



Words from
Pastor Mike Parsh

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

For most of the month of March, we continue our journey through the season of lent and heading towards Jerusalem and the empty tomb with Jesus. However, before I get to the serious matters of our Lenten journey, I would like to share a short story with you.

A cocky Department of Agriculture representative stopped at a farm and talked with the old farmer: "I need to inspect your farm." The old farmer said, "You better not go in that field." The Agriculture representative said in a "wise" tone, "I have the authority of the U. S. Government with me. See this card? I am allowed to go wherever I wish on agricultural land." So, the old farmer went about his farm chores.

Later, the farmer heard loud screams and saw the Department of Agriculture man running for the fence; close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was madder than a nest full of hornets, and the bull was gaining at every step. "Help," the rep shouted to the farmer, "What should I do?" he screamed helplessly. The old farmer, hooking his thumbs in his overalls, called out: "Show him your card."

The Department of Agriculture man had his faith in his office, which only got him so far in life. As we Journey with Jesus up to Jerusalem and the cross, we are constantly reminded that God is always with us in our times of need and joy. Maybe the Department of Agriculture man should have placed his trust there instead of his ID card. Maybe he should have remembered that God is always with him, as he is with all of us.

Many of the people in our North American culture seem to place God far off in "heaven". Quite possibly, this comes from the words that Jesus taught us to pray: "Our Father in Heaven...". With God safely far away in a place beyond space, we may feel a bit more comfortable and less threatened.

One of the attributes of God that goes against this is God's omnipresence. As difficult as it is for us to understand, this principle says that God is everywhere, always. God's wonderful presence is all around us, not just sealed away in the throne room of Heaven.

In Psalm 39, the psalmist notes: "Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even

the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you."

In short, God is everywhere. We are constantly in God's presence. If we take this seriously, it has the power to change our lives and the lives of those around us. With God right there in the room with us, we might be a bit more careful in judging others or how we use our words. With God just over our shoulder we might seek the good in others, listen a bit more carefully, hold our tempers until our angry outbursts settle.

The truth is that whether we realize it or not, God's presence is here with us. While some may find this unsettling, there is a more powerful comforting aspect to this. God has been there at some of our worst moments. God has witnessed our deepest secret times. Yet despite this, God continues to love us with an ever-present love. As we recognize this, we begin to really appreciate the mercy and grace that flows out from the cross of Christ. God has been there, yet we are still welcomed into God's Holy presence by the love of Jesus.

During this Lenten season, we are called to reflect on this powerful love and grace which Jesus offers to us. As we recount the weakest moments of our lives and bring them to God in confession, we are renewed and reunited with the Creator. Once again, we are free to delight in the omnipresence of God and learn to live our lives in the fullness of God's presence among us.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike Parsh*



Thank You

Dear friends,

Thank you so very much for all of your prayers, concerns and support this last year. It has been a year of trials and tribulations, but your continued support has been a blessing to my entire family. Sam continues to have "ups and downs", but we are grateful that he is safe and well taken care of by the staff at Arden Courts. My fall the end of November was a rather traumatic event for me, but I am doing very well now and am thankful for the gift of healing. We all, me, Sam and all the kids, appreciate your continued support and Christian love and feel very blessed to be part of such a loving, caring Christian family.

*God bless each and every one of you!
Sharon McDowell*



In Memorium

Our sister in Christ, Kinsley Ann Young died Sunday, February 18, of natural causes. Kinsley was born August 7, 2023, to Colin Young and Kya Young who survive. Kinsley is also survived by her big sister Sydnee, her Nana, Gigi, Grammy, Auntie, and many other who loved her. A private visitation was held for family and close friends on February 23 at Hile-Best Funeral Home, Seneca, PA. A private funeral service was held February 24 at Good Hope Lutheran Church, Pastor Mike Parsh presiding. For contributions to assist Colin, Kya, and Sydnee: checks may be made payable to Ally Young and mailed to 547 Mapleshade Road, Cranberry, PA, 16319. You may contact Ally for more info at: allymarie6868@gmail.com.



Faith Formation

Coffee Hour

Faith Formation / the Youth will host a coffee hour after worship on Sunday, March 24. Please join us for fellowship and food!

Easter Party

March 30 will be the youth Easter Party. Party will be held at the church, 10:00am to 12:00pm. There will be games, snacks, crafts, and the Easter Story. All ages are welcome – bring a friend or two!

*****We are looking for members to fill eggs for the annual youth Easter party. Eggs will be available to take and fill on March 3.***

Coffee Hour

March 24
after worship

Attention

Missing from the Prayer Ground! If you have seen this item, please speak with Margie or leave the item at the church office.

Youth Easter Party

March 30
10am-12pm





Zion Worship
11:45am

Bible Study
Sunday, March 3
11:00am

Social Time/Lunch
Sunday March 17
11:00am

Worship Volunteers – March

Lectors:

3/3 Rick Sabousky
3/10 – Leigh Ann Pikna
3/17 – David Mayer
3/24 – Nancy Wigren
3/31 – Allison McNamara

Ushers:

Sue Fisher
Gretchen Gibbs

Altar Care:

Sue Fisher
Gretchen Gibbs

Communion Assistant:

Rick Sabousky

Birthdays

15/ Rick Sabousky
23/ Ben Parsh

Financial Report – January

<i>Actual receipts</i>	\$2,520.00
<i>Budgeted receipts</i>	\$6,363.67
<i>Actual expenditures</i>	\$5,718.11

Thank You

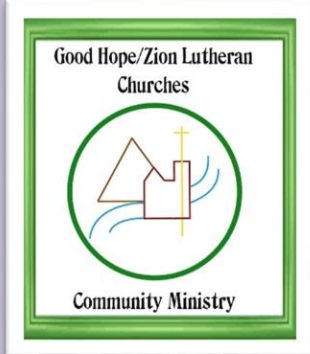
to John Bolton for his Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion
to Jim Seeley for his Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion

Dear Friend:

I'm truly fortunate to witness every day how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world. No matter how much circumstances change, one thing remains the same: people continue to show generosity and dedication to the families we serve...-----Thanks to your group of Heifer donors, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children..., dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away..., you are providing nutritious food, education, and hope for the next generation.

With appreciation,

*Christy Moore, Sr. Vice Pres. of Marketing
Heifer International*



Community Meals

March 12
March 26

Coffee Break

Thursdays @ 9:30am

Thank You

Thank you doesn't nearly express my feelings for everyone's support on Shrove Tuesday. We served pancakes, eggs, and sausage from 7am-7pm. We served **347 PEOPLE** - some who came back for seconds and thirds! Everyone working together to feed God's people!

*Thank you,
Joyce Frenz, Director Community Ministry Mission and Outreach*

Attention Thrivent Members!

Anyone who is a member of Thrivent has the benefit of requesting a Community Action Card which is worth \$250 at any grocery store. We can use these to purchase food and supplies from Maplevale (our main food source) or any other grocery store including Sam's and Costco. This is an easy way to donate to our Community Ministry Committee without it coming from your personal budget.

If you have a Thrivent account, please consider supplementing our meal budget by requesting your Community Action Card. Members are allotted 2 per year. That is \$500 we could use to help our community! Last year we utilized over \$2500 worth of Community Action Cards to supplement our meals.

You may contact Ron Vogt, Dolores Baker or Yvonne Paranick who are Thrivent members who have utilized the benefit many times and are willing to walk you through the process. Please note: This is a different account from the Thrivent Dollars that are donated to the church.

Whatever way you support our cause, WE THANK YOU! We couldn't do it without you.

Maundy Thursday

The Mission and Worship Committees will be presenting a soup supper on Maundy Thursday, March 28, before the worship.

If you are interested in helping with the meal, there will be a signup sheet on a clipboard in the Narthex. If you have any questions please contact Jen Godinich or Linda Vogt.

*Thank you,
The Worship and Mission Committees*



Worship & Mission Committees

Maundy Thursday
March 28



**Lenten Midweek /
Holy Week
Schedule**

Lenten Midweek Worship

Good Hope Lutheran Church will be holding midweek Lenten services at 10:00am on March 6, March 13, and March 20 in the sanctuary.

Holy Week

<i>Palm Passion Sunday</i>	March 24	10:15am	Good Hope
	March 24	11:45am	Zion
<i>Soup Supper</i>	March 28	5:15pm	Good Hope
<i>Maundy Thursday Service</i>	March 28	6:30pm	Good Hope
<i>Good Friday Service</i>	March 29	7:45pm	Zion
<i>Easter Sunrise Service</i>	March 31	7:00am	Good Hope
	<i>Breakfast will follow after service</i>		
<i>Easter Festival Worship</i>	March 31	10:15am	Good Hope
	March 31	11:45am	Zion



**Quilters of Hope
Tuesdays @ 10:00am**

Circle Schedules

Ruth: March 5
Hope: March 14

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 March 14, 10:00am, in the Conference Room at Good Hope Lutheran Church. Hostess: Gloria. Lesson: Chapter 6, pgs. 97-103.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, March 5, 7:00pm at Vogt's. Study Leader will be Joyce Frenz.



**Upcoming Dates
of Interest**

- Office Closed – Monday, April 1, 2024,
- Our next Worship on Wednesday (WOW) will be held on April 17, 2024. Worship at 11:30am with a light luncheon and program to follow.
- Venango Chorus Concert – Sunday, April 21 at 7:00pm. Concert will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 215 East Bissel Ave, Oil City, PA.

Zion and Good Hope Easter Flower Order Forms

Zion Easter Lilies for Sunday, March 31



To place an order for **LILIES** at **\$11.00 per pot**, please complete the order form (indicating who the flowers are given in memory or honor of) and either place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church, 207 State St., Oil City, PA 16301. Checks for flowers and CMC should be made out to Zion, please pay for your flowers when you order them.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Name _____ Phone # _____

To the Glory of God _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Lilies (@ \$11.00 ea.) _____ Number ordered: _____ Cost: _____ \$ _____

DEADLINE FOR LILIES IS SUNDAY, MARCH 3

CMC HUNGER MINISTRIES

If you would prefer to make a gift to the Cooperative Ministry Committee of Zion and Good Hope, please fill out this section of the form.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Given to the glory of God _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

DEADLINE FOR CMC DONATIONS IS SUNDAY, MARCH 17

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

EASTER LILIES & MUMS 2024



Please complete the order below and return to the office with payment by **March 17th**

Number **Easter Lily** - \$10.00 each

Mums - \$6.00 each *(No color guarantee!)*

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Given By: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____



A Multi-Service Network for Victims in Crisis

Toll Free/24 Hr. - 1-800-243-4944

Remembrance Day

March 27, 2024

- Walk at 5:00pm starting at the Oil City Marina
- Remembrance Service at 5:30pm at the Suzette Nellis memorial site

March 27, 2024, marks the first death anniversary of Marcy Suzette Nellis. Every year on the date of death, loved ones are often encouraged to come together in commemoration and remembrance.

For many, the first death anniversary is known as the "ultimate anniversary" because it marks one year since the loved one's last breath. Yet, it is more than a mark of passing time; it's an acknowledgment of a life that was cherished and a loss deeply felt.

You are invited to join Suzette's family and friends, and the staff and volunteers of PPC Violence Free Network & Shelter, to walk in remembrance and to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence in Venango County.

Together, let's raise our voices, walk with purpose, and make a difference to keep our community safe.

Details:

- We will gather at the Oil City Marina at 5:00pm and walk to the memorial site.
- A service of remembrance will be held at the memorial site at 5:30pm.
- The PPC Shelter will have a table at the memorial site with information and will be collecting donations of money and/or items for the PPC Shelter. Items needed: **Paper products** – paper towels, tissues, etc.; **Trash bags** – all sizes; **Cleaning supplies**; **Small appliances**
- You may wear purple to signify awareness of violence against women, or teal to signify sexual assault awareness.
- *We Walk For Suzette* buttons will be given until supply runs out.
- We will have a limited number of *We Remember Suzette* shirts for sale – all profits will be given to the PPC Shelter. Cost of the shirt is \$12.00.

Sponsored by Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry of Oil City, the YWCA of Oil City, and PPC Violence Free Network & Shelter.



**Good Hope
Worship**
10:15am

REMINDER

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

March Birthdays / Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 01/ Cris McFarland | 18/ Joseph Grosso |
| 02/ Randall Frenz | 19/ Henry Speerstra |
| 07/ Nancy Lake | 22/ Jan Schultz |
| Judy Tarr | 23/ Ben Parsh |
| Jacqueline Blose | 24/ Kaitlyn Switzer |
| 08/ Logan Stahl | 25/ Bethany Hart |
| 09/ James Miller | 29/ Timothy Friedhaber |
| 11/ Hannah Smith | 30/ Dolores Baker |
| Kelly McFarland | Heidi Kosker |
| 12/ Shelly Stahl | 31/ George Biltz II |
| 14/ Matthew Friedhaber | James & Susan Miller |
| 16/ Andrea Plummer | |

Worship Volunteers

Ushers:

Tom Neely
Scott Graham

Acolytes:

3/3 – Raegan Milner
3/10 – Hazel Kosker
3/17 – Heidi Kosker
3/24 – Ben Parsh
3/31 – Raegan Milner

Counters:

3/5 – Sharon McDowell
3/11 – Linda Campbell
3/19 – Sandy Zacherl
3/26 – Linda Vogt

Communion Assistants:

3/3 & 3/10 – Chuck Schultz AA, Judy Tarr, Buffy Heisey
3/17 & 3/24 – Sandy Zacherl AA, Pat Gavin, Todd Hart
3/31 – Ralph Jones AA, Hilda Bailey, Bethany Hart

Lectors:

3/3 – Jan Godinich
3/10 – Todd Hart
3/17 – Chuck Schultz
3/24 – Tom Neely
3/31 – Linda Vogt

Altar Guild:

Linda Campbell
Debbie Best
Jennifer Friedhaber

March

Sunday

3 Lent 3

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:00am
* Worship @GH-
10:15am
* Bible Study @Z
11am
* Worship @Z-
11:45am

10 Lent 4

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:00am
* Worship @GH-
10:15am
* Worship @Z-
11:45am

17 Lent 5

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:00am
* Worship @GH-
10:15am
* Social Time /
Lunch @Z * 11am
* Worship @Z-
11:45am

24 Palm/Passion

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:00am
* Worship @GH-
10:15am
* Coffee Hour @GH-
11:15am
* Worship @Z-
11:45am

31 Easter

* Sunrise Service
@GH-7am
* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:00am
* Worship @GH-
10:15am
* Worship @Z-
11:45am

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
4 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm Shared Min. Adv. Mtg. @GH-6pm	5 Quilters @GH- 10am CMC Mtg. @GH- 10:30am Worship Mtg. @GH-4pm Ruth Circle @Vogts-7pm	6 Staff Mtg. @GH- 9am Lenten Morning Service @GH- 10am Property Mtg. @GH-7pm	7 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Special Zion Council Meeting @Z-6pm	8	9
11 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	12 Quilters @GH- 10am Community Meal @Z-4:30pm	13 Lenten Morning Service @GH- 10am	14 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Hope Circle @GH-10am	15	16
18 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	19 Quilters @GH- 10am Council @Z-6pm	20 Lenten Morning Service @GH- 10am	21 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Council @GH- 7PM	22	23
25 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	26 Quilters @GH- 10am Community Meal @Z-4:30pm	27 We Remember Suzette Event – Walk- 5pm; Service at Suzette Nellis Memorial site at 5:30pm	28 Maundy Thursday Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Soup Supper @GH-5:15pm Service @GH- 6:30pm	29 Good Friday Service @Z- 7:45pm	30 Youth Easter Party @GH- 10am-12pm



*** Stay & Play Schedule – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3pm to 8pm & the 3rd Saturday of the month 11am to 5pm @ Zion**

Staff

Good Hope

Pastor

J. Michael Parsh
814-572-1189
814-670-0887

Director CMC/Outreach

Joyce Frenz
724-699-0861

Treasurer

Tom Neely

Music Director

Beth Orris

GH Preschool Director

Marcy Amero

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

Stay & Play Asst. Mgr.

Dustin Harrison

stayandplay3@gmail.com

Church Councils

GH President

Sandra Zacherl

GH Vice President

Tom Friedhaber

GH Worship

Jennifer Godinich

GH Mission

Todd Hart

GH Finance

Judy Tarr

GH Faith Formation

Margie Hart

GH Property

Scott Graham

GH Treasurer

Tom Neely

GH Secretary

Linda Vogt

Z President

Yvonne Paranick

Z Vice President

Leigh Ann Pikna

Z Secretary

Jan Ruditis

Z Financial Sec.

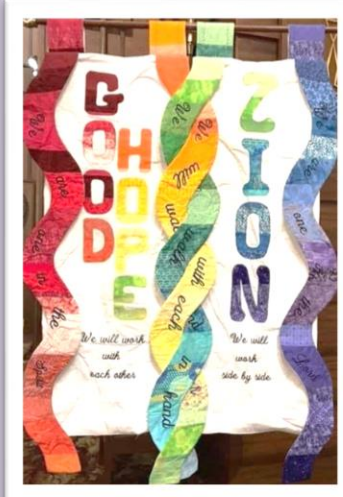
Nancy Wigren

Z Treasurer

Sue Fisher

Z Council Members

Allison McNamara
Diane D'Olympio



Pastor On Call

Pastor Mike Parsh

Cell: 814-572-1189

Home: 814-670-0887

pstormparsh@gmail.com

Good Hope Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday

8:30am-2:30pm

814-676-9122

officegoodhope@gmail.com



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

Herald of
 Hope/Lutheran Light
 Good News Letter
 March 2024
 Serving all in the manner
 of Jesus



Worship Schedule
 Good Hope -10:15am
 Zion - Indoors - 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