



Words from
Pastor Mike Parsh

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

What is the most meaningful journey that you have taken? These experiences can take all sorts of forms, such as physical, emotional, health, or spiritual. The journey can take a short time, or it can take one's whole life to complete. Those on the journey may experience joys and sorrows, ups and downs. Our lives are full of journeys, it is part of being human.

As followers of Christ, one of the journeys we share is our yearly Lenten walk with Jesus to Jerusalem. This forty day season of the church year, not including Sundays, begins on Ash Wednesday and runs until Holy Saturday. Lent is a journey. It begins with ashes on our forehead to remind us that we are going to die. It ends with seeing Jesus on a dusty path that will lead to his crucifixion.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Throughout the season of lent, we are called through the waters of our baptism to serve God by serving one another. However, we are also challenged to take a close look at what keeps us from that service and we need to ask ourselves the question: What do we need to sacrifice, both as individuals and as a society, to grow closer to God and one another?

Due to the often-personal nature of faith in modern Christianity and the encouragement that comes with Lent to become a better person through a forty-day sacrifice, it is easy to default into focusing on just our own personal journey. Our challenge, therefore, is to encourage one another to look at the shared sins, both corporate and cultural, that are hurting our most vulnerable neighbors and also hurting us. How might we take a closer look at the ways in which we may benefit from those communal sins, and sacrificial action that will improve our communities and bring us closer to God?

This year our Lenten journey begins on February 14, Valentines Day. This may seem like an odd quirk of the calendar, but it actually is quite fitting once we dig a little into the legends of Saint Valentine.

According to the website catholic.org, The story of St. Valentine says that he was imprisoned for marrying Christian couples and aiding Christians being persecuted by Emperor Claudius in Rome. Both acts were considered serious crimes. A relationship between the saint and emperor began to grow, until Valentine attempted to convince Claudius of Christianity. Claudius became angry and sentenced Valentine to death, commanding him to renounce his faith or be beaten with clubs and beheaded.

St. Valentine refused to renounce his faith and was executed on February 14, 269. Other versions of St. Valentine's arrest tells that he secretly married couples so husbands wouldn't have to go to war. Still another version of the legend of St. Valentine says he refused to sacrifice to pagan gods, was imprisoned and while imprisoned he healed the jailer's blind daughter. On the day of his execution, he left the girl a note signed, "Your Valentine."¹

Regardless of what version of the legend is true, Saint Valentine lived a life of faith filled service to his neighbors, regardless of the cost. His life reminds us that we are called to reflect the love of God into the world around us. We are called to challenge the systems that trod upon those on the margins of society.

The forty-day journey of Lent reminds us that we, like all the saints before us including Valentine, are called into a lifelong journey of faith filled service to our neighbors.

May your Lenten journey be full of God's grace and love.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike*

¹ https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=159



Thank You

The Women of the Church are grateful to everyone who made donations for the Mitten Tree. We received a total of 23 hats, 23 pairs of gloves/mittens, 43 pairs of socks, 5 scarves, and a package of 3 boy's undershirts. The children's items were donated to 7th Street Elementary school, and the adult apparel was given to The Pointe.

Thank you for your generosity.



Wednesday
February 21, 2024

Providing Promising Futures: the ministry of Bethesda Lutheran Services



Program: The program will be presented by Bethesda Chaplain Randall Frenz. We'll learn about the current ministry with children and youth through a variety of Bethesda sites and programs.

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,
February 19, 2024



Zion Worship

11:45am

Bible Study

Sunday, February 4

11:00am

Social Time/Lunch

Sunday February 18

11:00am

Worship Volunteers – February

Lectors:

2/4 – David Mayer
2/11 – Nancy Wigren
2/18 – Allison McNamara
2/25 – JoAnn Beary

Ushers:

David Mayer
Rick Sabousky

Altar Care:

Leigh Ann Pikna
Diane D'Olympio

Communion Assistant:

Leigh Ann Pikna

Birthdays

14/ Julie Morris
18/ Amelia Gibson
20/ Leigh Ann Pikna
24/ Pastor Mike Parsh
25/ James G. Benson

Financial Report – December

<i>Actual receipts</i>	\$8,970.00
<i>Budgeted receipts</i>	\$6,752.09
<i>Actual expenditures</i>	\$6,221.51

Notes

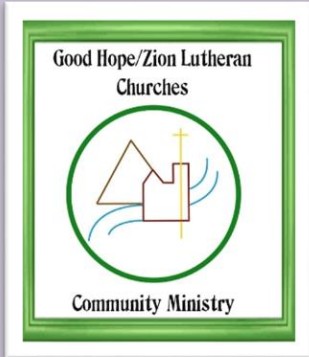
Zion's Council was sworn in during worship on January 7. The officers are Yvonne Paranick, president; Leigh Ann Pikna, vice-president, Jan Ruditis, secretary, Sue Fisher, treasurer, and Nancy Wigren, financial secretary. Other council members are Diane D'Olympio and Allison McNamara. We thank Sue Fisher, who completed her term on Council, for her service.

Thank You

From Lisa Shontz (Jayne Uhlott's sister)

"...this check is from Jayne Uhlott's estate. I'm sure she would have wanted it used wherever the greatest need is. You all meant a lot to her. Merry Christmas."

... to Linda Winkler who sent a Christmas greeting and contribution to Zion



Shrove Tuesday
February 13

Community Meal
February 27

Coffee Break
Thursdays @ 9:30am

Shrove Tuesday!

Shrove Tuesday coming up quick - February 13, 2024! We will need volunteers to help with prepping, cooking, and cleaning. Please let me know if and when you can help! You can text – the best way to get ahold of me - 724-699-0861 or e-mail me at jefrenzdcm@gmail.com. You can also fill out a form and leave it with Kristen in the office. It's exhausting but we always have a good time!! Forms are available in the Narthex and on the office door.



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

Job Opportunity

The Executive Committee of Good Hope is seeking candidates to apply for the position of Director of Community Ministries – Resource Development (DCMRD). The DCMRD will be primarily responsible for providing resource development for existing and new collaborative community ministry projects that will benefit all residents of the community through the programming of the cooperative community ministries of Good Hope and Zion Lutheran Churches. For a full Job Description, please contact Pastor Mike Parsh.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024. The mission and worship committees are seeking volunteers to help with the Ash Wednesday soup supper. Supper will begin at 5:15pm and is soup and bread.

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

Looking ahead, we will also be looking for volunteers for the Maundy Thursday soup supper. More information on that will be in the March newsletter.

*Thank you,
The Mission Committee*



Mission Committee

**Ash Wednesday
Soup Supper**
February 14



Lenten Schedule

Lent Schedule

Good Hope Lutheran Church will be holding midweek Lenten services at 10:00am on February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20. The service will be replayed in the evening on our website.

**** February 21, is our Worship on Wednesday (WOW) service. This will be the first midweek Lenten service and will be held at 11:30am. Regular WOW luncheon and program will follow. ****

*** If you are only attending the Lenten worship service, you do not need to RSVP. If you will be staying for the WOW luncheon and program, please contact the Good Hope office.*

Lenten Midweek Morning Worship in Good Hope Lutheran Sanctuary

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------|--------|---------------|
| • February 21 | 11:30am | Replay | 6:30pm online |
| • February 28 | 10:00am | Replay | 6:30pm online |
| • March 6 | 10:00am | Replay | 6:30pm online |
| • March 13 | 10:00am | Replay | 6:30pm online |
| • March 20 | 10:00am | Replay | 6:30pm online |

Holy Week – March 24 thru March 31. Schedule will be published in the March newsletter.



Quilters of Hope
Tuesdays @ 10:00am

Circle Schedules

Ruth: February 6
Hope: February 8

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 February 8, 10:00am, in the Conference Room at Good Hope Lutheran Church. Devotions: Bev Suhr, Leader: Buffy Heisey. Lesson: "One Step At A Time," pgs. 89-96.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, February 6, 7:00pm via Zoom. Study Leader will be Pastor Mike.



**Good Hope
Worship**
10:15am

REMINDER

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

February Birthdays / Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 01/ Joshua Gavin | 18/ Chad Clark |
| John Wells | Joe Boland |
| 02/ Janet Switzer | 20/ Korey Felmlee |
| 06/ James Miller | 21/ Wade Altman |
| Jacob Kosker | 23/ Raegan Milner |
| 07/ Zaine Hickman | Vance Barner |
| 08/ Debra Best | 24/ Brian Friedhaber |
| 12/ David Weaver | Pr. Mike Parsh |
| 16/ Tom & Mel Neely | 27/ Carrie Biltz |
| 17/ Donna Sheaffer | 28/ Lois Bickel |
| Daniel Vogan | |

Worship Volunteers

Ushers:

- Frank Lewis
- Andy Godinich

Lectors:

- 2/4 – Susie Hlawati
- 2/11 – Beth Orris
- 2/18 – Katie Parsh
- 2/25 – Ralph Jones

Acolytes:

- 2/4 – Hazel Kosker
- 2/11 – Heidi Kosker
- 2/18 – Ben Parsh
- 2/25 – Reed Milner

Altar Guild:

- Melodye Neely
- Sharon McDowell

Counters:

- 2/6 – Linda Vogt
- 2/13 – Melodye Neely
- 2/20 – Chérie Wessell
- 2/27 – Melodye Neely

Communion Assistants:

- 2/4 & 2/11 – Chérie Wessell AA, Joyce Frenz, Bill Exley
- 2/18 & 2/25 – Tom Friedhaber AA, Katie Parsh, Rhonda McElhaney

February

Sunday



4 Epiphany 5

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

11 Transfiguration

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

18 Lent 1

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

25 Lent 2

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	2	3
5 IU Spelling Bee @GH- 6pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	6 Quilters @GH- 10am CMC Mtg. @GH- 10:30am Worship Mtg. @GH-4pm Ruth Circle via Zoom-7pm	7 Staff Mtg. @GH- 9:15am Ministerium- 11am Property Mtg. @GH-7pm Combined Council Mtg. @GH- 4:30pm	8 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Hope Circle @GH-10am	9	11
12 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	13 S Shrove Tuesday All Day Pancake Meals @GH- 7am-7pm Quilters @GH- 10am	14 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service @Z- 11am Luncheon @Z- 12pm Supper @GH- 5:15pm Ash Wednesday Service @GH- 6:30pm	15 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Council @GH- 7PM	16	17
19 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	20 Quilters @GH- 10am Council @Z-6pm	21 Lenten Morning Service (WOW) @GH-11:30am WOW Lunch & Program @GH- 12:15pm Lenten Worship Replay Online- 6:30pm	22 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	23	24
26 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	27 Quilters @GH- 10am Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-6pm	28 Lenten Morning Service @GH- 10am Lenten Worship Replay Online- 6:30pm	29 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am		

* 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.

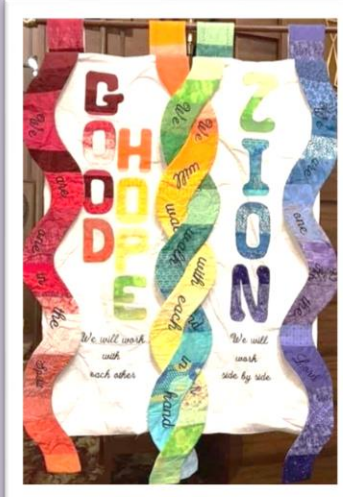
Nancy Wigren

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
February 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