

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

contact Rejoice!  
330-653-5980

[office@rejoicelc.org](mailto:office@rejoicelc.org)  
[www.rejoicelc.org](http://www.rejoicelc.org)

### church council

Bethany Bryant  
Tim Boebel  
Liz Franke  
Pete Moore  
Chris Wisbar

bulletin and  
newsletter  
[office@rejoicelc.org](mailto:office@rejoicelc.org)

**Sunday Worship**  
at  
Rejoice! Lutheran Church  
  
Worship: Sundays  
10:30am  
(In-person, FaceBook Live, or  
posted later on our website)

Sunday School: (TBD)

Dear Friends:

What a blessing to be in worship with all of you last Sunday as we began the liturgical year and our journey to Bethlehem. There was an energy and joy that was palpable. French Jesuit priest, scientist, paleontologist, theologian, philosopher and teacher, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, wrote: "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." In this 'new beginning' for both our congregations, God is surely present.

I have been a long-time admirer of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. In their New York Times best-seller, *The Book of Joy*, these two great champions of faith, who survived exile and crushing violence, showed that they are two of the most joyful people on the planet.

One of my favorite quotes from the book is in a chapter entitled "*Generosity: We Are Filled with Joy*." The Archbishop stated: "The Bible says that it is in giving that we receive. So, I would hope that people would recognize in themselves that it is when we are "closed" in ourselves that we tend to be miserable. It is when we grow in a self-forgetfulness — in a remarkable way I mean, we discover that we are filled with joy.

"I've sometimes joked and said God doesn't know very much math, because when you give to others, it should be that you are subtracting from yourself. But in this incredible kind of way - I've certainly found that to be the case so many times - you gave and then it seems like, in fact, you are making space for more to be given to you.

"And there is a physical example. The Dead Sea in the Middle East receives fresh water, but it has no outlet, so it doesn't pass the water out. It receives beautiful water from the rivers, and the water goes dank. I mean, it just goes bad. And that's why it is the Dead Sea. It receives and does not give. And we are made much that way, too. I mean, we receive, and we must give. In the end, generosity is the best way of becoming more, more, and more joyful."

The Dalai Lama followed, "We have been brought up to think that we have to obey the laws of the jungle. Eat or be eaten. We are ruthless in our competitiveness... You don't have to have scriptural or religious teaching. It's just the truth: you can't survive on your own. If you say you are going to be totally selfish, in next to no time, the person who is totally selfish goes under. You need other people in order to be human. That's why when they want to punish you they put you in solitary confinement. Because you can't flourish without other human beings. And so we speak of Ubuntu. A person is a person through other persons. And there must have been some people who said, what a primitive way of thinking. Yet, it is the most fundamental law of our being." And leads us to joy.

So, keep up the good work, you crazy "evangelicals"! Count it all joy!! I look forward to being in ministry with you.

Brian

## President's Report

Dear Rejoice,

Tis the time of blessings and festivities! The Advent season has arrived kicking off a new church year as we prepare for the birth of our Lord. This is a time of faith, hope, peace and joy.

It also memorializes a fresh start and time to reflect on our faith and commitments. While the calendar year doesn't end for a few weeks, we too are looking for new beginnings. We will recap the year with our annual meeting on Sunday, December 11 at approximately 11:30 a.m. immediately after worship. Please plan to attend to reflect on our accomplishments, remember our mission and ministries and align on our ministries for 2023. We will be electing new Council members at this meeting and seeking additional input on our shared ministry opportunities.

We are wrapping up our 2023 stewardship campaign. Many thanks to Liz Franke and Janet Juliano for the planning and execution. Please send in your pledge form if you haven't already. You've likely noticed our sanctuary received a facelift. Many thanks to Chris Wisbar for coordinating and all those who helped with set up and decorating.

Our Council continues to engage with Community of Saint John for our shared ministry opportunities. Given the positive feedback and interest we will be worshipping jointly for the foreseeable future to work on forging a mutual path forward. We continue to engage at a slower pace with St. Stephens Lutheran and will pick up our conversations in January once new Council members have been elected for both congregations. As always we need to hear your voice in this process and continue to pray for discernment.

Merry Christmas to you all!  
Bethany Bryant  
President

## Christmas Eve Worship In Person and Live Streamed 5:00 p.m.

There will be one service both in person and Facebook Live streamed at 5:00pm, December 24th.



## Christmas Day Worship, Dec. 25, In Person and Live Streamed, 6:00pm

On Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day, there will be no morning worship service. Instead there will be a quiet, contemplative service at 6:00pm

## CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 19, 2023

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 19th, at 10:00 AM. Hudson United Methodist Church, located at 2670 Hudson-Aurora Road, will host the event. The ecumenical prayer service, will focus on the theme, "Do Good; Seek Justice" (Isaiah 1:17). Rev. Bruce Hartley, Hudson United Methodist Church, will give the homily.

The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by clergy and laypeople from Minnesota.

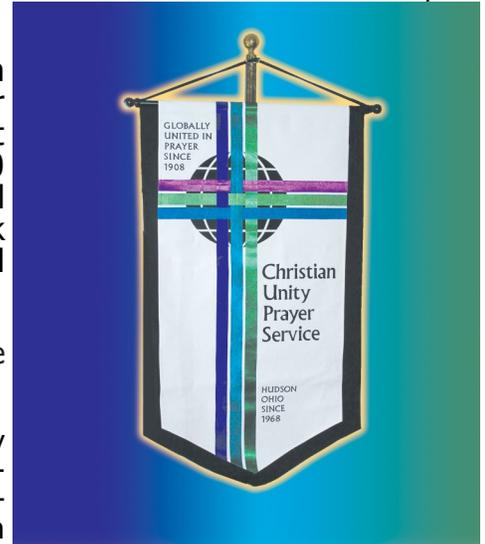
Ticket holders will enjoy a box lunch catered by Nosh, immediately following the service. The box lunch options are a chicken salad sandwich made with almonds, red grapes, and herb mayonnaise on multi-grain bread or a creamy Havarti and artichoke vegetarian sandwich with baby arugula and basil aioli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

Our featured speakers after the luncheon are Jennifer Batton and Dr. James Greenwood, Hudson DEI Alliance speaking about diversion, equity, and inclusion activities in Hudson.

The ticket price is \$20.00 per person for the luncheon and speaker portion of the event. Tickets are available after December 6<sup>th</sup> through your church's representatives, Carla Maurer or Ginny Pillsbury. Make checks for tickets payable to Hudson United Methodist Women. Attendees wishing to hostess a table may indicate their preference when contacting their church representative. **Reservation deadline is January 15, 2023.**

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).



This Thursday - December 1st  
7:00

The Brew Kettle  
11 Atterbury Blvd  
Hudson, Ohio

(They have a HUGE food menu, and I have called ahead)

## Advent and Christmas Worship

### ◆ Christmas Caroling

We will do Indoor Christmas Caroling that we will livestream and can send to shut ins, assisted living facilities and others after church, Sunday December 4th. We hope to do this jointly with Community of Saint John. People who participated last year had a good time. Contact Janet Juliano if you want to be a part of the fun.

We hope to do Outdoor Caroling December 18th, again we invite Community of Saint John members to join in!. Watch for further information.

### ◆ Advent/Christmas Singers

Rejoice and Community of Saint John will be worshipping together in December. We have begun rehearsals for a choir for Christmas Eve and maybe a Sunday in Advent. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9:30am under the direction of Bev O'Connor.

### ◆ Tone Chimes

Each Sunday in Advent tone chimes will be used during the lighting of the Advent wreath. Rehearsals are on Sunday after worship. See Pr. Brian if you'd like to participate.

## Pastor Brian's Wednesday Bible Study

Pastor Brian's Bible Study. Join us on Wednesday's at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited:

Here's the zoom link.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)

[pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)

Meeting ID: 322 240 0299

Passcode: COSJ2020



## Rejoice Care Committee:

Please let any of the following know if any congregation members experience sickness, surgery, a death in the family, new babies, or other situations where we might be of some assistance.

*George Arnold, Joyce Clothier, Paige Giannetti, Judi Boebel, Carla Maurer*

## Hudson Food Pantry Basic Care Items Needed

Deodorant – men & women

Shampoo & hair conditioner

Toothbrush, toothpaste & dental floss

Toilet paper

Feminine products: tampons, pads & incontinent pads

Donations will be accepted **Nov. 1 thru Dec. 11**. Fill up the box located by the office door.

Hudson Food Pantry is serving more neighbors. Also these items cannot be purchased with food cards and are rarely available at the Food Bank.

Sandy Molnar has created a Thrivent Action Team to assist in purchasing needed care items.

Pass on your blessings by helping to replenish low stock at the Food Pantry.



**Evening Women's Bible Study –via Zoom**



During Advent the Women's Bible Study group will pause the study, "Meeting God" and will read a special study about Advent.

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](mailto:lmramsey@roadrunner.com) or 234.380.2090



**December Birthdays**

6	Chelsea Yanda
15	Bill Holman
15	Evan Juliano
16	Mike Ramsey
24	Glenn Fasnacht

**December Anniversaries**

3	Chris & Ellen Wisbar
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**Save the Date: Aspire Women's Event Coming to a City Near You**

Aspire: Wooster, OH  
Saturday, April 29  
6:00 PM Show

Aspire: North Canton, OH  
Sunday, April 30  
5:00PM Show

Church of the Saviour  
480 Fry Rd.  
Wooster, OH 44691

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
7707 Market Ave. N  
North Canton, OH 44721

(See Carla for additional details)

*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@rejoicelc.org](mailto:office@rejoicelc.org)*



**October 2022 Financial Report**

2022	Oct Actual	Oct Budget	Oct Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2022 Budget
<b>INCOME:</b>							
General Revenue	\$7,465	\$8,458	(\$993)	\$90,362	\$84,583	\$5,779	\$101,500
Capital Revenue	\$2,377	\$2,917	(\$540)	\$27,577	\$29,167	(\$1,590)	\$35,000
Other	\$2,182	\$2,001	\$181	\$29,359	\$20,008	\$9,351	\$24,010
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,024</b>	<b>\$13,376</b>	<b>(\$1,352)</b>	<b>\$147,298</b>	<b>\$133,758</b>	<b>\$13,540</b>	<b>\$160,510</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>							
General Expense	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0	\$103,919	\$88,837	(\$15,082)	\$106,605
Capital Expense	\$10,233	\$8,883	(\$1,350)	\$46,500	\$41,500	(\$5,000)	\$50,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,733</b>	<b>\$13,383</b>	<b>(\$1,350)</b>	<b>\$150,419</b>	<b>\$130,337</b>	<b>(\$20,082)</b>	<b>\$157,105</b>
<b>VARIANCE</b>							
Total Variance	(\$2,709)	(\$7)		(\$3,121)	\$3,421		\$3,405

<b>Benevolence Giving</b>	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$3,750	\$4,167	(\$417)	\$5,000
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## REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

7855 Stow Rd.  
Hudson, Ohio 44236

Phone: 330-653-5980  
E-mail: [office@rejoicelc.org](mailto:office@rejoicelc.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.rejoicelc.org](http://www.rejoicelc.org)



### December Activities

Nov. 20 – Dec. 10	Crouse Elementary giving tree
Sunday, Dec. 4	Advent 2 – joint worship Rejoice/CoSJ 10:30, indoor Christmas caroling after
Wednesday, Dec. 7	Adult Bible Study 7:00 / Women's Bible Study 8:00
Saturday, Dec. 10	Christmas Fellowship Dinner, Rejoice/CoSJ
Sunday, Dec. 11	Advent 3—joint worship Rejoice/CoSJ, 10:30 Annual Congregational meeting 11:30
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Adult Bible Study 7:00 / Women's Bible Study 8:00
Sunday, Dec. 18	Advent 4 – joint worship Rejoice/CoSJ, 10:30am, outdoor caroling, deliver gifts to Crouse Elementary. Contact Barbara Shearer if you want to help, 330-687-3323.
Monday, Dec. 19	Council Meeting 7:00
Wednesday, Dec. 21	Distribute gifts at Crouse Elementary, contact Barbara Shearer if you want to help, 330-687-3323. Adult Bible Study 7:00 / Women's Bible Study 8:00
Saturday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship 5:00pm – both Rejoice and COSJ
Sunday, Dec. 25	Worship Service at 6:00pm only