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Angel Closet Items  
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War, West Virginia Mission  
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**Thank You  
Condolences**

**From Pastor  
Curtis'  
Desks:**



Dear Sisters and Brothers and friends of the Stone Valley Parish:

Here we are half thru the year of 2017 already. We are about to celebrate a most exciting church holy day, Pentecost, the birth of the Christian Church.

That is why we ask all of you to help in the celebration by wearing colors that would be a part of a flame, red, orange, yellow, blue, white.

Our scripture story of the festival of Pentecost tells us that tongues of fire sat upon the heads of the people. And they began to speak each in their own language or tongue, but yet they were able to understand each other. What an exciting state of affairs but, of course there were those who didn't believe and thought that everyone was drunk on wine.

We also hear that there were rushes of the mighty wind. This brings to my memory the sounds of harsh storms that I have been in, not any tornadoes but hurricanes. The sounds made the situation a bit scary for me. How about you? What has been your experience in times of harsh storms? What were you feeling?

It makes me recall God the Creator breathing breath or blowing life into creation for the first time as God called the world into being.

God then breathed his spirit or breath into the people gathered at the first Pentecost giving new life in Christ.

Thank you God for the Holy Spirit and the continuous presence we have around and in us of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for talking to us thru the Holy Spirit thru other people you send into our lives, the voices we may hear inside our minds that we call our conscience, and by the visions or dreams we may experience that help lead us and give us direction, your direction God.

"There is a shaking. Let hearts awaken. Our God is moving. Forever changing us. There is a trembling. There is revival. The sound of worship. So great and glorious. Holy Spirit hear us now. Breathe on us. Holy Fire fall. Send Your spirit here breath of Heaven breathe on us. Breath of Heaven breathe on us." Kari Jobe

Dear Friends in Christ,  
Thank you for your gift to Our Church's Wider Mission. We are deeply grateful for your congregation's gift.

Your support of OCWM permits us to provide for operating expenses, equip leaders, support clergy in ministry, foster healthy and vital congregations, advocate and witness for justice, respond to disasters and tragedies, send help around the world, and preach a welcoming and open understanding of Christian Faith. Thank you for your vital support and faithful partnership. Please accept our sincere thanks and good wishes.

Faithfully,  
Mary A. Paxton  
Director, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship



**Pre Worship Service  
Coffee Social  
Celebrating Family  
Father's Day  
Sunday, June 18, 2017  
Salem-Zion Church, Pillow  
8:30am until service at  
9:00am**

**Zion Stone Valley Church  
9:45am to service at  
10:30am**













# June 2017

<p><b>Sunday Worship Schedule</b>  <b>9am Salem-Zion with Kids Church</b></p> <p><b>9:15am Adult Church School</b>  <b>10:30am Zion Stone Valley!</b></p>				<p><b>1</b></p> <p>"#\$%&amp;! ' ) * +, -. /!0!12(3+!  ' 0045!10,!6(7+!(!)6(7+&amp;#  8-0. !9*: , ; *!</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>&lt;7-(&gt;+)*?-77+!@ (, 4!  6(7+!2(3+!6(7+!10,!  A-55-0. !B, -%!  C: &gt;7+, D6-&amp;&amp;5!E+*!  B(77&amp;( . !F (, &amp;!</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>&lt;#G-77+!@ (, 4!6(7+!  2(3+!6(7+!10,!  A-55-0. !B, -%!  C: &gt;7+, D6-&amp;&amp;5!H+4!  B(77&amp;( . !F (, &amp;!</p>
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<p><b>25</b></p> <p>!  QR(&amp;!6(7+&amp;#8-0. !T. . : (7!  9*: , ; *!H0, 5*-%!(. 4!! -; . -; !  90&amp;&gt;-. +4!H0, 5*-%!6+, ?-; +5!  A: 5-; !&gt;J!6+/+, !F (&amp;-7J!A- . -5), J!!</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>!  HG!A-55-0. !B, -%!  [ +7-?+, J!0!H*00%-+!! -+5!  L%&amp;!60, )-. /!M!6(7+&amp;#  8-0. !!  6+)! : %!10, !@ (, 4!6(7+!68!</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>! -7700!90&amp;&amp;: . -)J!@ (, 4!  6(7+!  ! ( , -5*!B+ (&amp;!@ (, 4!5(7+!  B(&gt;7+5!_!2(3+!6(7+!_!  F004!6(7+!  !</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>! -7700!90&amp;&amp;: . -)J!  @ (, 4!6(7+!  ! ( , -5*!B+ (&amp;!@ (, 4!6(7+!  B(&gt;7+5!_!2(3+!6(7+!_!  F004!6(7+!</p>	<p><b>July 1</b></p> <p>! -7700!90&amp;&amp;!@ (, 4!  6(7+!  ! ( , -5*!B+ (&amp;!B(&gt;7+5!  F004!6(7+5!  68!2, + (31(5)!6(7+!</p>



Jesus never rejected anyone and  
neither do we.

**Stone Valley Parish  
A Cooperative Union  
of ELCA and UCC**

Salem-Zion Church  
119 Cherry Street  
Pillow, Pa 17080  
1-570-758-2761

Zion Stone Valley Church  
1899 Mountain Road  
Dalmatia, Pa 17017  
1-570-758-1975

Email: [stonevalleyparish@gmail.com](mailto:stonevalleyparish@gmail.com)  
<http://www.stonevalleychurch.com/>

**Salem-Zion Church Picnic  
Combined Parish Worship Service  
Sunday, June 25, 2017  
10:00am featuring "The Seger Family"**

**Parish Office**  
1899 Mountain Road  
Dalmatia, Pa 17017  
1-570-758-2872

**Pastor:**  
Rev. Curtis H. E. Zemencik  
2256 East Main Street  
Sacramento, PA 17968  
Email: [parrecurtis@gmail.com](mailto:parrecurtis@gmail.com)  
Cell: 1-570-640-4818

**Worship & Church School Schedules:**

Salem-Zion Church  
Pillow, Pa  
9:00am Worship Service  
10:15am Church School

Zion Stone Valley Church  
Hickory Corners- Dalmatia  
9:15am Church School  
10:30am Worship Service

**Stone Valley Parish  
1899 Mountain Road  
Dalmatia, PA 17017**

*Prepared Especially For:*

## If Your Church Is Healthy, Why Is It Still Small?

It's a valid question. I wish I had a tidy answer. But here's what I do know.

*Karl Vaters*

Oh my. That question.

“How can you say your church is healthy if it's not growing?”

If I've been asked it once...

But I still don't know how to answer it.

I wish I did. Because it's a perfectly valid question. But life doesn't tie itself up in tidy answers to tough questions like we wish it did. At least it hasn't for this question. Not for me and the great church I serve. Not yet, anyway.

### Yes, We're Trying To Grow

It's not like I'm keeping the church small on purpose. I've been working on church health and growth for decades. I've read all the books, attended all the conferences, worked, prayed, preached, removed growth obstacles, consulted with experts, sought wise counsel, and done everything else I know to do to help the church grow.

And it has, somewhat. From about 30 to about 180 in 24+ years. With plenty of ups and downs along the way.

But I live in a highly populated area. If any church should be busting through the 200 barrier and more, ours should.

So what's wrong?

### No Excuses Allowed

Sure, I've thought of every excuse imaginable. For instance, our church sits on a very small piece of land in a ridiculously expensive city. No doubt, the building is a growth choke point. But that hasn't stopped lots of other churches near us from having explosive growth and buying more land, so I can't use it as an excuse for us.

So why does our church remain small?

Even after [writing a book](#) and five years of blogging about it, I still don't know why.

[There are a lot of churches – most churches, in fact – that stay small despite years of healthy, missional work.](#)

But I know I'm not alone. There are a lot of churches – most churches, in fact – that stay small despite years of healthy, missional work.

So I won't offer excuses.

And I won't give up trying to help this wonderful, healthy church move towards numerical growth. But if the numbers don't come, I won't beat myself up about it anymore.

I won't let the question in the title of this post – one that will continue to be asked by well-meaning people – make me feel guilty.

I won't get jealous of churches that keep leapfrogging past us as they bust through growth barrier after growth barrier. I'll celebrate it. We're on the same team, after all.

And I won't ever let the pursuit of numbers be a higher priority than the pursuit of health, mission and passion. If we have those and the numbers come, great. If we have those, but the numbers don't come... still great.

## Being The Best Church We Can Be

We're going to keep doing good kingdom work. Worshipping, praying, preaching, teaching, equipping the saints, reaching the lost, feeding the poor, and learning how to do all of those things better every single day.

Even if our church never becomes big, we're going to be the best church we can be.

[Even if our church never becomes big, we're going to be the best church we can be.](#)

And I'll keep reaching out to my fellow small churches and their pastors so we can encourage, inspire and equip each other to do church better today than we did yesterday.

For now, that will have to be enough. And, you know what? It's more than enough. It's great!

A strong, passionate, healthy, missional, worshipful, disciple-making church is a wonder to behold. Whether we have 20, 200 or 2,000 people in the room.

So yes, we're still hoping to grow. But we're not worried about it.

And we won't sit idly by waiting for it either.

We've got a role to play in the body of Christ and a passion to do it. So size is no obstacle.

Christianity Today Church Growth April 17, 2017



### Remembering The Fallen

On this Memorial Day and on all days, remember those who serve faithfully, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve what they believed. God bless them all, and give us the strength and courage to stand as tall as they did.

### A Prayer for Deployed Soldiers

Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace.

Send your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace.

Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping.

Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline and courage, and bring them home safely to their loved ones. We ask this in your name.

Amen.

\_\_ from God and Country: Reflections for Catholics in the Military.