



150th Anniversary Closing Festival Indoor Picnic & Program Booklet

July 24th, 2022

*The Good Hope Lutheran Church
800 Moran Street
Oil City, PA 16301
www.goodhopezionlutheranoilcity.org*

Good Hope Lutheran Church Staff

Lead Pastor
Sandra Jones

Associate Pastor
J. Michael Parsh

Director CMC/Outreach
Joyce Frenz

Music Director
Beth Orris

Preschool Director
Marcy Amero

Treasurer
Tom Neely

GH Organist/Communications Manager /Office Administrator
Kristen Criado

Good Hope Lutheran Church Council

President
Pat Gavin

Vice President
Sandy Zacherl

Worship
Debbie Best

Mission
Charles Schultz

Finance
Ashlee Goodman

Faith Formation
Margie Hart

Property
Scott Graham

Treasurer
Tom Neely

Secretary
Linda Vogt

Sunday, July 24th, 2022
150th Anniversary Closing Ceremonies
Meal and Program

Before the meal

Appetizers

Music

Historical Slide Show

Mealtime Prayer

Meal

German Inspired Foods

Program Welcome

Hymn

O God Our Help In Ages Past (ELW 632) - See Page 4

Comments and Speakers

Pastor Sandra K. Jones

Pastor J. Michael Parsh

Invited members of the congregation

Hymn

Love Has Brought Us Here Together (ACS 1040) - See Page 5

Words of Thanks

Closing Prayer

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

Love Has Brought Us Here Together



1 Love has brought us here to - geth - er; love of fam - 'ly,
2 Love is gen - tle, love is pa - tient, soft in words and
3 Love does not re - joice at e - vil; love re - joic - es



love of friends; love, our vow till death should part us; love, God's
kind in deeds. Love is strong and nev - er pom - pous; love puts
in the right. Keen in giv - ing and for - giv - ing, spread - ing



gift, that nev - er ends. From our birth, through-out our life - time,
first the oth - er's needs. Not quick-tem - pered or re - sent - ful,
love is love's de - light. When two peo - ple pledge their u - nion,



love's in - sis - tence calls our name. Floods of wa - ters
prone to take of - fense or brood, love ex - cels in
all who wit - ness are re - newed, feast - ing at love's



can - not drown it or put out its danc - ing flame.
grace and mer - cy, nev - er jeal - ous, nev - er rude.
earth - ly ban - quet, tast - ing heav'n's be - at - i - tude.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Text © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Hymns reprinted under ONE License License number: A-727320. All rights reserved.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License, License A-727320. All rights reserved

Chronology of The Good Hope Lutheran Church of Oil City

1871-2022

Note: No extensive information is available relative to the many happenings that led to the organization of Good Hope Lutheran Church. However, the minutes of early meetings, supplemented by sundry other records, make it possible to compile a fairly comprehensive history of the formative years of our church. We offer this information, as well as the records of the years that followed, in chronological order. Compiled from archived records and booklets – 2022.

1870

In 1859 the attention of the nation was focused upon this area by the drilling of the Drake Well. This discovery of oil, however, failed of early exploitation by the outbreak of the Civil War. The conflict's ending in 1865 was featured by the influx of many people to this territory who fondly imagined that in oil they would find a quick and easy way to wealth. A goodly number of these were men of Lutheran faith who quickly sought to provide Lutheran services for themselves and their families. For a time, itinerant preachers supplied their spiritual needs, but as their own numbers increased it became highly desirable to effect a definite organization and to secure a resident pastor.

1871

In the spring and early summer of 1871, a tentative organization as a congregation began to take shape. Property needed to be acquired. Funds were soon available, and a building site was purchased on East First Street. The erection of a new church on this lot proceeded with such dispatch that it could be formally dedicated on August 20, 1871. It was a two-story frame structure, thirty-two by sixty-five feet, with a parsonage at the rear. All this was accomplished by the congregation. A pastor was not called until one week before the dedication of the new building. This call was extended to the Rev. Louis Vogelsang of Brady's Bend, and he was inducted into office on October 8, 1871. Under his leadership the congregation was formally organized, and the

following officers elected: President George Walters, Secretary Edward Kaufman, Treasurer Louis Roess, Deacon John Schmid, Trustees; Jacob Burkel, George Paul, and John Kistler.

1897

The transition from a German-speaking congregation to one in which English should be the dominant language was accompanied by much controversy, a controversy that came to a bitter climax in the year 1897. A series of meetings were held that were featured by heated debate. A vote was taken on October 4 and the motion to introduce additional English services was carried by a decisive majority. As a result of this action a group of dissenters withdrew their membership and organized what is now known as Christ Lutheran Church. It is an interesting commentary on this entire controversy to state that Christ Lutheran, organized to be entirely German, discontinued all German services a number of years before they were discontinued by Good Hope.

1899-1901

At the turn of the century, it became apparent that the growth of the congregation was making it imperative that the old church be enlarged or a new one erected. Fortunately, the desire to erect a new house of worship prevailed, the property at West First and Petroleum streets was purchased, and a building committee appointed. This committee had the following personnel: Christian Roess, Henry Suhr Sr., Louis Walz, Louis Schormann, and Rev. Henry J. Reimann. Subscriptions were solicited and \$21,000 were pledged before any contracts were let.

1902-1903

Early in the spring of 1902 ground was broken for the new church and work on placing the foundation proceeded rapidly enough for the cornerstone of the new building to be laid on the following first Sunday of August. Being erected out of stone, considerable time was required to complete the structure. Finally completed, a service of dedication was held on June 14, 1903. The total cost of the building was \$45,724. An examination of the program of dedication

discloses that the following pastors assisted Rev. Reimann in a series of special services: E. A. Boehme, H. J. Schuh, E. Cronnenwett, J. G. Butz, C. F. W. Brecht, and A. R. Kuldell. It might be of interest to add that within a period of three years the entire cost of erecting the church was covered by the gifts of her people.

1912

The joy of having a beautiful, debt-free house of worship was tempered in 1912 by the sudden death of Pastor Reimann. Entrusted with an executive position by the general body of the Lutheran Church with which he was affiliated, he was called for consultation by a mission parish at Grove City, PA. While there, he died peacefully in his sleep on July 19, 1912, having served Good Hope with marked distinction for a period of more than twenty-four years. All who knew him testify to his sterling Christian character.

Calling a successor to Pastor Reimann was not long delayed. The man chosen was Rev. Adolf P. Ebert of Pittsburgh, PA. Having accepted the call tendered him, he assumed the local pastorate in the autumn of 1912. Public induction services were held on November 24, thus beginning a term of approximately thirteen years of faithful and devoted services as the spiritual head of our congregation. Much was accomplished during his fruitful ministry.

1916

No church can place too great an emphasis upon the deep going training of her youth in the foundation principles of Christianity and the church. With this in mind, and to prepare more adequate facilities for Sunday School and to modernize its equipment, the basement rooms of the church were completely remodeled during the summer of 1916. Moveable doors and sliding partitions were provided and new floors were laid the entire cost of these major improvements was assumed by Mrs. Henry Suhr Sr. It was indeed a fine gift to the church she loved.

1917-1920

Shadows of war stretch far. Europe first became involved in a tragic conflict, and it was not long until our own nation became involved and our sons were called to the colors. Under Pastor Ebert's devoted leadership every effort was made to keep in spiritual touch with all from the congregation who entered national service. Testaments were distributed, Red Cross and other war activities were engaged in, and fine contributions were made during the war to relieve the suffering and the hunger that is always incident to war. Following the war's ending members were called upon for donations for sundry causes. Fine contributions were made to cancel the Synodical debt, to reach a high quota in the Million Dollar Offering and to support several Reconstruction and World Service Campaigns.

1921

The minutes of a vestry meeting held July 12, 1921, offer two items of special interest. Both relate to the rehabilitation of the church's property in anticipation of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation. Two contracts were let. The first was awarded to Kohl and Tucker for decoration the interior of the church at a cost of \$2,798. The second contract was let to W. H. Corrin to cover the cost of installing new lighting fixtures in the church auditorium. This contract required the expenditure of \$870.25. At this time also new heating equipment was installed, the gift of C. L. Suhr, Mrs. J. C. Black, and Mrs. E. A. Burgh.

After extensive planning by pastor and committees, the fiftieth anniversary of the church's organization was held the week of October 30. The minutes of a vestry meeting of September 27, 1921, record the adoption of the anniversary program, but there is no record available to show whether this program was presented without change. Speaker at the Sunday morning service was Rev. W. E. Schramm of Butler, PA, and in the evening Pastor Ebert occupied his own pulpit. Fr. Otto Mees presented an address on Monday evening and on the following Wednesday members of the organizations of the congregation offered historical sketches of their respective organizations. Speakers at this service

included Mrs. J. F. Westinghouse, Miss Clara Netzler, Mrs. Oscar Bankson, Miss Elizabeth Siederman, and H. W. White. Featuring the celebration was the publication of an illustrated anniversary booklet.

1925

The year 1925 marks the close of the ministry of Rev. Ebert as pastor the congregation, he accepting a call extended to him by St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Fullerton Maryland. Evidences are many that his pastorate deeply enriched the spiritual life of Good Hope's people.

1926

After an interim of more than a year, with supply pastors occupying Good Hope's pulpit, a call was extended to Edward Kuhlmann, pastor of the First English Lutheran Church of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to become Rev. Ebert's successor. The call was accepted with induction services held on August 15, 1926, the pastor's brother John bringing the message and hearing the installation vows.

1927

Early in the year 1927 the publication of a weekly parish journal was launched with second class mailing privileges being secured. Since that time this journal, the Herald of Hope, has enjoyed uninterrupted publication. In February of 1927 a revolving cross was placed on top of the church's tower as a luminous witness to central position of the atonement in the teachings of our church. In this same year a movement was launched to build a parish house and a parsonage. The project being approved by vote of the congregation the following building committee was appointed: Charles Suhr, Louis Schorman, Louis Ensle, Herbert White, Mrs. Ernest Burch, Mrs. Edward Roess, and Miss Josephine Siederman. Work of construction followed at once.

1928

Two events of interest mark the year 1928 in the memory of our congregation. On January 22 the completed parish house and parsonage, erected at a cost of

\$65,000, were formally dedicated with special morning and evening services. Emphasis at that time was given to the fact that silverware, dishes, and other furnishing were donated by members of the congregation. On June 10 the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the church was recognized with services of thanksgiving. Rev. Adolf P. Ebert, former pastor of the congregation, occupied the pulpit speaking in the morning on "Worn Stones Tell Wondrous Story" and in the evening on "Love's Building Program."

1929

For a number of years, the Sunday School has devoted the first offering of each month to benevolent purposes. To elicit a deeper interest in this offering the Sunday School obligated itself to pay the cost of a mission chapel in Youngstown, Ohio, and this chapel was dedicated in the fall of 1929, the pastor and choir and many members of the congregation sharing in the service. To honor our congregation the Youngstown congregation calls itself the Good Hope Lutheran Church.

1930

In the summer of 1930, our congregation was privileged to have the Eastern District of the American Lutheran Church hold its annual convention in our midst. Approximately two hundred pastors and lay delegates were counted in attendance. Meals were served in the basement rooms of our church, and lodgings were provided in the homes of our members. All in all, it was an enriching experience in the life of our congregation.

1935

Early in the year 1935 a movement was launched to replace our worn carpet with a new one. A committee composed of Mrs. Edward Wurster, Mrs. Charles Mohr, Mrs. Ernest Burch, Mrs. Oscar Bankson, Mrs. Gust Kluck, and Mrs. Florence Parr was authorized to make the purchase. More than 530 yards of Wilton carpet were required with the cost of the carpet exceeding \$1,900, this cost being covered by the free-will gifts of our people. The carpet was dedicated at a special service held on the morning of Sunday, April 27.

1938-1940

The spring of the year 1938 was made memorable for our church by the privilege of receiving two exceptionally fine gifts. The first was a wonderfully fine Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ. It was presented as a tribute of affection to the memory of Charles Wilkins Suhr who was killed in a plane accident in September 1931, the donors being Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Suhr and their son Henry. The second gift of the year was an illuminated cross suspended in our chancel to honor the memory of Rev. Henry J. Reimann, second pastor of the congregation. The gift was placed by his children on the fiftieth anniversary of his installation as pastor of Good Hope church. In the spring of 1940, an echo unit of the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ was placed in the balcony of our church as a second unit of the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ. This too came as a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Suhr and their son Henry.

1941-1945

War years test the very soul of both the nation and the church. Good Hope, too, needed to pay the price. 116 of her sons and daughters entered the service of the nation in World War II. While our losses were not proportionately large, two of our finest young men, William Ailshouse and Robert Stephens, made the supreme sacrifice. May a gracious God keep our nation from being involved in any World War III.

In June 1945, special festivities were arranged in recognition of Rev. Kuhlmann having bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity by Capital University of Columbus, Ohio.

1946-1956

In 1951 the constitution was revised and incorporated as The Good Hope Lutheran Church of Oil City, Pennsylvania. The church continued to grow and prosper over this time. On December 2, 1956, Dr. Kuhlmann resigned as pastor. His resignation was regretfully accepted.

1957-1959

Following several months of supply pastors, a call was given to and accepted by Reverend F. LeRoy Sarver, then a pastor at Upper Sandusky, Ohio. He was installed September 1, 1957. During Rev. Sarver's ministry beginning with the year 1958, Good Hope Lutheran church adopted a vicar training and assistance program. The congregation continued to grow, and it was thought that the addition of a vicar could help the church better serve its membership. Several of the vicar's wives served our community well as nurses in our hospital or as teachers in our public schools.

Through the years the church's membership grew to the extent that something had to be done – either remodel the First Street Property or relocate and build a new and larger church. A committee of seven members was appointed to study future plans or needs, or any other problem relative to the church proper and make recommendations to the Vestry. On November 23, 1959, a "Fund-Raising" Campaign was launched to raise funds for an expansion program. A Building and Expansion Committee was appointed as follows: George E. Shaw, Chairman; Robert D. Harman; Jack R. Thompson; Richard H. Hammer; Lynn R. Goucher; Louis R. Kraft; James F. Cochran, Jr.; Mrs. Philip E. Blum; Mrs. William L. Roess; Mrs. Francis M. Rockwell, members.

1960-1964

On October 16, 1960, the church was reorganized, the constitution was revised, and the church was incorporated as the Good Hope Lutheran Church of Oil City, Pennsylvania. On October 1, the church parsonage became the Church School Annex. On October 29 the new church parsonage at 103 West Second Street (formerly the Henry B. Suhr residence) was dedicated, a gift from the Suhr Family.

After meetings and heated debate, a Special Congregational Meeting was called August 8, 1963. It was voted upon and carried by the members present to relocate and build a new church. In December 1963 and January 1964 two properties were purchased respectively: The Barnes Property (six acres in Oil

City and twelve in Cranberry) was purchased for the new building site and 4 additional acres were purchased for the Moran Street roadway. After much deliberation and discussion, another congregational meeting was called and held at the Belles Lettres Club – the preliminary plans for the new church, as presented by the architect, were accepted. The “Unified Budget” System of accounting was adopted at this time.

1965-1970

Groundbreaking took place January 24. In July the cornerstone from the West First Street structure was removed. The contents of the cornerstone box were noted and displayed in the church narthex for several weeks. The last student intern moved from Oil City to resume his studies at Capital University, terminating the vicar intern program at Good Hope Lutheran Church. The cornerstone was uniquely laid October 31 by Pastor Sarver. The new edifice was completed and dedicated June 19, 1966. Reverend Paul N. Varner gave the dedication address “So We Build.” The church council at this time consisted of Pastor, Reverend F. LeRoy Sarver; President, Ralph W. Somers; Vice-President, Lloyd S. Bromley; Secretary, Howard F. Flinchbaugh; Treasurer, Francis M. Rockwell; Evangelism, Richard H. Hammer; Stewardship and Finance, Glenn R. Taylor; Worship and Music, Albert J. Mertz; Organizations, John T. Barber; Building and Expansion, George E. Shaw; Property Management, George M. Garnic; Parish Education, Jack C. Biltz; and Furnishing and Memorials, Mrs. Eugene E. Zimmermann.

The church honored Pastor Sarver with a Thanksgiving Service celebrating his 25th anniversary in the holy ministry on May 18, 1969. Pastor Sarver was presented with a church ring, a plaque commemorating the occasion, and a purse.

1971

Good Hope celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in 1971. The day of August 1 began at 9:30am with a service by the youth of the church, “Youth Looking Forward.” The church service began at 10:45am and featured a centennial

choir of an estimated 65 voices with Mrs. William Hamilton, church organist, accompanying. The Pastor, Rev. F. LeRoy Sarver, presided at the service with the Rev. Gordon S. Huffman, D.D. Bishop-The Eastern District, The American Lutheran Church preaching and the Rev. Paul L. Knudson lecturing. After worship, the congregation enjoyed an old fashioned picnic on the church grounds as well as the culmination of a week-long art festival. In conjunction with the church's centennial celebration, historian Lloyd S. Bromley, authored a booklet entitled "History of The Good Hope Lutheran Church of Oil City 1871-1971" which gives a concise account of the church's founding.

1976

Ten years after dedicating and occupying the Good Hope Lutheran Church at 800 Moran Street, the members of the church held a mortgage burning ceremony four years before the mortgage was due. Taking part in the ceremony were Mrs. Philip Blum, Richard Hammer, Glenn Taylor, Howard Flinchbaugh, Ralph Somers, and Mrs. Francis Rockwell. Special guest speaker at the event was Rev. Alvin C. Ellerbusch. Ellerbusch was the first intern of the Vicar Program instituted by Rev. F. LeRoy Sarver in 1958.

1977

In April of 1977, Mrs. Barbara Heineman proposed a Christian preschool program at Good Hope Lutheran Church. The motion was approved by the council. Preschool opened on September 13th, 1977, with an enrollment of 21 children (the allowable maximum) with Barbara Heineman and Sherry Stoltenburg as teachers. In September of 1978, Beth Orris and Sharon McDowell started the Toddler Time program. Those classes met on Thursday and Friday from 9:00 to 11:30. It was decided later to have the Preschool classes meet on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with the Toddlers coming on Tuesday and Wednesday at the same time. Then all the children came together for music class one day a week. Becky Bloom and Gloria Stevens were added as helpers.

1980-1981

Rev. Sarver was the fifth pastor of Good Hope Lutheran Church in its 109 years of service to the community. He served for over twenty-two years before his retirement in 1980. On February 22, 1981, the Rev. Kenneth Hauge preached his first sermon at Good Hope Lutheran Church as its sixth pastor. He was formally installed as the Good Hope pastor at a service in March.

1986

Good Hope Lutheran Church planned a three-way celebration for October 11. To be observed were the 115th anniversary of the church's founding, the 15th year of Rev. Kenneth Hauge's ordination, and the 20th anniversary of the church at Moran Street. A dinner was planned with a Pennsylvania Dutch theme and prepared by the Venango County Vo-Tech School.

1988

Good Hope Lutheran Church began hosting the Center of Hope Counseling Center in the offices at Moran Street. The church-related counseling center was financially supported by the Lutheran Service society of Western Pennsylvania and an ecumenical mix of local churches.

In 1988 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was formed by the merger of three predecessor church bodies: the ALC, the LCA, and the AELC. With this merger, Good Hope became a member of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod. The first bishop of the synod was the Rev. Paull Spring, a member of Good Hope.

1991

Good Hope Church marks 120 years since its founding, 25 years of the church's Moran Street location, and the 20th observance of Rev. Kenneth Hauge's ordination. A dinner was held to commemorate all the observances and was catered by the Good Hope youth. The Rev. F. LeRoy Sarver gave the table grace and music was provided by Steve Winslow, Kristy Benninger, Liv Hauge, Marianne Orris, Marion Krumich, and Jocelyn Somers. A program and

memorabilia display was presented by Henrietta Blum and Beverly Suhr along with members of the Martha Circle.

1994-1996

In 1994, the 50th anniversary of Rev. F. LeRoy Sarver's ordination was celebrated at Good Hope. The first major capital project at the Moran Street church location was started for the replacement of the roof. In 1996 Good Hope celebrated its 125 anniversary and the 25th anniversary of Rev. Kenneth Hauge's ordination.

1998

In 1998 Rev. Kenneth Hauge resigned from Good Hope Lutheran and the call went out for a new pastor. Rev. Dr. Albert Gesler Jr. was supply pastor until a new pastor could be installed. Rev. Philip Scherr accepted the call and was installed as the seventh pastor for Good Hope Lutheran Church.

2002

Starting in October 2002, Good Hope Lutheran Church partnered with Zion Lutheran Church to provide a monthly free community meal for residents who live on the east side of Oil City. On Thanksgiving Day, the first free Thanksgiving dinner meal delivery was accomplished and served 114 elderly and shut in Oil City residents.

2003

Pastor Scherr began to investigate grant funding from the Elizabeth Black Charitable Trust to expand the mission program of Good Hope Lutheran Church and fund a full time staff member dedicated to the new program. The position of Director of Community Ministries was created, and David Mayer accepted the DCM position. Mayer was responsible for the continuation of the programs that were already in place at Good Hope, the expansion of these programs with Zion Lutheran Church, and the direct linking of Good Hope to the service agencies and funding sources of the area for the purposes of expanding the ministry of the congregation.

The first of the proposed new programs was a Reading Mastery program for educationally at risk youths in grades K through Four. Other proposed programs included: programming for at risk young persons including the Reading Mastery Program, other recreational opportunities, and exposure to the fine arts; programming for senior citizens that provide opportunities for health socialization and personal support; general charitable programming and ministries that give marginalized population an opportunity to improve their own environment that could include, scholarships, housing improvement programs, adult literacy programming, and various other self-betterment programs. 2003 also saw the start of the Venango Youth Choir and the first Shrove Tuesday free all day pancake meal.

2012

In 2012, there was a discussion about turning church property into cottage housing to fulfill the desire to minister toward seniors. It was discussed to construct single unit cottage homes/patio homes to be bought and sold as any regular home. A Lutheran housing group was contacted to strategize such an undertaking. The housing planned would have been for twelve to sixteen units along the Innis Street Extension toward Crestview Apartments. The lower property toward Seventh Street was envisioned to become similar housing but designated as “assisted living.” This plan was not brought to fruition.

The sanctuary was renovated with the altar area being recarpeted and the altar rail moved to the lower platform level. Pews were removed in the front of the sanctuary to make room for these changes.

2015-2016

Good Hope enjoyed the services of supply pastors Rev. James Seeley and Pastor Johanna Baker Pierce for a year after the retirement of Rev. Philip Scherr in 2015. In September, the church installed Rev. Dr. Sandra K. Jones as lead pastor and Rev. J. Michael Parsh as associate pastor – the eighth and ninth pastors in the church’s long history.

A shared ministry with Zion Lutheran Church was formalized. This meant that the combined congregations share staff, governance, and financing. The Director of Community Ministry position was reorganized. The director was now responsible for many of the shared ministry and outreach programs. Past DCM position holders – Greg Dill, Linda Vogt, Kay Hopwood– worked to reach the community in new ways along with the Community Ministry Committee.

2017-2019

The Community Ministry Committee continues to grow and in 2019 current director Joyce Frenz came on board to oversee many outreach programs. The CMC is responsible for: free community meals, free Thanksgiving meal delivery, Bags of Love, Loads of Love, Coffee Break, free all day Shrove Tuesday meals and other community focused programs.

The combined ministry has worked to coordinate shared worship events: shared ministry summer picnic, Lenten midweek services and soup suppers, Advent services, Burgers & BINGO fellowship event, JeoParty! Bible study games, Day of Service worship and projects, and many more. There was an expansion of youth outreach programs during this time – Stay & Play afterschool program hosted at Zion Lutheran Church and the Venango Youth Choir hosted at Good Hope.

2020-2021

In March of 2020, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the closure of the physical church space. However, the spiritual church not only continued ministry, but strove to find new and creative ways to pull the congregational members together during this strange time.

The Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry started producing a taped service every Sunday with various congregation members and musicians sending in recorded readings, music, prayers, and children's services. Taped services were provided for special services and other special events and days of prayer. The online meeting service, Zoom, became part of the new vocabulary with group

meetings and bible studies taking place regularly. Weekly mailings were started to connect with members who may not have a strong online presence and to help them feel connected to their church. Video and audio recordings were mailed to any member who was unable to access the recording online but had the equipment at home.

During the summer of 2020, Good Hope was able to host “in person” worship in the lower parking lot at the church. With the help of Doug Suhr, an FM transmitter was set up and worshippers remained in their cars for a Drive-In style worship. Attendance for these outdoor worship services was overwhelming. Communion was delivered to the vehicles as attendees listened to the service on their car radios. The service was still recorded for online replay and physical copies were sent out in the mail. Outdoor services continued until the end of October and then prerecorded services started again.

Many of the combined ministry meals and food events were expanded during this time. The Stay & Play program started a grab and go meal service during the pandemic for the at-risk youth in the neighborhood as the community meal went to a take-out model and went from one meal per month to two meals per month.

The pandemic continued well into 2021. Good Hope and Zion tried a couple of times to return to in person worship, but local conditions made these efforts short lived. Good Hope was able to provide a couple of outdoor in-person services on New Year’s day and Ash Wednesday with a drive through service and ash reception. In the summer of 2021, Good Hope resumed outdoor services with socially distant seating and the use of the FM radio transmitter.

2021

Due to the pandemic, the decision was made to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Good Hope Lutheran Church for a year in the hopes that global conditions would improve. Special events and celebrations were scheduled to celebrate the history and the future of the church. The kick off to the 150th Anniversary

was July 25. An outdoor festival worship with guest preacher Father Mark Elliston from Christ Episcopal Church of Oil City was held with a light reception following the service.

2022

2022 brought the return of indoor worship and a greater sense of normalcy. Many of the changes made during the pandemic proved to be of great value to congregation members and have continued in slightly different ways. The service is still recorded and posted on the combined ministry website for travelers, distant family, or homebound members to watch later in the week. Zoom meetings continue as a way to connect members who travel during the winter months or to keep communication during Venango County winter weather or member illness. The website has been expanded to provide more information to congregation members along with steady electronic communication.

The Good Hope Lutheran Church is still expanding its ministry in the community as well as continuing to connect congregation members. The church looks to have a continuing future and presence in the hearts of all for another 150 years.

Pastors

Louis Vogelsang	1871-1887
Henry Riemann	1888-1912
Adolf P. Eber	1912-1925
Edward D. Kuhlmann	1926-1956
F. LeRoy Sarver	1957-1980
Kenneth Hauge	1981-1998
Philip Scherr	1998-2015
Sandra K. Jones	2016-
J. Michael Parsh	2016-

Vicars (Intern Pastors)

Alvin Ellerbusch	1958-1959
Darwin E. Wilson	1959-1960
Norman Beck	1960-1961
E. Halle Plaehn	1961-1962
Ward R. Potts, Jr.	1962-1963
Gerald W. Clark	1963-1964
Elton J. Mellum	1964-1965

Assistant Pastor

Paul L. Knudson	1968-1970
Richard R. Heinman	1977-1980

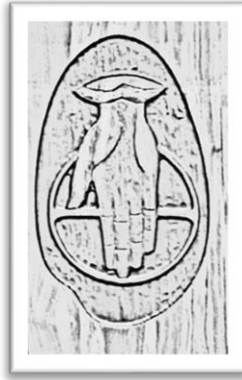
Interim Pastor

Albert U. Gesler Jr.	Feb. 1998-Oct. 1998
James Seeley	2015-2016
Johanna Baker Pierce	2015-2016

***Christian Symbols
carved in the woodwork of
The Good Hope Lutheran Church***

On the High Altar

The Hand of God – God the Father



The Chi Rho – God the Son

One of the oldest Christian symbols, the monogram is the first two letters of “Christ” in Greek.



The Dove – God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit as a dove descended upon Jesus at his baptism in the Jordan River. The dove symbolizes peace, purity, and God’s approval



On the Lectern and Pulpit

Interlocking circles -- A concept taken from mathematics, Borromean Rings are three interlocking circles that represent the divine Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God in three persons who are coequal.



On the Communion Rail

Wheat and Grapes – the fruit of the earth from God’s hand which, by human hands, becomes the elements of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, bringing to us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.



On the side walls of the Chancel

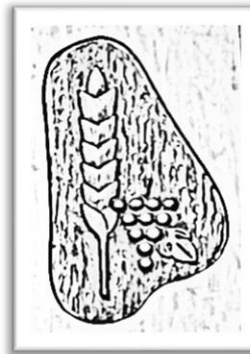
The Triangle – a symbol of the Triune God



The Shell – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Lutherans teach that Baptism is the grace-filled water of life used according to God’s command and connected with God’s word. It brings forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promises of God declare.



The Wheat and Grapes -- representing the bread and wine, central elements of the Sacrament of Holy Communion



The Torch – a symbol of God’s guidance in the lives of God’s people, Jesus Christ as the “Light of the World,” and the flame of the Holy Spirit.



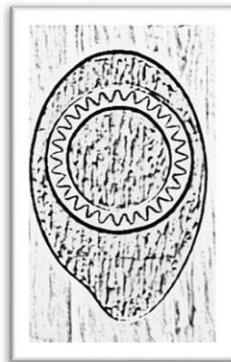
The Oil Lamp – symbolizes life eternal and God’s wisdom. This symbol is also used to represent human intellect and good works.



The Cross and Crown – symbolize the reward awaiting in heaven that believers will receive after the suffering and trials of life on earth. (James 1:12) It is also used to symbolize Christ the King.



The Circle – represents God’s eternity and never-ending love

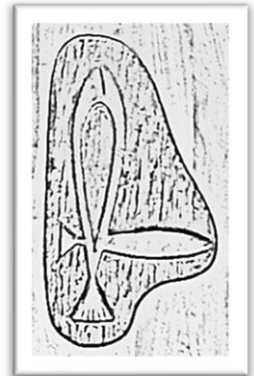


On the Balcony Rail - As we leave the nave, we look up and see the symbols of the faith that encourage us to witness to the Christian faith in our daily lives.

The Ship – The Christian Church. A ship or fishing boat represents the Kingdom of Christ and his followers. Jesus told his disciples to “follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” The central seating area of the church is called the Nave which derives from the Latin for ship.



The Fish – the *Ichthus*, Greek for “fish” is an acrostic for the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. Examples of fishing and discipleship are prevalent in the New Testament. The symbol was a secret sign used by Christians in times of persecution.



The Book – the holy scriptures are the written Word of God. It is God’s love story for the world. It is the history of God’s people and Christ’s Church. We come to faith by hearing God’s Word. We are commanded to learn it, teach it, and share God’s promise of love and salvation.



The Bowl of Burning Incense is a symbol of prayer. Prayer is vital to the believer's relationship with God. It communicates love and trust. We offer praise and thanksgiving as we also pray for the Church, the world, and all people in need. *Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.* (Psalm 141:2 NKJV)



The Bell – the call to all people to come and worship God. Worship is a part of obedience to the Third Commandment: *Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.* (Exodus 20:8) Worship is at the very heart of who we are as Christians as we gather on Sunday, the Day of Resurrection.



Luther's Rose – Martin Luther's coat of arms is a visual description of the Christian faith. Its symbolism includes the:



Black Cross: It is only through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection that we are saved.

Red Heart: God's amazing, unconditional love for us.

White Rose: Peace and joy we find in Christ.

Blue Background: Hope we have in a heavenly joy to come.

Gold Ring: Gift of eternal life in Christ will never end.

*Compiled by: Rev. Dr. Sandra K. Jones and
Kristen A. Criado, July 2022*

Acknowledgements

Worship

Rev. Dr. Sandra K. Jones
Rev. J. Michael Parsh
Melodye Neely
Elizabeth Orris
Kristen A. Criado

Musicians

Dennis and Cheryl Butler
Timothy Friedhaber

Worship Committee/Luncheon

Debbie Best - *Chair*
Chérie Wessell
Cheryl Butler
Elizabeth Orris
Linda Campbell
John Kluck - *Caterer*

Program

Rev. Dr. Sandra K. Jones
Rev. J. Michael Parsh
Kristen A. Criado
The Godinich Family
Dennis Yarian
Jennifer Friedhaber
Jeff Clark
Buffy Heisey
Douglas Suhr
Charlotte Donley
Margie Hart

Senior Choir

Margie Hart Julie Kosker
Linda Vogt Janet Switzer
Jeff Clark Buffy Heisey
Debbie Biltz Judy Tarr
Tom and Jennifer Friedhaber
Joan and Doug McElhatten

Property Committee/Cleaning

Scott Graham – Chair
Sam McDowell
David Weaver
Frank Lewis

Sound Technician

Doug Suhr

Display

Kristen A. Criado