

*God is stronger than...*

*Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,*

We have been on quite the journey together these past several weeks. We have and still do weep, lament, and grieve together. We also gave and give thanks to God and proclaimed the glory of Jesus' resurrection in our Easter celebrations. We have been on a journey that none of us expected to play out the way it has. And yet throughout our shared experience, we know that God is stronger than anything this world can throw at us.

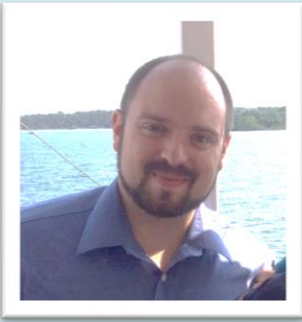
The life changing good news of the resurrection of Jesus puts on full display the love of God. In this gracious act, God promises that nothing can separate us from God and that our salvation has been secured once and for all. Again, God is stronger than anything in this world, even our own sinful brokenness that Pastor Jones wrote about in the April newsletter.

As I was pondering the phrase, "God is stronger than...", I was reminded of a song I learned when I was younger. It came from the Veggie Tales series of shows that teaches basic Christian principles to children. The song that came to mind was, "God is bigger than the Boogieman." The message of this song is that God is bigger of than the scary things of this world. It helps teach children to trust that God will see them through things that frighten them. While the song is fun to sing and is appropriate for the intended age group, it paints a basic understanding of what God does in this world. As our faith grows and we encounter more of what the world can throw at us, we often find ourselves searching for deeper understanding of how God is at work in the world. And yet sometimes a simple hymn can have profound meaning for us no matter where we are at along our faith journey.

The hymn *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* is one such hymn that has spoken to me this Easter season. It was written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1995. As you may know, Tutu was a South African Anglican bishop and theologian, known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist. He was Bishop of Johannesburg from 1985 to 1986 and then Archbishop of Cape Town from 1986 to 1996, in both cases being the first black African to hold the position. Theologically, he sought to fuse ideas from black theology with African theology.<sup>1</sup> From 1978 to 1985 he served as general secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), a subsidiary of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The

<sup>1</sup> Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2022, December 22). *Desmond Tutu*. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Desmond-Tutu>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/3844>



**Words from  
Pastor  
Mike Parsh**

ELCA is a member of WCC. While general secretary, SACC became a vital institution in South African spiritual and political life, voicing the ideals and aspiration of millions of South African Christians.<sup>1</sup>

I was an ELCA Youth Gathering participant at the 2000 Youth Gathering in St. Louis where Bishop Tutu was a guest speaker. In his address, he thanked the US Lutherans and the rest of the world for standing with South Africa to end apartheid. What I remembered from his speech is that the love and goodness of God is stronger than the evils of this world.

Which brings us back to Tutu's hymn, *Goodness Is Stronger than Evil* (ELW 721). This hymn reminds us that through God's love and grace poured out for us by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we can respond to this great gift by showing the world that goodness and love are stronger than evil and hate.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, through the waters of our baptism we are called to shine forth God's love and grace into our world each and every day of our earthly journey. Will this always be easy? No. Will we always get it right? No. But the good news is that God's love and grace is stronger than our weakness. With this sure knowledge, let us carry the Easter message of God's great love for all of creation out into our hurting world. We can do this all because God is stronger.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Mike Parsh*



## In Memorium

Marcy Suzette Nellis, 76, of Oil City, died unexpectedly while walking near her home, Monday, March 27, 2023. Born on April 19, 1946, in Oil City, she was a daughter of the late Eugene E. and Martha M. Reed West.

On May 9, 1965, she was married to Jerry E. Nellis, Jr. who survives. They shared 57 years of marriage together.

Surviving in addition to her husband, are a son, Michael E. Nellis and daughter, Amy J. Still; four grandchildren; and one great granddaughter. Also surviving is a cousin, who was like a sister to Suzette, Cindy Fultz, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 11 am, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Michael Parsh and the Rev. Sandra Jones co-officiating.

Memorials are suggested to Good Hope Lutheran Church, 800 Moran Street, Oil City, or to the Venango County Humane Society, 286 S. Main Street, Seneca.

*Heavenly Father,*

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. We pray through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*



**Sunday School**

*Sunday School is every Sunday 9:15-10:15am.* Elementary Sunday School will meet in the classroom across from the nursery. Confirmation Class will meet in the conference room. Adult Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall.

**Confirmation Class**

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, the confirmation class will be touring Morrison Funeral Home. The event will happen in the afternoon at 2:00pm.

**LYO and Faith & Formation**

**May 13, 2023, Lutherlyn Camp Blast** – A day of FREE FUN for all ages that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. 11:00am to 4:30pm. For more information, please contact Lutherlyn at 724-865-9794.

**May 26 & 27, 2023, Faith & Formation Lock-OUT** – A night in the Oil Creek open shelters! Starts at 6:00pm on May 26 and ends 10:00am on May 27.

**Now Accepting College Scholarships**

This scholarship is provided to Good Hope students from the Good Hope Mission Fund.

*Criteria:*

1. Confirmed Membership at Good Hope Lutheran Church
2. Active in Worship (at least four times per year)
3. Must maintain 2.25 GPA
4. Fulltime (12 credits) students will receive full scholarship. Part-time students receive pro-rated scholarships.
5. Scholarships are for undergraduate study only.

Applications can be obtained on the Church website or in the office.



**Faith Formation**

**Sunday School**  
Sunday, 9:15am



**College Scholarships**

**Applications Due**  
June 30, 2023





### Good Hope Christian Preschool

As the Preschool year is drawing to a close, we would like to thank you, the congregation, and everyone at Good Hope for your continued support of our program.

We will be celebrating the end of the year with our annual family picnic on Wednesday, May 24th . Our End of the Year program is on Tuesday, May 23rd at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the program.

As you may know, the preschool started a full day class (8:45am-2:30pm) back in January. Nine of the 13 children who enrolled opted to stay for the full day class. It has gone very smoothly, and the children have had fun learning about science, math, extending their lessons on the alphabet and numbers, and finding out what lunch and recess may be like when they continue on to kindergarten in the fall. Below are some of the pictures of our afternoon activities.

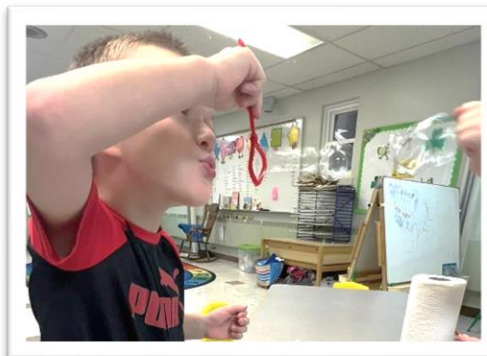
Late last summer many of you helped out the preschool by donating items that I had listed on our “donation board” in the downstairs lobby. We truly appreciated the donations. It helped keep our costs down and everything was put to good use. I will once again be putting up the “donation board” later this summer. Keep an eye on the newsletter for details in the coming months.

We still have room in the toddler time and preschool classes for children for the fall. If you know of anyone who is interested, please have them contact me at [ghpdirector2@gmail.com](mailto:ghpdirector2@gmail.com).

Have a great summer and thank you again for your support.

*Marcy Amero  
Good Hope Christian Preschool  
Director/Preschool Teacher*

*Oobleck from Dr. Seuss*



*Making bubbles and  
our own bubble wands*

*Homemade  
lava lamps*





*Color transfer experiment*

*We made snow!*



*Rainclouds in a cup*



*Static electricity*



*Weight and buoyancy – seeing how many tows it takes before their aluminum foil boats sink*



**Venango Youth Choir**  
Concert May 8  
6:30pm

### Venango Youth Choir

Venango Youth Choir will present their spring program on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

This semester's theme is "All God's Critters Got A Place In The Choir" and features youth from grades 3 to 8 singing and playing Orff instruments.

Beth Orris is the director and is assisted by Pastor Mike Parsh, Linda Vogt, and Julie Kosker. Venango Youth Choir is a free community choir open to students in grades 3 through 8 grades. Funding for Venango Youth Choir comes from the Samuel Justus Charitable Trust - administered by the PNC Charitable Trust - and donations from community members.



Sunday, May 28  
5:00pm to 8:00pm

# We Walk For Suzette Sunday, May 28, 2023

**Please join us at Good Hope Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 28, 2023, 5:00pm to 8:00pm for an evening of walking, prayer, fellowship, and remembrance. Please come and go as it fits your holiday schedule.**

**During our time together there will be**

- **multiple prayer stations**
- **walking around the oval driveway**  
*(all vehicles will park in the lowest level)*
- **time and space for fellowship**

***Light refreshments will be provided.***

**We will meet rain or shine. Please bring a lawn chair as we hope to meet outdoors.**

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





## Zion Worship

Indoors – 11:00am

### Worship Volunteers – May

#### **Lectors:**

5/7 – JoAnn Beary  
 5/14 – Rick Sabousky  
 5/21 – Leigh Ann Pikna  
 5/28 – Yvonne Paranick

#### **Ushers:**

Yvonne Paranick

#### **Altar Care:**

Yvonne Paranick

#### **Communion Assistant:**

Allison McNamara

### Birthdays

06/ Jennifer McPherson	18/ Allison McNamara
Janice Levi	23/ Becky McElhatten
07/ Danyel (Gibson) Musser	24/ Betty Hogue
11/ Michelle Gibson	26/ Shea Johnson

### Financial Report - March

<i>Actual Receipts</i>	\$5,173.50
<i>Budgeted Receipts</i>	3,393.00
<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	6,752.09

### Lutherlyn Campaign

Zion wrapped up its Lutherlyn Building for the Future campaign. The goal was \$5,000.00 and, through the overwhelming generosity of our congregation, we exceeded the goal by \$750.00. Thank you to everyone who participated and to all who support Lutherlyn in any way.

### Mission Presentation

The Zion council has invited Oksana Specht, a special education student at Grove City College, to speak on her upcoming mission trip to Ethiopia. She will be presenting at the May 7 worship service.

### Gifts

EASTER FLOWERS were given

*In Memory of...*

Gerald E. Beary from JoAnn Beary  
 Pastor Donald Hake from JoAnn Beary  
 Edwin and Margaret Benson from Linda Benson  
 Jim Benson from Linda Benson

GIFTS TO THE CMC were given. . .

*In Memory of...*

Suzette Nellis from Jan Ruditis  
 Memory of my family from Diane D'Olympio

*In Honor of...*

Pastor Sandra and Pastor Mike from Yvonne and Ron Paranick



## Community Meals

May 9  
May 30

**Coffee Break**  
Thursdays @ 9:30am

## Happy Spring

Community Ministry Committee continues to serve those in our community in many ways:

- Free Community Meals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Last Tuesdays of the month.
- Soap and Card Shop which distributes laundry pods and adult daily living supplies such as soap, toothpaste and deodorant on a rotating basis. These are distributed during Community Meals.
- Coffee Break which meets every Thursday from 9:30am to 10:30am for donuts, beverages, and fellowship.
- Loads of Love distributes \$5 bundles of quarters to random local laundromats to help the community with laundry cost will soon be coming to an end as grant funding money is depleted.

We support our local teachers and emergency personnel when needed and are always looking for new ways to serve our community so if you see a need, please bring it to our attention, we may be able to help!

### Attention Thrivent Members! Live Generously!

I am sure you have seen 'Live Generously' T-shirts on our volunteers and out in the community. These are gifts from Thrivent when a member applies for a Community Action Card.

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 me for more information, but Ron Vogt, Dolores Baker or Yvonne Paranick are Thrivent members who have utilized the benefit many times and are willing to walk you through the process. (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.

*Joyce Frenz – Director of Community Ministries*  
724-699-0861  
*The Community Ministry Committee*







Stay and Play

**Oil City Clean-Up Day**

On April 19, 2023, Stay and Play participated in the Oil City Clean-Up Day. They worked in the green space around the planter across from St Stephen's at the end of the bridge at Front Street and State Street. They picked up a lot of trash and branches and cleaned some of the leaves. Some of the older kids are going back to clear more leaves in the coming week.



Save the Date

**Save the Date**

**June 4, 2023** - Good Hope will begin worship outside at 9:30am and will be celebrating our graduating high school seniors with the Quilt presentation.

**June 14, 2023** – Worship on Wednesday (WOW) Senior Ministry

**June 25, 2023** – Shared Ministry worship and picnic at Lion's Pavilion, Morrison Park, 10:30am.

**July 29, 2023** - There will be a celebration of Pastor Jones' ministry to be held Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Good Hope Lutheran.

The celebration will start at 2:00pm in the sanctuary with worship. There will be a reception after the service in the Fellowship Hall with hors d'oeuvres and a program. Please watch the newsletter and bulletins for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mike.



### Prayer Chain

### Prayer Chain

The Good Hope prayer chain had been chaired by Suzette Nellis. Due to her untimely death, Chérie Wessell has graciously volunteered to take the chair.

If you have any prayers that you would like to be on the prayer chain, **OR** if you are interested in being a part of the prayer chain, please contact Chérie at 814-673-6338. Chérie will also answer any questions you may have about the prayer chain.



Quilters of Hope  
Tuesdays @ 10:00am

### Circle Schedules

Ruth: May 4  
Hope: May 11

Coffee Hour  
Sunday, May 7  
*after worship*

### 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.

At the June 4, 2023, outdoor Good Hope worship, the Quilters of Hope will be presenting the high school graduates their quilts. Please join us for that celebration!

### Hope Circle

Hope Circle meeting will be May 11 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall at Good Hope. Devotions: Ann, Leader: Maribeth, Hostess: Rhonda. Lesson: "Life's Storms," pgs. 39-45, SOL.

### Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, May 2, 7:00pm at the Wells residence. The lesson leader will be Judy Clark.

### Coffee Hour

Ruth Circle will host Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 7, after worship. Please join us for conversation and fellowship!



### Summer Worship

### Summer Worship

We are looking for volunteers to help set up for our outdoor summer worship at Good Hope. Beginning in June, worship will move outdoors in the lower parking lot at 9:30am. We would like at least two people per Sunday to volunteer to help set up chairs and other worship needs.

There is a sign up chart in the Narthex, please sign up for any Sundays you would be willing to help. Set-up time will be 9:00am. Thank you in advance for your help!



**Good Hope  
Worship**  
Indoors – 10:30am

**REMINDER**

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

**May Birthdays / Anniversaries**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 02/ Earl Stoltenburg, Jr.<br>Erin York<br>Eric Clark | 18/ Tara Milner  |
| 04/ Allison Altman                                   | 19/ Joan McElhatten  |
| 05/ Ronald Tarr                                      | 20/ Susan Miller<br>Noah Gavin                                     |
| 06/ Jacob Switzer                                    | Todd Hart  |
| 09/ Kelly & Cris McFarland<br>Ron & Linda Vogt       | 23/ Gary & Janet Switzer   |
| 13/ Mindi McDowell<br>Rhonda McElhaney               | 24/ Susen Rossino<br>Sam & Jane Pagliari<br>Pr. Mike & Katie Parsh |
| 16/ George & Debbie Biltz                            | 25/ Bob & Jaqueline Blose  |

**Worship Volunteers**

**Ushers:**

Ron Vogt  
Bill Exley

**Lectors:**

5/7 – Douglas Suhr  
5/14 – Sharon McDowell  
5/21 – Chuck Schultz  
5/28 – Joyce Frenz

**Counters:**

5/2 – Linda Vogt  
5/8 – Linda Campbell  
5/16 – Melodye Neely  
5/24 – Sharon McDowell  
5/31 – Chérie Wessell

**Acolytes:**

5/7 – Hazel Kosker  
5/14 – Heidi Kosker  
5/21 – Ben Parsh  
5/28 – Raegan Milner

**Altar Guild:**

Debbie Biltz, Margie Hart

**Communion Assistants:**

5/7 & 5/14 – Chérie Wessell AA, Andy Godinich, Marcia Hoffman  
5/21 & 5/28 – Jennifer Friedhaber AA, Chuck Schultz, Linda Vogt

May

Sunday

7 *Easter 5*

\* Sunday Sch. @GH  
9:15am  
\* Worship @GH-  
10:30am  
\* Coffee Hour-after  
worship  
\* Worship @Z-11am  
\* Z Congregational  
Mtg.-after worship

14 *Easter 6*


\* Worship @GH-  
10:30am  
\* Worship @Z-11am  
Joyce Frenz-Leader

21 *Easter 7*

\* Sunday Sch. @GH  
9:15am  
\* Worship @GH-  
10:30am  
\* GH Semi-Annual  
Meeting-after worship  
\* Worship @Z-11am

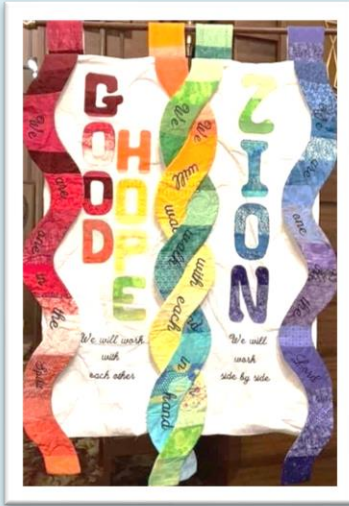
28 *Pentecost*

\* Sunday Sch. @GH  
9:15am  
\* Worship @GH-  
10:30am  
\* Sr. Choir @GH-  
after worship  
\* Worship @Z-11am  
  
\* We Walk For  
Suzette Event @GH-  
5pm-8pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Shared Min. Adv. Mtg. @Z- 6pm	2 Quilters @GH- 10am  Ruth Circle @Wells-7pm	3 Staff Mtg. @GH- 9:15am	4 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am  Property Mtg @GH- 7pm	5	6
8 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm  Venango Youth Choir Concert @GH- 6:30pm	9 Quilters @GH- 10am  Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-6pm	10 Worship Mtg. @GH-4pm	11 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am  Hope Circle- @GH- 10am	12	13 Lutherlyn Camp Blast
15	16 Quilters @GH- 10am  CMC @GH- 10:30am  Council Mtg. @Z-6pm	17	18 <i>Ascension</i> Coffee Break @Z-9:30am  Ascension Day Worship @GH- 11:30am  Council Mtg. @GH-7pm  Ascension Worship Replay Online-7pm	19	20 Confirmation Class trip to Morrison Funeral home-2pm  <i>Stay &amp; Play</i> <i>Field Trip-</i> <i>Carnegie</i> <i>Science</i> <i>Center</i>
22	23 Quilters @GH- 10am  Preschool Program @GH- 7pm	24 Preschool Picnic @GH-9am	25 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	26 Faith & Fellowship Overnight Lock-Out @ Oil Creek-6pm	27
29 <i>Memorial Day</i>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	30 Quilters @GH- 10am  Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-6pm	31			

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





### Pastor On Call-May

Pastor Mike Parsh

Cell: 814-572-1189  
 Home: 814-670-0887  
 prskjones@gmail.com

### Good Hope Office Hours

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

814-676-9122  
 officegoodhope@gmail.com

## Staff

### Good Hope

**Lead Pastor**  
 Sandra Jones  
 814-516-4002

**Associate Pastor**  
 J. Michael Parsh  
 814-572-1189

**Director CMC/Outreach**  
 Joyce Frenz  
 724-699-0861

**GH Music Dir.**  
 Beth Orris

**GH Preschool Dir.**  
 Marcy Amero  
 814-758-0353

**Treasurer**  
 Tom Neely

**GH Organist/Communications  
 Mgr. /Office Admin.**  
 Kristen Criado  
 814-676-9122

**Grounds Super.**  
 Bruce Dodd

### 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**  
**May 2023**  
*Serving all in the manner*  
*of Jesus*



**Worship Schedule**  
**Good Hope – Indoors – 10:30am**  
**Zion – Indoors – 11:00am**

Recorded service will be posted on Monday afternoon on our website.  
[www.goodhopezionlutheranoilcity.org/worship-together](http://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](mailto:officegoodhope@gmail.com)  
**Deadline: the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month**