cross and at the Resurrection. Jesus has ascended in triumph. His mission is accomplished, and he shares his power with you and me. John writes in his first letter: "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." You don't need to fear the devil.

While Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil is significant, there are more benefits. A second benefit that comes to us through the triumphal Ascension of Jesus Christ is that you and I now have access to Jesus anytime, anywhere. When Jesus came to earth he was painfully limited. He came as a baby, and he was totally dependent on Mary and Joseph. Just like all of us, he could only be in one place at one time. He couldn't be in Nazareth and in Jerusalem simultaneously. If you were sick, laying on your cot in Jerusalem, hoping for help, you had to wait until he physically came to Jerusalem. But forty days after his resurrection there was a shift.

This is told in the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus was giving final instructions to his followers and he said, ""You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'

And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'"

At first Jesus' Ascension doesn't seem positive or beneficial; he was taken away. But the reality is that he is now no longer limited to appearances one place at a time. He is available anytime, anywhere. There is nowhere you can go where Christ's presence and power are not available. There is no time when you will call on his name that he will not respond.

Cell phone companies like to brag about how great their coverage is, don't they? They tend to exaggerate how good their coverage really is. You see those maps on television commercials covered with red to show where you can get service. When Jesus was on earth he had a tightly defined geographical mission. He said he was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He was called the King of the Jews, and his mission was tightly and geographically focused on the one tiny Roman province of Judea. But now, through the Ascension, his glory and power extends over the whole world. Wherever you are, in the emergency room, on an airplane, or staying up at night with a sick loved one, Jesus is there for you.

Even though you forget to pray to him, he prays for you. You might think, "What is Jesus doing in heaven?" The Bible says he continually intercedes for us. He is praying for you and for me. You might also be thinking, "This situation is too big for me. I wish somebody would pray for me." You've got it! Whatever your need is, Jesus is praying for you.

Jesus has experienced the troubles of this life. He was tempted in every way as we are. He was spat upon, rejected, and tortured. Whatever difficult thing life brings your way, it has been dealt to him, and he understands and he prays for you. When we deal with difficult situations, we naturally want to go to somebody who has experienced the same thing. People who are able to relate to us are often the most encouraging to us. And right now, before the very throne of God, you have someone who knows what you are going through and he's interceding for you. Anytime, anywhere you have access to Jesus, and he is praying for you.



Geraniums for Pentecost

Members interested in providing geraniums to decorate the church for Pentecost Sunday, May 19th can place your orders April 28th, May 5th, 12th or contact the church office between those dates.

May 12th will be the final day to place your order. The cost is \$5.00 per plant and we request payment be made when you place your orders. We will process outside during the closing hymn for a blessing upon our Geraniums and you may choose to plant them here at Zion or take them home for your own garden.

Project Linus

Zion's "Blanket Fellowship" meetings are held from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Social Hall on the following dates. Meetings will be suspended during the summer and in December as these are very busy times for everyone.

April 14

May 19

!!Date change for May to 5/19 as the second Sunday,

5/12, is Mother's Day !!

June, July, August – no meeting

September 8

October 13

November 10

December – no meeting

By the end of 2023, the Chapter had distributed 2511 blankets to sick or traumatized children in local hospitals, emergency rooms, foster homes, and homeless shelters... anywhere there was a need. Zion's Blanketeers were a big part of that effort. Let's keep the momentum going! For information, contact Ann Gardner.



Lastly, as a result of Christ's Ascension, our lowly bodies are now destined for glory. Most people are disappointed with their bodies to some extent. Some of us want to lose some weight. Others are fighting illnesses. We may have bodies that bother us, and drag us down. They are flawed and they are wearing out. We all are going to die. Is there hope for us? The amazing truth of the Ascension is that a human body has entered heaven and will live forever.

Some people believe that when God saw our human plight and came to us in Jesus at Christmas, he put on a human suit and lived out his human life. And then following the Cross and the Resurrection, he was glad to take it off. That's heresy. For 2000 years, Christians have taught that Jesus went all the way when he took on our humanity. Not only did he take on every aspect of humanity, he took it on forever. Jesus, through his Ascension, has taken humanity into the presence of God. In the throne room of God, God the Son has a body with scars from the crucifixion. Jesus is forever at the right hand of God the Father and Jesus has become the first of many people who will carry resurrected human bodies into the presence of God.

Right now our bodies are weak, but one day, like the ascended Christ, they will be strong. Right now our bodies can be disappointing, but someday they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit and glorified. Right now our bodies are passing away, but in the new heaven and the new earth, like the ascended Christ, we will live forever. Many people think Christianity is merely spiritual. But it's actually a physical religion. It honors the body that you've been given by God, and someday you will live with him forever.

Do you see why we celebrate the Ascension? As a result of the Ascension, you and I have lasting confidence over sin, death, and the devil. Because of the Ascension, you and I now have access to the power, and the prayers of Jesus Christ anytime, anywhere. And because of the Ascension, our lowly bodies are destined for glory. In Paul's letter to the Philippians he writes, "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Worship Jesus for his Ascension and rejoice in his benefits. Amen.



Dear friends in Christ,

I will be going on a sabbatical this coming July through September and I want to let you know what it will mean for our ministry together.

What is a sabbatical? A sabbatical is a time set apart for renewal. It is based on the biblical command of keeping the Sabbath day: "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is Sabbath to the Lord your God: you shall not do any work." - Exodus 20:8. A sabbatical for pastors models the example of Jesus, who frequently sought out a quiet place where he could meditate and pray. Our Upper Susquehanna Synod describes a sabbatical in this way:

"Sabbaticals provide ministers the opportunity to reflect on their call to ministry and their relationships with God and God's people. While the concept of a sabbatical in the business and academic world is tied to research and finishing advanced degrees, a sabbatical in the church is provided as time away from the busyness of daily ministry in order to nourish one's relationship with God for the sake of the ministry to which one has been called."

The guidelines of our Synod suggest that a sabbatical of three months be granted after seven years of service in the parish. When I was first called to Zion nineteen years ago, the opportunity to take sabbaticals was established as a part of the call. I took a sabbatical after my first nine years of service in 2104. It is now 10 years since my last sabbatical and it is time for me to again step away from the daily work, to experience renewal, and then return to this call equipped and refreshed to begin our work anew. The dates of my sabbatical will be July 1 through September 30. I will spend the time allotted for my sabbatical in rest, time with family, daily prayer, and spiritual reading. There will also be time for an organized retreat with colleagues and education.

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

Presbyterian Home - Williamsport

Karl Fausnaught - 9/23

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

I am grateful that the congregation of Zion has been saving to fund this sabbatical for the past 10 years. There will be more than adequate funds to accomplish all the ministry that needs to be done in my absence. The ministry of presiding and preaching will be done by clergy and authorized lay worship leaders on both Saturdays and Sundays. Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Bishop Craig Miller of our Upper Susquehanna Synod, and Authorized Lay Worship Leader Mark Giesen have all been scheduled. Pastor Elkin will be providing pastoral care, visitation of the sick, and presiding at any funerals. He will also be providing leadership at half of the Wednesday prayer services. Other clergy and congregational members will be called upon to lead the remaining Wednesday prayer services. Ministry will also be done by all of you, the members of Zion, as you live out your baptismal calling.

Finally, know that I am committed to you. I'm going on sabbatical to come back, having grown and been restored by the experience, and able to serve steadily once again. Thank you for this gift of time.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Roux



Pastor's
SABBATICAL



The Day of Pentecost - May 19th

Fifty days after Easter we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Just like the Apostles of Jesus, we are empowered to proclaim the Good News of the Risen Jesus Christ to all nations.



The Holy Trinity - May 26th

When we say that God is Triune, we say that God is three persons and one God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a relationship of love, and we are invited into that love. Empowered by the Trinity, we invite others into that love.

Current Fund - Daily Expenses

Balance brought forward (2/29/24)	13,488.52	19,399.56
	March	YTD
Monthly Contributions	22,311.13	64,977.95
Monthly Disbursements	22,374.94	70,736.80
Balance (3/31/24)	13,316.71	13,316.71

Building Fund—\$7,018.28

Nave Improvement—\$26,102.62

Current Loan Balance as of 3/31/24 was \$148,694.76

Our Mission Goal for March was \$22,214.00

Your contributions for March were \$22,311.13

Nave donations for March were \$2,275.00

Thank you for your giving.

Our Mission Goal for April is \$25,586.00

Your contributions as of April 8 are \$11,447.00

Nave donations as of April 8 are \$1,045.00

Our mortgage balance is \$132,776.83 as of 4/12/24

The original loan amount was \$260,344.84

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

MARCH ATTENDANCE

Saturday Evening Worship Service—44	8:00 am Worship Service—181
10:30 am Worship Service—176	Wednesday Prayer Service—13
Lenten Morning Prayers—49	Lenten Vespers—75
Maundy Thursday—68	Good Friday—60
Easter Vigil—76	Easter Sunday 6:30 am—92
Easter Sunday 10:30 am—83	



May Newsletter
deadline is
May 8, 2024

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
Check out the pictures on Facebook

Special Congregational Meeting Summary

A special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, April 14, 2024, following the 10:30 a.m. service. There was a total of thirty-eight members present. Currently the quorum requirement is twenty-two members. The purpose of this meeting was to decide how to fund two facilities related projects; (1) A new roof on the Educational Building, (2) Exterior painting, which includes replacing deteriorated wood trim. These projects were approved at our February 11, 2024, Congregational Meeting. The total cost of these projects is \$79,000.

Five options, in addition to the monies in the Roof Replacement Fund (\$12,816), were presented. The five options are: (1) using the balance of the Menges/Snyder/Hawley Fund (\$8,932.27). (2) using \$36,300 from the Scholarship Fund which currently has a principal balance of \$92,559. The \$36,300 would not be paid back to the Scholarship Fund. (3) Borrowing no more than \$21,000 from Scholarship Fund Principal and repaying it to the Scholarship Fund at a 4% annual percentage rate over the next five years. (5) Selling no more than 300 shares of Turbotville Bank stock at \$70 per share to decrease the amount we borrow from the Scholarship Fund.

1. Those present unanimously approved using the \$8,932.27 of the Menges/Snyder/Hawley fund to help fund the project. This money, in addition to the current balance of the Roof Replacement fund, totals \$21,748.27.
2. A proposal to withdrawal \$36,300 from the Scholarship Fund for use on the projects was unanimously approved. Currently, we have enough interest in the Scholarship fund to provide fifteen scholarships. The remaining balance of the Scholarship Fund, earning a 4% annual interest rate will provide three additional scholarships per year.
3. A proposal to withdrawal up to \$21,000 from the Scholarship Fund with the stipulation that these funds would be repaid to the fund over a five-year period at an interest rate of 4% was unanimously approved. The actual amount

that we need to borrow from the Scholarship Fund should be less than \$21,000 assuming donations the Roof Replacement Fund continue to be made. If we borrow the full \$21,000 a monthly payment of \$386.75 for the next five years would be required. This money will hopefully be raised through continued donations to the Roof Replacement Fund. We will conduct a “Educational Roof Replacement/Exterior Painting” pledge campaign.

4. A proposal to sell no more than 300 of the 2,000 shares of Turbotville National Bank stock at \$70 per share was presented, seconded, and discussed. The purpose of the stock sale was to reduce the amount of money to be borrowed from the Scholarship Fund discussed in item 3. For example, if 50 shares were sold at \$70 per share the borrowed amount would be reduced by \$3,500. If no shares were purchased, we would borrow the entire \$21,000 from the Scholarship Fund. Reducing the number of shares owned by the church would reduce the total amount of dividends received and used for global, local, and congregational use. Discussion concluded and a vote was taken, and motion did not carry.
5. The option of taking out another loan for the \$21,000 was not presented, nor seconded.

Motions were presented, seconded, and unanimously passed to award the roofing contract to Equity Roofing, LLC, and the painting contract to 360° Painting.

This concluded the meeting and we adjourned.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, or feedback, positive, or ways to improve you may have.

Sincerely,

Drew R. Potts
Council President



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.



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.

**Electronic Giving Option
The Simply Giving Program
Endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union**

Zion provides an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

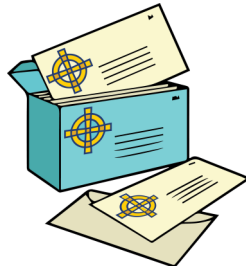
If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

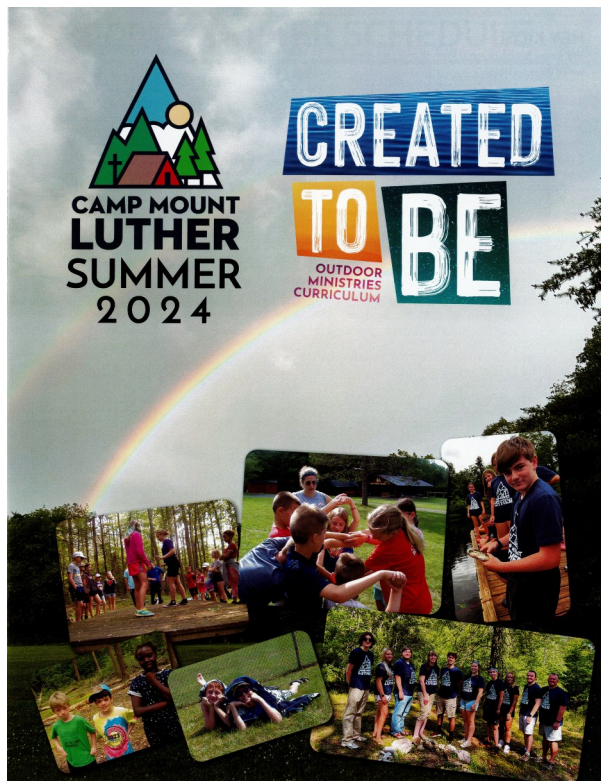
An authorization form is available from the church office.

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





SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION

We have Camp Mt Luther brochures on this year's summer camp programs, along with a schedule. Check out the summer camp online at www.campmountluther.org for information and to register.

Any questions contact the church office at 570-649-5195 or call Camp Mt Luther at 570-922-1587.

Zion will pay for 50% of camp cost of the lowest Tier pricing. Please bring your registration with your half of the payment to the church office.

Pastor Roux will be serving as Chaplain the week of June 23-28

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.



Vacation Bible School Helpers Needed

Vacation Bible School will be held at Zion on June 16-20, 6:00-8:00 pm. We need helpers to join us to lead crafts, games, learning, and snacks. We will have our first planning meeting on Sunday, April 28th at 11:45 am. All are welcome and needed!



Diving into friendship with God take kids deep into an amazing under-sea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Kids will be immersed in the Word and discover what living water is really all about!

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



*Pastor Roux will be on Vacation
Monday, May 6th through Sunday, May 12th, 2024
Mark Giesen will be our supply minister
May 11th and 12th*



MS HS YOUTH GROUP

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP

We invite youth to join us for a meeting on April 28th. We will be doing a service project, packing health kits for a homeless shelter. **BRING A FRIEND! We will need lots of help.**

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.



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.



We need your help to maintain our church records and to keep in touch with you.

1. 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
2. Do you now have a cell phone number and no longer a land line? Please let the church know of your new telephone number.

JOLLY BUNCH

May 8, 2024
10:30 am

On April 10th Pastor Elkin treated us to a talk and slide show about "Growing and Blooming across Northern Spain and Portugal. There were many flowers that we are not familiar with, but some we knew. The flowers made me ready for spring and summer. The flowers and scenery across the countries were all so beautiful. Thank you, Pastor Elkin for this special program.

Please join the Jolly Bunch on May 8th, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. Our program will be presented by Mr. John Marr. He is planning a program based on the history of Washingtonville and the surrounding area. Many of us have a history ourselves in those areas. We will be going to the Crossroads Cafe in Montandon for lunch. Marie

Jolly Bunch members with Birthdays in May

Mike Anderson - May 7th
Valli Rovenolt - May 24th
Pete Reasner - May 25th

Jolly Bunch members with Wedding Anniversaries in May

Mike and Lynne Anderson - May 3rd
Steve and Kate Fisher - May 31st



Thank you to Pastor Roux and the confirmation class (Maggie, Julia, Megan, Clara, Autumn, Tyler) for the opportunity to work alongside you for Holy Week rehearsals and services. You all made my job easy, since you're such quick learners!

Courtney Hamm

Dear Zion Church Members,

Thank you for supporting our Cub Scout spaghetti supper fundraiser. We served over 125 meals and sold out of all meals! Your support helped us to have a successful event and we appreciate all you do for our Scouting programs.

*Cub Scout Pack 3622
Members*

Thanks to everyone who attended the Easter Breakfast and all the helpers. We had a wonderful turnout!

Larry Kocher

Thanks for a Great Holy Week

A heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who helped to make our Holy Week worship special this year. I especially wish to thank all who were willing to work as ushers, lectors, and Holy Communion assistants. I also thank the Confirmation Class, Maggie Hamm, Megan Stahlnecker, Julia Stahlnecker, Clara Stoudt, Tyler Walburn, Autumn Zettelmoyer, as well as parent helper Courtney Hamm. Additional youth in worship leadership included David Royles, and Michael Royles. Together we faithfully proclaimed the Good News that Christ the Lord is risen!

Sincerely,

Pastor Roux

PASTOR AVAILABLE
Please feel free to contact Pastor Roux at any time for telephone conversations or to schedule a visit. 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.

Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. It was a pleasant surprise for sure. We greatly appreciate it.

Leon and Gayle Hagenbuch



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, sweetened 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.

