



# Ray Of Hope

## Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

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

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

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

January 20, 2018 Epiphany Wk 3, Year C

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

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:** Isaiah 62:1-5 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 692

**Psalm:** Psalm 96 selected verses responsorial in this bulletin.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 174

**Gospel:** John 2:1-11 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 93

*(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***

**First Reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5 NRSV 1<sup>st</sup> Test. Pg. 692

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
 and her salvation like a burning torch.  
 The nations shall see your vindication,  
 and all the kings your glory;  
 and you shall be called by a new name  
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
 You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
 and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;  
 but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
 and your land Married;  
 for the LORD delights in you,  
 and your land shall be married.  
 For as a young man marries a young woman,  
 so shall your builder marry you,  
 and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
 so shall your God rejoice over you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** Psalm 96 selected verses

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

Sing to the LORD a new song;  
 sing to the LORD, all you lands.  
 Sing to the LORD; bless God's name.

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

Announce salvation, day after day.  
 Tell the glory of the Lord among the nations;  
 among all peoples, God's wondrous deeds.

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,  
 give to the LORD glory and praise;  
 give to the LORD the glory due God's name!

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

Worship the LORD in holy attire.

Tremble before the Lord, all the earth;

Say among the nations: The LORD is king.

The Lord governs the peoples with equity.

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg. 174

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** John 2:1-11 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament Pg. 93

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is

that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon:** Rev. Benedict

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An **Epiphany in Holy Scripture** is an event where God reveals God's self in an obvious and public way. The Baptism of Jesus is a public ordination of the ministry of Jesus. The Trinity of God was revealed to the general public who were present.

The issue of the Jesus as the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit being part of the three person, one being, Trinity is at the heart of our faith.

<https://www.keepinginspiring.me/martin-luther-king-jr-quotes/>

"Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15th, 1929. He was a pivotal advocate for African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.

King experienced racism from an early age, and those events stayed with and eventually brought him to a life of activism. After graduating college with a doctorate degree in theology, King became a pastor in Alabama. He began a series of peaceful protests in the south that eventually changed many laws dealing with the equality of African Americans. King gave hundreds of moving speeches across the country, and in 1964 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

On April 4th, 1968, King was shot and killed while in Memphis, Tennes-

see. Although his life ended that day, the work that he had accomplished changed the nation. King will be remembered not only for his commitment to the cause of equality for African Americans but also for his profound speeches that moved so many.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s words were spoken with hope that the future for African Americans would be brighter and that they would finally be given the equality they deserved." QUOTES FROM DR. KING

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness."

"We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right."

"There is nothing more tragic than to find an individual bogged down in the length of life, devoid of breadth."

"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." -Martin Luther King Jr.

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

### **Our New Altar from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

On January 18, 2016 our new Altar in honor of the Incarnation / Sacred Oils Ambry / Credence Table was delivered. Pastor Arthur Reed, who is also a professional wood craftsman did an outstanding job of resizing it so it would fit exactly into place in our space. This Altar was formally at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The Lutherans gifted the Altar to Ray Of Hope Church. Rev. Reed found the name "Hans" hand written on one of the pieces of wood inside the Altar. We are so honored to have this wonderful piece of church his/herstory. three purposes: An Ambry (the oils for the sick, oils for catechumens/water Baptism/profession of faith, and Confirmation/Baptism of the Holy Spirit), an Altar (I am going to suggest we dedicate the Altar in honor of the Incarnation), and a Credence Table (all the instruments for worship are given a place of dignity that indicates they are holy, separated, for the Lord's worship). This makes a very holy space in the presence of the Icon that portrays the Incarnation: Mary and the infant Jesus.

The following are definitions that I have developed over the years to set a common platform from which to discuss the theological matters before the church.

Doctrine - an unchangeable truth revealed in the sacred writing.

Dogma - required belief that may change very slowly even over hundreds of years and is revealed by sacred authorities. It may or may not be in the sacred writing.

Teaching - belief that may change very quickly and is revealed by sacred authorities. It may or may not be in the sacred writing.

Practice - the local customs and ideas of the local congregation. The local people are the authority.

\*\*Before the conversation starts decide which one between Doctrine and Dogma will be the unchangeable one. Some denominations



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



This begins the 22nd week we are praying for Jay Brown. Jay did not receive good news at Wills Eye Hospital and is completely blind at this time. Let's keep praying for his eyes to completely heal. <https://www.gofundme.com/kck5ct-team-jay>



Update on August Faulk, pictured here with the family dog named Rosie. August's family is very thankful for all the continued prayers we are offering. August is having complications and the pain was spreading this week.



We continue to hold Trinity Lucas in prayer, the little girl on the right. Her father, Stephen Lucas tells us she was born addicted to opioids. Trinity is having difficulties in many areas of her life due to these exposure before she was born. Her father describes her as "very mentally handicapped." We continue to pray for her and all the children born into the disease of addiction and their families.

We ask God to heal all of the people involved. These children are innocent and need healing so they can be healthy.

Ellandra Kaci Corbin received a kidney transplant on December 12. We are praying that her body will accept the transplant and that Ellandra has full recovery.

Veronica's Great Aunt who was 97, passed this week. Veronica and Tami are in North Carolina with the family. Let's hold up everyone in this family and continue to thank God for their faith.

Visit our new Robert C. Bacon Memorial Page. [Click Here.](#)

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

**General Offering** for the week of January 13, 2019 — \$953.00  
Attendance— 9. Robb Bacon memorial donations \$135.00, Special gifts: Veronica Floyd \$250 for Pastor SE Tax, Lisa Frost \$125 for Pastor SE Tax. We give God thanks and praise for all these gifts.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Bible Enrichment Session Tuesday January 22—6:30 PM**

**Thursday January 24 6:30- 8:30** Movie: "Parting Glances" - Parting Glances is an American film shot in 1984 and released in 1986. With its realistic look at urban gay life in the Ronald Reagan era and at the height of the AIDS crisis. <https://www.meetup.com/Elmira-gay-lesbian-bisexual-trans-str8-social-group/?scroll=true>

Sunday January 27 the 35th Annual Meeting of Ray Of Hope Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. in our 35th year of ministry. Worship at 10:30 AM, shared dinner following, Annual Meeting between 1:30 and 2:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us on line:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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