

Words from
Pastor
Mike Parsh

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

*God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!*¹

The above chorus comes from the familiar hymn *Earth and All Stars* (ELW 731). This hymn always comes to my mind this time of year, due to having sung it at the start of the school year kindergarten through eighth grade. What I specifically remember is singing verse four, which reminds the singers that even classrooms and labs, and athlete and band can proclaim praise to God. It was a fun song to sing at the start of a new school year.

Since that time, I have grown to appreciate the core message of what the author, Herbert F. Brokering, was intending. Brokering was pointing to how all of creation, both natural and human made, sing praises to God, the great creator of all the good things that fill this world.

As our fall schedules fill up with various activities, we are reminded through the season's scripture texts that part of our singing praises to God is reflecting God's love into the world around us. We are especially reminded to minister to the least of society, naming all beloved children of God.

With this in mind, I have been pondering the following two questions: As God in Christ acts in and among us, how do we become and remain disciples? How do disciples deal with *each other* in community? The gospel texts the past several months have helped us in answering the first question. And as we enter into the season of fall, the gospel texts that are appointed for the coming months will help us answer the second question.

We heard this past summer that Jesus called the disciples to share good news of the coming reign of God—although this news may not have been considered “good” for all who heard! Jesus taught us much about discipleship by how he responded to questions about who he spent time with. Throughout the gospels Jesus called, claimed, and sent. This sending is *ongoing*: discipleship ultimately includes a continual and faithful sending, accompanied by success, failure, and the need to innovate.

Discipleship is service to the least and the banner of Christ's discipleship is taken up by the least likely candidates. When God calls us to innovate in the ordinary, we do so by following the example of Christ.

Now as we begin the season of autumn, we are challenged to consider how we, as disciples, actually care for those around us in a Christ like way. The lectionary texts for autumn challenge us about whom, we beloved-yet-flawed humans, may consider the “undeserving” or the “lowly” among us. As children we may have decided to invent ourselves anew for the start of the school year! Therefore, autumn is a time to be reminded of our human tendency to judge ourselves worthy as compared to others around us, and to intentionally choose to reorient ourselves toward *God's vision* of who is deserving, who is just as sacred and beloved as everyone else. Romans 12:16, for example, urges us away from haughtiness and instead toward

being willing to “associate with the lowly.” Jesus’ parable of the workers paid equally whether they arrived at the last hour or worked from the beginning of the day challenges us to rethink our conventional ideas about what justice looks like and whom we ourselves may judge to be unworthy of the full measure of benefits that the apparently “worthy” among us receive.

Welcoming all in the name of Christ runs countercultural to the way society would have us think. And yet, it is when we challenge ourselves to see humanity and all of creation as God sees them, that the Kingdom of God is revealed here and now. When this happens then we along with all of creation can sing out in joy to our great creator.

God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!¹

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike Parsh*

¹ *Earth and All Stars!*; Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926; Text © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dear Friends in Christ at Good Hope,

Thank you for the memorable celebration for the closing of my pastoral call and the beginning of my retirement. Everything was lovely and meaningful! It was great fun to have my family, friends from the past, and so many of you present to share gracious words, memories, laughter, and tears.

I am deeply grateful for the generous monetary gift (to help with RV renovations costs and for all the time and energy such a celebration requires.

Serving with you has been a joy! I'll see you soon and we'll continue to learn together.

*In Christ,
Pastor Sandra Jones*

Thank you for one of the best weeks. I had a Blast!!!! Thanks so much!!!!!!!!!!
At camp!!!!!!

From Ben

Dear Good Hope Congregation,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to spend another life-changing week at Lutherlyn. Throughout our Morning Watch discussions, Bible studies, and worship services, there was always a strong emphasis on spreading the love of God to all of creation, which has been extremely important for me to reflect on at this stage in my life. Words cannot describe how grateful I am for all of the transformational experiences I have had at Lutherlyn, and I look forward to putting all that I have learned into action during my time at Mercyhurst and beyond.

*Thank you,
Alexis Dehner*



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with the summer outdoor worship set-up. It was much appreciated and helped Sunday mornings go much smoother!

Worship Committee

Adult Sunday School

When Sunday School resumes we will be continuing with the Augsburg Adult Study series this fall. The title of the series is *God's Law Is Love*. From the author:

"This quarter of the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies considers the role of God's law as it relates to faith in Christ. The sessions focus on New Testament texts that struggle with the significance of the Mosaic law for those who trust in and love Jesus Christ."

Beginning in October, Pastor Jones will begin a new role as Teaching Pastor. This is a volunteer position and she be coordinating all of the adult education offerings of the congregation.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike Parsh*

Sunday School

Sunday School will kick-off on September 10th at 9:00! Meet in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments before separating into classes.

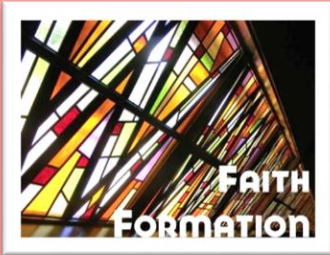
The adult class will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy various guest teachers throughout the fall while studying the next Augsburg Series.

Elementary aged youth will meet with Julie Kosker in the Sunday School room. Confirmation students will meet with Pastor Mike in the Conference Room.

LYO: The fall schedule has been set! Please share the schedule booklet with your favorite kids (extras are in the Fellowship Lobby brochure rack). It is helpful if you RSVP a week prior for planning purposes. We use the REMIND app for updates, reminders and RSVP. See Julie Kosker for more information on the app.

September 9, 5pm-?: Fall Kick-off event at Margie Hart's! Creek, cook-out, capture the flag & outdoor movie. This activity is for all ages! Families are welcome to join us!

September 24, 3-5pm @ Good Hope Kitchen. The Jr/Sr High LYO program, Faith & Fellowship, will focus on BAKING!



Faith Formation

Sunday School

Starts September 10
at 9:00am

Looking ahead: We are bringing back the **TRUNK OR TREAT event on October 28!** We are asking the congregation to bring treats to hand-out from 7-7:15. The youth will have a Halloween Party afterwards until 8. THEN the Jr/Sr High Youth will stay for a mystery themed Lock-out! *Volunteers are needed for these events.*

The Preschool and Toddler Time classes are getting ready for another great year of learning. The preschool class's first day is Monday, September 11th and the Toddlers start back on Tuesday, September 12th. We are excited to meet lots of new eager young learners.

Once again, we will be having Trunk or Treat in October for our Halloween Party on the 31st. All are welcome to join us. More information will be in the October newsletter.

The preschool staff would like to thank everyone at Good Hope. Every tag from our donation board was taken and all the items have been brought in. Your generosity is heart-warming and very much appreciated. We would also like to thank Pastor Jones for donating the collection from her celebration to the preschool. Thank you all for contributing. Seventy five percent of the money will be going into our scholarship fund to help families that need assistance with tuition. The other twenty five percent will be used for preschool items and supplies that we would not usually be able to purchase.

Sincerely,
Marcy Amero-Preschool Director
and the preschool staff



Preschool News

Start Dates

Preschool
September 11

Toddler Time
September 12



Worship Time

STARTING
September 3, 2023

Worship Time Change - Beginning Sunday, September 3, 2023

On Sunday, September 3, 2023, the Sunday morning start times for Good Hope and Zion will be changing to the following:

- ***Sunday School at Good Hope – 9:00am**
- **Indoor Good Hope Worship – 10:15am**
- **Indoor Zion Worship – 11:45am**

****Sunday School will begin on September 10 – "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.***



Zion Worship
Indoors – 11:45am

**Zion Social Time
& Lunch**
September 17, 11am

Worship Volunteers – September

Lectors:

9/3 – Leigh Ann Pikna
9/10 – Yvonne Paranick
9/17 – David Mayer
9/24 – Nancy Wigren

Ushers:

Edie Bickart
Jan Ruditis

Altar Care:

Yvonne Paranick
JoAnn Beary

Communion Assistant:

Allison McNamara

Birthdays

06/ Jesse Gibson
09/ Bill Gibson
17/ Patty Settle mire
18/ Natalie Cubbon
20/ Linda Benson
21/ Samuel Wigren
24/ Jessica Pikna
30/ Justin Gibson

Financial Report - July

<i>Actual Receipts</i>	\$7,737.00
<i>Budgeted Receipts</i>	6,752.08
<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	6,229.03

Thank You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you all for the generous gift and lovely lunch to mark the close of my call with you and the beginning of my retirement. It has been a joy to serve with you. I'll see you in October and we'll continue to learn together!

*In Christ,
Pastor Sandra Jones*

Upcoming Schedule

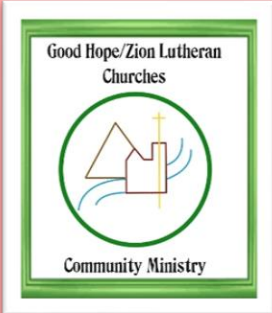
Starting on September 17 and every third Sunday of the month thereafter, there will be a social time with a light brunch. We will meet downstairs at 11:00 AM prior to the new worship time of 11:45 AM. Please join us for fellowship, friendship, and fun.

On the first Sunday of the month from October 2023 through May 2024, Pastor Jones will be conducting a Sunday School/Bible Study class from 11:00 - 11:30 AM at Zion. Please join us!



In Memorium

Our sister in Christ, Mary Lee Lehman died Monday, August 21, 2023, at the Titusville Hospital after a sudden illness. Mary Lee was a member of Good Hope Lutheran Church and also served as the secretary. She was preceded in death by her husband Burt Lehman. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. A graveside service was held August 28, 2023. Memorials may be made to Good Hope, the Forest County Historical Society, or a charity of your choice.



Community Meals
September 5
September 26

Coffee Break
Thursdays – 9:30am

Can you believe it's September already? It's time to start planning our Thanksgiving Day meal delivery. Lots of planning goes into that meal and lots of help is needed. If you would like to help in any capacity, please let Joyce know as soon as possible.

In the meantime, our bi-monthly meals continue on the second and last Tuesday of each month. September's meals will be hamballs with scalloped potatoes on September 12 and chicken with gravy over stuffing for September 26. Meal time will change to 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

Adult daily living supplies given out will be laundry pods on the 12th with Shampoo on the 26th. Some of you have been great bringing in supplies for distribution but they seem to go out as fast as they come in so please, when you are shopping, pick up a couple extra containers of laundry pods or toothpaste/toothbrushes, liquid body wash, shampoo or deodorant.

Also, Thrivent members, please remember, we are always happy to have not only the Community Action Cards but the T-shirts as well. I see them all over town on both volunteers and guests alike. Spread the love and live generously!

Joyce Frenz, DCM
Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry



Quilters of Hope
Tuesdays @ 10:00am

Circle Schedules

Ruth: September 5
Hope: September 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 September 14 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall at Good Hope. Devotions: Gloria, Hostess: Maribeth, Lesson: Pastor Mike; "Dark Clouds Gather" pgs. 64-71.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Monday, September 5, 7:00pm at the Switzer residence. Study Leader: Allison McNamara



**Good Hope
Worship**

Indoors– 10:15am

REMINDER

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



Save The Date

September Birthdays / Anniversaries

03/ Katherine Baughman	17/ Bob Blose
Ashley Miller	18/ Suzanne Roddy
Sydnee Young	20/ Ronald Campbell
06/ Gary Switzer	Ardyce Rigg
09/ Sheryl Stoltenburg	Jaxson Biltz
Sharon McDowell	21/ Ronda Trentini
10/ Julie Kosker	22/ Malea Wessell
11/ Andrew Angros	24/ James Black
Sandy & Russ Zacherl	Ken Hamilton
12/ Ashlee & Branden Goodman	26/ Jane Pagliari
15/ Susan Hlawati	27/ Thomas Neely
Neil & Kira Bedow	28/ Dennis Yarian
16/ Hank & Deb Speerstra	29/ Gabriella Kerr

Worship Volunteers

Altar Guild:

Chérie Wessell
Linda Vogt
Janet Switzer

Ushers:

Ron Vogt
Bill Exley

Lectors:

9/3 – Chuck Schultz
9/10 – Jen Godinich
9/17 – Buffy Heisey
9/24 – Judy Tarr

Counters:

9/5 – Melodye Neely
9/11 – Linda Campbell
9/19 – Chérie Wessell
9/26 – Sharon McDowell

Acolytes:

9/3 – Heidi Kosker
9/10 – Ben Parsh
9/17 – Raegan Milner
9/24 – Hazel Kosker

Communion Assistants:

9/3 - AA Wade Altman, Hilda Bailey, Bethany Hart
9/10 – AA Wade Altman, Bethany Hart
9/17 & 9/24 – AA Margie Hart, Marcia Hoffman, Amy Kluck

October 4 – St. Francis Day Pet Blessing on the Good Hope front terrace

October 18 – WOW and celebration of St. Luke's Day

October 22 – Consecration Sunday with special guest Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann – executive director of stewardship of Life Institute at United Lutheran Seminary. Welcome dinner to be held *October 21*.

September

Sunday



3 Pentecost 14

- * Indoor Worship @GH- 10:15am
- * Indoor Worship @Z- 11:45am

10 Pentecost 15

- * Sunday School / Rally Day @ GH-9am
- * Shared Indoor Worship @GH- 10:15am
- * God's Work. Our Hands. Lunch/Projects @ GH- 11:15am

17 Pentecost 16

- * Sunday School @ GH-9am
- * Indoor Worship @GH- 10:15am
- * Zion Social Time/ Lunch @Z- 11am
- * Indoor Worship @Z- 11:45am

24 Pentecost 17

- * Sunday School @ GH-9am
- * Indoor Worship @GH- 10:15am
- * Indoor Worship @Z- 11:45am
- * Faith & Fellowship @GH Kitchen-3pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
4 <i>Labor Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	5 Quilters @GH- 10am CMC @GH- 10:30am Worship Mtg. @GH-4pm Shared Ministry @GH-6pm Preschool Orientation @GH- 6pm Ruth Circle @Switzer-7pm	6 Staff Mtg. @GH- 9:15am Property Mtg @GH-7pm	7 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	8	9 All Ages LYO Family Fall Kick-Off @Margie's - 5pm
11 <i>Preschool</i> Start @GH Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	12 <i>Toddler Time</i> Start @ GH Quilters @GH- 10am Community Meal @Z-4:30pm- 5:30pm	13	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 Z Council Mtg. @Z-6pm	20	21 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am GH Council Mtg. @GH-7pm	22	23
25 Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	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**

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

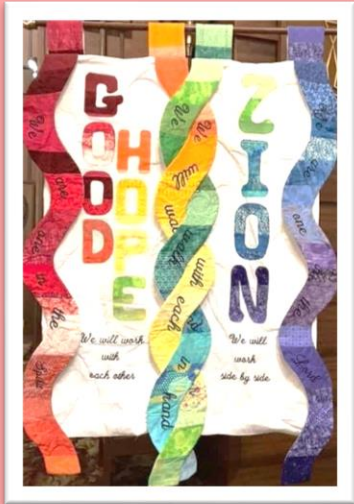
Z Vice President
Nancy Wigren

Z Secretary
Jan Ruditis

Z Financial Sec.
Nancy Wigren

Z Treasurer
Sue Fisher

Z Council Members
Allison McNamara
Diane D'Olympio



Pastor On Call

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



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

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



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

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

Worship Schedule
Good Hope – Indoors – 10:15am
Zion – Indoors – 11:45am