

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
Tim Boebel
Liz Franke
Pete Moore
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



"If you choose, you can make me clean." 41 Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" 42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. Mark 1:40-42

I've had to make visits with my chiropractor of late. The accumulation of 14 inches, 5 inches, 3 inches, 2 inches, 1 inch, 1 inch ... has gotten to me. The snow blower works fine but it's the piles at the end of the driveway from the city plow that I have to remove by hand. Chiro (Greek for hand) as in chiropractor is a doctor who practices healing through the touch of the hand. Knowing how and where to touch brings healing. As I write this there a couple fresh inches of snow on the walk and driveway, but it will sit there until it melts, hopefully in the coming week. This guy is done.

The human touch is so important. In the verses above you can almost hear the man with leprosy sigh as Jesus reaches out His hand to touch the man and make him clean, whole, renewed, alive. Jesus knew that the problems people face are not only the illnesses and physical and mental deformity which are so common. There are other "illnesses" common to us. Jesus saw them in the words and actions that exclude and separate one from another, in the racism, bigotry, prejudice, selfishness. We wall off others because we fear. Jesus reaches out to touch, to welcome, to love.

When the leper cried out, "Make me clean!" the man was crying out for more than healing. He was crying out to be received back into human community. He was pleading for a chance to become fully human once again. Human touch restores community. How painful it is to be isolated, excluded, ignored, and cut off.

While Mark in his Gospel telling is telling us about a leper who came to Jesus for healing and the word of healing that came from Jesus, we must recognize immediately that he is also talking about us. We are part of this story. You and I are in the mix of this equation. It is our leprosy that is at issue when we hear about this incident, for sin is our separation, our death. Like leprosy, it tears at us from the inside out. Sin separates us from community, from wholeness, from life. Separated from all community . . . community with God and with our fellow human beings by this leprosy. It will become our death . . . we are in a most desperate situation. Unless...

A Healer arrives to whom we dare make the simple plea, "If you will, you can make me clean." And what a blessed relief it is to hear the words from the one who alone has the right and the power to utter them: "I will; be clean." In speaking to them Jesus reaches out to touch us, and His arms are spread to embrace us. Oh what joy to know that God's Got This! In touching our sinfulness Jesus takes it up into Himself and gives us the touch of His wholeness in return!

Continued on page 2...

From the Pastor, *continued from pg 1*

And that's the Gospel... the story of God bending to touch humanity. Reach out your hand and allow Jesus to grab hold and offer you the fullness of life. Jesus touched him... the hand of God placed on a world God would not give up. God's work... and now OUR hands. As God reaches out to us we are cleansed, restored, forgiven and beloved! Jesus touches US and turns our mourning into dancing and clothes us with joy.

From the sense of healing and trust we now find in that touch of the Savior we move out to the community, to the world around us. We reach across the leprous barriers of our world, the dislocation of daily life. We reach out with courage and compassion to touch our brothers and sisters that all may experience the embrace of Christ's compassion, Christ's forgiveness, and Christ's love. We become Christ for each other... through a simple touch of the hand.

Looking for a Valentine greeting? Touch someone with God's love. "God loves you and so do I."

Pastor Doug

President's Report

January arrived with a vengeance! With the pandemic spiking and winter weather roaring, we entered the new year with a few dark clouds. Thank goodness Epiphany was here!

Council convened for our first meeting of the year and elected officers. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as President again and look forward to continuing to engage with each of you individually and collectively as we continue our important ministries and define a long term path. Please congratulate Liz Franke for stepping in as Vice President, Chris Wisbar as Secretary, and Tim Boebel continuing as Treasurer. I also want to thank Paige Giannetti and Janet Juliano for their years of service and once again welcome Pete Moore to Council.

We took stock of our successes in 2021 and set new goals for 2022. We continue to explore opportunities to partner with other congregations to strengthen our community outreach and leverage strengths across congregations. We have had a number of visitors recently. Please give them the warm welcome that Rejoice is so well known for.

Given the spike in COVID our January gatherings for fellowship were limited. I pray for us to find opportunities and stay connected during these long winter months. If you haven't seen someone at church in a while, please reach out. This month is a perfect month to leverage our "You've been ARK'd" items, so grab a Starbucks gift card from the front desk and leave it in the mailbox for your mailman, or enjoy a warm beverage with a neighbor some evening. I look forward to a slightly warmer February! and spring is just around the corner.

Bethany Bryant
President

Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendars and dust off your chili recipes for the return of the Chili Cook Off on Saturday, February 26 at 5:30 pm at the church. This year's fundraiser will benefit the homeless men and women at Akron's Haven of Rest. We plan to buy and donate socks.

A sign up to participate sheet is located at the Welcome Station. In addition to chili, we'll be looking for donations of cornbread, drinks or dessert. Please invite your family and friends for an evening of post-holiday fun and fellowship, all while supporting a good cause.



NOTE: Updated information about Senior Transportation

DISCOUNTED TRANSPORTATION**

FOR HUDSON SENIORS 60 yrs + and travel within a mile of Hudson School District Borders

- Medical appointments
- Grocery
- Errands
- Religious service/events
- Social events
- Personal visits



- **Only pay pick-up fee of \$10 per round trip; mileage covered by grant below
- **Pick-up fee waived for religious events (within mile of Hudson) and trips to Hudson Food Panty;
Call Hudson Community Resource Coordinator 234-380-9303 to qualify for waiving \$10 fee if low income
- Up to 5 round trips per senior, including one round trip of up to 70 miles for medical appointment
- Services available until grant funds (or 5 round trips) exhausted
- Grant funding does not cover any wait-time by driver
- Contact paigegiannetti@roadrunner.com with any questions

24-hour notice strongly recommended;
available 7 days/week; 7 am-8pm

Grant sponsored by Evangelical Lutheran Church of America through Rejoice! Lutheran Church, Hudson

Hudson Community Service Association Food Pantry

2021 was a challenging year for the Hudson Community Service Association and its Food Pantry given the realities of Covid-19 and changes of leadership within HCSA and the Food Pantry.

Volunteers from Rejoice and HCSA member organizations not only kept the Pantry open but added refrigeration, grocery carts and storage units to expand food offerings to our neighbors in need. During 2021 the Food Pantry moved from bagged food delivered to waiting automobiles to a full choice pantry which now includes meat, dairy and fresh produce. Neighbors come into Rejoice and select the food that they wish by shopping in the Pantry and from tables located in the hallways of Rejoice.

Recently the running of the Food Pantry moved to a team lead organizational model. New Hudson resident Patti Rinehart, who recently joined HCSA, was named and affirmed as Chair of its Food Pantry Committee. Patti had earlier in 2021 taken on an advisory role with the new team at the Food Pantry. Given Patti's previous experience in Columbus managing a Food Pantry, she was asked to be the point of contact with the Food Pantry's partner the Akron Canton Food Bank. Other members of the leadership team are Rejoice members Felicia Leipzig, Coordinator of Food Pantry Operations and John Leipzig, Assistant Coordinator of Operations. Sue Talarcek is Coordinator of Donations and Linda Arnold is Coordinator of Distributions. All members of the team advise and work directly with Patti Rinehart and the seven members of the HCSA Food Pantry Committee to ensure smooth, efficient, effective and compassionate running of the Pantry at Rejoice. Rejoice Lutheran Church appointed Ginny Pillsbury as their official representative to HCSA, and she serves on HCSA's Food Pantry Committee.

2021 statistics for the HCSA Food Pantry were:

- The Pantry distributed food (served) 382 times in 2021. This is the equivalent of about 9300 meals.
- The Pantry served 61 unique/individual families. These families are comprised of 171 people.
- The average number of visits to the Pantry was 6. However, 12 of the 61 families shopped with the Pantry one time in 2021, while 26 families came 8 or more times.
- 34% were children. 50% were adults. 16% were seniors.
- 15 new families shopped with the Pantry in 2021.
- 30 of the 61 families solely received food from the Pantry at Rejoice.

For 2022 the Pantry plans on providing more options in the way of perishable items and frozen meat. Families in emergency situations or who are unable to attend the scheduled distribution day can contact the Pantry's cellphone and new website for assistance.

Rejoice Lutheran Church continues to provide space for Food Pantry operations which is greatly appreciated by all involved with the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry provides an important service for the community of Hudson. If you have any questions, please let us know by using any of the contact information below.

Email: pantrymanager@hudsoncsa.org

New website: www.hudsoncsa.org

Pantry phone number: 234-380-7402

Hudson Community Service Association Food Pantry Committee Chair: Patti Rinehart, 614 315 6341
sprinehart@yahoo.com

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=KzRYdzlEUC9vRnVQm5xd3J2azB0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 867 5129 2678

Passcode: 873888

Bible Study



February Birthdays

2	Bob Giannetti
3	Gordon McBride
5	Zachary Ramsey
20	Gail Bergman
20	Linda Freborg
21	Ross McLelland
23	Judi Boebel



CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON HAS BEEN RE-SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 28, 2022—SAVE THE DATE AND WATCH FOR DETAILS

Evening Women's Bible Study —via Zoom

The Women's Bible Study group is studying a new book, "Psalms: Prayers of the Heart".

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

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



December 2021 Financial Report

	Dec Actual	Dec Budget	Dec Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2021 Budget
2021							
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$10,350	\$7,709	\$2,641	\$98,082	\$92,500	\$5,582	\$92,500
Capital Revenue	\$7,495	\$2,667	\$4,828	\$38,829	\$32,000	\$6,829	\$32,000
Other	\$3,711	\$1,458	\$2,253	\$86,141	\$17,510	\$68,631	\$17,510
Total Income	\$21,556	\$11,834	\$9,722	\$223,052	\$142,010	\$81,042	\$142,010
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$11,269	\$7,685	(\$3,584)	\$175,075	\$96,218	(\$78,857)	\$96,218
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$53,690	\$48,000	(\$5,690)	\$48,000
Total Expenses	\$15,269	\$11,685	(\$3,584)	\$228,765	\$144,218	(\$84,547)	\$144,218
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$6,287	\$149		(\$5,713)	(\$2,208)		(\$2,208)

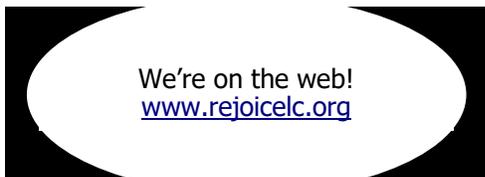
Benevolence Giving	\$1,250	\$417	\$833	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
---------------------------	---------	-------	-------	---------	---------	-----	---------

REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

7855 Stow Rd.
Hudson, Ohio 44236

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

Happy
Valentine's
Day



Letter from St. Pauly Textile (administrators of the clothing shed in our parking lot)

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you and your families safe and warm this winter. We're happy to report that 2021 was a record year. Over *40 million* pounds of clothing were donated to our clothing sheds—that's over 200,000 pounds of clothing collected every business day!

Every clothing shed is an important part of the big picture. Here are some numbers to show you the impact of you own shed made in 2021...

- 32,563 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2021
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 5,999 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$1,303

Thank you so much for partnering with us on this. We truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to the clothing shed program.

Sincerely,

The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.



Acts of Rejoice Kindness—"ARK'd"



THE
ARK

Pick up a "You've been ARK'd" card at Church and send a "Thank You" to someone who has been a blessing in your life or someone who is a complete stranger. Do an act of kindness for a stranger, a neighbor and give them a "You've been ARK'd card. We still have a few more Starbucks gift cards that you can include with your ARK'd card. These are simply ways to let the community know that we love and care for them!

Greeting Cards

The Care team is now sending greeting cards to people on our Prayer List. The cards will be available on Sunday morning for all to sign. If you want a card sent to someone, please provide an address to the office.

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