

# Words from Pastor Mike Parsh

### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How good it is to be the Church! I wish we could capture the joyous feelings of the Christmas season and have them all year long. Unfortunately, time marches on and we are dragged back into the everyday events of our lives. So, as we look forward to beginning this New Year, I would like to begin it with you in prayer. Let us pray.

Dear God, our minds and hearts turn in two directions as we recall the many blessings of the past year and look ahead to anticipated blessings of the year just beginning. None of us can know what joy or sorrow will come into our lives, but we are grateful for the reassurance that you will be with us whatever situations we face. Hear our thanks for the lasting joys of precious memories that keep the past a part of the present. Help us so to live day by day that we may build new memories to bless the future with happiness. May this be a year in which our hearts are enlarged to embrace those who need assurance of your love, and may we move forward serenely through days of fellowship with one another and with you. Amen.

As we begin this New Year, we have an opportunity to refocus our shared ministry in a way. Yes, as the body of Christ in our time and place, we carry the memories of the past year, both the good and the bad. These memories teach us about God's never-failing presence and send us forward in to the coming year grounded in God's love and grace. Now that we have entered the month of January, we are given a whole new year to proclaim the Good News of Christ among us that we just celebrated.

I came across a list of twelve things that can make the New Year a healthy one, both spiritually and relationally. The list comes from Wheat Ridge Ministries.

1. Our hope is in the Lord. Even though we have considered all the facts, there is still hope in Christ!

2. Ask for help. God's gifts are in the people around you.

3. Laugh out loud - at yourself, with others, and give people permission to laugh.

4. Take care of your body - it's the only one you will ever have!

5. Say "thank you" to people as often as you can.

6. Look for trouble - more specifically, look for the troubled.... the lonely, the sick, the naked, those who think God has forgotten them. 7. Talk to children regularly.

8. Remember your present mood is never permanent.

9. On a scale of 1 to 10, your friends deserve a 12.

10. Remember that life is not fair, but God is gracious.

11. Be the biggest picture window to the Gospel that you can be!

12. Things are not always as they seem. See life through the cross and the Easter resurrection.

Hopefully, this list can be a guiding light for us all as we enter the year ahead of us. And as our prayer above said, no matter where this New Year will lead, God will be right there in the thick of things with us. That is an awe inspiring, and grace filled gift for us all. My hope and prayer for you this New Year is that the joys will outweigh the sorrows, that you will be blessed in whatever life calls you into and that your journey with God will become stronger than ever. May you have a blessed New Year!

Blessings, Pastor Mike

Shirley Youlton, our sister in Christ, died on Thursday, November 23, 2023, at The Caring Place in Franklin, PA. Shirley was born in Grand Rapids, MI, but moved to Wilkinsburg, PA a year later with her father's job transfer.

Shirley was an active member in her husband's churches and in 1987 pursued her own career in ministry. In 2014, Shirley moved to The Caring Place to be closer to her extended family. A memorial service was held November 30, 2023 in the Chapel at the Caring Place with Rev. Mark Rusnak, Chaplain, presiding. Memorials may be made to AseraCare Hospice, The Caring Place, or the United Church of Christ.

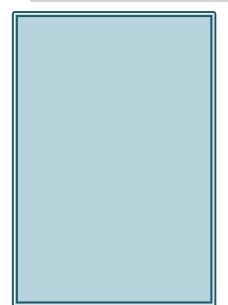
Our sister in Christ, Charlotte E. Donley, 93, died on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at SouthWoods Assisted Living in Titusville, PA. She graduated from Oil City High School in 1947. She was confirmed by Rev. Kuhlman at Good Hope Lutheran Church and was a member there in her later years.

A memorial service will be held at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 800 Moran St. in Oil City on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at 11:00am. Interment will be at Grove Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Good Hope Lutheran Church or to a charity of one's choice.



## **In Memorium**







# Thank You

Janice Graham, our sister in Christ, 83, of Seneca, passed away in the morning on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Janice retired from National City Bank in 2003 where she had worked for 25 years. In 2008, Janice and her son, Scott, became the owners of Island Winds Tanning Salon in Oil City. She enjoyed spending time with her family and looked forward to her visits with her great granddaughter. Jan was a lifelong member of Good Hope Lutheran Church in Oil City, PA.

A memorial service to celebrate her life was held December 9, 2023, with the Rev. J. Michael Parsh, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Good Hope Lutheran Church, 800 Moran St., Oil City PA 16301; or to Oil City Area Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 381, Seneca, PA 16346.

## Dear Friends in Christ at Good Hope and Zion,

I am truly grateful for the Christmas cards, warm greetings, candies, treats, and the generous monetary gifts this Christmas. It was all so thoughtful and is appreciated very much.

It has been a joy serving alongside you in ministry this past year and I look forward to the year to come. With God all things are possible!

To the staff of the Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry of Oil City: Joyce Frenz, Kristen Criado, Beth Orris, Bruce Dodd, Jan Ruditis, Marcy Amero & preschool staff, Cheryl Bailey, Jesse Gibson, Alex Dulaney, Jaimee Cohen, Dustin Harrison, and now Teaching Pastor Sandra Jones,

Please accept my deepest thanks for all that you do in sharing your wonderful talents and abilities with the ministry we share at Good Hope and Zion. We are so much better together than trying to do things on our own. The people of Zion and Good Hope are blessed to have you as our shared staff! With your faith-filled work we have accomplished a lot this past year, as we strive to serve all in the manner of Jesus.

I am thankful to God and to you for the ways that you have used your gifts and abilities in accomplishing the various tasks your jobs entail. Each of you have gone above and beyond the job description to serve the congregations and our community, especially during this year of transition.

I wish you and your families a healthy and blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mike Parsh

To the People of Good Hope,

Thank you so much for all of the cards and gifts that appear like magic in my office. They are much appreciated. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kristen Criado

Good Hope Congregation,

Many thanks everyone who donated to the Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. Your generosity helped countless people across the world.

Mission Committee and Quilters of Hope

Dear Good Hope Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of \$100.00. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

With gratitude, Linda Post Bushkofsky Executive Director, WELCA



Weather Cancellation Information

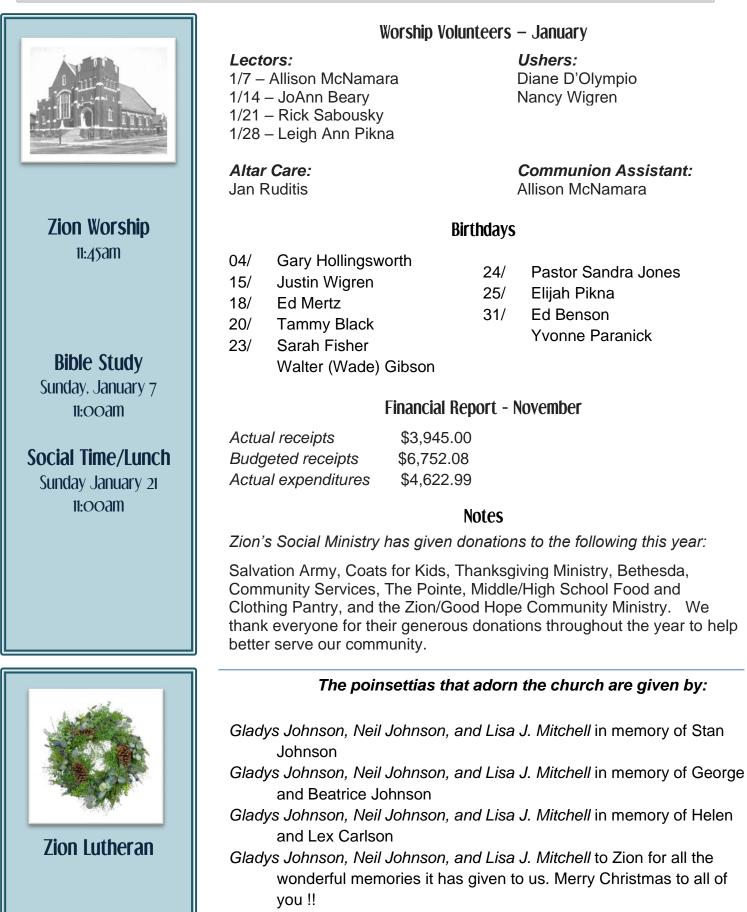
## **Cancellation Information**

Cancellations due to emergency or inclement weather will be announced in the following ways:

- TV
  - KDKA Channel 2, WTAE Action News 4 (Pittsburgh)
  - o WICU Channel 12, WJET Channel 24 (Erie)
- Radio
  - Rocky 107.7, Froggy 100.3, Froggy 98.5, WKQW-FM 96.3
- Online
  - o Operation Weather Alert at forevernorthwestpa.com
  - Website goodhopezionlutheranoilcity.org
  - Facebook pages Good Hope Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church, Oil City
- Zion Lutheran Church Shepherd's List phone tree

Whenever possible, closure decisions will be made 2 hours prior to the event start time. In all situations, use your best judgement about travel and be safe!

### Herald of Hope/Lutheran Light – Good News Letter



Leigh Ann Pikna in memory of Jim Benson and Margaret Benson

*Linda Benson* in memory of the Benson/Weber family *JoAnn Beary* in memory of Gerald E. (Jud) Beary and Pr. Donald D. Hake *Gretchen Gibbs* in memory of Loved Ones

### Contributions to the Cooperative Ministries Program are given by:

Yvonne and Ron Paranick in honor of all who support the social ministry at Zion Jan Ruditis in memory of Shirley Yolton and Suzette Nellis

Gretchen Gibbs in memory of Sniney Yolton and Suzette Neill Gretchen Gibbs in memory of loved ones Shane and Sue Fisher in memory of loved ones Nancy Wigren in honor of Samuel Black-Wigren

The Advent wreath and the front door wreaths are given in memory of Evelyn and Willard Bolton, Lorretta Bolton, and Jim Bolton from John Bolton, Robyn Bolton and Matt Jarman, and Diana, Adam, Claire, and Isaac Welmerink.

## Poinsettias

### In Honor of

Our wonderful children and granddaughters; and the best support system of family and friends ever – *Sharon and Sam McDowell*Charles M. Lauffer – *The Suhr Family*Our children and grandchildren; Shaun and Cheyna, Malea and Josh, Mia and Mike – *Denny and Chérie Wessell*Our beautiful children and grandchildren – *Jim and Linda Black*My children and grandchildren – *Judy Blaine*Grandchildren Deacon, Zain, Marla, Willa, and Lila – *Ronald and Susan French*

### In Memory of

Our beloved parents, Jay and Helen McDowell and Bud and Joyce Vogan, and brother Dave Vogan – Sharon and Sam McDowell Elmer and Mary Mohney – Tom Mohney Walter and Mae Shutt – Tom Mohney Paul and Eleanor Shutt – Tom Mohney Margaret Shutt – Tom Mohney My brothers and sisters – Gloria Aughenbaugh Henry B. Suhr, Jr. – The Suhr Family Albert and Eleanor Saltzmann – Judy and Ron Tarr Merwin and Catherine Anne Tarr – Judy and Ron Tarr Marjorie Armburger, Selinda Hamler, and James Saltzmann – Judy and Ron Tarr



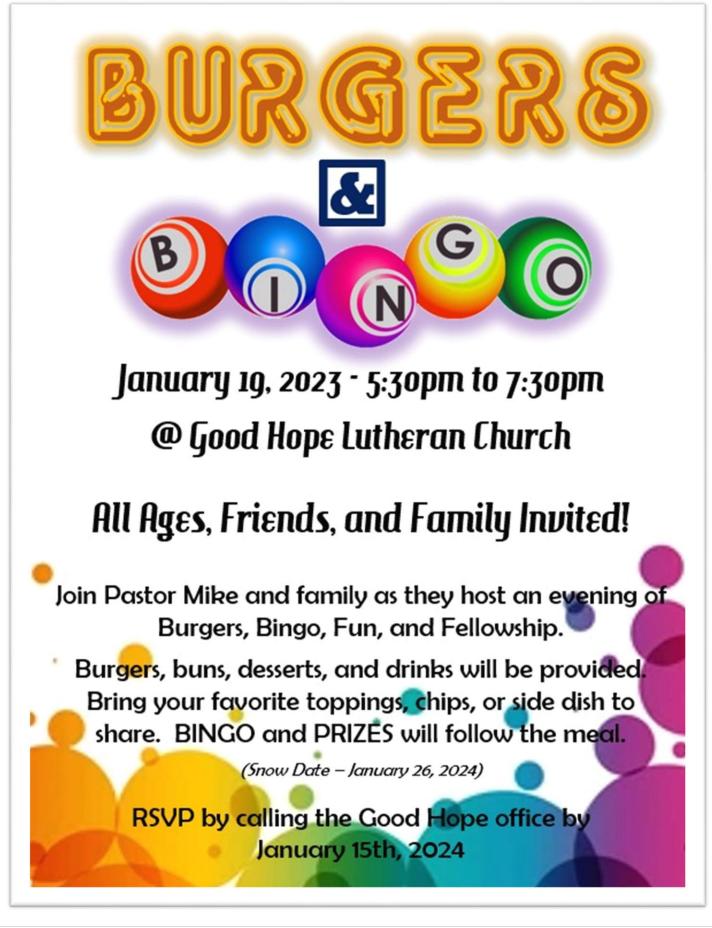
Good Hope Lutheran

	Henrietta Neubauer Blum – Beverly L. Suhr
	Ruth Neubauer Lauffer – Beverly L. Suhr
	Bill, my dear husband – <i>Dolores Baker</i>
	Sandi Dehner – wife, mother, gram, and great gram – Daryl Dehner and <i>Family</i>
	Bob and Jean Dittman – parents, grandparents, and great grandparents - Daryl Dehner and Family
	Our parents; Gerry and Lois, Marshall and Eloise – <i>Denny and Chérie</i> Wessell
	My husband Jack, our parents, my sister Donna, and brothers-in law Dave, Dick, Fred, and Rich – <i>Judy Blaine</i>
	Our parents Earl and Irene Keefer and Ron and Rose French – Ronald and Susan French
	Kelly D. O'Neil – Alysha and Emmalyn O'Neil
	Edward Graham, Kelly O'Neil, Janice Graham –Scott Graham, Alysha
	and Emmalyn O'Neil
	Edward and Florence Krathge, Alice and Paul Boyer – Janice and Scott Graham
	Our beloved niece, Sydney Jo Miller – Jim and Susie Miller and Family
	Our fathers, William Eakin and James Miller – <i>Jim and Susie Miller and Family</i>
	My husband, Bill Eakin – <i>Avonelle Eakin</i>
	Gavin grandparents and Kay grandparents – The Gavin Family
	Mother and wife, Mary Jeanne Gavin – The Gavin Family
	Richard and Jane Butler – Denny and Cheryl Butler
	Charles and Shirley Eggie – Denny and Cheryl Bitler
	Lillian Wells – John and Debbie Wells
	Charlene Mioduszewski – John and Debbie Wells
	Our parents – Tom and Mel Neely
	To the Glory of God – Judy and Ron Tarr
	Combined Ministry Retreat
Not set a	Saturday, January 13 will be the annual combined Good Hope / Zion staff and council retreat at Good Hope Lutheran Church in the
	Fellowship Hall. A light breakfast will be served at 9:30am with the
Combined Staff /	retreat starting at 10:00am and lunch at 12:00pm.

There will be time for the committees to hold their January meetings and after the retreat, the church councils will hold their January council meetings.

**Council Retreat** 

January 13





## Happy New Year!

2023 has certainly flown fast! We have all had our ups and downs and we are missing lost loved ones and rejoice with new family members.

The Community Ministry Committee continues to provide hot, nutritious, meals to our community members twice a month. We serve an average of 220 meals on the first and last Tuesday of each month.

With prices going up and our coffers getting low, our committee is being challenged. We will be looking at different fundraising ideas for the near future! Please let me know if you have any ideas - 724-699-0861.

Please remember Thrivent cards are as good as cash and don't come out of your personal budget. With every card obtained, Thrivent also provides soft, clean, T-shirts for us to share with our community members.

Serving All For His Sake, Joyce Frenz and The Community Ministry Committee

## Shrove Tuesday!

Shrove Tuesday is just a few short weeks away. Easter is early this year, March 31, so Shrove Tuesday is February 13, 2024!

You will see a volunteer sign up list attached. Please let me know if and when you can help! You can text – the best way to get a hold of me - 724-699-0861 or e-mail me at jefrenzdcm@gmail.com. You can also fill out the form and leave it with Kristen in the office. It's exhausting but we always have a good time!!

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



# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal Volunteer Sign-up Sheet

	Monday, February 12, 2024
	9:00am to 11:00am Set-up/Prep
	Tuesday, February 13, 2024
To make and a	6:30am to 9:30am Cook/Serve/Clean-up
	10:30am to 1:00pm Cook/Serve/Clean-up
	3:30pm to 7:00pm Cook/Serve
The second	6:00pm to 7:00pm Clean-up
	Name:
1	
Contraction of the	Phone:
	Email:



## **Adult Study**

**January 17, 24, 31** 7pm – via Zoom

## Worship & Lutheran Liturgy: why do we do what we do?

Adult education offering by Zoom on January 17, 24, 31, 2024 7:00 – 8:15 p.m. Discussion facilitated by Pastor Sandra Jones

Join us from your winter location or the warmth and comfort of your own home.

We will explore the Biblical roots, history, and meaning of the Lutheran liturgy, along with having conversation about how our worship style can be more welcoming. No textbook is required but it will be helpful if you have a Bible and a hymnal (LBW or ELW) available to use. There will be a few course handouts provided by email.

Please call or email the Good Hope office by January 15 to sign-up and have a Zoom link sent to your email address.

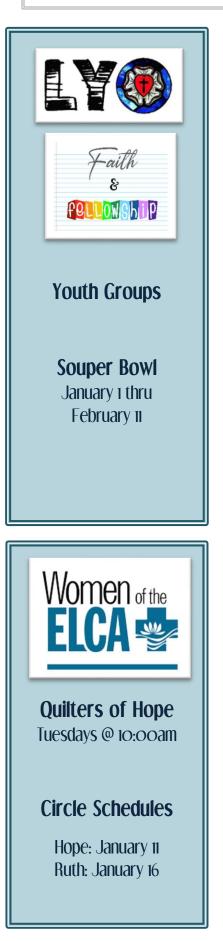


## Stay and Play Update

Stay and Play is an after-school STREAM/STEAM/STEM program catering to at-risk youth in Oil City. We serve the children of our community every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the hours of 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm and the third Saturday of each month from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. Over the course of the past year, Stay and Play has seen remarkable growth and engagement, with new children attending our program almost daily! The program, designed to provide a supportive learning environment, has witnessed great success in its various activities and field trips. These included a fun-filled trip to the local bowling alley, a fun filled Christmas party and game of Christmas bingo with Pastor Parsh and Pastor Jones, energetic ga-ga ball matches at Good Hope Lutheran, an exciting overnight lock-in at the YMCA, as well as an enlightening visit to the Carnegie Science Center. The children have had fun with science in the outdoors, trying their hand at experimentation with testing and charting river water and having the opportunity to work with water distillation as well as with the process of water electrolysis and making Colloidal Silver water! More outdoor activities have seen the children at Justus Park for Easter Egg hunts and Scavenger hunts, encouraging team building and working together. We have also seen the children's grades rise by a letter or even two in subjects like reading and math as we work closely with the children on homework and tutoring, offering our time and positive reinforcement!

Looking ahead, we envision more fun and learning, and some more structured activities. Plans are in motion for the establishment of a live webcam travel center and computer station, opening up new avenues for exploration and learning. We are planning a themed chalk art event, filling and burying a time capsule and currently the children are all working together on a book that we will be publishing with the Student Treasures Fun Company, to be completed in December or January. Additionally, we have high hopes for a Lego club on the horizon, set to become a cherished addition to the program's offerings with the continued generous Lego donations we have received from various members of the community. With these initiatives, Stay and Play aims to continue providing enriching experiences for the youth it serves, nurturing a love for learning and a sense of belonging.

Jaimee Cohen Stay and Play Manager



## Souper Bowl of Caring

Your favorite team may not be in the 2024 Souper Bowl; we can all participate in the slightly less hyped Souper Bowl food drive!

*The Youth* are collecting non-perishables for Community Services of Venango County. Boxes will be out for your contributions. If you prefer, checks can be made out to Good Hope with "Souper Bowl" on the memo line. This effort will continue through Sunday February 11, 2024. We thank everyone for their support!



# Quilters of Hope

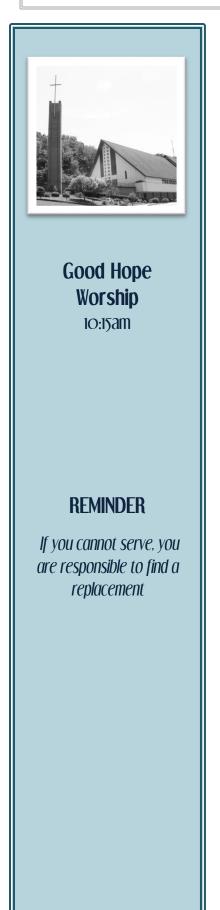
The Quilters of Hope will be meeting Tuesdays, 10:00am to 2:30pm. Please bring a lunch and join us! No sewing experience is needed.

## Hope Circle

Hope Circle meeting will be January 11, 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, January 16, 7:00pm via Zoom.



## January Birthdays / Anniversaries

- 01/ Molly Gavin Revs. Ralph & Sandra Jones
  04/ Carolyn Benninger
  15/ Judy Clark Ron & Linda Campbell
  23/ Thomas Bickel Nickolas Switzer
- 24/ Pr. Sandra Jones
- 25/ Clyde & Carolyn Benninger Russ Zacherl
- 26/ Elizabeth Roth Margie Hart
- 27/ Anna Ausel Deborah Biltz

## Worship Volunteers

### Ushers:

Tom Neely Scott Graham

## Acolytes:

1/7 – Raegan Milner 1/14 – Heidi Kosker 1/21 – Reed Milner 1/28 – Ben Parsh

### **Counters:**

1/2 – Linda Vogt
1/9 – Melodye Neely
1/16 – Debbie Best
1/23 – Chérie Wessell
1/30 – Sharon McDowell

## **Communion Assistants:**

1/7 & 1/14 – Susie Hlawati AA, Debbie Best, Linda Vogt 1/21 & 1/28 – Margie Hart AA, Andy Godinich, Beth Orris

## Lectors:

1/7 – Douglas Suhr 1/14 – Andy Godinich 1/21 – Judy Tarr 1/28 – Buffy Heisey

## Altar Guild:

Judy Clark Pam Pfertsh

### Herald of Hope/Lutheran Light – Good News Letter

January	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	1 New Year OFFICE CLOSED	2 Quilters @GH- 10am CMC Mtg. @GH- 10:30am	3 Staff Mtg. @GH- <i>9:15am</i> Ministerium- <i>11am</i>	4 Coffee Break @ <i>Z-9:30am</i>	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i> Epiphany Meditation- <i>Online</i>
7 Baptism of Lord * Sunday Sch. @GH 9:00am * Worship @GH- 10:15am * Bible Study @Z 11am * Worship @Z- 11:45am	8	9 Quilters @GH- <i>10am</i> Community Meal @Z- <i>4:30pm-6pm</i>	10	11 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Hope Circle @GH-10am Stay and Play Task Force @Z-6pm	12	13 Staff, Council, Advisory Comm., Committees Retreat @ GH-9:30am- 12pm
14 Epiphany 2 * Sunday Sch. @GH 9:00am * Worship @GH- 10:15am * Worship @Z- 11:45am	15	16 Quilters @GH- <i>10am</i> Preschool Board @ <i>GH-6pm</i> Ruth Circle via Zoom- <i>7pm</i>	17 Adult Study via Zoom- <i>7pm</i>	18 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	19 Burgers & Bingo @GH- <i>5:30pm-7:30pm</i>	20
21 Epiphany 3 * Sunday Sch. @GH 9:00am * Worship @GH- 10:15am * Social Time / Lunch @Z * 11am * Worship @Z- 11:45am	22	23 Quilters @GH- 10am	24 Adult Study via Zoom-7pm	25 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	26 Stay and Play GaGa Ball	27 Youth GaGa Ball Stay and Play Bowling Trip
28 Epiphany 4 * Sunday Sch. @GH 9:00am * Worship @GH- 10:15am * Worship @Z- 11:45am	29	30 Quilters @GH- <i>10am</i> Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-6pm	31 Adult Study via Zoom- <i>7pm</i>		HAPP	Y (EAR

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

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#### Herald of Hope/Lutheran Light - Good News Letter





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



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

## Worship Schedule ms21:01– 9qoH booĐ Ms24:11– 2100h – 10iS

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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month