

our mission
"To rejoice in, and share
the good news of Jesus Christ
with all people"

Rejoice Voice

Rejoice! Lutheran Church
7855 Stow Road
Hudson, OH 44236

interim pastor
Rev. Doug Fidler

contact Rejoice!
330-653-5980
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www.rejoicelc.org

church council

Bethany Bryant
Janet Juliano
Tim Boebel
Liz Franke
Paige Giannetti
Lisa Ramsey
Chris Wisbar

bulletin and
newsletter
office@rejoicelc.org

Sunday Worship
at
Rejoice! Lutheran Church

Worship: Sundays
10:00am
(In-person, FaceBook Live, or
posted later on our website)

Sunday School: (TBD)

From the Pastor



I've been asked the question, "What's the future of Rejoice?" Well, only God knows. What I know is what is happening today and who we are at this moment. Beyond that we give ourselves to prayer and discernment. You and I can make predictions but let's not limit God by our lack of imagination. Who knows, but that God is prepping us for something we haven't even thought about?

The future of Rejoice and in fact every congregation will be different than what we know today. What I've been reading and in conversation with my colleagues across denominational lines, the Church is changing. We've known about this for the last decade or so. There have been books written and seminars presented on the future church. However, the pandemic of the last year threw the coming change right up in our faces. Now, Sunday worship and community are even more so an "option" for way too many people than they were prior to 2020. We'll be addressing this more in the coming months.

So, who are we today? We are a space for God's grace. Here God's love is extravagantly and generously shared.

- We are a group of people who care for one another. I'm impressed by the communication between members here at Rejoice. Many congregations do not have this level of commitment.
- We have long been host to A.A. and Al-anon. The folk who come here know that Rejoice is a welcoming place for them in their spiritual recovery and daily life.
- Many years we have hosted the Hudson Food Bank and this past year we've stepped up and taken more of a lead in this program and its distribution. Thirty to forty families/individuals come here monthly for food and many other individuals are participating in the program. It is wonderful to see many people involved in the food bank and the love shared in distributing God's bounty.
- We are restarting the Hudson High School grant to assist in drug and alcohol prevention through a variety of programs.
- The transportation for seniors continues as well. These grant moneys have come through efforts of ministry being done here at Rejoice.
- The quilting group has started back up and their handiwork is passed on to those in need.
- We have a third Sunday loose offering that reaches out to several organizations and ministries in our community.
- The Rejoice building is an open, inviting location for other ministries. We have welcomed the Community of St. John and most recently Teammates.

Continued on page 2....

From the Pastor, *continued from pg 1*

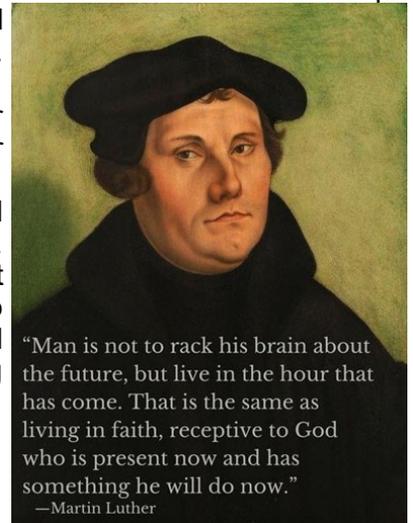
Rejoice Lutheran is not just about us but the opportunities we offer in making this a space for God's grace. Now that the pandemic is lifting there will be more opportunities for Rejoice to be involved in the community.

A good thing that came out of our quarantined time was the need to hold virtual events. This will only grow as time goes by. We've been able to reach out in many ways.

- We have our worship service online and we connect with not just Rejoice members who are homebound or away but people far and wide from this location.
- The Thursdays "Rejoice at Prayer" continues to grow and there are just about as many non-members as members who pray with us each week.
- We have a faithful group on the Wednesday women's Bible study and my Thursday Bible study will start back up toward the end of August. These are Zoom events.
- I've even seen the Tuesday Tidings being shared with others. Our web site is being upgraded and will soon be a new portal into our community here in this place.

Where are we today? We are the people of God that our Lord has called to exciting ministry in the Hudson area. We are alive. We are vibrant. We are stepping into the future and trusting that God's Got This and that God will use us for ways we have yet to imagine. We are a people who love God and in turn love our neighbor. Exciting things go on in and through the ministry here! Thank you for all that you do in making Rejoice a space for God's grace to touch many lives.

Pastor Doug



President's Report

We continue to have so much to rejoice in! Our ministry with the Food Pantry continues to expand the reach and support of our Hudson community in need, serving more families than ever before all while also expanding the support and resources they are provided by adding produce, toiletries and dairy products. Our ministry with Teammates has brought young people into our community for life skills and learning. We continue to serve our senior citizens and high school students with senior transportation and counseling services. We see God's love being spread and the impact it has on our community. Rejoice! Financially, Rejoice remains strong, continuing to operate in the black as we have for a couple years, and with reasonable reserves on hand which we have recently used to repair the organ, replace an air conditioner, upgrade our website and are working to upgrade our computer equipment. And lastly, the Call Committee is in an active interviewing phase. Rejoice! We will look to bring the congregation together in the coming weeks to align on next steps and the congregation's perspective on our pastoral leadership choices. Save the date for discussions on August 15th and 17th. Confirmation and more details will come in the following few days. Rejoice!

Bethany Bryant
President

Call Committee Update

August, 2021

Wow! The summer is flying by and the Call Committee has lots of news, but we also need your help. First for the news. We have a new Assistant to the Bishop to work with. Pastor Mitch Phillips was installed in June and is now beginning to work with local congregations. He is still getting to know all of us and learning about our congregational ministries, goals, and needs. The Call Committee has also interviewed a 4th candidate, including a more in-depth second interview with him.

This all leads to where we need your help. It has become clear to us that as a congregation we have changed in many ways during the last year and a half, as has the world we live in! It is time to reconnect to confirm our mission goals, and refine what we are looking for in our future pastoral leader. Council has scheduled 2 informal congregational meetings in August and I ask you to attend one of them. The Call Committee looks forward to sharing what we have experienced and learned, and hear your input to ensure we are aligned moving forward. Be ready to share your thoughts and dreams about the next phase of Rejoice because, to quote Matthew 19:26, *"With God, all things are possible!"*

Please continue to invite friends and family to join us for worship on Sundays, join our fellowship events, volunteer to work with the various ministries we support, and keep Pastor Doug, the call committee, our entire congregation, and synodical leaders in your prayers this summer. Thank you,

Russ Ackerman
Chris Bryant
Tom Freborg
Felicia Leipzig

Carla Maurer
Marilyn Olzmann
Ellen Wisbar

Fall Women's Retreat!

Attention Ladies!

Announcing that the Fall Women's Retreat is on and IN PERSON for:

October 8 - 10, 2021 at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center!

Our theme is "When Jesus Walks Toward Us" based on Matthew 14:27b. All information including registration form is online. You can also access this information at the [Rejoice Lutheran Church website](https://www.rejoicec.org/) or at <https://www.rejoicec.org/activities/>.

Registration deadline is August 31 with a deposit of \$75.00 .

All women are invited and encouraged to attend.

We are so excited to offer this wonderful weekend of study, laughter and fellowship (and of course, wonderful food) under the leadership of Pastor Pam Kelly.

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us!!

Rejoice Updated Covid Guidelines—adapted from CDC guidelines

The Worship Committee met and came up with the following:

1. If you are fully vaccinated against Covid and are 14 days beyond your last shot, you do not have to mask or maintain 6 feet, but may if you wish. You no longer have to sit in a designated row.
2. If you are not fully vaccinated or are not beyond 14 days of the final shot, please continue to mask and remain spacing.
3. If you wish to sit within 6 feet of a non-masked person, please ask first as they may wish to continue to spacing for personal reasons like having family members who have not had their shots.
4. We will continue to have chairs in the Fellowship areas to provide extra spacing opportunities.
5. We will continue to have masks and disinfectant available for those who want them.

Janet Juliano
Worship Committee

Teammates Program helps young adults with special needs gain life skills

A local group of young adults with special needs now spend their weekdays at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Hudson, participating in the Teammates Program which provides them with life, work, and social skills.

The program, which meets Mondays through Fridays from 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., aims to help young adults with special needs obtain the needed skills to thrive in society and have a positive quality of life.

Every day looks different and every day focuses on a different critical skill. Supervisor Olivia Schneider has been with Teammates for over two years. She has a background in communication sciences and helped set up the program to focus on activities that start with the letter of each day of the week.

Monday is for focusing on money and cleaning at St. Mark's Church. Tuesday is Talent Day, which focuses on talking, singing, and working on technology (especially for job searching as many participants lost their job opportunities post-graduation due to COVID). Wednesday is Workout day and will soon include weeding and watering flowers at Rejoice. Thursday is tasting food that the group prepares using the kitchen at Rejoice. Friday is fun day as the group spends time in the community, volunteers, or participates in activities like swimming at the Natatorium in Cuyahoga Falls. Community activities were selected based on leveraging several business and other relationships.

When asked how she liked Teammates, participant Allie Juda said, "It's good. I like everyone's sense of humor. I like doing the things in the community. I like cleaning at St. Mark's."

Ashley Bohnert, a participant for about nine months, said that Thursdays are her favorite day and that she likes "cooking more than tasting." The participants also prepare the grocery list and buy the food that is used for Thursday's tasting, which helps build a life skill.

Typically, 10-11 participants attend the Teammates Hudson location daily. Some participants already have paying jobs multiple days a week, and some are actively seeking employment while they work on their resume and communication skills at Teammates. The program targets a ratio of 12 clients to four instructors, with many instructors having a special education or related background.

The owner of Teammates, Peggy Peters of Tallmadge, previously worked as an education intervention specialist teacher and aide in the Stow-Munroe Falls schools for over 30 years. "As a teacher, when I took families on tours of adult programs, there wasn't a lot out there as they wanted more continuing education for when their child ages out." Opening a place like Teammates was Peters' dream for many years.

Peters sought the current Hudson location because the Teammates Program, which has been in existence for nearly three years, was growing and many participants were from Hudson. Teammates leases its space from Rejoice Lutheran Church, which has been in Hudson for over 12 years.

"Partnering with Teammates is just one way that Rejoice is bringing our vision [to life]," said Bethany Bryant, president of Rejoice. Interim Pastor Doug Fidler described Teammates as "a diverse group of young folk who bring a joy of life and wonder to each day."

Young adults can participate by applying through their Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board SSA (Services and Support Administrator). Teammates Center is located at 323 S. Main St, in Munroe Falls, and now Rejoice Lutheran Church at Stow Road in Hudson.



Nina Ackerman, participant at Teammates and member of Rejoice Lutheran Church, washes her hands in preparation of microwaving tacos as staff person Sophia Sabatino and participant David Gurerri.



Teammates Center staff supervisor, Jeremy Lundstrom and owner, Peggy Peters.



Teammates clients Ashley Bohnert and Nate Shockey (rear), staff persons Sophia Sabatino and Jordy Ruth, Nina Ackerman, Gabby Awender and David Boise enjoy Thursday tasting of tacos for lunch.

FREE Transportation for Seniors*

ARE YOU A **HUDSON SENIOR** IN NEED OF TRANSPORTATION within Hudson? **

If yes, then call Jeff Adelman
(330-256-6422)

Sedan or Van Transportation, Hudson



24-hour notice strongly recommended

Available 7 days/week— 7 am-8pm

Medical appointments, grocery or other shopping, errands, church/religious events, social events/visits

Jeff can load your wheelchair or walker. Must be able to get **into** and **out of** car independently

*Age 60 or over. Funds are being provided as a pilot from a limited **On the Table grant** to Rejoice! Lutheran Church in Hudson through the Akron Community Foundation.

We ask that you simply return a provided, postage-paid postcard with your rating of the service.

Usage is limited to two round-trips per individual to maximize those who benefit from the grant.

**Hudson defined as North of Norton/Seasons Rd, South of Fairway Blvd, West of Stone Rd, and East of State Route 8 or within a mile.

Property Board Update

Many, many thanks to all for your generous donations to replace our church parking lot. The work is scheduled to be completed the last week of July.

Our thanks too, to Chris Wisbar for getting the bids, raising the funds for the project, finalizing the work schedule and prepping the lot for the work to be completed.

Also completed in July was the installation of a new air conditioning unit to replace one that was no longer working. Thanks, again, Chris for taking care of that!



Evening Women's Bible Study –via

Zoom

The Women's Bible Study group has begun a new study called "Following God's Guidance". No pressure, no homework! Just fellowship time with Christian friends studying God's Word.

Join us Wednesdays **at 8:00p.m.** on Zoom.

The link is <https://johncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/628894291>

Contact Lisa Ramsey with questions/problems at lmramsey@roadrunner.com or 234.380.2090



August Birthdays

10	Tim Boebel
17	George Arnold
18	Christopher Bryant
20	Tom Freborg

August Anniversaries

17	Russ & Ellen Ackerman
21	Jim & Carla Maurer
24	Brian & Ginny Pillsbury

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, or it is incorrect, please help us update our info. Contact Carla Maurer at office@rejoicelc.org

Labor Day Fellowship

Paige and Bob Giannetti will be hosting a Labor Day picnic at their home (434 N. Main Street, Hudson) on Monday, September 6 from 12 noon until 4:00 p.m. It will be pot-luck, with our hosts providing burgers, brats, hot dogs, and chicken. Please respond by August 30 if you plan to attend, along with what you would like to bring, and also any food restrictions. We will follow-up with a group e-mail updating the food list. If you plan to watch the Hudson Parade first (10:00-11:30 a.m.) and have food that needs to be kept cool, you may drop off at the Giannetti's prior to the parade. Please contact Paige Giannetti (paigegiannetti@gmail.com), Marisa McLelland (mcllellandmarisa@gmail.com) or Ellen Wisbar (ellenwisbar@gmail.com) with any questions or comments. Hope you will join us! Thank you, Paige and Bob!



June 2021 Financial Report

2021	June Actual	June Budget	June Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2021 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$4,475	\$7,708	(\$3,233)	\$62,040	\$46,250	\$15,790	\$92,500
Capital Revenue	\$1,201	\$2,667	(\$1,466)	\$21,074	\$16,000	\$5,074	\$32,000
Other	\$30,096	\$1,459	\$28,637	\$42,418	\$8,755	\$33,663	\$17,510
Total Income	\$35,772	\$11,834	\$23,938	\$125,532	\$71,005	\$54,527	\$142,010
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$10,619	\$7,685	(\$2,934)	\$50,635	\$50,104	(\$531)	\$101,078
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$29,182	\$24,000	(\$5,182)	\$48,000
Total Expenses	\$14,619	\$11,685	(\$2,934)	\$79,817	\$74,104	(\$5,713)	\$149,078
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$21,153	\$149		\$45,715	(\$3,099)		(\$7,068)

Benevolence Giving	\$1,250	\$417	\$833	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	\$5,000
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REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

7855 Stow Rd.
Hudson, Ohio 44236

Phone: 330-653-5980
E-mail: office@rejoicelc.org



Paying it Forward

Rejoice has been so blessed by many mission partners. Let us pay it forward to others. out of our blessings!

In June we resumed our practice of sending our 3rd Sunday "loose offering" to a local non-profit/charity. Below is the list of scheduled recipients for the remainder of 2021.

Schedule of 3rd Sunday Loose Offering for 2021:

August – ELCA World Hunger

September – ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response

October – Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center/
Camp

November – OASIS Youth Program *(either for devotional books or funds to support their program)*

December - Rejoice Samaritan Fund

Food Pantry Collection

Thank you everyone for your monthly toilet paper donations. We have been meeting our goal each month to provide for 35 to 40 families.

I did get a request from the food pantry that 6 or 8 roll packs are preferred. The larger size helps the toilet paper last longer during the month for the clients. Especially our larger families.

Liz Franke
Church Council member

Rejoice Care Committee:

Please let any of the following know if any congregation members experience sickness, a death in the family, new babies, or other situations where we might be of some assistance.

George Arnold, Joyce Clothier, Judi Boebel, Carla Maurer, Chad Bryant, Paige Giannetti

Hudson Mart

The Hudson Mart (on the Gazebo Green), **Sunday Sept. 5** from 10-5 is where any Hudsonite who registers on line can sell their arts, crafts, creative talents. (Sean Giannetti will have a table and sell his poetry book for donations to the Center for Autism and Dramatic Arts.