



**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-ninth year of Ministry.**

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

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

“It is time to put our faith into action.”

“Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:14-26)

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

We extend 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 they 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.

Today is July 24, 2022 8th Sunday of Pentecost, Year C

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:** Genesis 18:20-32 NRSV 1st Test. pg. 14

**Psalm:** responsorial 138:1-8 found in this bulletin

**Second Reading:** Col 2:11-14 NRSV 2nd Test. pg. 200

The mystery hidden throughout the ages, now made known: Christ in you, the hope of glory

**Gospel:** Luke 11:1-13 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 72

**\*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.**



## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Visit and greet one another for a social time before the Bell is rung.**

**Bells 1<sup>st</sup> ring.** Once the bell rings please find your seat and spend the next few minutes in silent prayer. Please refrain from conversations as these disturb those trying to pray.

The St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi bell at Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Elmira, NY was a gift from Michael Quinnell of Syracuse, NY in September 2005. The bell rings out 39 joyful rings, in contrast to tolling the bell in single rings. The 39 joyful rings are in honor of the 39 lashes Jesus endured that we now celebrate in victory and gratitude for our salvation. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) We always ring the bell before worship and Bible Enrichment sessions. Listen carefully and see if you can hear all 39 rings.



## **WE GATHER TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO GIVE THANKS**

### **+ Pastoral Welcome**

**Leader – 1:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. We welcome you to Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the faith community founded in Central New York, and now all across the world through the Internet, where everyone is welcome. We extend a special welcome to our visitors and guests here in the chapel and on line through Skype and Facebook.

Some people have asked why we explain in detail all of the instructions, such as page and song numbers, when to raise and lower the bread and wine or juice, or why we use a responsorial psalm rather than read the psalm in choral style, and other directions in our written and spoken narrative. We announce all of these instructions out loud to help those who are at various levels of visual impairment so they may participate more fully with our spoken assistance.

Today, you who are participating through the Internet may receive Holy Communion with us during this worship event. You do not need to be a Member of this church or any church to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. We celebrate the Lord's open table where everyone is welcome. Those who will celebrate from home please prepare by bringing a cup with some wine or grape juice and a small piece of bread or cracker or matzo on a plate to the table. Bring a second cup with some water and a side napkin. We will use these in the second half of the worship service. Take a moment now and gather all these items.

Everyone is invited to participate in some or all of the parts of this worship event as you feel comfortable.

We are grateful to announce the bulletin is available on the front page of our website today for the first time since November 21, 2021. Look for the large gold box labeled SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION for the links to Skype and the Order of Worship bulletin. You will find these at [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com) We will start shortly.



**Bells 2<sup>nd</sup> ring to announce the start of the worship event.**

**Leader – 2:** We are glad you have chosen to spend this time with us. You are as welcome here as Christ Jesus himself. In Romans Chapter 15:7 the church is commanded:

**ALL: “Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.”** (NABRE)

**Leader -1:** Please take a moment now to welcome one another, and introduce yourself to those around you for the glory of God. \*\*During COVID we may simply wave into the camera across the Internet.

**Pastor:** We begin in the name of God, Christ Our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**Pastor:** Grace, peace, and fellowship be with you from God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 2 Peter 1:2-4)

**ALL: And also with you.**

**Pastor:**

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

Our themes today are persistent prayer as the story of Abraham pleads for mercy for the people of Sodom, and Jesus tells us to ask, seek and knock to receive, find, and have the door opened

We stop here, now, and pray for all the people who are in the war raging now in the Country of Ukraine, and we pray for an end to these hostilities. Today, we are also adding prayers for all the families who have lost loved ones to the ~~17,550~~ ~~18,469~~ ~~20,241~~ ~~20,753~~ ~~22,041~~ ~~23,014~~ ~~23,908~~ 24, 778 documented deaths by gun violence in the USA this year of 2022 as of Saturday July 23, 2022. That is up 870 gun violent deaths since Saturday July 16, when last week's bulletin was published.

(Source: Gun Violence Archive 2022 <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/> )

We are not here to practice a religion. One practices the piano or goes to football practice. We are here to participate in a relationship that is multi-dimensional in ways far beyond our human comprehension.

**Pastor:** We begin now to worship God in the beauty of holiness, in spirit, and in truth. (Psalm 96:9; John 4:23-24)

**ALL: Together we give God thanks and praise.**

**FIRST SONG:**

## + The Candle Of Hope

**Leader -1:** Please be seated. At this time we light our Resurrection Candle Of Hope. This is a testimony to our anticipation of the resurrection of all the dead, and the transformation of the living faithful, when Christ returns.

**ALL: Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”** (John 11:25, 26)

**Leader -1:** Our faith community is looking forward and waiting “for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13 NRSV) We named this candle the Candle of Hope in honor of the “Blessed Hope,” the return of Christ who will raise all to new life. (John 5:25)

**Leader -2:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. It is our custom to read panel entries from the Names Project Aids Memorial Quilt \*\*Block #38\*\* to help us remember those who died of AIDS, especially since many who were very sick and dying were rejected by the churches, were very much alone, and needed spiritual guidance. We also are aware of those who have died from COVID related illnesses around the world, and those who have passed this year from other illnesses. We remember them here and pray for their families.

**Leader -3:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. (Names are read at this time.)

**Leader -2:** We also remember in our hearts the names of our family and friends who have passed. May the candle’s flame remind us of the joy and happiness known in life, the comfort offered us by the Holy Spirit in our loss, and the “Blessed Hope” we have in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Amen**

(NAMES Project website where you can visit over 48,000 panels, over 100,000 names on the Quilt virtually:

<https://www.aidsmemorial.org/interactive-aids-quilt>)

**SECOND SONG:**



**WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS**

**+ Confession and Forgiveness of our sins.**

**Leader -2:** Please be seated. (wait) After gathering, greeting, and praising God in song we now prepare our hearts to be renewed by receiving God in the Word, the Holy Scriptures. Now we confess our sins to Christ in silent prayer and receive forgiveness.

(silent prayer)

**Leader -2:** We pray together:

**ALL:** I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. I declare in the midst of this assembly of believers that I am truly sorry for having offended anyone, and God, in any way. I ask you, my brothers and sisters, all the angels and the saints to forgive me, and to pray for me to the Lord our God.

L-4: Almighty and Eternal God, creator of the Heavens and Earth, you created us to give you thanks and praise in all situations and circumstances. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

L-4: Christ Jesus, we are called to be instruments of your peace and goodness. We are called to be your Body present in the world, your Church. Christ, have mercy.

**ALL: Christ, have mercy.**

L-4: Holy Spirit, you are available to help us understand our circumstances and the world we live in. You are available to open a new understanding of the Sacred Scriptures, the Bible to each of us. Often we do not listen to your guidance. Lord, have mercy.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** May Almighty God have mercy on all of us, forgive all our sins, and keep us in everlasting life.

**ALL: Amen.**

**Pastor:** Please rise as you are able to give thanks and praise to God for the forgiveness of our sins by praying the Gloria.

**Spoken:**

Glory to **God** in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,

Only Holy God, we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

**Lord Jesus Christ**, the only begotten Son of God,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of God:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord of all,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

**with the Holy Spirit**, in the glory of the

**+ Opening Prayer**

**Leader 5:** Almighty and Loving, Creating One, we ask your Holy Spirit to open our minds to understand and love your Word. May the reading of these Scriptures increase our love for one another and our dedication to you. This is our hope and prayer.

**ALL: AMEN**

**Leader 5:** Please be seated now as we listen attentively to the Scriptures.



**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**We read to recall, reflect on, and rejoice in the action of God in life.**

**+ First Reading**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. Our first reading is in the Book of Genesis, Chapter 18, verses 20-32. You will find this on page 14 in the first Testament of the NRSV Bible. This is a continuation of last Sunday's first reading where God and two messengers are visiting with Abraham and his wife Sarah and their household. Here begins the reading:

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak

to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup> Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup> He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup> Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

#### **+ Psalm**

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The Psalm today is number 138, verses 1-8 with a responsorial verse. The response today is "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me."

**R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,  
for you have heard the words of my mouth;  
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;  
I will worship at your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name.

**R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

Because of your kindness and your truth;  
you have made your name and your promise  
great above all things.  
When I called you answered me;  
you built up strength within me.

**R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

The LORD is exalted, yet sees the lowly,  
and the proud are known from afar.

Though I walk amid distress, you preserve me;  
against the anger of my enemies you raise your hand.

**R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

Your right hand saves me.

The LORD will complete what was done for me;  
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;  
forsake not the work of your hands.

**R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

## + Second Reading

**Reader:** Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in the City of \_\_\_\_\_ in the State of \_\_\_\_\_. The second reading is in the Book of Colossians, chapter 2, verses 11-14.

The reading is on page 200 in the second testament, in the back of the NRSV Bible. This reading covers the Doctrine of the Judgment of the believer's sins at the cross. This is one of seven Judgments in Scripture. There is no such thing as a general judgment at the end of time as far as the Bible shows. Here begins the reading:

<sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## + The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

**Reader:** We sing an acclamation before and one after the reading of the Gospel. Please rise as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

### Gospel Acclamation

**We Love Your Word!**

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993  
Revised 8/2013

We love Your Word, O Lord for it set us free. We know the truth, O Lord; We are Yours e - ter - nal - ly. So we stand to hear Your Word. We praise You for Your Word. Al-le - lu - a! for Your Word. It heals our hearts, souls and minds. For Your Word, Al - le - lu - ia! Thank You Je - sus!

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**Reader:** The Gospel reading is on page 72 in the back of the NRSV Bible. The reading is in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 11, verses 1 through 13.

**Reader:** Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Reader:** A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**ALL:** **Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be in our (+) minds that we will understand it, on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

**Doctrine:** God will give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks.

11 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”<sup>2</sup> He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

### **Perseverance in Prayer**

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;’<sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’<sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’<sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

## Gospel Acclamation

### Forever, We Are Yours!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church  
for the 1996 New Year,  
The Year of The Holy Spirit!

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
December 31, 1995

Glo-ry to the One God! Glo-ry to our Sa - vior Je - sus the  
Christ! And, to the Ho - ly Spi - rit, for - ev - er You're Our God!  
You brought us out of dark - ness, in - to Your mar - ve - lous Light! Your Word is our  
joy! For this we give You glo - ry, both now and ev - er more!  
For - ev - er we are Yours! For - ev - er we are Yours!

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## + Sermon NOTES

\*\*\* Millennial Series by Dr. John F. Walvoord  
<https://walvoord.com/series/328>

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:7 This is all God's fault, God's design, God's doing from start to end.

Br. Benedict at the time of Renewal of Vows, June 20, 2021: "Looking forward, I like to say the first twenty-five years were spent on **stabilization, survival, and sustainability**. The second twenty-five years will be spent on growth to help Ray Of Hope **thrive, train, and transplant** this Congregation to new leadership. The founders and foundresses successfully transferred the leadership to a new generation, us, and now we must do the same. I plan to fade into the Congregation and continue providing support to the new leadership. My goal is to leave the Congregation with new leadership, in good standing, and thriving."



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**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and God's grace toward me has not been in vain. 1 Cor. 5:10**

We never held a vote to decide if we would be an **INCLUSIVE** church for you.

We are not an **OPEN AND AFFIRMING** church for you.

We are not a **RECONCILING CHURCH** or  
**RECONCILING CONGREGATION** for you.

We are not an **OPEN MINDED** or **ACCEPTING** or **WELCOMING**  
church where you can attend as long as you blend in quietly and discretely.

**WE ARE YOU!**

**THIS is the church where YOU belong.  
Ray Of Hope Church is the church**

by us, for us, and made by You.

The Third Sunday of Pride, 2019

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## Sermon Notes July 24, 2022

In the first reading, Genesis 18:20-32 The all important story of Sodom and Gomorrah continues in this first reading. Verse 22 is very important for us: "So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord." At this point it is crystal clear that there are two men and God in the flesh speaking with Abraham and those with him. This LORD or God appearing in human form is an appearance of the Christ in the first Testament. In fact, the next verse, 33 reads "And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place." Now, remember the two men who went their way toward Sodom?

Well, in Chapter 19:1 they are called angels. "The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of Sodom." If one

starts at Chapter 19:1 it is possible to trick the listening audience into thinking winged things from Heaven have come to the City, not men who are messengers. However if you start the story at the beginning it starts in Chapter 18, verse 1 where clearly there are two men who are messengers and the Divine Person. The word for Angel in Hebrew **H4397**

מַלְאָךְ

mal'âk

mal-awk'

From an unused root meaning to *dispatch* as a deputy; a *messenger*; specifically of God, that is, an *angel* (also a prophet, priest or teacher): - ambassador, angel, king, messenger.

**Total KJV occurrences: 213**

Using e-Sword we see that rendering this as men is also perfectly correct. However starting at Genesis 19:1 and letting the people think winged things and later that the holy winged things were attacked by an angry mob of **men**. In Genesis 19:4 the word men

**H582**

אָנוּשׁ

'ênôsh

en-oshe'

From **H605**; properly a *mortal* (and thus differing from the more dignified **H120**); hence a *man* in general (singly or collectively). It is often unexpressed in the English Version, especially when used in apposition with another word: - another, X [blood-] thirsty, certain, chap [-man], divers, fellow, X in the flower of their age, husband, (certain, mortal) man, people, person, servant, some (X of them), + stranger, those, + their trade. It is often unexpressed in the Engl. version, especially when used in apposition with another word. Compare **H376**.

This is exactly how we use this word in our documents; “all men are created

equal.”

**Total KJV occurrences: 45**

**From the bulletin of 7-29-2019 sermon notes.**

This week the text continues under the general theme of persistent prayer. As the messengers have gone on to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abram is left to be alone with the Christ of God to discuss the potential ways the people of the plains might be saved. Abram is persistent in his petitions and works his way all the way down to if there are ten good people would you save the cities, God. We absolutely must note here that Sodom and Gomorrah are the subject cities mentioned in this Reading.: Notice there is no intention to discuss Homosexuality. Abram had plenty of time alone with the Christ of God to discuss homosexuality if indeed that was the sin of Sodom. Other texts listing the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah that never mention homosexuality include: Deut 29:23-30:2; 32:32; Isaiah 3:8-12, 19; Jeremiah 23:10-15; 49:15-18; 50:38-40; Lamentations 4:6-13; Ezekiel 16:42-59; Amos 4:2-13; Zeph. 2:9-10; Wisdom 19:13-14; Sirach 16:18 (Boswell, pg. 94) (Bailey, pg. 9) Yet the New International Study Bible commentary that is very popular among self-declared “conservative churches” at Genesis 19:5 reads “Homosexuality was so characteristic of the men of Sodom (see Jude 7) that it is still often called Sodomy.” This comment is horrific and a total lie. This has caused families to be torn apart, people to be burned at the stake alive and today hung and thrown off buildings to their death all under the guise of keeping a city or a country clean from the sin of Sodom. When in fact homosexuality is not mentioned or even hinted at in the text. It is our calling to continually point out this lie churches tell.

Second Reading Col. 2:11-14 we have the Judgment of the believer’s sins at the cross. At verse 13b we read; “God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,” The text clearly suggests universal

salvation through the cross.

Gospel Luke 11:1-13

Persistent prayer: Lord, teach us to pray...verse 1, topic sentence. Notice, the object of praise is God, not Jesus. Then verses 5 – 8 persistent prayer is taught.

Verses 9 – 13 Ask, search, knock, and you will receive, find, and the door will be open, of what? The Holy Spirit. God will give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks. See the article at the end of this bulletin: =====**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**==== at the end of this bulletin.



## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**Leader – 3:** Having heard the Word Of God we bring our prayers to God in Christ, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit. Today we will offer communal prayers. Our response will be: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader – 3:** We pray for all people who are caught up in the conflicts of war, and those who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to war. **We pray** for peace in the world, in each Country, and in every home. For these intentions we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** For those who serve us in government, that they would lead and guide with the good of all people in mind, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** For persons who are sincerely challenged by their abilities and therefore find the requirements to access help too difficult, that they will be given helpers and guidance, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** For all who are sick and suffering in any way, that they would be aware of Your presence, O God and trust in your will in their lives. We pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader – 3:** At this time everyone is invited to add their own petitions in silent prayer.

**(silent prayer)**

**Leader – 3:** Lord Jesus, we lift our spoken and unspoken prayers and we ask you in intercede for us as our High Priest at the right hand of God.

**ALL: Amen**



(Visit our moving prayers page [Right Click Here.](#))

## **+ Offertory And Preparation of our at-home Holy Communion Altar/tables.**

### **\*\*\*\* Lisa Frost, Treasurer:**

At this time we show our gratitude to God and our dedication to the Church of Jesus Christ, which is His Body present in the world, by offering our financial gifts and support for this ministry. Those in the chapel may use the offering plate, while those worshiping with us on the internet may go to our website and use the [PayPal link](#) or you may mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira NY 14901. Please give what you can, but never give your last.

At the same time, we will prepare our Holy Communion Altars and Tables at home and in the chapel. Bring to your table at home some wine, or grape juice, a small piece of bread, a little bit of water in a side cup, and a side

napkin. The ideal situation is you are celebrating with us during the live webcast. We do understand you may be viewing this video at another time. We do not encourage private practice and reception of Communion as your normal, weekly worship routine. Communion is a gift for the worship community to celebrate together, an action of the local church. However, if this is an extraordinary situation, and you believe the Holy Spirit is calling you to celebrate at a time other than the live webcast, then yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in a live virtual worship event soon. (\*This practice policy was changed on Gaudete Sunday, December 13, 2020.\*)

Each of you in the chapel will find at your seat a small plate, communion wafer, plastic chalice of grape juice and a napkin. Please take the plate and wafer from the baggie and shake the chalice gently in case there has been settling of the contents. Please do not remove the top from the chalice until the Celebrant announces that Communion is served. Once you have received Communion, place the plastic chalice on top of the plate and someone will collect it while the Table of the Lord is being cleared.

(\* The offering is received. The Altar and Tables are set.

A song may be sung or silent prayer is maintained. \*)

## **SONG:**

**Leader -2:** (\*Pray a prayer over the offering giving thanks and praise.\*) Please rise as you are able to conclude the Service Of The Word Of God with a doxology.

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise God the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



## **WE CELEBRATE THE SACRED MEAL OF CHRIST**

**Pastor:** Please lift your bread at this time as I pray this prayer.

(\*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.\*)

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this bread, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this bread will become for us the Bread From Heaven (Exodus 16:2, Psalm 78:24, John 6:32, 41,50,58), the Bread of the Angels (Psalm 78:25), the Bread of God (John 6:33), the Living Bread (John 6:51), the Bread Of Life (John 6:35, 48, 58), the Bread of the New Covenant (John 6:32, 49, 50,51, 58), the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the very Body Of Christ (John 6:52-56, 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Pastor:** Please set down your bread.

Now pour your wine or grape juice into your cup, if you have not done so already. Then add a small amount of water to the cup. With this water, we remember Jesus is human, and with this fruit of the vine we remember He is divine forever.

Now, please lift your cup with me at this time as I pray this prayer.  
(\*Another person may be invited to say this prayer out loud.\*)

**Pastor:** Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. It is through your goodness that we have this fruit of the vine, which the Earth has given us and human hands have lovingly made. Now, through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, this fruit of the vine will become for us the Cup of Our Salvation (Psalm 116:13), the Cup of Everlasting Life (John 6:54-57), the Cup of the New Covenant (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25), the very Blood Of Christ (John 6:54-56; 1Corinthians 10:16).

**ALL: Blessed be God forever.**

**Pastor:** Please set down your cup.

**Pastor:** Truly present and risen among us, the Lord is with you!

**ALL: And also with you!**

**Pastor:** As His Body, we lift up our hearts!

**ALL: We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Pastor:** As His Church, we give thanks to the Lord, our God!  
**ALL:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(Impromptu prayer offered.) May our voices be one with their praises right now as we sing our song and join in their unending hymns of praise.

## Holy, Holy, Lord!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music for Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993  
Revised 8/2013

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high est. Bless - ed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high est." The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a triplet of eighth notes on the fifth staff.

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## + We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

**Pastor:** Jesus said: “..truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:19-21)

**ALL:** Further, Jesus also said: “Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to God. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that God may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

**Pastor:** Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine, or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

**ALL:** O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ’s purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for **our physical and spiritual** well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

### **+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist**

**Pastor:** Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour’s words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

**ALL:** Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted, He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

**(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)**

**Pastor:** Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

**ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:**

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

**(\*\* pause for adoration\*\*) (\*\*you may bow or genuflect if you choose to\*\*)**

**Pastor:** Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

#### **+ A Proclamation Of Our Faith**

**Pastor:** We proclaim our faith together.

**ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

#### **+ Prayers of Dedication and/or Intercession for other Ministries.**

**Pastor (or other person designated):** While we are gathered here together we ask your blessing on all religious leaders of every religion known to humanity. We pray that religious leaders everywhere would recognize and act upon their obligation to guide all people to you, Almighty God. We also pray that religious leaders will guide people to work for freedom, equality, and respect for everyone. We ask your blessing, Almighty God upon every community of seekers, and those with no faith or formal Religion.

We also pray for all people who have been driven from faith because of the sins of those who have misused religion to hurt others. We pray for those who have been cast aside, excommunicated, and wrongly not included. May all people everywhere come to the knowledge that they too are the living light of God. We eagerly await your promised renewal of all creation when you shall be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:28)

## + Final Doxology

**Pastor:** Please elevate the Holy Eucharist as a gesture of praise, thanksgiving, honor, gratitude, and the offering of the entire Church, the Body Of Christ, to God.

**Pastor:** Together we pray:

**ALL:** It is through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, forever and ever.

### Doxology/Amen!

To my friends in Christ  
at Ray Of Hope Church

"Music For Worship"

Music by: Gaude! Liturgical Arts  
October 31, 1993

All hon - or and glo - ry be un - to You. Al - migh - ty

5  
God world with - out end. A men! Al - le - lu - ia

11  
A men! Al - le - lu - ia! All hon - or and glo - ry to you! A - men!

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### The Reception of Holy Communion

**+ The Lord's Prayer** **Pastor:** Having heard the Word of God and having remembered the sacrifice of the cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL:** Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

**+ Sign Of Peace**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you.

**ALL:** And also with you.

**Veronica Floyd:** Please take a moment now to share a sign of Peace with those around you. \*\*During COVID we may simply wave across the room and into the camera for the Internet.

**+ The Lamb Of God**

**Pastor:** Please break the bread as we pray together:

**ALL: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

**Pastor:** At this time I ask you to lift with me the Blessed Sacrament.

**Pastor:** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29,36) Behold Jesus truly present in the Bread of Life, and the Cup of Salvation. Behold Him who said whoever eats of this Bread

and drinks of this Cup though they die they shall live forever. (John 6:50, 51, 54) Blessed are those who come to His Table. All are welcome.

**ALL: Lord, you make me worthy to receive you, and by your Word I am healed.** (This prayer is credited to Fr. James Callan, Spiritus Christi of Rochester, NY.)

**Pastor:** Please set down the Bread and Cup at this time.

**Pastor:** I assure you, by the promises of Christ that anyone who receives this Holy Communion today will surely live forever and be raised by Christ to new life.

## + Invitation to the Lord's Table

**PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION.** Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception.

**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer Book.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

## + Priestly Prayer For All People

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, trusting in your love and your mercy we now partake of your body and blood as you commanded. We pray that our participation does not bring us condemnation as St. Paul warned, but brings us sanctification and healing in mind, body, soul, and spirit. We pray that all God's people will one day be reassembled without the loss of anyone in your kingdom of love and glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL: AMEN**

**Pastor Benedict:** Communion is now served. Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion at Ray Of Hope Church. It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church to receive Holy Communion. This is the Table of Jesus Christ, He invites you to come and receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet.

At this time those who are joining us on the Internet and those who are in the chapel may receive the Body and Blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Receive them now and with them your salvation as Christ promised.

**SONG:**

**A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free us from all our sins and from every evil. Keep us faithful to your teaching, and never let us be parted from you. Amen.

**A silent prayer one might pray during Holy Communion:** Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.

This prayer is known as the Fatima Prayer. It is prayed thousands of times every day by people praying the Rosary. Looking closely, one can see it is a very gracious prayer that prays for the salvation of all people. Read more of my commentary on this prayer: [Click Here](#).



**We Are Sent Forth To Serve**

**Pastor:** The Lord is with you!

**ALL:** And also with you!

**Pastor:** (a prayer is said) .... In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

**ALL: 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. Amen**

*(Romans 15:13)*

**Pastor:** We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to God.**                   **SONG:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY LISA FROST, (one week late). CARD AND CUPCAKES to follow the worship event today.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**General Offering** for the week of July 3 \$1,526.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

**General Offering** for the week of July 10 \$68.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 8

**General Offering** for the week of July 17 \$518.00 (some people give monthly rather than weekly) Attendance 6

**\*\*Special Gifts recently given.\*\***

Thank you to April Struhm for donating another computer, this one is an Asus notebook that is for reading the worship service in the chapel. Thank you, April.

Volunteer opportunities: As discussed at our Priorities Meeting #2 there are some exterior building volunteer opportunities. There are also some first floor interior volunteer opportunities – painting, patching using drywall mud, and a larger project day for removal of carpet and replacement with new carpet. If you have some time to spare and interest in these types of work please let Brother know with advanced notice so the necessary supplies will be ready.

Veronica loaned us the funds for the second boiler maintenance requirement. We are happy and grateful to report the loan has been repaid.

**We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts given. We appreciate the special gifts being made at this time.**

Dear Friends and Members,

Ray Of Hope Church is completely dependent on the financial support, the gifts given, and the prayers of the people who participate in this ministry. To assist financially you may use the offering plate, go to

[http://rayofhopechurch.com/DONATE\\_RAYOFHOPE.htm](http://rayofhopechurch.com/DONATE_RAYOFHOPE.htm) the [PayPal link](#) , you may email me at [lvmusic3@yahoo.com](mailto:lvmusic3@yahoo.com) or mail a check to Ray Of Hope Church, 380 W. First St. Elmira NY 14901, Att: Lisa Frost, Treasurer. Remember, we always say give what you can, but never give your last.

Thank you,

Lisa Frost, Treasurer

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**OUR CALENDAR**

July 26, 6:30 p.m. \*\* there may be a conflict\*\* Tuesday, Bible Enrichment scheduled.

Friday July 29, 2:00 p.m. Council Meeting

November 20, 2022, Sunday @3:30 pm Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship Service by the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition. Congregation Kol Ami 1008 W. Water St. Elmira, NY 14905

<https://sticinterfaith.org>

Greetings Members and Friends,

(From a recent email sent by Veronica Floyd, Moderator.) We hope you see some opportunities to get involved and use you gifts and talents for the Glory of God here at Ray of Hope. We are seeking input in regards to our Council meeting times. We meet most months on the 4th Friday of the month at 2:00 pm however we want to have future meetings when you would be able to attend. The Council meeting is open to all and we want you there. Please send me some times when you would be open and available to attend Council meetings in the future. I will gather the input and see if there is a better time for us all to meet.

Thank you and Christ Peace

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

=====  
**Ray of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Priorities Meeting Minutes**  
**July 6th, 2022**  
**6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Opening Prayer** – Kaiden Rae Benedict

**Agenda Review** - Veronica Floyd

- Opening Comments and Agenda Review
- Purpose of Meeting – Follow up and report back on items from previous meeting
- Discussion – Action steps for priorities selected
- Comments from those in attendance

- Closing Prayer

**Opening Comments** – Veronica Floyd

Thanks to everyone for attending this evening. I am asking God to move us toward God's ultimate plan for us. Whatever obstacles we encounter, we will continue to walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Cor. 5-7)

**Purpose of Meeting** – As stated last meeting, we are here to put our faith into action tonight. We will follow up and report back on items assigned during previous meetings. We also want to draft any motions for the Council meeting that we think are necessary.

Priority Discussion points–

- External building repairs at 380 W. First Street
  1. Siding for the Building
    - **GoFundme page** - Veronica reviewed findings on how to set up the page and what would be needed. The group set fundraising goal of \$70,000 to use for siding and windows. g – Veronica to continue working on drafting the commentary for the GoFundme page. Heather Austin has volunteered to chair Tiktok page. We will have links to Facebook page. Both will be used to share GoFundme page when completed.
    - Option 2 – paint and caulk and replace some boards – Still on the table for follow up.
    - We know that Mr. Norb Miller who gave us a quote for the external building project has expertise with historic restoration projects in the neighborhood as he has completed several buildings in the neighborhood already.
  2. Pointing the foundation stones
    - i. Br. and Kaiden continue to work on pointing the foundation stones. Davis street side close to 50% complete (Thank you). No additional volunteers have come forward at this time
    - ii. This is not a hard job but does require attention to detail, anyone could be shown how to do it.
  3. Internal building repairs at 380 W. First Street
    - a. Progressing with cleaning out building
    - b. Successful rummage sale was held and another sale planned in July
- Website back on line – key piece for exposure and evangelism
  - **Update since last meeting** – Br. had meeting on 6/9 to discuss content management service - \$1000 to setup and \$237/month to maintain – This will not be an option we will continue to explore.
  - Need to explore more the option to try and repair computer. Follow up with Geek Squad at Best Buy, Staples or computer repair shop in Ithaca to get cost of repair.
  - April Struhm stated she will be donating two laptops to church so people can follow along with worship bulletin downloaded.

- Financial Solvency
- **Updates since last meeting:** A big thank you to those that have made donations over the past few months.
  - 501-C3 Status vs. current not for profit religious organization status
    - Lisa Frost and Veronica Floyd worked together on next steps in understanding what we can do. Lisa shared that there were no findings that we needed to dissolve current corporation status as a not for profit religious organization before applying for 501-C3 status. Churches are normally granted the not for profit status and many file for the 501- C3 status for assess to grants and donations that require that status. There is a \$600 fee to file the application. It is called form 1023 and must be completed 100% accurately, there are no refunds. It can be up to 100 pages in length and requires approximately 100 of hours to complete. **After their research they suggested we definitely need to engage a not for profit lawyer or organization like legal zoom to complete the Form 1023 application. A motion will be sent to the Council to seek approval to engage a not for profit lawyer or organization to complete the Form 1023 application.**
    - It was also suggested to follow up with our bank or other financial institution to see if they provide this service or can offer assistance with the process.
  - Discussed establishment of Trusts and Endowment opportunities for long term sustainability
    - Veronica did discuss with her brother in law how endowments work on her visit to NC. Basically any financial institution can set up. Minimum of \$25,000 to set up and the organization would draw down funds annually between 4 to 5%. This is a restricted endowment type and funds are held in the endowment in perpetuity with only the interest being used to further the organization cause via donor instructions.
    - There are other types of endowments such as unrestricted, term, and quasi. The key with all four types is you have to plan for long term sustainability and focus on smart investments. A governing board must be put in place to make decisions and manage on behalf of the organization. We can revisit this at a future time.
  - Wisner Park – Heather followed up on opportunities for Not for profit organizations to come as vendors on Thursday of each week. This will not be an option for us as sales are only allowed for hand made items. Organizations cannot set up and pass out literature about their organization.
- Interactive Experiences – devices, ensure voices heard, personal acknowledgement
  - **Update since last meeting:** The donation by April Struhm of microphones for the church has improved the sound quality output for Skype and Facebook. (Thank you April)

- To Do before next meeting: Veronica stated : Do not get discouraged. It may be slow progress but we are making progress and getting things addressed outside of Council meetings. Thanks to all who are engaging and we welcome the support of anyone else who has ideas or suggestions for next steps.

Veronica asked that we continue to work on the areas identified below:

- Complete a review of Ray of Hope Church on Google and Facebook
  - Look for volunteers to assist with external and internal projects
  - Clean out building
  - Get estimate from Geek Squad or others on repair cost for computer
  - Draft GoFundme page
  - Work on 501C-3 options
  - Review the key priority areas discussed and think of ways we can start moving them forward. What can you do in any of these areas or who can we engage for assistance.
    - External building repairs
    - Internal building repairs
    - Website
    - Financial Solvency
    - Interactive Experiences
- **Next meeting – Wednesday August 3rd @ 6:30 pm**
  - Closing Prayer – Br. Benedict

Attendees – April Struhm, Heather Austin, Kaiden Rae Benedict, Lisa Frost, Br. Benedict, Veronica Floyd  
NO

=====Minutes from the Second Priorities Meeting=====

**Ray of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Priorities Meeting Minutes**  
**June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**6:30 pm**

**Opening Prayer – Br. Benedict**

**Agenda Review-** Veronica Floyd

- Opening Comments and Agenda Review
- Purpose of Meeting – Why are we here today
- Discussion – Action steps for priorities selected last meeting
- Comments from those in attendance
- Closing Prayer

**Opening Comments – Veronica Floyd**

Thanks to everyone for attending this evening. I was reflecting on key learnings from the study we did on the Seven letters to the Seven churches from the book of Revelations as inspiration for this

meeting. There was a common theme that kept coming up for things that Jesus commended and approved the churches for and I felt we were similar to at Ray of Hope and should pay attention to.

- 1<sup>st</sup> example - 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Church of Smyrna (the persecuted church) which was poor but spiritually rich, the commendation was ..” I know your works”.. it was a tremendous time of growth for the church.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> example – 5<sup>th</sup> letter to Church of Sardis (the reformed church), the commendation was “I know your works, that you have a name, that you are alive.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> example – 6<sup>th</sup> letter to Church of Philadelphia (the missionary church), small but faithful, the commendation was “I know your works”.
- Others examples with the 4<sup>th</sup> letter to Church of Thyatira- commendation was for “works, deeds, faithfulness and patience. The letter to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Church of Pergamas (stale church) – commendation was “you hold fast to my name and did not deny my faith”. (We are named Ray of Hope Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ so everyone knows whose we are!!)

Jesus was not impressed by people who practiced religion but impressed by those who put faith into action was my take away. In the weekly bulletin there is a moderator statement that reads – “This is the time we need to shine”, “We are standing in faith and expecting victory”. **I think its time to update that statement to the following – “It’s time to put faith into action”.. “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:14-26)**

**Purpose of Meeting**– We are here to put our faith into action tonight. We need to develop immediate action steps we can take with the items presented at our last meeting. We need the who, what, when, and how details. We want to put into practice what we learned from the Seven Letters to the Seven Churches in the book of Revelation on what God approves and disapproves. We do not want to be a Lukewarm church but one on fire for the Lord. All input is welcomed.

Priority Discussion points–

- External building repairs at 380 W. First Street
  - **Updates since last meeting** – Michael and Heather Austin donated a lawn mower which will help keep external landscape nice as well as save money by not having to pay for lawn services. (Thank you)
  - Br. and Kaiden have done some work on pointing the foundation stones. (Thank you)
- 4. Siding for the Building
  - Option 1 – replace all siding with composite siding – **decided to place this on hold until we get funding.**
    - Discussed setting up a GoFundme page as an option for funding – **Veronica to draft the commentary for the GoFundme page. Tell the story via pictures and record of major achievements thus far but also what and why we need help moving forward.**
  - Option 2 – paint and caulk and replace some boards–discussed if we could possibly get some paint donated like we did in Syracuse with the building we had. Might not be a good option as we need specific color codes due to 380 W. First being a historic building with specific requirements for color and updates. We do have the color codes needed. Still on the table for follow up.
  - Pointing the foundation stones
    - This is not a hard job but does require attention to detail, anyone could be shown how to do it.

July 24, 2022 Pentecost Week 8 Year C - Revised page: 35

- **Need volunteers** – will place a statement in the bulletin that volunteers are needed for external maintenance work and to call Br. Benedict's number to schedule an available time slot.
  - Discussed possibility of finding volunteers via local colleges by checking out their websites for organizations that may have people seeking opportunities to volunteer (Elmira College, and LECOM – Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, are nearby. Also high school students need volunteer opportunities for their transcripts for college.

- Internal building repairs at 380 W. First Street – **add these to volunteer opportunities that we seek to fill in the bulletin announcement.**

Will be making space in the building and clearing out 2<sup>nd</sup> floor over the next few weeks. There will be a rummage sale at the building. Also check out the buy nothing site where you can trade or give away items. Facebook market is also another venue to sell items.

- Paint the fellowship room, chapel, entrance way and hallway
- Remove the carpet in the fellowship room

- Website back on line – key piece for exposure and evangelism
- **Update since last meeting** – Google reviews of Church and Facebook reviews have been completed by some. Thanks to Michael and Heather for bringing this forth as opportunity. If you haven't done one, please go out and give Ray of Hope a review on one of these platforms. Others potentially interested in coming may use these reviews to help them find us. Br. has meeting scheduled on 6/9 to discuss content management service. Need appointment with Geek Squad at Best Buy to get cost of repair. April Struhm recalled the name of the individual who sold the computer which crashed so need to follow up with him to see if he has ideas on how to move the programs.

- Current issue is that the FTP not connecting on new computer, old computer crashed. Old computer hard drive has programs on it.
  - Option 1 – manually use a find and replace feature to update
  - Option 2 - Use an external hard drive
  - Option 3 – Get a subscription service (Content Management Service)
  - Discussed other options available for exposure currently.
    - Personal Reviews on Google and Facebook
      - Increase the ratings so Ray of Hope will pop up when someone searches

- Financial Solvency
- **Updates since last meeting:** A big thank you to those that have made donations over the past few months. Br. had a chance encounter with a Pastor/Lawyer who planted the seed that you can do both with your organization as Not for Profit Religious as well as an arm that is 501-C3.

- 501-C3 Status vs. current not for profit religious organization status

July 24, 2022 Pentecost Week 8 Year C - Revised page: 36

- Discussed possibly establishing a LGBTQ Pride Community and Education center – offer place for GED programs, SAFE space, and other community events.
- Lisa Frost and Veronica Floyd will work together on next steps in understanding what we can do.
- May still need to engage a not for profit lawyer on how to best navigate the path to 501-C3 status
- Discussed establishment of Trusts and Endowment opportunities for long term sustainability
  - Veronica will discuss with her brother in law how endowments work on her upcoming visit to NC.
- Wisner Park – provides opportunities for Not for profit organizations to come as vendors on Thursdays. Heather will look into cost. May be able to set up our Pride store there.
- Interactive Experiences – devices, ensure voices heard, personal acknowledgement
- **Update since last meeting:** Br. has started adding pictures to Facebook page.
  - Use Facebook page more – to add commentary and links especially since website cannot be updated currently
  - Assign someone to monitor Facebook comments and give feedback
  - Use YouTube page more
  - Use TikTok – app for sharing short videos
- To Do before next meeting:
  - Complete a review of Ray of Hope Church on Google and Facebook
  - Look for volunteers to assist with external and internal projects
  - Clean out building
  - Get estimate from Geek Squad on repair cost for computer
  - Draft GoFundme page
  - Work on 501C-3 options
  - Review the key priority areas discussed and think of ways we can start moving them forward. What can you do in any of these areas or who can we engage for assistance.
    - External building repairs
    - Internal building repairs
    - Website
    - Financial Solvency
    - Interactive Experiences
- Next meeting – Wednesday July 6th @ 6:30 pm
- Closing Prayer – Lisa Frost

Attendees –Heather Austin, Michael Austin, Kaiden Benedict, Jeremy Lundberg, Lisa Frost, Br. Benedict, Veronica Floyd

**Ray of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**Priorities Meeting Minutes**  
**May 11, 2022**  
**6:30 pm**

**Opening Prayer** – Veronica Floyd

**Agenda Review-** Veronica Floyd

- Purpose of Meeting – Why are we here, How will meeting be conducted
- Discussion – What Priorities do we want to address
- Comments from those in attendance
- Closing Prayer

**Purpose of Meeting** – To discuss what priorities we can address short term and long term to help Ray of Hope be a more sustainable organization for the future. We want to put into practice what we learned from the Seven Letters to the Seven Churches in the book of Revelation on what God approves and disapproves. We do not want to be a Lukewarm church but one on fire for the Lord. Veronica Floyd reviewed some highlights of By-laws for how Council meeting conducted in regards to respecting everyone and their ideas or opinions. All input is welcomed.

Priority Discussion points–

- External building repairs at 380 W. First Street
  - Siding for the Building
    - Option 1 – replace all siding with composite siding
      - Estimate received in Dec 2021 - \$50,400 for OSB Board requires a deposit of \$16,800
      - Discussed setting up a GoFundme page as an option for funding
    - Option 2 – paint and caulk and replace some boards
  - Pointing the foundation stones
    - Not one man job
    - Need volunteers
- Internal building repairs at 380 W. First Street
  - Paint the fellowship room, chapel, entrance way and hallway
  - Remove the carpet in the fellowship room
- Website back on line – key piece for exposure and evangelism
  - Current issue is that the FTP not connecting on new computer, old computer crashed. Old computer hard drive has programs on it.
    - Option 1 – manually use a find and replace feature to update
    - Option 2 - Use a external harness hard drive
    - Option 3 – Get a subscription service (Content Management Service
    - Discussed other options available for exposure currently.
      - Personal Reviews on Google and Facebook
        - Increase the ratings so Ray of Hope will pop up when someone searches

- Financial Solvency
  - Discussed 501-C3 Status vs. current not for profit religious organization status
    - Church currently unable to apply for grants or funding as most require a 501-C3 status to apply. The church is actively engaged in social education and concerns and have a library that would be of great value to the community.
    - Previously told the only path would be to dissolve the current corporation and refile for 501-C3 status
      - Need to engage a not for profit lawyer on how to best navigate the path to 501-C3 status
  - Discussed establishment of Trusts and Endowment opportunities for long term sustainability
- Interactive Experiences – devices, ensure voices heard, personal acknowledgement
  - Use Facebook page more – to add commentary and links especially since website cannot be updated currently
  - Assign someone to monitor Facebook comments and give feedback
  - Use YouTube page more
  - Use TikTok – app for sharing short videos
- To Do before next meeting:
  - Complete a review of Ray of Hope Church on Google and Facebook
  - Review the key priority areas discussed and think of ways we can start moving them forward. What can you do in any of these areas or who can we engage for assistance.
    - External building repairs
    - Internal building repairs
    - Website
    - Financial Solvency
    - Interactive Experiences
- Next meeting – Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm
- Closing Prayer – Kaiden Rae Benedict

Attendees –Heather Austin, Michael Austin, Kaiden Benedict, April Struhm, Michael Quinnell, Lisa Frost, Br. Benedict, Veronica Floyd

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## A piece of our Story: The Elmira Chapel / Parsonage / Rectory / Monastery

This Elmira building was given to us in December, 2001 by Jeanne and Kenneth Frasier. They were members of The Park Church here in Elmira. We celebrated the gift of the building on Gaudete – “Rejoice” Sunday, December 16, 2001. It took an additional two years of

building renovations and legal hearings before we could legally open the building. We eventually received our Certificate Of Occupancy on May 23, 2003. We celebrated our first worship service in this building on Pride Sunday June 1, 2003. May 23, 2022 was the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our receiving the Certificate of Occupancy for this building. Next year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Frasier have gone on to Paradise and we are sure they pray for us. We thank them and we give God thanks and praise for the gift that made it possible for us to have this physical presence in Elmira, NY.

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**New Resource Information while our website is not accessible.**

**LawNY** [www.lawny.org](http://www.lawny.org) Jeremy Lundberg 215 E. Church St. , Ste 301 Elmira, NY 14901 (607) 734-1647. Benefits Counseling Pilot Project "Helping those living with HIV/AIDS manage their government benefits while working or returning to work.... Working with a benefits counselor will help ease your fears by providing information about the rules when you begin to work and how you may be able to keep some of your benefits when you work..."

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**Who can receive the Holy Spirit**=====

**Everyone has access to the Holy Spirit, the gift of God to us.**

Below is a rendering of John chapter 16, verse 7 by the translators of the Amplified Bible that I find particularly enlightening. This verse gives many of the attributes of the Holy Spirit, in English that are all packed and hidden in the original Greek Word parakletos. Each of the capitalized words in the verse below tells us how the Holy Spirit is ready to help us. All we have to do is ask with a short prayer like this: "Oh God, give me the awareness to know you are with me in all these ways through the Holy Spirit, Amen."

Here is the verse in the Amplified Bible  
Jesus taught, saying: "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengtheners,

Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]." John 16:7

Did you realize the Holy Spirit is with you to bring you all those actions of God? If we understand the Real Presence of God is with us in Christ through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, we will experience more confidence, love of ourselves and our neighbors, and be able to feel better about our lived experience. You can have all this and more. Start with that simple prayer above.

Signed: Pastor Benedict, 3-6-21. Read this on our website.

[Right Click Here](#)

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## **WHO SHOULD RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, THE EUCHARIST, AT RAY OF HOPE CHURCH?**

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion, also known as The Eucharist, The Lord's Table, or The Blessed Sacrament at Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

It is not required that you be a member of this church or any other church, to receive Holy Communion at / or with Ray Of Hope Church.

This Holy Communion is the Table of Jesus Christ, who is really present among us. Jesus invites you to receive Him in this Eucharistic banquet. If this is your first time receiving The Blessed Sacrament, let us know before you receive or right after, so we might pray a special prayer of thanksgiving with you.

Unfortunately, through the centuries many institutional churches have established rules, teachings, and practices that would exclude people from Holy Communion. There has been an almost endless list of reasons to exclude people from the Blessed Sacrament. Yet, together, during the worship service, we recite the very words of Jesus, the Words of Institution, "This is my

body. This is my blood,” and we rehear Christ present with us saying: “Take this, all of you and eat; Take this all of you and drink” of this gift.

I have thought about this extensively and have decided to take these words “Take this, all of you..” as a command to the church to give, and bring, the Eucharistic Gift to everyone who will receive. This approach also requires us to teach people about this gift. I have stated in other places, **it is uniquely and deliberately the work of Christ in His Church** to offer the necessary education, guidance, and practices that help people live a life centered and purposed on finding and sharing the Will of God. The Lord’s Table is central in that life.

The Eucharist belongs to the Church. The Blessed Sacrament is Christ in us, through us, and with us; made known in the breaking of the Bread of Life and drinking of the Cup of Salvation. We are to take this gift to the whole world.

We begin by inviting those who are on the fringe of society, those who have been pushed aside, those who are poor, who are not accepted, who are sick, who need God’s help in special ways. We welcome and bring the Eucharist to everyone who has been told they cannot receive it by other Denominations. In conclusion, to all persons who have ever been told “no you cannot” go to Communion in any other church; hear us, “yes you can” at Ray Of Hope. All are welcome. Or as we like to say as one of our mottos, when we quote Fr. Bartholomew J. O’Brien; “You are as welcome here as Christ Himself.”

Come to the Table of the Lord. There is a place set for you too. (Excerpted from the Pastoral Report given at the Annual Meeting 34 on January 28, 2018 by Pastor Br. Shawn F. Benedict, updated 3-6-21)

Visit our page on the Sacraments. [Right Click Here.](#)

See this in a PDF format from our website and share it with others or download it to your computer / device. **Right Click Here.**

## 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-** looking for a host in Syracuse. For more information  
[Click Here](#).

**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. [Click Here](#).

**\*\* 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 not open to the general public at this time as we try to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. All of our regular services will be available live on Skype and we are adding Facebook Live. To get the information on how to use Skype to participate with us [Click Here](#).. Visit our Facebook page [Click Here](#). As soon as it reasonably safe and prudent the chapel will be reopened. Call for an appointment if you want some time to come in and pray.

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.

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## 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: <http://www.rayofhopechurch.com/> Facebook Page (like and follow) [Click Here](#).

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

—————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, 3:4 The grace, the goodness, the loving-kindness of our God has appeared, bringing salvation **to everyone**.

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.