



# Ray Of Hope

## Church Of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

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

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

“This is the time we need to shine.”

“We are standing in Faith and Expecting Victory in 2017.”

Veronica Floyd, Moderator

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

A very special welcome to our visitors.

You are as welcome here as Jesus Christ Himself.

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

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

September 16, 2018 Feast Of The Triumph Of The Cross Year B  
Semi-Annual Meeting and the 22nd Annivesary of the Southern Tier  
Extension

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 50:5-9A NRSV 1st Test. pg. 681

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

**Second Reading:** James 2: 14-18 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg.  
230

**Gospel:** Mark 8:27– 9:1 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament page 43

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

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

**First Reading:** Isaiah 50:5-9A NRSV 1st Test. pg. 681

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 116: 1-9 with responsorial verse.**

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. Alleluia.**

I love the LORD because the Lord has heard  
my voice in supplication.

The Lord was attentive to me  
in the day when I called.

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. Alleluia.**

The cords of death surrounded me;  
the snares of the netherworld seized upon me;

I fell into distress and sorrow,  
and I called upon the name of the LORD,  
"O LORD, save my life!"

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. Alleluia.**

The LORD is gracious and just;  
yes, our God is merciful.  
The LORD protects the simple hearted;  
I was brought low, I was helpless, and God saved me.

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. Alleluia.**

God freed my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living. Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** James 2:14-18 NRSV 2<sup>nd</sup> Test. Pg.  
230

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If brothers or sisters are without clothing and lack daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Third Reading: Gospel:** Mark 8:27– 9:1 NRSV 2<sup>ND</sup> Testament  
page 43

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." <sup>9</sup> <sup>1</sup> And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

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

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

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

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

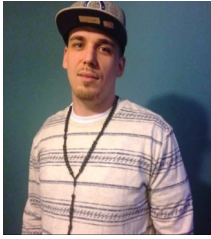
=====Sermon Notes=====

This set of readings has been missed in recent years because we usually change this Sunday to the normal readings for the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. This set does rise to the occasion, though. In the first reading we have the voice of Jesus in the hours of the trial before Pilate, King Herod, back to Pilate and in the hands of the guards. We also hear the voices of all who have gone before us making a place for the church in the world by their personal sacrifices. Without those sacrifices the church would not survive in the world which is against the message of the church. The Psalm speaks of being in the justice of the Cross and living in it. The second reading continues the discussion of faith plus works. As we meet today as congregation we celebrate that this has not only been a religious faith organization, but our faith has led us to many works for the Gospel. Ray Of Hope has always been a faith plus works church. Notice in this Gospel it is all about acknowledging who Jesus is. This is the primary message of Ray Of Hope Church, who Jesus is and why this is so important for ALL people of every sexual orientation and every gender expression, even as we continue to discover more of both of them. (Notice no "build my church" in this Gospel) "Those who are ashamed..." We are not ashamed, and this is why we are here. Our message is clear and set out perfectly in our Statement Of Purpose and all through our web site. This is why we have a public building and a public ministry of services.

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

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

We have been asked to please remember in our prayers this week Chad Stanbro by his family. Chad has had some unfortunate difficulties while incarcerated that resulted in his being paralyzed from the neck down while in custody. Chad is in his late 20's and this sudden change in his body is very traumatic to say



the least. Chad has a daughter. He has been hospitalized for the last three weeks. At this time he is being told he will remain paralyzed. Together we can intercede for Chad and ask God to bring clarity to this situation. We can ask the Holy Spirit to assist all the medical professionals to do everything possible to find the way to healing and wholeness for Chad. We also can pray that Chad will develop a healthy relationship with God through all of this.



Last week we started praying for Jay Brown at the request of his family. Jay is still in the Intensive Care Unit. He had difficulty with fluid buildup this week, and fever. However, this morning the family reports definite improvements. The doctors have cut back some of the medications including the sedatives, and the fever is down. These are very good developments. The family thanks everyone for your continued prayers. Let's stay on this request together.

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

**General Offering** for the week of September 9, 2018 — \$375.00  
Attendance— 5

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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tuesday September 18 6:30—8:00 Bible Enrichment  
Wednesday September 19 6:30—8:30 Social Group Tales Of The City part 3. Come and bring some snacks to share!  
Rehearsals for World Communion Sunday CHOIR will be at Bethany Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 20 and 27, at 7PM.  
Friday September 28 7:00 PM Council Meeting  
October 7 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30 AM at Bethany Lutheran Church - our chapel will be closed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chapel is open daily from about 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM most days of the year. When the door is unlocked the public is welcome to come in and pray, read a book, meditate, read Scriptures, and enjoy the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Visitors are invited to use the kneelers or sit in the chair or couch of their choice. Please maintain holy silence in the chapel.

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

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

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

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

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

I would like to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.



## Ray Of Hope Church Statement Of Purpose

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

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

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Visit us on line:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Romans 10:13 "For **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

(repeated @ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21) "everyone, anyone who" asks.

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

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

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