



# Ray Of Hope

## Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

“My House shall be a house of prayer for All People.”  
(Isaiah 56:7)

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-sixth year of Ministry.

MISSION: Love God, Love your neighbor,  
make disciples of every person everywhere.

(Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:19)

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory in 2017.”  
Veronica Floyd, Moderator

Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, O.S.B, Appointed Pastor

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

Scripture exhorts us: “**Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God**” Romans 15:7 (NABRE – 2011)

Guests are invited to participate in all parts of the worship service as you feel comfortable. We are building a wonderful Christ-centered Community here, and we invite you to share in our joy! After the Worship Service, please join us for a time of refreshments and sharing.

December 9, 2018 Advent Wk III - Joy Year C

PRIDE SUNDAY IN THE WINTER

ESCHATOLOGY WEEK 3 of 5

Ray Of Hope Church teaches the same Christian faith of ancient ecumenical consensus. St. Vincent of Lerins, a fifth century monk and theologian, described it as

***“what has been believed always, everywhere, and by all.”***

Scripture Readings for this worship event:

**First Reading:** Zeph. 3:14-18 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 877

**Psalm:** Canticle Is. 12:2-6 inside bulletin.

**Second Reading:** Phillipians 4:4-7 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 198

**Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 60

*(We suggest you find these Scripture readings in your Bible and place a marker in them before the Worship begins. The readings are also printed in this bulletin for your convenience.)*

***\*We use the term 1st for the “Old” Testament and 2nd for the “New” Testament. The NRSV Bible 1st Testament numbers are found in the front portion of the Bible and the 2nd Testament numbers are found in the later portion. If this confuses you just ask someone around you to assist you. Thank you.***

**First Reading:** Zeph. 3:14-18 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 877

**A Song of Joy**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
the Lord has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness,  
and will renew you in God's love;

God will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

God will declare; I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** Canticle Is. 12:2-6

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and God has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim the Holy name;

among the nations make known the deeds of God,  
proclaim how exalted is God's name.

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Sing praise to the LORD for the glorious achievements;  
let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel!

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

**Second Reading:** Phillipians 4:4-7 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 198

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 60

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I bap-

tize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**Reader:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon:** Rev. Benedict

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Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.

Phillipians 4:4-7

1 Thess. 5:16 Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

John 15:10-12 (NRSV) <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 16:24 (NRSV)<sup>24</sup> Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

Luke 6:22-23 <sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you<sup>[a]</sup> on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

Romans 15:13 <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1Peter 1:8-10 <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen<sup>[a]</sup> him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Galatians 5:22-25 <sup>2</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

While visiting with friends the story of the rainbow flag has come up a few times this week. Once again I told the story of how it is so obvious God gave our community God's own personal insignia, the Rainbow, to fly as our symbol of who we are as a people. Today on this Pride Sunday in the Winter it is a great time to read that sermon / story again. It happened in 1994 at Stonewall 25. I told the story and put it on our web site in June, 2000. Since that time, Gilbert Baker, the designer / founder of the Pride Flag has passed away, dying on March 31, 2017. Perhaps this weekend as we celebrate Pride in the Winter you might go and read our updated page on the rainbow flag and pass it on to others too. Read it and see the new photos by [clicking here](#).

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### Upcoming Worship Events at Ray Of Hope Church

December 9 Advent WK III Gaudete Sunday Pride in the Winter  
Hanukkah last night begins at sundown tonight and ends Monday December 10 Sundown

December 16 Advent WK IV

*December 21 BUDGET MEETING 7:00PM*

December 23 NATIVITY

December 26 Kwanzaa day 1 Umoja (Unity) 8:30 sign on line  
each Kwanzaa worship event will start 8:45 PM and end at 9:00 PM.

Dec. 27 Kwanzaa day 2 Kujichagulia (Self determination) 8:45

Dec. 28 Kwanzaa day 3 Ujima (Collective work & responsibility)

December 28 COUNCIL MEETING 7:00PM

Dec. 29 Kwanzaa day 4 Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)

December 30 Holy Name 8:45 PM

Dec. 30 Kwanzaa day 5 Nia (Purpose)

Dec. 31 Kwanzaa day 6 Kuumba (Creativity)

January 1 Kwanzaa day 7 Imani (Faith)

January 6 Epiphany— Visitation of the Magi

January 13 The Baptism Of The Lord—30 yrs. old

### **BE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT HEARERS ONLY**

===== Here is something else you can "DO" from home:

Continue to keep Chad Stanbro in your prayers that his legs be restored to health and that he follow a good path in his life.





This begins the 14th week we are praying for Jay Brown. Jay did not receive good news at Wills Eye Hospital and is completely blind at this time. Let's keep praying for his eyes to completely heal. [https://](https://www.gofundme.com/kck5ct-team-jay)

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Update on August Faulk: August's family is very thankful for all the continued prayers we are offering. He is grateful and hopeful. We continue to pray for healing and freedom from all pain.



Stephen Lucas, who is a friend of our Congregation and lives in Virginia. If you look at the scrolling prayers on our web site you will see he assisted with putting those together. These young girls are two of his children, Aubree Lucas wearing blue on the left and Trinity Lucas wearing red on the right. This week Stephen sent me the following prayer request and I have his permission so share it with you.

"Brother. Can you please add our youngest daughter, Trinity (the one on the right in red), to your church prayer list? She was addicted to drugs (opioids) when born, was very sick as an infant, and now the affects of the drug exposure are showing. We are having a rough time with her and really need your churches prayers. She is very mentally handicapped." So, friends, lets get to work on this intention and lift little Trinity up and pray for her total healing as well as other children who are born into the disease of addiction. They are innocent and need healing so they can be healthy.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**General Offering** for the week of November 25, 2018 — \$130.00 Attendance— 6. Special gift: \$100.00 from John Lischak to the mortgage. \$100.00 Stephen Lucas though the web site. Thank you both very much for your sharing with us in this work.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tuesday December 11 6:30 - 8:00 [Bible Enrichment](#)

Thursday December 13 6:30- 8:30 Movie: Further Tales of the City

Friday December 21 special Budget Meeting 7:00 PM - all are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

Friday December 29 Council Meeting 7:00 PM

## **Ray Of Hope Church Weekly Schedule**

**Elmira Worship- Sunday** 10:30 AM – 380 W. First St. Parsonage/Monastery. Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 10:15 AM.

**Syracuse Worship- Sunday** 10:30 AM— 2121 E. Genesee St. Apt. 4 (the home of Robb Bacon)

**Bible Enrichment- Tuesday** 6:30-8 PM-380 W. First St. Parsonage /Monastery. Or Join us live on SKYPE: rayofhope26 is our contact name. Sign on by 6:15 PM.

**\*\* to call the Pastor: Rev. Shawn Benedict: 607-280-0374\***

### **Policy Concerning Minors at Events**

Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes all youth and children to worship with us and participate in our activities. We endeavor to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for all children. To this end, we have a Policy Concerning Minors at Events, which is available from the Clerk upon request and is on our web site; [http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors\\_At\\_Events.htm](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Minors_At_Events.htm). Please enjoy your visit with us, and we hope you will return.

NOTE: On June 15, 1996, as a part of the Ordination Ceremony and his profession of Benedictine Vows, Rev. Leo W. McDermott, II retired the use of his secular birth name and was given a new name in religion, Brother Shawn Francis Benedict.

The Chapel is open daily from about 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM most days of the year. When the door is unlocked the public is welcome to come in and pray, read a book, meditate, read Scriptures, and enjoy the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Visitors are invited to use the kneelers or sit in the chair or couch of their choice. Please maintain holy silence in the chapel.

Visitors: Please feel free to fill out the information slip below and place it in the collection plate. Please indicate any special needs you may have. All information will be used for church purposes *only*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be included on the church Email list.

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

In the Spirit of God, and in the footsteps of Christ Jesus, we the Faith Community at Ray Of Hope Church commit to:

- **guide** and welcome all people to the Free Gift of Salvation in Christ Jesus, with a God-ordained celebration of all sexual orientations, and gender expressions, with an open ministry to persons affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS, their families and friends,
- **declare** and openly assert the truth that same-sex relationships, founded and fostered in God-centered love, are holy and blessed, and in fact originate by the work of the Holy Spirit; and, that God equally uses blessed same-sex and heterosexual Holy Unions and Marriages to bring God's own love and good news of "Salvation to all who believe" into the world,
- **uphold**, proclaim, and teach the historic Biblical Christian Doctrine, build community through worship and prayer, break the bread, and live the ministry of the Holy Spirit,
- **change** the world around us by living Gospel principles of social justice in everything we do, thereby exposing all forms of prejudice, oppression, racism, homophobia, sexism, and misogyny,
- **proclaim** the ray of hope, which is the soon coming return of Christ Jesus, and the fullness of His Eternal Community where the Will of God will establish liberty, justice, equity, and peace for all God's People and the universe.

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Visit us on line:

**Our website:** [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com)

**Our YouTube page:** [www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs](http://www.youtube.com/rayofhopenyglbtqs)

—————Scripture verses to share with others:—————

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11 The **grace** of God has appeared, bringing salvation to **all**..

John 5:24 Those who hear my word and **believe in God** who sent me, **have** eternal life, will **never** come under judgment and have passed from **death to life** already.

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
(repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks.

"Lord" here refers to God principally as in the book of Joel that is being quoted, so all persons who call on God shall be saved.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"  
(Isaiah 43:19 ESV)

"Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)