

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@rejoicec.org
www.rejoicec.org

church council

Bethany Bryant
Tim Boebel
Liz Franke
Pete Moore
Chris Wisbar
Jake Biltz
Mike Procop

bulletin and
newsletter
office@rejoicec.org

Sunday Worship

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

Sunday School: (TBD)

Adult Bible Studies:
Sundays 9:15am and
Wednesdays 7:00pm &
8:00pm

"Every institution in which men (and women) are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt." – Martin Luther

Dear Friends:

Happy New Year! One of the opportunities available by joining our two congregations together for worship is that it gives us time for religious education on Sunday mornings. There is a critical need for adult Christian formation in a time when we need a more tolerant society with increasing diversity among communities. But, before we can engage in such beneficial dialogue with others, we must know our story, traditions, and beliefs in a mature and faithful way.

It is my opinion that Adult Education for the Christian has five critical components: Scripture, Historical Context, Spirituality, Worship, and Service. Christian formation is transformative, requires attention to the interior life, and ultimately leads to spiritual maturity. The central focus of all Christian formation is following in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I would like to invite all members of our community to our first Formation Series beginning on Sunday, January 8 at 9:15 am. The subject of our series will be **Herod the Great: Architect, Visionary, & Mad Man**. It might seem odd to some of you to begin with Herod. But his influence in the culture and everyday life in the time of Jesus must be understood so that we might begin to read the Gospels in new and enlightening ways. Plus, his building projects, which still can be experienced this very day in Israel/Palestine, are a testament to the complex and fascinating first century Mediterranean world in which Jesus lived, taught, and ministered.

January 8 – The Temple Mount and Herodium
January 15 – No Class (I'm out of town)
January 22 – Masada and Machaerus
January 29 – Caesarea Maritima and Jericho

We will have first-class coffee and the finest sweets to share. Invite your friends or neighbors to join you. The class will take place in the sanctuary so that we can make use of our projector and video recording equipment.

There is a quote on the Blog site for The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development that I am fond of: "Education is a privilege that not many people get to have. Those that do sometimes do not appreciate it until it is too late. One of the major characteristics of education is that it has no age. People are never too young or too old to be educated."

As Christians, our task is to daily grow in our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. One important aspect of that development is education. I look forward to being in ministry with you.

Brian

President's Report

Happy New Year!!

2022 is behind us and a new year lies ahead. As I shared at the annual meeting, change and progress aren't always apparent day to day or month to month, but when you reflect over an entire year or even several years, it becomes evident how things progress. This year was a year of pastoral changes, new possibilities with shared ministries, growth with new members joining and continued ministry in our community. While we are not certain where 2023 will lead with pastoral leadership we have several paths that are open. I'm confident that one path will become more clear as the new year unfolds. Our congregation, ministry and impact on our community is defined by far more than just a pastor, as evidenced by the new members we welcomed this year. Pastors come and go throughout the years, but Rejoice! has a mission led by members that reaches beyond any current pastor we may have.

Rejoice made a significant impact to our community this year in several ways. Our outreach with Teammates early in the year engaged our members in ministry while helping their ministry outgrow our space. We continued to engage with the Hudson Food Pantry each month serving families with immediate needs, our senior transportation ministry was a huge success utilizing over \$11,000 in service to our senior citizens, we shipped dozens of quilts to Lutheran World relief this fall, and partnered with area congregations to help dozens of children at Crouse Elementary receive a little of God's spirit this Christmas.

We have a blank canvas for 2023. Congratulations to Chris Wisbar for being re-elected, and welcome and congratulations to Jake Biltz and Mike Procop for joining our leadership team. During our January Council meeting we will hold elections for our officers President, Vice President and Secretary. We will also plan to hold another congregational discussion with updates on our shared ministry conversation after worship on Sunday, January 15. Please plan to join the conversation and provide input.

May you all have a joy and ministry filled 2023!

Best,

Bethany Bryant, President

Product Campaign Success

Donations of various basic care items were received starting November 1st and ended on December 11 from Rejoice Lutheran Church and The Community of St. John.

The box continued to be filled each week and handed off to the Hudson Food Pantry. In November your donations met the various needs of our neighbors. 49 families were served on November 19 and stock of many items greatly reduced.

Weekly reminders of products needed were included in the bulletin. We gratefully received more donations through the end of the campaign.

Thrivent helped us to be able to completely restock all basic care items for the December distribution. Over 300 personal care items were donated during the campaign.

Thank you for all of your donations. The Hudson Food Pantry was ready to serve our neighbors on December 17.

Sandy Molnar,

Rejoice
Member

Thrivent
Member



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 now until Jan 15 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).

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.

Holiday Greetings to all the members of the Rejoice Congregation.

Hoping all had a very Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a New Year filled with blessings.

During this past distribution the Food Pantry was able to provide to 50 families in our community.

A special shout out goes to all that contributed to the personal product donations drive that was organized by Sandy Molnar with special recognition to Catherine Flowers, and Ginny Pillsbury who assisted her with organizing the donations as they came in. I must say Sandy was vigilant in securing a funding match through Thrivent to make all the funds and products that were received go a bit further. Our neighbors were thrilled with all that was available to select from.

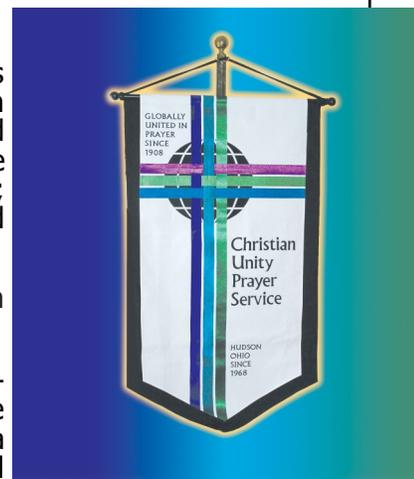
Sometimes we take for granted that everyone should be joyous during the holidays. But for those who need to ask for help it can be a very difficult time. During this time of year, please continue to remember us and our neighbors that we serve in your prayers so that we can continue to be a bright spot in their lives.

Again, thank you for all your efforts to assist us in providing to those in need.

Kind regards,

Sue Talarcek

Pantry Manager for the HCSA Food Pantry Team



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Join us on Wednesday's at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited:
Here's the zoom link.

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

Meeting ID: 322 240 0299

Passcode: COSJ2020



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Beginning Sunday Jan 8, there will be a Sunday morning, 9:15am, Bible Study in the sanctuary. Note: No class on Jan. 15.

Chili Cook-off



Get out your best chili recipe and save the date of Saturday, Feb 25, for the annual Chili-Cook-off!

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

From our Dec. 10 Christmas Fellowship Dinner at Leo's Italian Social Club



Tim & Judi Boebel, Paul & Pam Mallott, Brian Suntken, Ellen & Chris Wisbar

More pics from our Christmas Fellowship Dinner at Leo's Italian Social Club



L-R Marisa McLelland, Bill & Joyce Clothier, Sue Simmons and Nancy & Glenn Fasnacht (Not pictured is Carla Maurer, who took the pic)



L-R Nancy & Bill Monro, Paul & Monica Leszek, Inge Osborne and Marisa McLelland

Crouse Christmas Ministry 2022-Community of St John and Rejoice

On Wednesday, December 21st, 6 members from both communities of Rejoice and COSJ loaded up their cars with 70+ gift bags for the kindergarten children at Crouse CLC in Akron. Santa Claus (Tim Moore from Hartville Hardware's Flooring Dept) waited in the parking lot until he was called to duty into the school.

Santa was greeted excitedly with hugs by older children who had been in kindergarten in years past when parties were held and gifts were shared with them.

Santa then proceeded to join the "elves" from Rejoice and COSJ as they entered the first of 5 classrooms to hand out gift bags of warm mittens & caps, board games, books (donations from Bright Star Books), & small bags with packaged healthy snacks. They waited patiently in a big circle on the floor rug as Santa called out their names to receive their bags. When all had received them, they noisily began to open their gifts with bright eyes and big smiles. Pictures were snapped both of the circle of children and later of the children with Santa in their midst.

The group of adult elves proceeded to the next classroom, starting with the Special Education class of kindergarten & 1st-grade children who received similar gifts & a greeting from Santa.

This ministry was begun by two neighbors 18 years ago (Cheryll Miller was one of them) and has been continued by COSJ and now by Rejoice members as well. It has been a wonderful ministry to children, some of whom have never received a gift before.

In addition to the party with practical and fun gifts, warm coats for the kindergartners and backpacks for the entire school (K-5th grade) were obtained by the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hudson. It has been a wonderful partnership between our groups and John Kane and friends from St. Vincent de Paul, Hudson.



Santa's elves, L-R, Paige Giannetti, Barbara Dieckman, Susan Busch, Wynne Warner, Carla Maurer, not pictured is Dee Moore who took the picture!



One of the kindergarten teacher aides with Santa

(For privacy we are not publishing any photos of the children)

Evening Women's Bible Study —via Zoom



In January, the Women's Bible Study group will finish the study, "Meeting God" and then begin a new study, "The Women of the Old Testament."

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



January Birthdays

8	Sharon Straka
11	Marisa McLelland
16	Dana Bryant
22	Joyce Clothier
24	Ellen Ackerman

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

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

May God Bless you in the new year!

—Carla Maurer

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

November 2022 Financial Report

2022	Nov Actual	Nov Budget	Nov Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2022 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$6,182	\$8,458	(\$2,276)	\$96,544	\$93,042	\$3,502	\$101,500
Capital Revenue	\$2,002	\$2,917	(\$915)	\$29,579	\$32,083	(\$2,504)	\$35,000
Other	\$1,494	\$2,001	(\$507)	\$30,854	\$22,009	\$8,845	\$24,010
Total Income	\$9,678	\$13,376	(\$3,698)	\$156,977	\$147,134	\$9,843	\$160,510
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$10,903	\$8,883	(\$2,020)	\$114,822	\$97,722	(\$17,100)	\$106,605
Capital Expense	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0	\$51,000	\$46,000	(\$5,000)	\$50,500
Total Expenses	\$15,403	\$13,383	(\$2,020)	\$165,822	\$143,722	(\$22,100)	\$157,105
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	(\$5,725)	(\$7)		(\$8,845)	\$3,412		\$3,405

Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$3,750	\$4,587	(\$837)	\$5,000
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REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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E-mail: office@rejoicelc.org



Congregational Conversation

On Sunday, Jan 15, Bethany will lead another congregational conversation immediately following worship.

Poinsettias

For several weeks we have enjoyed the beautiful poinsettias in our entryway. Our thanks to the HCSA Food Pantry for donating them. They are now available to the first six people who would like to take one home.

The poinsettias in our sanctuary were sponsored and purchased by our members and friends who ordered them. They are labeled with names. Please take your plants home to enjoy with your family.



A photo from the Dec 20, 2022 Winter Flute Solstice at Rejoice. To view the video of the event click here: <https://fb.watch/hFUllLowYm/>
(You may need to hold down your CTRL key and click the link)