

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

Jake Biltz
Bethany Bryant
Tim Boebel
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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)

Bible Studies:
Wednesdays 7:00pm &
8:00pm

My Brothers and Sisters:

The first Sunday of June, we celebrate the Feast of the Trinity as we acknowledge God as One in Three Persons. In his book, *God in New Testament Theology*, Larry Hurtado, writes: "While the developed doctrine of the Trinity is not explicit in the books that constitute the New Testament, it was first formulated as early Christians attempted to understand the relationship between Jesus and God in their scriptural documents and prior traditions."

Personally, I find the Doctrine of the Trinity a "bamboozler"! In Trinitarian doctrine, God exists as three persons but is one being, having a single divine nature. "The members of the Trinity are co-equal and co-eternal, one in essence, nature, power, action, and will. As stated in the Athanasian Creed, the Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, and the Holy Spirit is uncreated, and all three are eternal without beginning. (Wikipedia)"

So, here are five insights about the Trinity to stimulate your imagination and get you ready for Sunday worship.

"The hocus-pocus phantasm of a God like another Cerberus, with one body and three heads, had its birth and growth in the blood of thousands and thousands of martyrs... In fact, the Athanasian paradox that one is three, and three but one, is so incomprehensible to the human mind, that no candid man can say he has any idea of it, and how can he believe what presents no idea? He who thinks he does, only deceives himself. He proves, also, that man, once surrendering his reason, has no remaining guard against absurdities the most monstrous, and like a ship without a rudder, is the sport of every wind. With such persons, gullibility which they call faith, takes the helm from the hand of reason, and the mind becomes a wreck. [Letter to James Smith discussing Jefferson's hate of the doctrine of the Christian trinity, December 8 1822]"

— Thomas Jefferson, *Letters of Thomas Jefferson*

"I didn't need to understand the hypostatic unity of the Trinity; I just needed to turn my life over to whoever came up with redwood trees."

— Anne Lamott, *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*

"Love is made up of three unconditional properties in equal measure:

1. Acceptance
2. Understanding
3. Appreciation

Remove any one of the three and the triangle falls apart. Which, by the way, is something highly inadvisable. Think about it — do you really want to live in a world of only two dimensions? So, for the love of a triangle, please keep love whole."

— Vera Nazarian, *The Perpetual Calendar of Inspiration*

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"Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God."

– John Wesley

"All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that 'God is love.' But they seem not to notice that the words 'God is love' have no real meaning unless God contains at least two persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love."

– C.S. Lewis

I Look forward to being in ministry with you – Brian

Council Updates

Friends,

Summer and good weather are upon us. I hope you are all planning great adventures. This is definitely the time to be in Cleveland and enjoy all that this area has to offer.

We are thrilled to be welcoming 8 new members this Sunday, June 4. I hope you can join in worshiping and celebrating with refreshments afterwards.

Council met with the leadership of CoSJ in early May and agreed to work towards more detailed conversations starting in June. We have presented a list of topics such as our mission and vision statements, governance structure, combined financials, etc. for us to start unpacking in a more detailed way in longer working sessions. Once we have an outline to share and align with the full leadership teams, we can share additional insights with the full congregation.

We also met with Mission Investment Fund, the holder of our mortgage throughout the last month. We have requested a continuation of our loan modification and they have granted it through February 2024. This gives us time to settle our shared or combined ministry with CoSJ and have a better understanding of our combined financial budget. We have committed to making additional principle payments as cash flow allows. To date we have made an additional \$9,000 towards the mortgage balance.

Please continue to share your thoughts and questions with our leadership.

Peace and blessings,
Bethany Bryant

June Fellowship Event

JUNE FELLOWSHIP EVENT - Join us at the **BIER-FEST AND EUROPEAN DAYS** on Sunday, June 25th from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Featured will be European-style food, live music, dancing, costumes and BEER! The address is 3871 Ranfield Road, Kent OH. There is a \$5.00 entry fee for ages 12 and older, parking is free. Carpooling will be available - please contact Marisa or Ellen W. with questions, and check upcoming church bulletins for an approximate arrival time in Kent.



Fun Ladies Night Out at "Six Stages of Woman"



Clockwise from left, Francine McBride, Sharon Straka, (partially obstructed), Lisa Ramsey (Ginny's daughter), Ginny Pillsbury, Marisa McLelland, Nancy's daughter, Christine Slone, Nancy Fasnacht, Wendy Klukow



Clockwise from left, Carla Maurer, Juliet Jaeger, her sister-in-law Sue Jaeger, Maridsa Vittoria, Marrisa Jacobsen, (Kathy's daughter-in-law and her mother) Kathy Jacobsen, Sandy Molnar, Sandy's daughter Janet Schiopota ,

Happy Birthday, Inge!



L-R Gail Bergman, Inge Osborne, Marisa McLelland, Paul & Monica Leszek, Carla Maurer

Greetings from the HCSA Hudson Food Pantry...

Hello from the Food Pantry and Happy Spring (finally it feels like it)

As we continue our efforts to provide something “fun” for holidays, this month we were able to get jerky (this particular one was vegan) from the Food Bank to give for Fathers’ Day/Memorial Day. We also purchased ribs for BBQing for whichever holiday. We were thankful to ACME for a special price for our large purchase.

We continue to see an increase in need, and are grateful for the use of your space as we nearly empty both rooms each month in response to our increasing numbers.

ELCA Synod Assembly 2023

Once again I thank you for the opportunity to be a delegate from Rejoice to the 2023 Synod Assembly. It was a wonderful experience. They said they wanted it to be an event this year rather than just an assembly and that is exactly what it was. Rejoice was recognized and congratulated for our 15th anniversary!

About five very talented pastors and deacons provided some outstanding storytelling. Stories were told rather than read and really came alive. Some of them were creation, the call of Moses, Jesus’ baptism and dry bones. We all know these stories and they need to be told!

It is always a shot in the arm for me and makes me hope in capital letters when I hear all that the ELCA is doing nationwide and worldwide. I have a long list I could include but I can’t list them at this time. There is much excitement over the fact that the Youth Gathering will take place again this summer in New Orleans, after not having one in three years.

My hope is also strengthened by observing many young pastors and noticing that the assembly was not just made up by “gray heads” like me!

Greetings from Pastor Mark, Pastor Jim and Pastor Betti who have all been with us lately and from Jane Mokren who was at our Women’s Retreat last year and will be this year as well. Jane will be ordained as a Lutheran minister on her birthday, June 17 at her church in Doylestown. Jan will be 80 plus years old! So you see—this is why my hope for Rejoice and the ELCA is written in capital letters, HOPE!

Ginny Pillsbury



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://johnncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/628894291>

Contact Lisa Ramsey with questions/problems at lisaruns1969@gmail.com or 234.380.2090



June Birthdays

12	Tyler Wisbar
13	Elizabeth Wisbar
21	Ginny Pillsbury
21	Bill Clothier
22	David Denes

June Anniversaries

22	Dan & Kathy Jacobsen
23	Tim & Judi Boebel
28	Tim & April Yanda
30	Bob & Paige Giannetti

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



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=eDQ3NIB1WEcONnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)

[pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEcONnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEcONnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)

April 2023 Financial Report

2023	April Actual	April Budget	April Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2023 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$8,869	\$8,637	\$232	\$44,599	\$34,550	\$10,049	\$103,650
Capital Revenue	\$2,247	\$2,667	(\$420)	\$14,072	\$10,667	\$3,405	\$32,000
Other	\$1,281	\$1,252	\$29	\$7,230	\$5,006	\$2,224	\$15,020
Total Income	\$12,397	\$12,556	(\$159)	\$65,901	\$50,223	\$15,678	\$150,670
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$4,172	\$9,180	\$5,008	\$23,710	\$36,721	\$13,011	\$110,165
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	\$16,000	\$18,000	\$2,000	\$54,000
Total Expenses	\$8,172	\$13,680	\$5,508	\$39,710	\$54,721	\$15,011	\$164,165
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$4,225	(\$1,124)		\$26,191	(\$4,498)		(\$13,495)

Benevolence Giving	\$157	\$417	(\$260)	\$1,407	\$1,667	(\$260)	\$5,000
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REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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We're on the web!
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