

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
(In-person, FaceBook Live, or
posted later on our website)

Sunday School: (TBD)

From the Pastor



Growing up I was part of a couple mission congregations. My father started Resurrection Lutheran in Lebanon, Ohio and was the second pastor at St. Andrew, North Olmsted. In both places the church was in our home. The church office, church supplies, church meetings were part of family life. The excitement when land was purchased, the dreams about when we'd have a "church" (meaning a building), the joy of watching the structure go up and the enthusiasm of gathering in a new place filled every fellowship.

Week after week we would meet at a local school and we'd set up chairs, roll out an altar, set the hymnals out and then after worship put everything away, and of course haul some stuff home. Being part of this daily and weekly ritual was very much a part of my call to ministry. Not being part of the gathered community on Sunday morning and throughout the week leaves me empty. Fellowship, the gathering of the body of Christ is what defines Church. This is why we begin our worship with Paul's words to the Corinthians, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

God is present in our fellowship! "The Lord be with you!" Yes, indeed the Lord is! So, the exuberant response is "AND ALSO WITH YOU!!!" The evangelist John writes in his first letter, "That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also you, so that you may have fellowship with us." (1 John 1:3) and he continues by saying that this fellowship makes our joy complete. Worship is essential to life!

The pandemic has really stressed the church across denominations and around the world. Not gathering or gathering in various alternative ways has scattered the fellowship, the gathering of the people of God. On-line venues have helped, as good as they are, but nothing beats face-to-face fellowship.

Back in 2014 I was home bound for five weeks after knee replacements. I tried watching some services, reading sermons but my soul ached for the fellowship. The visits from the congregation were like honey from the comb, as the Psalmist says. Sweeter than sweet!

Is there a joy in the fellowship for you? Do you look forward to gathering with the people of God? "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. (Philippians 4:3). Twenty some years ago when this congregation was organized the name "Rejoice!" was chosen appropriately because that is what we did as we gathered in places like the Barlow Center, here on this vacant lot, gathered with the Mission Builders as the building was erected and today in our sanctuary. Fellowship is about rejoicing in what God has done and is doing and will be doing among us.

Continued on page 2....

From the Pastor, *continued from pg 1*

Bishop Barbins, when she was with us the end of September mentioned how the Church is changing. We've heard it before, and she reiterated for us that reality. Yes, church has been changing for a number of decades. The pandemic pushed the church overnight into that change. We live in a society where fewer and fewer are part the fellowship of the weekly gathering of God's people. Many things have taken its place and we won't be going back to the blue laws some of us grew up with. However, the message of the Church has not changed. God is with us. God is active among us. God is bringing about the reign of heaven among us. We have a foretaste of that each week in the fellowship.

The Lord IS here among us, in the fellowship of the Father to the Son to the Spirit to us, igniting our spirits in love and joy to and with one another. The Lord is here among us in the Word, in the song, in bread and wine. The Lord gathers us saints and sinners to wrap His love around us, to assure us that there is nothing that can separate us from God and that whatever happens this week, God is there with us making our joy complete. There is no other place I'd rather be on a Sunday morning than in the fellowship. Come, everything is set up. God is here.

Pastor Doug

President's Report

We continue to have so much to rejoice in! Whether you have school-aged children or not, there is some routine that typically comes with post-Labor Day and Autumn. For me that routine means less travel, more dinners at home, renewed commitment to bible study and more frequent attendance at church. This routine is also natural for your church Council. While we were hard at work throughout the summer, our progress in ministry and other activities tends to accelerate. Our new website has just launched. Please check it out at www.rejoicelc.org. Minor edits and improvements will continue to be made on it as well as normal updates to refresh the content. Many thanks to Carla Maurer and Liz Franke for your assistance and input. We've had some recent property maintenance items that Chris Wisbar has handled without us missing a beat. Thank you Chris.

This past Sunday we hosted Bishop Laura Barbins. She shared her insights on moving forward with a purposeful vision. If you missed her sermon, look for it on Facebook or the website for the replay.

As we head into October, we have a lot in the works. We have begun the upgrades to enhance our online worship experience. Our audio equipment has been upgraded and new cameras will be installed over the next month. Many thanks to Janet Juliano for your research and work. The office and soundboard computers are also being upgraded as those machines are close to 10 years old. Thanks to Bill Clothier and Janet for making this happen. Also in October, the executive committee will be meeting with Mission Investment Fund regarding our mortgage payment modifications. Additionally we are beginning to prepare for our annual congregational meeting. We are seeking individuals that are interested in serving in a leadership role on Council. New council members will be voted on in December. Please chat with any current Council member if you are interested in serving.

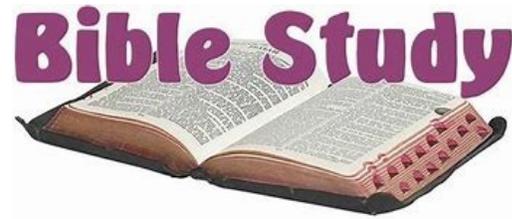
In Christ's love,
Bethany Bryant

Pastor Doug's Bible Study

Pastor Doug's Bible study Thursdays 7pm on Zoom. We're going through the book of Romans.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86751292678?pwd=KzRYdzIEUC9vRnVOQm5xd3J2azB0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 867 5129 2678

Passcode: 873888



The Hudson Community Service Association News



The Hudson Community Service Association Food Pantry continues to undergo changes! The food donations program will no longer focus on specific food items, thus the food donation collection on the second Thursday at Rejoice will no longer be in effect. If a Rejoice congregation member or any Hudson community member wishes to donate to the Food Pantry, financial giving and products are greatly appreciated. The table in the hallway beside the Food Pantry door is always available to receive donations.

Ginny Pillsbury has been appointed by Rejoice's church council to represent Rejoice to the Hudson Community Service Association. Please contact Ginny with your concerns or questions. Ginny is on the HCSA Food Pantry committee and thus helps to make policy for the Food Pantry. Volunteers will be desired at a future date for a food distribution. Because the present 26 organizations in the Hudson Community Service Association are being asked to provide volunteers, Rejoice in the future will be asked to provide volunteers for the Saturday distribution. The dates are the fourth Saturday in a month except in November and December the Food Pantry distribution is the third Saturday of the month.

During the course of this very difficult year, the Food Pantry has served as many as 40 families which had a total of 110 members. Yes, the number of families served is less but this last month overall 74 people received food. Rejoice is a very important part of serving those families in need in Hudson, Ohio!

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

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



October Birthdays

5	Marilyn Olzmann
31	Bob Treend

October Anniversaries

14	Paul & Monica Leszek
21	Dave & Christina Boehm

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

Note from the Treasurer

Rejoice paid \$57,500 in August for completion of parking lot resurfacing which is reflected as negative offset in Other Income. Pledges donated for parking lot fund had provided positive impact to Other Income in previous months. Appreciate the congregation's contributions to parking lot fund that supported this needed repair.

Also, we paid \$4,837 in August for new air conditioner units as the Property Committee continues to address required repairs.

Thanks,
Tim Boebel

August 2021 Financial Report

2021	August Actual	August Budget	August Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2021 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$4,374	\$7,709	(\$3,335)	\$73,759	\$61,667	\$12,092	\$92,500
Capital Revenue	\$2,159	\$2,667	(\$508)	\$24,781	\$21,333	\$3,448	\$32,000
Other	(\$50,207)	\$1,458	(\$51,665)	\$7,771	\$11,674	(\$3,903)	\$17,510
Total Income	(\$43,674)	\$11,834	(\$55,508)	\$106,311	\$94,674	\$11,637	\$142,010
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$13,606	\$7,685	(\$5,921)	\$74,508	\$65,476	(\$9,032)	\$101,078
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$37,182	\$32,000	(\$5,182)	\$48,000
Total Expenses	\$17,606	\$11,685	(\$5,921)	\$111,690	\$97,476	(\$14,214)	\$149,078
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	(\$61,280)	\$149		(\$5,379)	(\$2,802)		(\$7,068)

Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$2,500	\$3,333	(\$833)	\$5,000
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REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Phone: 330-653-5980
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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:

October – Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center/
Camp

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

December - Rejoice Samaritan Fund

New Rejoice Website

We're still working on minor adjustments, but the new Rejoice website was recently launched. Check it out!

www.rejoicelc.org

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, Paige Giannetti

