

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

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church council

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

bulletin and
newsletter
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Sunday Worship

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

Sunday School: (TBD)

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

Dear Friends:

Our Adult Forum is off to a great start! Over the past month, we have gathered together and reflected on the life of Herod the Great and his profound influence in the life and culture of first-century Jews and the Mediterranean world. Adult education is critical to the life and success of any congregation. Learning is not something we do just when we are young. The heartbeat of the church is adults. Jesus loved children, but he did not call children as his disciples. He called adults. Therefore, I believe that Christian education is a lifelong endeavor.

The next chapter in our Adult Forum series will ask the question: What is the meaning of suffering?

It's a difficult question to answer especially for religious folk. Because if God is all-knowing, all powerful, and kind, then why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? In the first presentation, on February 5, we will reflect on three statements about God. On their own, there is no contradiction. But placed together, there is plenty of ambiguity.

- ✦ God is all powerful.
- ✦ God is all loving.

There is suffering in the world.

How do you reconcile these three statements?

In the second session, we will explore the numerous ways the Bible tries to explain why there is suffering in the world; the differences in moral evil vs. natural evil; and take a short survey that I am currently working on about Suffering and Evil.

In the final session, we will explore how other faith traditions try and answer the question of suffering; review the results of our survey; and look at the writings of twenty-first century theologians, both Christian and Jewish, as they wrestle with the question.

There are lots of answers to this fundamental issue and, as in the Bible, they contradict one another. Even though we may come to the end of the study and not have a complete answer, as Christians, we can and must have a response to suffering. For now I will close with a favorite saying from the Talmud: "When a person chooses to do something right, God looks down from heaven and says, 'For this moment alone it was worth creating the world.'"

I look forward to being in ministry with you - Brian

President and Vice President Report

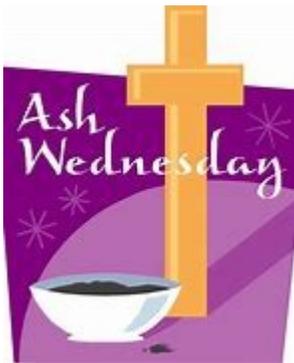
Council Updates

Winter seems like a long, dark season, but we are already half way through. As we head towards Lent, we are reminded that it is a time to reflect, to plan, and to anticipate the new growth that spring and a new church year bring. As a congregation we have settled into a new routine, continuing with our joint services with CoSJ. We continue to utilize supply pastors periodically each month to ensure we have communion available. And we are planning many things during the Lenten season including Ash Wednesday and mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays along with a soup dinner beforehand.

Council is planning to meet with the leadership of St. Stephens Lutheran in late February. Brian and other leaders from CoSJ are also invited. This will be our first leadership meeting with all three congregations. Financially, the church budget is off to a great start. We ended the year slightly better than we projected at the annual meeting in December. January was a solid month of revenues as several families paid their entire pledge at the beginning of the year. Throughout the year, those timing differences will balance out.

We have several other ministry opportunities. We continue to provide meals with CoSJ in Akron several times each month; and provide support to the Hudson Food Pantry. We are also preparing to host participants from Crouse Elementary in early March where we donated numerous gifts in December. These outreach opportunities, plus weekly bible studies, quilting group, and various fellowship events such as our Chili Cookoff and Lenten suppers are a great way to stay connected and engaged during these winter months.

Peace,
Jake Biltz, President and Bethany Bryant, Vice President



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb 22. We will have a service that evening, though details are not yet available. Check upcoming bulletins for more information.



Hello Rejoice Lutheran and Happy New Year to all

from the Hudson Food Pantry!

December was a busy month with a big food donation from Hudson City Schools Thanksgiving Food Drive (about 20 cases of food were leftover which we were happy to accept!) We also received large donations from the City of Hudson Police Department and The Primrose School. (Both were donations of 20 + cases of food as well as monetary donations!) We were able to sort ALL these items with LOTS of help from community volunteers including the Scout Troop from Gloria Dei, where John and Felicia Leipzig's grandsons are involved.

We continue to appreciate the use of your space as well as the ongoing generosity of donations from Rejoice members, and tireless volunteer hours also from Rejoice members (You know who you are and we appreciate you!) Thank you all again and blessings to you and yours for 2023!

Visit from the Principal and a Few Teachers from Crouse Elementary

You may remember that last November and December COSJ and Rejoice were collecting gifts (a hat, gloves and a game) for the kindergarten students at Crouse Elementary School in Akron.

On Sunday, March 5, Tara Bruce-Bentley, Crouse CLC principal, and a few teachers plan to be with us in service and for lunch afterward. If you are available, please plan to be present. More details will be coming about the lunch plans.

In addition, Tim Moore, our Santa Claus extraordinaire, plans to come on March 5th as well.

Many thanks to Barbara Shearer, COSJ, for all her work to plan and organize this wonderful Outreach program.

A couple of pics from our visit...



Dee Moore was also with us, she took the photo

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 Adult Forum

On Sunday mornings at 9:15am, there is an Adult Forum in the sanctuary. Topic: What is the Meaning of Suffering?

Chili Cook-off



YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT - Our Annual Chili Cook Off will be held on Saturday, February 25th at 5:30 p.m. Look for sign-up sheets on the Welcome Desk. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of socks for Haven of Rest Ministries in Akron. Please contact Marisa McLelland or Ellen Wisbar with questions.

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

Rejoice and CoSJ are planning on having Wednesday evening Lenten services at 7:00 and soup suppers beforehand at 6:00.

Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.



2023 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are now in. Please be sure to pick up your box in the entryway.



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

Evening Women's Bible Study –via Zoom



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



February Birthdays

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

Save the Date: Aspire Women's Event Coming to a City Near You

Aspire: Wooster, OH	Aspire: North Canton, OH
Saturday, April 29	Sunday, April 30
6:00 PM Show	5:00PM Show
Church of the Saviour	Holy Cross Lutheran Church
480 Fry Rd.	7707 Market Ave. N
Wooster, OH 44691	North Canton, OH 44721

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 2022 Financial Report

2022	Dec Actual	Dec Budget	Dec Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2022 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$8,789	\$8,458	\$331	\$105,333	\$101,500	\$3,833	\$101,500
Capital Revenue	\$1,735	\$2,917	(\$1,182)	\$31,314	\$35,000	(\$3,686)	\$35,000
Other	\$7,983	\$2,001	\$5,982	\$38,837	\$24,010	\$14,827	\$24,010
Total Income	\$18,507	\$13,376	\$5,131	\$175,484	\$160,510	\$14,974	\$160,510
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$10,071	\$8,883	(\$1,188)	\$124,894	\$106,605	(\$18,289)	\$106,605
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	\$55,000	\$50,500	(\$4,500)	\$50,500
Total Expenses	\$14,071	\$13,383	(\$688)	\$179,894	\$157,105	(\$22,789)	\$157,105
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$4,436	(\$7)		(\$4,410)	\$3,405		\$3,405

Benevolence Giving	\$1,250	\$417	\$833	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
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REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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