

**Words from
Pastor
Mike Parsh**

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ!

Waiting. It is not a skill that comes easy to most of us. The world around us says that we should not have to wait for anything. We have the option of same day delivery. Cell phones allow us to contact each other at any time. We want results now. And yet, we must often wait and try to be patient as humanity and the world moves at its own pace.

In the Church, we are beginning a season of the church year that is all about waiting. Advent is the time of waiting and preparing for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

German theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in a letter he wrote while he was imprisoned in the Tegel prison camp in nazi Germany, offers some insight about waiting during the season of Advent. Bonhoeffer writes:

Advent is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, this is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth.¹

Bonhoeffer is reminding his parents in this letter that as they prepare for the coming celebrations of Christ's birth, they are to also wait patiently for the last Advent when Christ will come again. Bonhoeffer is writing these words as he sits in prison at the whim of a crazed dictator and is seeing the world around him descend into chaos. Amid these terrible circumstances, Bonhoeffer writes words of peace and comfort that God will make everything new, and this world's pain and grief will be no more in the coming kingdom.

But this waiting that Bonhoeffer invites his family into, is not waiting without a call to action. He continues by writing the following:

Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of a beggar, as the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God call you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. This is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us.²

Bonhoeffer teaches us, that we have countless opportunities every day to encounter Christ in the people we interact with. We can, in our

waiting for the last Advent, use these opportunities to proclaim God’s love and grace to all. This may take on many different forms, but it is still God’s gospel good news that is being proclaimed.

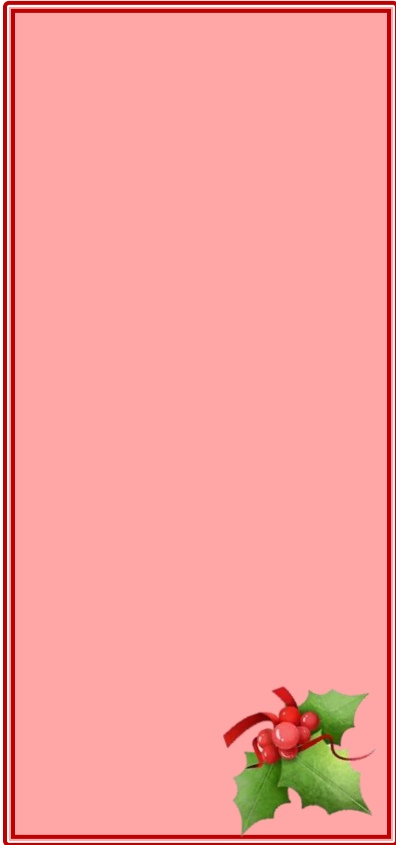
Sisters and brothers in Christ, in this season of waiting and preparing our hearts and minds for the coming celebrations of the birth of Christ I invite you to take time out of your full schedules to intentionally look for Christ in those that you interact with each day. You may just be surprised where you find Christ.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a merry Christmas!

Pastor Mike Parsh

¹ Bonhoeffer, D. (2010). Letter to Bonhoeffer's parents, November 29, 1943, written from Tegel prison camp. In J. R. O. C. Dean Jr., *God Id in the Manger; Reflections on Advent and Christmas* (p. 2). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.

² Bonhoeffer, D. (2010). Letter to Bonhoeffer's parents, November 29, 1943, written from Tegel prison camp. In J. R. O. C. Dean Jr., *God Id in the Manger; Reflections on Advent and Christmas* (p. 2). Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press.



Poinsettia Orders



We will be ordering poinsettias again this year!

Cost will be \$8.50 for a 6” pot, the color will be red.

Please complete this form and return to the office with payment by **December 3.**

Number _____ Total \$ _____

Given By: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____





All Saints Sunday
November 5, 2023



Remembering the Saints – November 5, 2023

On the festival of All Saints, we remember those who have died in the Lord in this past year. We remember these children of God:

Members of Good Hope

Joanne Strickland
William E. Baker
Todd Alan Pfertsh
Helen Marie King
Mildred Grandelis
Marcy Suzette Nellis
Ruth H. Kish
Phyllis M. Taylor
Mary Lee Lehman
Henry Benton Suhr, Jr.
Hilda G. Kaufman

Members of Zion

Susan E. Sanford
William C. Thureau

Friends and Loved Ones

Brandon Fisher	Lester Jackson
Diane D'Olympio	Terry O'Neil
Ruth P. Donahey	Dick Perry
Michael Godinich	Jeff Pratt
Wayne Hogue	Linda Seiple

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

-Romans 6:5



Faith Formation

Sunday School

9:00am

LYO Elementary Parents Night Out

December 8

5:00pm-8:30pm

Hanging of the Greens

December 9-10am

All-Ages Christmas Carolling

December 10
after worship

Faith & Fellowship Pajama Party Lock-In

December 29-30
At Julie's



Adult Sunday School

December at Good Hope Lutheran, 9:00am to 10:00am

- 12/3 The Faith of Ruth: Sandra Jones
- 12/10 The Faith of David: Tom Friedhaber
- 12/17 The Family of Faith: Jane Pagliari
- 12/24 *Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Jeopardy* with your host, Debbie Best. Join us for learning & fun during the holiday seasons!

December at Zion Lutheran, 10:00am to 10:45am

- 12/31 The Faith of the Magi: Linda Vogt

Youth Sunday School

The youth will meet for Sunday School at Good Hope Lutheran on December 3, 10, 17, and 24, 9:00am to 10:00am. Sunday School will be held at Zion Lutheran on December 31 at 10:00am.

Congregation Christmas Carolling

Join the youth after church on Sunday, December 10 for lunch and Christmas carolling. We will enjoy a light meal and then carpool to spread holiday joy via song.

The youth will also be delivering projects that they created to the homes we visit. Please RSVP to Julie Kosker or Margie Hart. All ages are welcome!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help prepare a light luncheon of soup and bread. Please contact Margie or Julie!*

Youth Event

December 29-30 – 7:00pm 12/29 to 10:00am 12/30

Faith & Fellowship: Pajama Party Lock-In – at Julie's

Games, snacks, fellowship, and fun in your pajamas! Bring an under \$10 gift for a silly gift exchange. RSVP by December 27 to Julie Kosker.

Save the Date

- *Lutheran Liturgy & Worship: why do we do what we do?* Watch for information about sessions to be offered by Zoom during January 2024.
- The next Worship on Wednesday (WOW) will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024



Hanging of the Greens & Christmas Eve



Hanging of the Greens

The annual Hanging of the Greens will take place on Saturday, December 9 at 10:00am at Good Hope. All congregation families and friends are welcome to come join in the spirit of the holiday as the church and sanctuary are decorated for Christmas.

There will be many jobs for all ages and abilities, please join us if you are able!

Christmas Eve

Good Hope will hold its candle light Christmas Eve worship at 7:00pm in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 24.



Advent and Longest Night



This year, **midweek Advent services** will be presented online for Wednesday, December 6 and 13. They will be published on our website by 6:30pm at goodhopezionlutheranoilciy.org/worship-together.

Wednesday, December 20, we will hold our **Longest Night Service** at Good Hope Lutheran Church. The message of Christmas is specifically sent for those in pain and suffering. It is not that “all is merry and bright”. Rather, it is the abiding truth that God seeks to be with us, even when we are “blue”.

You are invited to join us at 6:30pm in the sanctuary as we express our sadness for those losses we have experienced or anticipate. If you choose to, you may bring a photo of someone you especially want to remember during this time of worship.



Wednesday December 13, 2023

Holiday Music by The Oil City High School Treble and Bass Choirs

Program: Presentation of holiday music by the Oil City High School Treble and Bass Choirs under the direction of Steven Luxbacher.

Worship: 11:30am

Luncheon: 12:15pm – Hosted by Jim and Maribeth Masquelier

Program: 12:50pm to 1:30pm

Invite a friend and RSVP by calling the Good Hope office (814-676-9122) or email at officegoodhope@gmail.com

Reservations Due: Monday,
December 11, 2023



If you are unable to attend the service, please join us for the holiday concert! Invite a friend!



Loss, Grief, and the Holidays

Four brief sessions for learning, sharing, and praying during the holiday season facilitated by Pastor Sandra Jones.

December 6 and 13
7:00-8:15 p.m.
Good Hope Conference Room



7:00-7:15 Introductions and opening prayer

7:15-7:35 Exploring concepts and thoughts about grief and the holidays using resources from CareNotes™ from Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

- 1) *Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One*
- 2) *Your First Christmas After a Loved One Dies*
- 3) *Ten Ways to Honor a Deceased Loved One at Christmas*
- 4) *How Christmas Memories Can Bring Healing to Your Grief*

7:35-8:00 Sharing experiences, questions, and ideas

8:00-8:15 Silent and corporate prayer

800 Moran Street * Oil City, PA * 814-676-9122 * officegoodhope@gmail.com

Your losses need not be recent -- griefs from the past have a way of being present during the holiday season. Even if you did not attend the sessions in November, you are welcome to join the small group for either or both sessions in December.

A big thank you to Dan Vogan for building a beautiful wooden rack to hold the candle lighters in the sanctuary, in addition to a stand for the new banner pole. We are blessed at Good Hope with artisans who can create original, custom items such as these.

THANK YOU to Mrs. Pat Marterella and her Art Club at 7th Street Elementary School. They made Thanksgiving projects to give out with our Thanksgiving Meal delivery to the homebound and shut ins. We appreciate them and their talents and compassion.



Venango Chorus

Presents

A Festival Of Christmas

Featuring:

Soprano Jamie Bastello
and the Venango Chorus
performing Ralph Vaughn
Williams' *Fantasia on
Christmas Carols* and other
Christmas classics.



Concert: December 3, 2023

7:00 pm

Good Hope Lutheran Church
800 Moran Street * Oil City, PA

VENANGO YOUTH CHOIR
DECEMBER 11, 2023

CHRISTMAS

Time Is Here!

Join the Venango Youth Choir as they
present their 2023 Holiday Performance



Free Admission

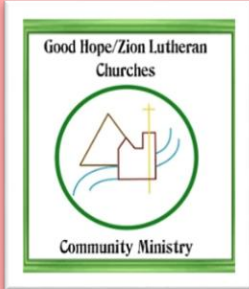
6:00pm

Fellowship Hall

**Reception to follow*

@ Good Hope Lutheran Church
800 Moran Street
Oil City, PA 16301





Community Meals

December 12
November 26

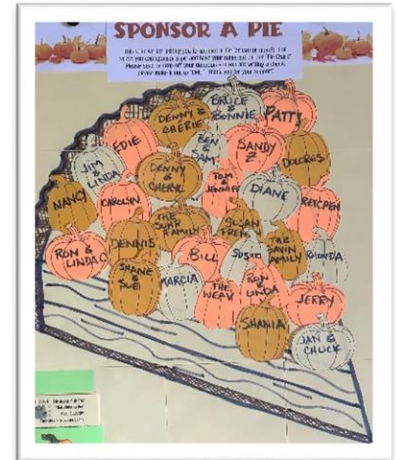
Coffee Break

Thursdays @ 9:30am



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! I cannot say it enough! Thank you for your continuing support for all our projects, but especially for our annual Thanksgiving Meal Delivery. It always amazes me that when something is needed, we ask, and YOU provide!

What a wonderful group of volunteers, doing God’s work in our community. Providing everything from donations to clean-up and everything in between. YOU make it happen! This year’s Thanksgiving Dinner was no exception. Many homebound and elderly within our community were blessed with a fresh, hot, meal because of YOUR generosity. Thank you once again!



Now we move on to Shrove Tuesday – yes, it is just a short 3 months away!!

Serving All for His Sake! - Joyce Frenz & Community Ministry Committee

Sunday School

On December 31, all-ages Sunday school will meet at Zion at 10:00am for class.

Combined Worship

December 31 will be a combined congregation Lessons and Carols worship service at Zion Lutheran Church at 11:00am.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918, at King’s college, Cambridge, England. Prominent organists and choral scholars made this style of liturgy quite popular in Europe. It was first broadcast in 1928 and, except for 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War. In recent decades, the tradition has spread around the world. The Cambridge style has remained for many years, even while local congregations adapt the service for their own use.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service is derived from the lessons and not the music.

“The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God... seen through the windows and words of the Bible.”

– Dean Milner-White, King’s College.

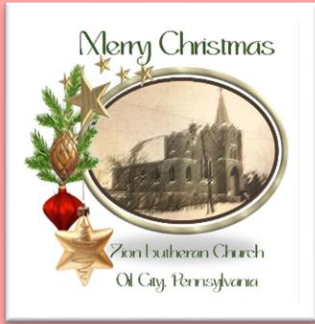
We give thanks to Pastor Mark Fischer and the people of Twelve Apostles Lutheran Church, Saegertown, for sharing their adaptation of this service for the First Sunday of Christmas.



New Year’s Eve Schedule

December 31 at
Zion





Zion Worship
Indoors – 11:45am

Zion Sunday School
December 3, 11am

Zion Social Time & Lunch
December 17, 11am

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24
11:45am



Worship Volunteers – December

Lectors:

12/3 – Rick Sabousky
12/10 – Leigh Ann Pikna
12/17 – Yvonne Paranick
12/24 – David Mayer
12/31 – Nancy Wigren

Ushers:

David Mayer
Rick Sabousky

Altar Care:

Leigh Ann Pikna
Diane D’Olympio

Communion Assistant:

Yvonne Paranick

Birthdays

02/ Nancy Wigren
30/ Ron Paranick

Financial Report - October

<i>Actual receipts</i>	\$2,550.00
<i>Budgeted receipts</i>	\$6,752.08
<i>Actual expenditures</i>	\$9,628.85

A Note of Thanks

Al and Karen Pearson, former Zion members, enjoy reading the newsletter and have sent a donation to help with postage. We thank them for this contribution.

PARKING NOTICE

Eisenman Auto Service, located at the intersection of East Second Street and State Street, has been sold. We are no longer permitted to use the parking lot.

Upcoming Schedule

- Sunday School will be held Sunday, December 3, at 11:00am. It will be Advent-Christmas-Epiphany JeoParty Join us for learning and fun as we begin the holiday seasons!
- Poinsettia orders will be taken until December 10. Cost is \$10 and they will be red in color. Please contact Yvonne with your orders.
- Social Time and Brunch will be held on Sunday, December 17, at 11:00am.
- Zion will celebrate Christmas Eve at the December 24, 11:45am worship service.



Quilters of Hope
Tuesdays @ 10:00am

Circle Schedules

Hope: December 7
Ruth: December 10

Cookie Hour
December 10
after worship

Mitten Tree
Accepting items thru
December 24



Quilters of Hope

The Quilters of Hope will be meeting Tuesdays, 10:00am to 2:30pm. Please bring a lunch and join us! No sewing experience is needed.

Hope Circle

Hope Circle meeting will be December 7, 11:00am, at Kings Family Restaurant for their holiday party. We will be ordering off the menu with individual checks (approx. \$20-\$25 with tax and tip.) In addition to the luncheon, there will be games and a gift exchange. **RSVP regrets only** to Jan Schultz (814) 673-0386.

Hope Circle 2024

Starting in January 2024, the Hope Circle will move their meetings to the conference room. The lower doors will still be open for kitchen and elevator access.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Sunday, December 10 at 5:30pm at the Vogt residence for their holiday party. Please bring a dish to share!

Cookie Hour

Just Cookies will host a coffee hour on December 10, 2023, after worship. Join us for fellowship and food!

Mitten Tree

The Women of the Church will be collecting donation items needed for the winter months for all ages.

A tree will be in the narthex for newly purchased or handmade items; hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks will be collected until December 24.

Thank you for your generosity in helping the people in need in our community.





**Good Hope
Worship**
10:15am

REMINDER

*If you cannot serve, you
are responsible to find a
replacement*



December Birthdays / Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 01/ Scott Graham | 08/ Suzanne Gagliardo |
| 02/ Jenna Mae Biltz
Ted & Susen Rossino | 13/ Avonelle Eakin |
| 03/ Joseph & Andrea Grosso | 14/ Elizabeth Orris |
| 04/ Chérie Wessell | 17/ Dennis Wessell |
| 05/ Sam Pagliari | 20/ Andrew Godinich |
| Douglas Suhr | 26/ Chuck & Jan Schultz |
| 07/ Kevin Roth | 30/ Anne Bedow |
| Paula Altman | 31/ Steve Plummer |
| Laresa Crockett | Gary McElhaney |

Worship Volunteers

Altar Guild:

Melodye Neely
Sharon McDowell

Ushers:

Frank Lewis
Andy Godinich

Lectors:

12/3 – Linda Vogt
12/10 – Sharon McDowell
12/17 – Chuck Schultz
12/24 AM – Todd Hart
12/24 PM – TBD
12/31 – Joyce Frenz

Acolytes:

12/3 – Raegan Milner
12/10 – Ben Parsh
12/17 – Heidi Kosker
12/24 AM – Hazel Kosker
12/24 PM – All Four
12/31 – Ben Parsh

Counters:

12/5 – Sharon McDowell
12/11 – Linda Campbell
12/19 – Chérie Wessell
12/28 – Melodye Neely
Sandy Zacherl

Communion Assistants:

12/3 & 12/10 – Wade Altman AA, Amy Kluck, Rhonda McElhaney
12/17 & 12/24 AM – Judy Tarr AA, Bill Exley, Buffy Heisey

12/24 PM – Tom Friedhaber AA, Katie Parsh, Chuck Schultz

December

Sunday



3 Advent 1
 * Sunday School @ GH-9am
 * Worship @GH-10:15am
 * Sunday School @Z-11am
 * Worship @Z-11:45am
 Venango Chorus Concert @GH-7pm

10 Advent 2
 * Sunday School @ GH-9am
 * Worship @GH-10:15am
 * Coffee Hour @GH
 * Worship @Z-11:45am
 * Ruth Circle @ Vogt's-5:30pm
 All Ages Christmas Carolling-11:15am

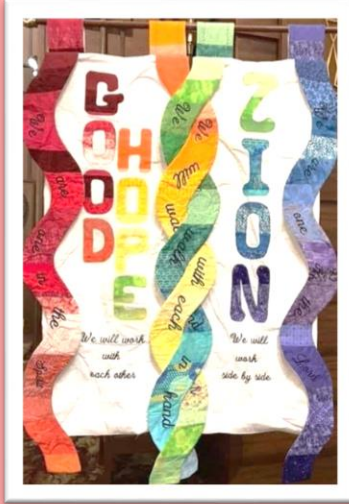
17 Advent 3
 * Sunday School @ GH-9am
 * Worship @GH-10:15am
 * Social Time/Lunch @Z-11am
 * Worship @Z-11:45am

24 Christmas Eve
 * Sunday School @ GH-9am
 * Advent 4 Worship @GH-10:15am
 * Christmas Eve Worship @Z-11:45am
 * Christmas Eve Worship @GH-7pm

31 New Year's Eve
 * Sunday School @ Z-10am
 * Combined Worship @Z-11am

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Venango Chorus Rehearsal @GH-10am
4 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm	5 Quilters @GH-10am CMC @Z-10:30am Worship Mtg. @GH-4pm	6 Staff Mtg. @GH-9:15am Property Mtg @GH-7pm "Loss, Grief, and the Holidays" @GH-7pm Mid-week Advent-online	7 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Hope Circle-Kings Restaurant-11am	8	9 Hanging of the Greens @GH-10am
11 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Youth Choir Program @GH-6:00pm	12 Quilters @GH-10am Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-5:30pm	13 Preschool Christmas Party Worship on Wednesday (WOW)-Holiday Concert @GH-11:30am "Loss, Grief, and the Holidays" @GH-7pm Mid-week Advent-online	14 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	15	16
18	19 Quilters @GH-10am Z Council Mtg. @Z-7pm	20 Longest Night Service @GH-6:30pm	21 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am GH Council Mtg. @GH-7pm	22	23
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	26 Quilters @GH-10am Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-5:30pm	27	28 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	29	30

*** Stay & Play Schedule – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3pm to 8pm & the 3rd Saturday of the month 11am to 3pm @ Zion**



Pastor

Pastor Mike Parsh

Cell: 814-572-1189

Home: 814-670-0887

pastormparsh@gmail.com

Good Hope Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday
8:30am-2:30pm

814-676-9122
officegoodhope@gmail.com



Staff

Good Hope

Pastor
J. Michael Parsh
814-572-1189

Director CMC/Outreach
Joyce Frenz
724-699-0861

Treasurer
Tom Neely

Music Director
Beth Orris

GH Preschool Director
Marcy Amero
814-758-0353

Grounds Super.
Bruce Dodd

**Organist/Communications
Manager /Office Administrator**
Kristen Criado
814-676-9122

Zion

Secretary
Jan Ruditis
814-676-9115

Property
Jesse Gibson

Custodian
Alex Dulaney

Organist
Cheryl Bailey

Stay & Play Mgr.
Jaimee Cohen
814-516-1063
stayandplay3@gmail.com

Stay & Play Asst. Mgr.
Dustin Harrison

Church Councils

GH President
Sandra Zacherl

GH Vice President
Tom Friedhaber

GH Worship
Debbie Best

GH Mission
Charles Schultz

GH Finance
Ashlee Goodman

GH Faith Formation
Margie Hart

GH Property
Scott Graham

GH Treasurer
Tom Neely

GH Secretary
Linda Vogt

Z President
Yvonne Paranick

Z Vice President
Nancy Wigren

Z Secretary
Jan Ruditis

Z Financial Sec.
Nancy Wigren

Z Treasurer
Sue Fisher

Z Council Members
Allison McNamara
Diane D'Olympio



Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry
800 Moran Street
Oil City, PA 16301



**Herald of
Hope/Lutheran Light
Good News Letter
December 2023**
*Serving all in the manner
of Jesus*



Worship Schedule
Sunday School @GH – 9:00am
Worship at Good Hope – 10:15am
Worship at Zion – 11:45am

Recorded service will be posted on Monday afternoon on our
website.
www.goodhopezionlutheranoilcity.org/worship-together

Newsletter

Hard copies of the newsletter are available at the church.
To submit news or articles, please email to:
officegoodhope@gmail.com
Deadline: the 15th of the month