

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!
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church council

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

bulletin and
newsletter
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)

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

Dear Friends:

As I was preparing to speak about the Gospel of John to a group of residents at a local retirement facility recently, I came across this passage by Dr. Rick Herrick (Ph.D., Tulane University), a former tenured university professor and magazine editor. You can find him at <https://rickherrickauthor.com>.

The Word Became Flesh

"When God wanted to communicate with us humans, God didn't send a text or inspire a sacred scripture. Instead, God sent a person. "And the Word became flesh." One of the first acts of this person was to cleanse the Temple. (John 2: 13-22) Jesus' attack on the Temple made very clear that he would define religion in the future. It would no longer be about sacrifice and ritual, but rather about love of God and neighbor. In verse after verse, John tells us if you want to know what God is like look to Jesus.

"What does the picture of Jesus in the four gospels tell us? In point of fact, this picture clearly spells out his religion. The God of Jesus was one of love and forgiveness. He addressed God as Abba, a term of endearment. As the parable of the Prodigal Son tells us, compassion is one of God's defining characteristics. The parable of the Good Samaritan tells us again that religion is about loving your neighbor not sacrifice or Temple worship. Economic and social justice are a major focus of Jesus' teachings as is nonviolence and reconciliation with your enemy. He is radically inclusive, inviting all to eat with him at his table. These meals are celebrations of joy and gratitude. His vision is concerned with what life might be like if God's love took control of your heart.

"The religion of Jesus has no passages from scripture to ponder, debate, or cite. There is nothing to believe, no creeds to recite. It's all about opening your heart to God's love so that you can live differently. The point is to follow the example of this wonderful man. This picture from the Bible is all we need to make our lives different and the world a better place."

I encourage you to love others as Jesus did. Be well - Brian

Council Updates

Friends,

As we still celebrate the risen Christ and spring arrives bringing a new energy, I pray that you continue to be renewed each day. We have been blessed with visitors, new members joining, and a full sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Later in May we will be formally welcoming new members. If you would like to join, please reach out to me or the church office.

Our Rejoice Council continues to meet with CoSJ leadership. We will be meeting in early May to get a debrief of a recent meeting between Brian and Pastor John Corsi from St. Stephens. They met to discuss alignment of worship services, compilation of bulletins to eliminate duplicate efforts, pulpit exchanges and regular communion among other things. John is now regularly attending the Rejoice Council meetings at the recommendation of the bishop.

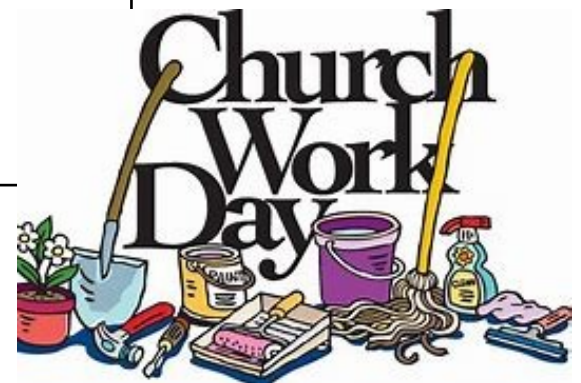
Financially we are in a solid cash flow position since several families contributed their entire annual giving in the first few months of the year. Given this front loaded contributions we are in a good position to get through the summer. As you head out on vacation this summer, please remember your weekly or monthly contributions. If easier, you can enroll in the automatic giving program and have your giving deducted monthly or semi-monthly from your checking account. Please see the church office if you are interested. I will be meeting with Mission Investment Fund in the coming weeks to provide an update on our shared ministry conversations.

Lastly, one of the easiest ways for us to connect and get to know our fellow brothers and sisters at CoSJ and St. Stephens is to join in fellowship and outreach activities. On May 4, we will meet at Hop Tree Brewery to share a cold beverage. And bring a friend! Conversations create friendships. On May 20, join in the spring clean up around the church. Many hands make light work.

Please share your thoughts and questions with our leadership.
Peace and blessings,

Bethany Bryant

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY Join us on Saturday morning May 20 at 9am for a spring clean-up at Rejoice! We'll be cleaning windows, dusting, kitchen cleaning and whatever else we can fit in. Planning on being done by 11am if we get an army of people! Mark your calendar! Join us!



Greetings from the HCSA Hudson Food Pantry...

The Food Pantry had another successful distribution on April 22nd. Thanks to the Akron Canton Food Bank we were able to provide a Mother's Day gift to our neighbors: a gallon Ziplock bag of chocolate truffles. Our volunteers were able to sample one from the leftovers and can attest to their deliciousness!

We continue to appreciate the use of your space; it is especially nice to have use of the overflow room. We would not be able to provide for our neighbors' needs without the ability to stock up and store the several thousand pounds of food we pick up each month from the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank.

We are currently preparing for our May distribution on May 20 (a week early due to the upcoming Memorial Day holiday). Blessings to all of you at Rejoice as we look forward to Spring weather!

Ladies' Night Out

Dinner theater production of "The Six Stages of Woman" Wed., May 10, 6:15pm

Tickets for dinner and show are \$49 at Hilton Garden Inn in Twinsburg. A group of us are already planning to go, join us! See Carla or Marisa for more details.



Matthew, Mark, Luke and Beers with John

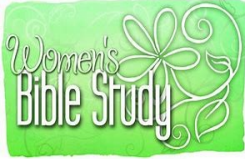
Thursday, May 4 will be the next fellowship evening with St. Stephens, Rejoice and CoSJ for a night at the Hop Tree Brew House in Hudson at 7:00. Just show up and have a beverage in fellowship with others. And invite a friend!

Adult Formation in April – Sundays at 9:15 am

At the beginning of April Brian will conclude this series of teachings, to answer the question: "Why did Jesus have to die?" At the outset, it must be said that this isn't an easy question to answer for several reasons: limited historical sources, considerable scholarly disagreement, not one simple obvious answer. If you believe that the crucifixion of Jesus stands at the very center of history, then knowing why Jesus had to die is just about the most important piece of knowledge you can have. If you have ever wondered why God chose to redeem us in the way he did, why Jesus had to suffer and die, then perhaps these teachings, reflections and conversation will assist you in your spiritual journey. Come and see. Bring a friend.

Watch weekly bulletins for the next Sunday Adult Forum topic.

Evening Women's Bible Study *—via Zoom*



The Women's Bible Study group is now studying, "The Women of the New 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 lisaruns1969@gmail.com or 234.380.2090



May Birthdays

8	Nancy Fasnacht
10	Casie Ackerman
10	Inge Osborne
15	Lisa Ramsey
19	Liz Franke
27	Monica Leszek
30	Bob Rubenstahl
31	Janet Juliano

May Anniversaries

8	Mike & Diane Procop
24	Mike & Lisa Ramsey
29	Chad & Bethany Bryant

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@rejoice.org



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

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

March 2023 Financial Report

	Mar Actual	Mar Budget	Mar Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2023 Budget
2023							
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$6,024	\$8,638	(\$2,614)	\$35,729	\$25,913	\$9,816	\$103,650
Capital Revenue	\$2,221	\$2,667	(\$446)	\$11,825	\$8,000	\$3,825	\$32,000
Other	\$1,313	\$1,251	\$62	\$5,950	\$3,755	\$2,195	\$15,020
Total Income	\$9,558	\$12,556	(\$2,998)	\$53,504	\$37,668	\$15,836	\$150,670
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$7,417	\$9,180	\$1,763	\$19,538	\$27,541	\$8,003	\$110,165
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	\$12,000	\$13,500	\$1,500	\$54,000
Total Expenses	\$11,417	\$13,680	\$2,263	\$31,538	\$41,041	\$9,503	\$164,165
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	(\$1,859)	(\$1,124)		\$21,966	(\$3,373)		(\$13,495)
Benevolence Giving	\$1,250	\$417	\$833	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0	\$5,000

REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A Personal Request...

The Hudson Garden Club will host its 75th annual Home and Garden Tour on Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17, with a special Preview on Thursday, June 15. We are very proud that our tour is one of the oldest in the country!

I am co-chairing the event, which is our major fundraiser. Funds raised from the tour are given back to the community as Scholarships, Grants, Trees, books donated to the Library and other efforts that benefit the community.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed to ensure the event's success, which draws visitors from all over Ohio and beyond. This is where I need some help. Would you be interested in being a host or hostess in a home or garden? How about helping shoppers who visit our Garden shop during the event? Ticket Tent? Maybe you can help with Traffic and Safety, or driving a school van that shuttles guests to one of the tour stops. Or, even helping to deliver mats and benches to the homes. Most volunteer shifts are 2-3 hours.

If any of these sound interesting, please contact me for more information or to sign up.

Thanks so much!

Carla Maurer
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cbmaurer@roadrunner.com