

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

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Bethany Bryant
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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



After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Luke 10:1-2

Baseball is America's favorite pastime. Youth learn the game from an early age and either organized in community or little league play or neighborhood street or backyard ball the game is much loved as both a participant and spectator game. Deborah and I enjoy the game or often listen to the broadcasts. Occasionally, we'll get the chance to go to a Guardians or Rubber Duck's game. It's fun to be at the ballpark and be part of the crowd- even when the home team doesn't win. Later this month we're taking my 5 year old grandson to his first ball game.

This is how the game is played, but I also remember my days in little league and watching my boys play in the early years of organized ball. Like their dad they didn't advance far but playing was fun. Now major league ball is big business and draws thousands of fans each year to the ball parks to watch the escapades of their favorite team. But for many of those "boys of summer" it was just 15 or 20, 25 years earlier that they were learning the basics in coach pitch play. There were fewer fans - parents and maybe a grandparent or two but equally as entertaining maybe even more so than those who play in "The Show"- the big leagues.

If you've ever seen a dozen or so 5 & 6 year old rookies learning to play ball, you know what I mean, and if you haven't - well, let me try to give you an idea.

To successfully complete a routine third-to-first put-out, for example, the third baseman has to be paying attention when the batter hits the ball, has to continue to focus on the ball until it's in the glove, then has to pick it out cleanly with the throwing hand (the one without the glove), set one's feet, and heave it across the infield in the direction of first base.

The first baseman also has to be paying attention. Has to maintain that focus until that ball is in the vicinity, at which time catch, block, or chase after it, and then remember to touch 1st base.

Oh, and the kid in the middle of the infield has to keep an eye on the ball and remember to duck as it hopefully sails overhead. The odds of all this happening on any given play are fairly remote, at least at this stage of the game.

But they keep trying, and the coach keeps up a steady chatter: "Okay Ryan, watch the ball, watch the ball, buddy, watch it right into your glove - now get it to Sam. Sam, are you ready? Watch for the ball Erica! Get down, Erica! Okay, Ben good try, go get the ball and don't forget to come back and step on the base... hurry, hurry now. Good job. Whew! One play.

From the Pastor, *continued from pg 1*

That's just beginner ball, and thanks to a very patient and good-humored coach, they are usually having fun while learning the fundamentals of the game. They get better over the years as they continue with the game, so that 3rd to 1st play becomes almost instinctual and they learn to duck out of the way of an errant ball thrown by a young pitcher. They learn to drop the bat and run to first when they make contact with the ball and eventually they don't need to be coached at every moment of the game. You don't hear Francona yelling at the Guardians to stop playing in the dirt and watch the ball do you?

The Gospel story in Luke 10 Jesus sends out 70 plays into the field (70 is about the membership of Rejoice!)— they are a bunch of rookie evangelists who are ready to get into the game. They'd been following Jesus and listening to Him preach and teach about the Kingdom of God, they'd seen His acts of compassion, of healing and forgiving. So, before they hit the field Jesus does some coaching. It turns out to be not unlike the sort of coaching I've heard at little league practices. "Pay attention to what's going on – keep your eye on the ball – focus on the job at hand."

Read Luke 10 for the bullet point instructions! Luke then follows up with examples of "good play" telling about the Good Samaritan and Mary and Martha.

There's a sense of urgency driving Jesus' instructions, the sense that opportunities are slipping away even as He speaks. There's an intensity about the Kingdom's proclamation, the sense that it's so terrifi- cally important that as people NEED to hear this and need to hear it sooner rather than later.

Now, of course baseball is just a game, big money, and effort for some, but just a game. Jesus mes- sage is Good News that everyone needs to hear and there is an increasingly number of folks to whom what we have to share is Good and News.

In little league the coach will say it over and over again, "Keep your eye on the ball." In all the things we do as Rejoice! – worship, bible study, quilting, care cards, ark encounters, fellowship, participating in the Hudson Community we are to "keep the main thing, the main thing." We proclaim Jesus Christ and how He has brought us from death to life.

Last month in the Tuesday Tidings I shared part of my story- what's your story of faith. What is the way God has "coached" you? Where has God's story and your story "made a play?" Jesus' basic coaching is the same in 2022 as it was the day He sent out the 70: "Pay attention to the opportunities – focus on the message—keep your eye on what's important, and don't sweat the other stuff."

And as we're having fun learning by doing, isn't it great to hear Him say, "Good Try!" and sometimes even "Way to go! Well done!"

And though I'm retiring, I'm not exiting the game. I'll continue to look for those plays where I can say, "Isn't God good!" "Let me tell you how God has touched my life." And when the play is way over my head or going by me so fast I don't get it, - you know what to say, "God's Got This." Always and God's got you!

Thank you for letting me play the game with you these past couple of years. It's been great!

Pastor Doug

President's Report

We are half way through the year and summer is in full swing. Last month I wrote with news that we will say farewell to Pastor Doug. His last Sunday is July 10 and we will celebrate his time with us the evening before with a pot- luck dinner on Saturday, July 9. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Doug for shepherding us during the worst of the pandemic, being a steady and inspiring guide in our spiritual journey and helping to encourage our next chapter. We wish you well Pastor Doug!

We have been preparing for Deacon Erin, finalizing her interim agreement and preparing for the logistics like payroll and benefits. I have no doubt we will embrace the change with grace and eagerness.



President's Report...continued from page 2

Also this past month we hosted Pastor John Corsi from St. Stephen Lutheran to lead worship. If you attended worship and had an opportunity to chat with him, please share your feedback with a Council member. We will continue our shared ministry dialogue once Deacon Erin is engaged. Council is also working with the Food Pantry to extend our ministry in hosting them in our building, and fully expects to maintain that ministry here at Rejoice.

Blessings,
Bethany Bryant
President

New Adult Formation Class "How Jesus Became God" June 26, 2022—Dec 4, 2022

In the briefest and most succinct historical interpretation, Jesus of Nazareth was a preacher of the imminent apocalypse, who proclaimed that God was soon going to intervene in history, overthrow the forces of evil, and set up a good kingdom here on earth. In the last week of his life, Jesus took his message to Jerusalem, the capital city of Judea, and there, faced violent opposition. He was arrested, put on trial, charged with imagining himself the future king of the Jews, and condemned to death by crucifixion. He died as a powerless and forsaken Jewish preacher of an apocalypse that never came.

Yet four centuries later, millions of people throughout the Roman Empire considered Jesus not to be a failed Jewish prophet but to be a divine being, none other than the God who created the universe, equal in power and stature with God the Father Almighty.

This course addresses the question of how that happened. How did the rejected Jewish preacher who ended up on the wrong side of the law and was crucified for his efforts come to be known as the Lord and creator of all things, a member of the divine Trinity? How did Jesus become God?

This course will be comprised of 24 video lectures by Bart Ehrman, Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill followed by discussion. A participant handbook will be provided. The course will begin via Zoom Conferencing on Sunday, June 26, beginning at 7:00 pm and run weekly until December 4, 2022.

Interested participants may register by emailing Rick KrumeL at rkrumel@roadrunner.com.

Pastor Brian's Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Brian's Bible Study. Join us on Wednesday's at 7:00pm for more Resurrection Stores. Everyone invited: Here's the zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 322 240 0299

Passcode: COSJ2020



Discounted Senior Transportation

*****FREE TRANSPORTATION**

FOR HUDSON SENIORS (60 years and older) for travel within a mile of Hudson School District Borders

- Medical Appointments
- Grocery Shopping
- Errands
- Religious Service/Events
- Social events/visits
- Up to 5 round trips per senior, including one round trip of up to 70 miles for medical appointment
- Services available until grant money (or 5 round trips) runs out
- Contact paigegiannetti@roadrunner.com with any questions

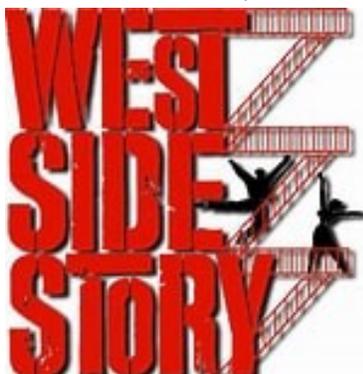
24-hour notice strongly recommended;
available 7 days/week; 7 am-8pm

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



Fellowship Event at Porthouse Theater

Please join us on Sunday, August 14 for a (2:00 pm) matinee performance of West Side Story at Porthouse Theater in Cuyahoga Falls (near Blossom). Ticket pricing is \$25 per person for groups of 10 or more (or \$36 if fewer than 10). You can also bring your lunch and meet at the sheltered picnic area (right by the theater) around 1:00 pm that Paige Giannetti can hold prior to your arrival. Please let Paige Giannetti (paigegiannetti@gmail.com) and Marisa McLelland (mclllandmarisa@gmail.com) know by Sunday July 24 of your commitment so that they can purchase tickets for the group. Carpooling will be available from Rejoice! church.



Evening Women's Bible Study –via Zoom



The Women's Bible Study group is now studying, "Parables".

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



July Birthdays

4	Nina Ackerman
7	Dave Boehm
15	Heather Maurer
18	Ben Klukow
19	Frank Pancake
24	Wendy Klukow
27	Chad Bryant
30	Brian Pillsbury
31	Carla Maurer

July Anniversaries

16	Juliet Jaeger & Frank Pancake
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Women's Retreat—Registration is coming!

To all Rejoice ladies and friends. Mark your calendar for October 7-9th for our Women's Retreat at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center on Chautauqua Lake in western New York! Registration brochures will be available soon! We are looking forward to another fantastic weekend together with Pastor Pam Kelly.

GINNY PILLSBURY



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

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

May 2022 Financial Report

2022	May Actual	May Budget	May Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2022 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$7,421	\$8,458	(\$1,037)	\$36,799	\$42,292	(\$5,493)	\$101,500
Capital Revenue	\$2,532	\$2,917	(\$385)	\$11,605	\$14,583	(\$2,978)	\$35,000
Other	\$1,006	\$2,001	(\$995)	\$17,387	\$10,004	\$7,383	\$24,010
Total Income	\$10,959	\$13,376	(\$2,417)	\$65,791	\$66,879	(\$1,088)	\$160,510
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$8,613	\$8,883	\$270	\$48,176	\$44,419	(\$3,757)	\$106,605
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$50,500
Total Expenses	\$12,613	\$12,883	\$270	\$68,176	\$64,419	(\$3,757)	\$157,105
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	(\$1,654)	\$493		(\$2,385)	\$2,460		\$3,405
Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$1,250	\$2,083	(\$833)	\$5,000

REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hudson Food Pantry News

Hello and Happy 4th of JULY to Rejoice Lutheran!

Once again, the HCSA Food Pantry had a successful distribution on June 25, and is grateful for the continued use of Rejoices space.

This month we had six new families who were in need of services. We also were able to provide children's books in Spanish for three families, thanks to donations from the Friends of the Hudson Library, Our "chef" Anna served a salad with canned red salmon. We feature a recipe each month featuring a product on our shelves.

We also had parent visitors whose children are currently in a residential setting. They met with a Rejoice member with a child in a similar setting. As these neighbors are currently supported by Social Security Disability, they would meet income guidelines to qualify for services.

As regular volunteers get to know the neighbors on a more personal level, we are able to provide comfort as needed for personal or family concerns.

Thank you again Rejoice!!

(Submitted by a Food Pantry Volunteer)

Food Pantry Need

We recently received a request from the Food Pantry that there is a need for feminine hygiene products and other personal hygiene items. There will be a basket outside the office and your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your help!