



# Ray Of Hope

## Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

Founded: 10/31/1983. Now in our Thirty-fifth 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.

September 23, 2018 Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost Year B

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:** Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 Not in our NRSV

**Psalm:** The responsorial psalm is inside the bulletin

**Second Reading:** James 3:16—4:3 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 230

**Gospel:** Mark 9:30-37 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 45

*(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:** Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 Not in our NRSV

**Inclusive Bible Version:**

<sup>12</sup> Let's set a trap for the just, who greatly annoy us by opposing what we do and reproaching us for breaking the Law. They call us traitors to our heritage. <sup>17</sup> So let's test these spurious claims and see what happened to the just when they meet their end. <sup>18</sup> For if the just are God's children, god will reach down to rescue them from the hands of their enemies. <sup>19</sup> Let's test them with insults and torture to see how long they will hold out and learn how long their patience will last. <sup>20</sup> Let's condemn them to die in shame: Why should they worry? If what they say is true, they will be protected!(The Inclusive Bible - © 2007 by Priests for Equality)

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 54: 3-6, 8**

**R. The Lord upholds my life.**

O God, by your name save me,  
and by your might defend my cause.  
O God, hear my prayer;  
hearken to the words of my mouth.

**R. The Lord upholds my life.**

For haughty people have risen up against me,  
the ruthless seek my life;  
they set not God before their eyes.

**R. The Lord upholds my life.**

Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord sustains my life.  
Freely will I offer you sacrifice O God;  
I will praise your name, O LORD, for its goodness.

**R. The Lord upholds my life.**

**Second Reading:** James 3:16—4:3 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 230

<sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

### **Submit Yourselves to God**

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. <sup>3</sup> When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** Mark 9:30-37 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 45

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

<sup>30</sup> They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?"

<sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

<sup>36</sup> He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes

one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

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

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

**Sermon Notes: Br. Shawn Benedict, Pastor.**

Worship is our primary activity as a church. There is an old standard in the church, *lex orandi, lex credendi* which means that "the law of prayer is the law of faith" or "that which we pray is that which we believe." Our prayer, our worship is the key to understanding what God has revealed for us to accept as true. Our congregation offers the leadership, organization, presentation of worship experiences, and the physical building space for worship and education in spirituality as our primary service to the general public. All are welcome to avail themselves to our services of worship. (<http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/Worship.htm>)

=====Sermon Notes=====

Last week we celebrated the fact that Ray Of Hope has always been a faith plus works church. As we celebrated the 22nd anniversary of our first worship event in the Southern Tier, we noted so many of the ways we have put our faith into action as a congregation. Just as last week so this week in this Gospel it is all about acknowledging who Jesus is. This is the primary message of Ray Of Hope Church, who Jesus is and why this is so important for ALL people of every sexual orientation and every gender expression, even as we continue to discover more of both of them.

Many times people ask how this old book the Bible can be relevant for today. Today's readings have three layers to them: 1—the actual historicity of the events described for the people of that time and place, 2—the voice of Jesus in prophecy in the first reading, the voice of Jesus as Head of His Church in the second reading, and prophecy fulfilled in the Gospel as He explains the kind of death he would endure for our salvation. But the 3rd level is universal truth regarding how people do things to sabotage good works. How interesting it is that people seem to sometimes get satisfaction out of setting up other people's failures and lack of success. We see this all through life from sibling fighting with children, to in-school bullying and cheating to get ahead, to problems on the job with in-fighting, to dishonest and even criminal corruption all through every lev-

el of commerce and politics even up to a world scope. What the Scriptures are telling us is people using cheating, problem causing, and tearing others down has been around since the beginning of sin in the world. With this knowledge we can be sure we do not participate in it, and when we find we have participated, to correct our ways and clean up our paths. No one is immune from sin and failure, only God exists like that and Christ proved that with living his sinless life.

The second reading is our continued study on the Book of James. The Book of James is an instruction book on how to understand the life of being a Christian and a part of the Church in our modern day. The wisdom contained in these verses has proven timeless.

The verses today address when the church itself deals with envy, selfish ambition, disorder, fighting, quarrels, and so on. Read the second reading again. What is and what has always been the solution and weapons against these kinds of problems? Prayer, right relationship with each other and with God, Scripture study, and applied living principles we learn and focus on in the church. We can always grow and improve on all of these things. The Scriptures are here as our divine guide to living out God's will.

## BE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT HEARERS ONLY



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

As mentioned last week, we have been asked to please remember in our prayers Chad Stanbro, by his family. Chad has had some unfortunate difficulties while incarcerated that resulted in his being paralyzed from the neck down while in custody. Chad is in his late 20's and this sudden change in his body is very traumatic to say the least. Chad has a daughter. He has been hospitalized for the last four weeks. As of last week Chad was being told he will remain paralyzed. This week we are thrilled to report Chad has been moving his fingers and responding to conversation. He has been moved to a hospital closer to his family. Together we can continue to intercede for Chad and ask God to bring clarity to this situation. We can continue to ask the Holy Spirit to assist all the medical professionals to do everything possible to find the way to healing and wholeness for Chad. We also can pray that Chad will develop a healthy relationship with God through all of this. Let's continue to pray for Chad.



This begins the third week we are praying for Jay Brown at the request of his family. Jay is still in the Intensive Care Unit. This week we are thrilled to report Jay has been taken off the ventilator. Jay is semiconscious but he is responding to commands. He is telling his wife, Chrissy he loves her and he wants to get out of the hospital. These are very good developments. The family thanks everyone for your continued prayers. Jay has a very long haul in front of him for sure. Let's continue to pray for Jay and look forward to his complete recovery. Let's also keep his family in prayer for all the changes this accident has brought such as financial, work, family, trauma and so much more. We pray God to bring understanding and strength to each member of Jay's family. I assured Chrissy we are all in for the long haul with our prayers.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS

**General Offering** for the week of September 16, 2018 — \$145.00  
Attendance— 10. Special gift: Thanks to Steve Decker for two candles that were used in the chapel this week.

### Special Opportunities for Giving to Ray Of Hope Church

**Candles:** We use four candles per week in the chapel. They cost \$3.17 each, = \$12.75per week. We also burn 15 hour votive candles at the place of consecration on our Communion Table / Altar. \$12.75 main candles—4, \$5.00— votive candles at the place of consecration. Consider donating one or more weeks in memory of someone, in dedication, thanksgiving or for a private intention. The dedication will be printed in the bulletin and placed over at the kneelers. Please bring your donation to Br. Benedict, who will help you put together your intention/ dedication and will forward your donation to the treasurer.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday September 25 6:30—8:00 Bible Enrichment  
Wednesday September 26 6:30—8:30 Social Group Movie: Pride, a true story. Come and bring some snacks to share!  
Rehearsals for World Communion Sunday CHOIR will be at Bethany Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 27 and October 4, at 7PM.  
Friday September 28 7:00 PM Council Meeting  
October 7 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30 AM at Bethany Lutheran Church - our chapel will be closed.

## **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 7:00 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)