

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
office@rejoicelc.org
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
(Indoors—face masks and
social distancing required,
Facebook Live, or posted later
on our website)

Sunday School: (TBD)

From the Pastor



Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. -John 20:21-22

Believe it or not, but I have been part of the Rejoice community for a year now. It's been a good year in many ways. I am glad that I have this opportunity to be with you and part of this worshipping community. I have been enriched and nurtured in my faith being among you – thank you for your faithfulness to the Gospel! I am blessed to be part of the Rejoice community!

This past year, however, has been a different one for all of us because of the pandemic. Pivoting to virtual worship and congregational events wasn't easy for most congregations. It has been a worldwide shift, but we found ways to stay connected. When I first came, I was recording parts of the service for YouTube and having that posted on the webpage. The end of May 2020 we moved to the parking lot and in July to the front lawn with a live-stream option. It was nice to be able to meet many of you during these outdoor services. When we moved indoors in October our in-person attendance went down, but we were able to upgrade our Facebook live video streaming capabilities- yea (thank you Janet). There have been a few glitches but overall, our on-line presence has enabled us to reach not only the Rejoice membership, but we are reaching more beyond our local area. By the way, mark your calendars for the last Sunday of the month (May-August), weather permitting we will worship outdoors.

Online opportunities for worship, Bible Study (Wednesday 8pm and Thursday 7:15pm), prayer (Thursdays @ 4pm) as well as the occasional Zoom meeting have been a way to link us together when CDC guidelines have recommended that group gatherings be limited. We, like so many congregations, scrambled to find ways to keep the congregation together. We had a learning curve with technology, but this was a necessary development. I think a silver lining with the pandemic is that we have entered the 21st century in reaching out to our community in a new way. In one survey I read recently it stated that 93% of people who have been viewing worship on-line have found it easier to attend.

Many of us have been or are in the process of being vaccinated and hopefully we will begin to see an increase with our in-person gatherings. We will of course continue to live-stream worship and other activities. But I've been thinking how do we come back? Yes, on-line worship is easier for many, and we are reaching more folk than we would have 2, 3, 5 years ago. Many who would not feel comfortable stepping foot inside a church building have a way to "attend" which opens the door for the Holy Spirit to work. Anyway, it is a different world now, and my question is how we maintain real community. Virtual community is ONE avenue, but it cannot be a replacement for live community.

Continued on page 2....

From the Pastor, *continued from pg 1*

I have recently become acquainted with an African author Malidoma Patrice Some. He writes about “the Healing Wisdom of Africa.” He says that there are three essential elements to wellness: Community. Ritual. Healing. In the story of the man born blind in John 9 – the man was on the outside of community. Jesus healed him, but he wasn’t accepted back into the community, so wholeness was lacking, that is until Jesus met up with him again and welcomed him into the community of followers.

Covid-19 has in many ways been a spiritual crisis. Yes, there are health concerns, and we take them seriously, but spiritual in that we have been torn away from community, from ritual and we have suffered (not being whole). This “unwholeness” is beginning to play out in our society. The rituals of our congregational gathering in times of joy and sorrow speak to us when we lack the words. Our gatherings nurture our souls in ways that are whole and life giving.

As for my question (*how do we come back-maintain community?*)– I don’t have a solid answer. I do know that worshipping and community are essential to our well-being. I hope we don’t take that lightly. However it is you gather with us, know that you are in my prayers and that Rejoice values your participation with us in the work of the Gospel our Lord has given us to do in this place.

May our Lord continue to bless you and strengthen you in faith and love and service. Peace be with you my friends, peace.

Pastor Doug

President’s Report

There is starting to be a BUZZ around Rejoice again!

- The Food Pantry is ramping up with additional distribution items like toiletries, produce, milk and eggs, and bicycles!
- We have reached an agreement with Teammates and they will likely be starting in early May.

We’ve seen an uptick in in-person worship attendance and are planning additional events for the summer months.

It is awesome to hear the chatter of people reconnecting in the narthex after worship again after so many months!

Pastor Doug has now been with us for a full year. Council is very pleased to announce that he will continue on as our interim pastor and we are working to renew his agreement. Council also aligned on our priorities for the next several months including an emphasis on re-engaging with our own members with in-person, yet safe, activities. We are working on periodic outdoor worship this summer, giving the website a professional facelift to engage more virtual members, and embracing our outreach and service ministries to the Food Pantry, Teammates and others. We have a few property maintenance projects that need our attention. Even an hour to two of your time would be greatly appreciated.

I hope you start to feel the excitement as we regain some momentum. As always, please reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Bethany Bryant
Council President

Teammates Center, LLC to Share God's Building at Rejoice!

Thanks to the support of members, Rejoice! is well on its way to welcoming Teammates to God's "space for grace!" as part of the Vision of Rejoice to "Be Love in the World."

Teammates Center LLC, has existed for over two years as a day program that helps post-high school individuals with developmental disabilities grow their independence. Its goal is to "provide continuing education in the areas of Life Skills, Work Skills, and Social Skills to increase each person's independence" (Teammates website). It is owned by Peggy Peters of Tallmadge, who is formerly an education intervention specialist.

Teammates will be using Rejoice! space every Monday through Friday, 8 am - 3 pm for the staff and 8:15 am-2:15 pm for participants (many from Hudson). They will be using two Sunday School rooms (large room and small one across the hall at north-most end), the kitchen, and occasionally the Narthex and Sanctuary with supervision, plus outside space. Rooms will be cleaned (Teammates follows CDC guidelines) and returned to their original set up at end of each day.

Sue Holman has agreed to be the liaison for Rejoice! for the first year to ensure strong communication with Rejoice office staff and committees regarding scheduling, cleaning procedures, etc., so that a positive and successful relationship is developed and maintained. Thank you, Sue!

Immediate next steps include the need for a few volunteers in the next week to help organize and declutter the above space that Teammates will use—**please reach out to Chris Wisbar at cwisbar1962@gmail.com to volunteer.**

Sue Holman, Pastor Doug, Peggy Peters, and the site supervisor, Olivia Schneider did a walk-through on Tuesday, April 20, in anticipation of the required approval from the Department of Developmental Disabilities, which was obtained last week. Teammates will be able to start at Rejoice in early May.

We thank Ellen Ackerman for bringing this opportunity to Rejoice, based on her familiarity with Teammates through her and Russ's daughter, Nina Ackerman.

Members are welcome to suggest ideas and participate in volunteer activities at Rejoice! with Teammates participants. These might include helping with church bulletins or gardening or joining the group for lunch or during one of its community outings. **Please reach out to Sue Holman (ohiolholman@aol.com) with any ideas or volunteer interests.**

A "meet and greet" welcoming reception (following COVID guidelines) will be held with Teammates, once timing is defined. **Please let Sue Holman know if you'd like to help or attend.**

You can find out more about Teammates on their Facebook page, Teammates Center L.L.C. or their website at Teammatescenter.org

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Doug (pfid626@gmail.com), Bethany Bryant (bethanyjbryant@gmail.com), Chris Wisbar (cwisbar1962@gmail.com), Paige Giannetti (paigegiannetti@gmail.com), or Sue Holman (ohiolholman@aol.com)

Fellowship Time!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 16 (rain date May 23)-The Fellowship Committee is planning an easy 1.2 mile walk at Liberty Park (9999 Liberty Rd., Twinsburg) after church service. We'll be leaving the church lot at 11:30 AM and arriving at Liberty's parking lot by 11:45, if you plan on meeting us there. The park has 4 other trails to explore as well. Picnic tables are available if you would like to bring a packed lunch. Please RSVP if you'll be joining us: Marisa McLelland (mclllandmarisa@gmail.com) or Ellen Wisbar (ellenwisbar@gmail.com), so we won't start without you!



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.

Evening Women's Bible Study Group—Via Zoom

The Women's Bible Study group is currently studying, "Encouraging One Another". 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



May Birthdays

1	Hayley Marshall
10	Casie Ackerman
10	Inge Osborne
15	Lisa Ramsey
19	Liz Franke
27	Monica Leszek
30	Bob Rubenstahl
31	Janet Juliano

May Anniversaries

24	Mike & Lisa Ramsey
29	Chad & Bethany Bryant

Videographer Help Needed!

We could use a couple more people to learn to live stream the service with our equipment. Janet Juliano is training people on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. There are step by step instructions with pictures, as well as live practice with Janet. She is only scheduling one person at a time for training due to COVID restrictions. Please contact Janet at jayeljay1@yahoo.com or 603-264-9631 for further information.

Pastor Doug's Bible Study

Pastor Doug's Zoom Bible Study is on Thursdays, at 7:15pm. We're looking at Mark, chapter by chapter in the Tuesday Tidings. The Thursday Bible Study will take this exploration deeper and allow for questions on the text. The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86751292678?pwd=KzRYdzIEUC9vRnVOQm5xd3J2azB0Zz09>
Passcode: 873888



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@rejoicec.org

March 2021 Financial Report

	Mar Actual	Mar Budget	Mar Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2021 Budget
2021							
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$28,447	\$7,709	\$20,738	\$43,631	\$23,125	\$20,506	\$92,500
Capital Revenue	\$11,824	\$2,667	\$9,157	\$16,579	\$8,000	\$8,579	\$32,000
Other	\$348	\$1,458	(\$1,110)	\$5,431	\$4,378	\$1,053	\$17,510
Total Income	\$40,619	\$11,834	\$28,785	\$65,641	\$35,503	\$30,138	\$142,010
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$10,881	\$10,550	(\$331)	\$23,977	\$27,047	\$3,070	\$101,078
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$15,250	\$12,000	(\$3,250)	\$48,000
Total Expenses	\$14,881	\$14,550	(\$331)	\$39,227	\$39,047	(\$180)	\$149,078
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$25,738	(\$2,716)		\$26,414	(\$3,544)		(\$7,068)
Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$0	\$1,250	(\$1,250)	\$5,000

REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

7855 Stow Rd.
Hudson, Ohio 44236

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

We're on the web!
www.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!

Since there's been limited in person worship, we have not collected any 3rd Sunday "loose offering"

Food Pantry Collection

Rejoice is collecting toilet paper donations for the Hudson Food Pantry each month in 2021. Our goal is 40 packs each month.

Donations should be left in the nursery. This months deadline is April 20th.

Thank you.
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

2021 Church Council Leadership

President: Bethany Bryant
Vice President: Janet Juliano
Secretary: Lisa Ramsey
Treasurer: Tim Boebel
Council members: Liz Franke, Paige Giannetti, Chris Wisbar
Pastor: Doug Fidler