

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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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



January 1st – New Year’s Day, a day to look back at where we’ve been and looking forward with resolution into the New Year with hope for a better year to come. January 1st is also the 8th Day of Christmas. According to Jewish custom a male child is circumcised on the eighth day and given a name, which according to Luke’s Gospel narrative is what happened. *“After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”* (Luke 2:21) Circumcision is a sign of the covenant, linking every male child to the faith of Abraham. It’s a personal, yet external sign to remind the individual that God has cut a covenant with him and will never abandon him. Naming is also very important. Adam and Eve are given the task of naming all the animals. It was the long-held belief that something did not exist unless it was named. Naming gives control and power over the object. That’s the meaning of “having dominion” -given charge of something. We name our children, our pets, and perhaps other objects too, and that binds us in covenant to them to guard, to nurture, to give life. We give serious attention to the names we give. My sons Benjamin and Joseph have a long story behind them. Their middle names “Douglas” is a multi-generational tradition. Names link us to those who bestow them upon us. The one thing we do not name is God. Moses asks for God’s name and the word from the burning bush is “I Am who I Am.” It’s not a name but an action, a verb. In the Hebrew it is one word and lest anyone think that that is the name of the Lord God, the rabbi’s took the vowels from “Lord” and put them under “I Am” making the word unpronounceable.

You see God names us! In Baptism (male and female) we are given the name of Jesus- because unto us that Child is born, with Us God makes a dwelling, for Us His blood was shed. It is Us, you and me, whom He came to save. The name Jesus means “He will save.” In Baptism we are linked to THAT story of salvation where God watches over us, nurtures us, gives us life, abundantly. It is in the name of Christ that we find meaning and purpose. We are Christ-like- because we bear His name. As we enter into the year of our Lord (**Anno Domini**) 2022 we look to our Lord for guidance. The story of this year is waiting to be written. Oh, the tabloids and blogs have made their predictions (but I wouldn’t put much stock in them). There is yet something to be written for each one of us, for each family, for Rejoice! and our community, for our country, the Church universal, the Body of Christ in this world which He has redeemed.

Bearing the name of Jesus, we are called to be Christ-like in the place we live and engage. That also means we are connected to the story of Jesus, being the hands, the feet, the voices, the heart and the means of touching this world with the God who dwells in us.

Continued on page 2...

From the Pastor, *continued from pg 1*

January 1st is a reminder that we bear the name of Christ. We look back and know that we have failed to be Christ-like in many ways. We look ahead knowing that we have been sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, lavished with the gifts of grace to be God's people. We make the sign of the cross as we enter each and every day knowing that is a day lived in the name of Jesus, and a year lived within His powerful care and his gracious Lordship. The story of this year is waiting to be written by God, acting through all who follow Jesus and call upon His name, wherever we are, wherever we go, whatever we do. So, bear the name proudly. I am a Christian! And then show others the love that God has for you is extended to the other.

"...and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21). In a world so in need of being rescued, amidst a people so yearning for a hope that is rock-solid real, we are given the Word –"The Lord will save." (in Hebrew Yeshua -Jesus). May our hearts be so filled with that promise that our lips are quick to proclaim it and our lives be lived in accordance to it as the story continues in this brand-New Year of Our Lord 2022.

Pastor Doug

President's Report

Happy New Year! We rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior and celebrate the new year of blessings that He brings.

As I look back over 2021, it was quite a year as we lived with the longevity of the COVID pandemic.

We worked hard to transition back to growth in our ministries and be a beacon of light to others sharing God's love. We expanded our ministries to those who are underserved in our community through several large efforts and continue to be a true blessing to those who are struggling financially, have special abilities, or who are senior citizens in Hudson and the surrounding cities. Our partnership with the HCSA Food Pantry continued to expand, both with additional volunteers from Rejoice as well as through expanded services it offers each month. Additionally, we opened our doors to Teammates and provide a safe and productive learning environment daily for those with learning disabilities. While these are ways our building is used routinely, we have engaged many members in these ministries to make them become vibrant and effective. Lastly, we began a new ministry providing transportation to senior citizens in our community to church services, medical appointments and local errands. We have been successful in securing additional grants to continue the program well into 2022.

Additionally, we relaunched our website with an inviting look and just recently launched "You've been ARK'd" (Acts of Rejoice Kindness) so that we may be proactive in sharing our faith in small ways. Financially, we had a solid year of stable results with essentially a break-even year. We rejoice in our ability to raise almost \$60,000 to repave the parking lot. Our Call Committee remained focused on working with our Synod office and identifying candidates for permanent pastor leadership. In tandem, our Council began working with our Synod on potential partnerships with other congregations. These conversations will take some time to determine if a path forward makes sense.

If you missed the congregational meeting this month, you missed electing Pete Moore to Council and passing a break-even budget. You also missed an update on our Call and shared ministry activities. Please see a Council member for more information. Serving as your congregation President has been a true honor in 2021 and one that I am humbled to hold with God's guidance. I appreciate each of you for sharing your encouragement, ideas, thoughts and prayers during my time as Rejoice! Council President. New elections will be held at the January 2022 meeting. A special thanks to Janet Juliano who ends her term on Council. Janet, you continue to be a blessing.

I implore you to see the vibrant things happening and take a more active part in the growth of Rejoice! Our faith comes alive when we share it with others. We fill our own cup, only when we fill the cup of others. "God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called." I pray that no matter what is asked of you and Rejoice! or the trials that will inevitably come our way, we trust that God has equipped us to do anything. Rejoice!

Bethany Bryant
President

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

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



CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20, 2022

In celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Hudson churches are planning the annual interdenominational prayer service and luncheon scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM. St. Mary Catholic Church in Hudson, located at 340 N. Main St., will host the event. *This year the service will be in-person following CDC COVID guidelines for safety. Masks are not mandatory, but are encouraged for all (except during lunch).* The ecumenical prayer service, led by local clergy, will focus on the theme, "We saw his star in the East, and we came to worship him" (*Matthew 2:2*) Rev. Lawrence Jurcak, St. Mary Parish, Hudson, will give the sermon.

The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by a group of Middle Eastern clergy and laypeople.

Ticket holders will enjoy a box lunch catered by Nosh, immediately following the service. The box lunch options are a chicken salad sandwich made with almonds, red grapes, and herb mayonnaise on multi-grain bread or creamy Havarti and artichoke vegetarian sandwich with baby arugula and basil aioli on artisan bread. Lunch also includes pasta salad and a dark chocolate chip cookie with sea salt. Coffee, tea, and bottled water will also be available. *You will need to make your lunch selection when you purchase your ticket.*

Our featured speaker after the luncheon is Rev. Nayiri Karjian, from Living Water Association. Nayiri has been serving as the General Minister of the Association since February 2018. An Armenian Christian born and raised in Aleppo, Syria, Nayiri graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Haigazian University, and Near East School of Theology, Beirut Lebanon; and with a Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA. Since her ordination in 1985 she has served UCC congregations in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Chicago, Houston, St Louis, and Colorado Springs. Nayiri has shared her gifts both as settled and transitional Minister, including numerous board and committees on the UCC National Setting.

The ticket price is \$15.00 per person for the luncheon and speaker portion of the event. Tickets are available now, see Carla Maurer or Ginny Pillsbury. Make checks for tickets payable to Rejoice Lutheran Church. **Reservation deadline is January 9, 2022.**

The prayer service is free and open to all; it does not require a ticket to attend.

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been celebrated throughout the world since 1908 and it has been celebrated in Hudson since 1968. The Christian Unity Prayer Service brings the churches from our community together through prayer and praise, reflecting the prayer of Jesus Christ, "That all might be one" (John 17:21).

Representatives from the following churches and organizations have participated in planning this event: Christ Church Episcopal, First Congregational Church of Hudson, Hudson United Methodist Church, Laurel Lake Retirement Community, Rejoice! Lutheran Church, St. Mary Parish, and Western Reserve Christian Church.



Call Committee Update

January, 2022

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were fabulous and that you are excited to enter 2022. The reality check is that can be hard to do especially with the ongoing pandemic. Last year, we interviewed what felt like a lot of candidates without any of them being the person God wants us to call to serve with us. The final candidate, who we interviewed over Thanksgiving, determined that the commute would be too far to effectively work with us on our community based missions, particularly on a part-time basis.

The process can be frustrating, so for 2022 I made a number of resolutions, and encourage you to consider making some for 2022 as well. Mine are all God-centered because I know He's got this.

1. Pray regularly, with the intention of listening for God's guidance.
2. Attend church services for fellowship with God's people – remote or in person.
3. Study the Bible. For me, it will be a combo of group classes and personal reading.
4. Be engaged in Rejoice's mission in the community! The community food pantry always needs volunteers, Teammates is a vibrant partner, and the technology committee can always use some help – even if it is as simple as sending pictures for the website or preparing a powerpoint.
5. Pray regularly. Yes, I know this is here twice. It's that important.

Here's to a blessed 2022! Please keep Pastor Doug, the call committee, and our synodical leaders in your prayers. Thank you,

Russ Ackerman
 Chris Bryant
 Tom Freborg
 Felicia Leipzig
 Carla Maurer
 Marilyn Olzmann
 Ellen Wisbar



January Birthdays

11	Marisa McLelland
16	Dana Bryant
22	Joyce Clothier
24	Ellen Ackerman
25	Jen Radel

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@rejoicecl.org

Thank you all for your cards, greetings and generous gifts this Christmas!

May God Bless you in the new year!

—Carla Maurer



November 2021 Financial Report

2021	Nov Actual	Nov Budget	Nov Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2021 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$3,715	\$7,709	(\$3,994)	\$87,732	\$84,791	\$2,941	\$92,500
Capital Revenue	\$1,727	\$2,667	(\$940)	\$31,334	\$29,333	\$2,001	\$32,000
Other	\$9,034	\$1,458	\$7,576	\$82,429	\$16,052	\$66,377	\$17,510
Total Income	\$14,476	\$11,834	\$2,642	\$201,495	\$130,176	\$71,319	\$142,010
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$7,560	\$8,102	\$542	\$164,314	\$88,533	(\$75,781)	\$101,078
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$49,182	\$44,000	(\$5,182)	\$48,000
Total Expenses	\$11,560	\$12,102	\$542	\$213,496	\$132,533	(\$80,963)	\$149,078
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$2,916	(\$268)		(\$12,001)	(\$2,357)		(\$7,068)
Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$3,750		\$3,750	\$5,000

REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

7855 Stow Rd.
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Phone: 330-653-5980
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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



Acts of Rejoice Kindness—"ARK'd"

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 and 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