

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

Brian Suntken, Vicar

Contact Rejoice!

330-653-5980

office@rejoiceclc.org
www.rejoiceclc.org

Church Council

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

**Bulletin and
Newsletter**

office@rejoiceclc.org

Sunday Worship

10:30am
(In-person, Face Book
Live, or posted later on
our website)

Adult Formation Class

9:30am on Sunday

Bible Studies

Wednesdays
7:00pm & 8:00pm

Dear Friends:

Several years ago, I was asked to officiate at the wedding of two dear friends at the Lost Creek Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. It was my first experience with the regal Tetons; an amazing, guided tour of Yellowstone Park, complete with a Grizzly sighting; and opportunities to encounter and photograph the majestic Aspens.

The Aspens are native to cold regions with cool summers. Aspens are all medium-sized deciduous trees reaching 15–30 m (49–98 ft) tall. In North America, the Aspen is referred to as “quaking” Aspen or “trembling” Aspen because the leaves “quake” or “tremble” in the wind.

Mark Nepo, in his New York Times best seller, *The Book of Awakening*, offers an illustration of compassionate love using the Aspen as an example. He writes:

“Another powerful way to realize our interconnectedness is to imagine the human family as a stand of aspens growing by a river. Though each tree appears to be growing independently, not attached to the others, beneath the soil, out of view, the roots of all the trees exist as one enormous root. And so, like these trees, our soul’s growth, while appearing to be independent, is intimately connected to the health of those around us. Our spirits are entwined at center, out of view. Once realizing this, it becomes clear that we have no choice but to embrace the health of our neighbors as part of our own health.” (The Book of Awakening, page 190)

As human beings, we are all interconnected, whether we like it or not! Though we appear to each be independent, living inside our own brains and bodies, “out of view” humans are as connected to one another as the Aspens.

Steve Taylor Ph.D. senior lecturer in psychology at Leeds Beckett University, Great Britain, wrote in *Psychology Today*, about the interconnectedness of humans.

“The first - and most common - is ‘interconnectedness of feeling’, or ‘empathic connection.’ Empathy is sometimes seen as a cognitive ability to put yourself in someone else’s shoes, and imagine what they are experiencing. This is certainly a type of empathy, but only what I have called ‘shallow empathy.’ There is a deeper kind of empathy which stems from actually sensing - rather than just imagining - what another person is experiencing. In this ‘deep empathy’ our consciousness seems to expand outwards, and merge into other people’s. We seem to enter into other people’s mind-space, and share their feelings. If they are feeling sad, we sense their sadness. If they are hurt, we sense their pain. We want to alleviate other people’s suffering because, in a sense, it is our own suffering.

“The second type of experience is ‘interconnectedness of being.’ For many years, I have collected reports of what I call ‘awakening experiences’, in which people experience a more expansive and intense state of being.

Continued on page 2...

One of the most prominent characteristics of these experiences is a 'transcendence of separateness.' It's very common for people to sense that they are deeply connected to - even one with - the natural world, other human beings or even the whole universe. There is a sense of sharing one's being with other phenomena, a sense that we share the same fundamental essence as them.

"The third type of experience - which I admit is more controversial than the previous two - is 'interconnectedness of knowing.' There are many anecdotal reports of individuals spontaneously communicating with each other without any direct interaction. Common experiences are thinking of someone you haven't seen for years and then receiving a phone call from them and bumping into them on the street. Other examples are having a 'strong feeling' that a friend is pregnant, has been diagnosed with a serious illness or has died without being told this." (Connectedness - Are we really Separate Individuals? Posted Nov 04, 2016, Psychology Today.)

From a spiritual perspective, if every human being is created in God's image, there is the capacity for connectedness. Saint Paul writing to the Church in Ephesus paints a picture of that connectedness stating that the members of that faith community are *"being rooted and established in love."* (Ephesians 3:17)

When an Aspen puts roots into the ground, those roots take in water and nutrients, and the glorious tree begins to come to life. More importantly, as the roots of many Aspens come together, the forest can withstand wind, storm, and whatever comes against it. In the same way, human beings are rooted and our souls are connected and nourished in the love of God. It is my belief that the most powerful way forward in these chaotic days is the path that Jesus, and other spiritual masters, have laid before the global community through the centuries: the way of love. In this way, I look out for your best interests as you watch out for mine. By doing so, interconnected, we become a community like the Aspens – strong, joined, and majestic.

I look forward to being in ministry with you - Brian

Council Updates

We kicked off October with renewed momentum. After solidifying our agreements to hire Vicar Brian and forge a new relationship with St. Stephen Lutheran in Stow, we celebrated these new beginnings on October 1. Now just 3-4 weeks in it feels like we are building towards truly fulfilling our mission "To Be Love in the World". In November our Council leaders will be meeting jointly with the Council leaders from St. Stephens. Our goal is to mind common areas of outreach and fellowship to strengthen our partnership.

At the end of October we kicked off our stewardship campaign with a theme of "Stronger Together" and ambitious goals to increase our total giving by \$32,000. God calls us to be more than just believers; He calls us to be disciples. Our goals include:

- Provide consistent and EPIC worship and adult bible study. Our congregation values an engaging sermon, uplifting music and bible study that connects to our daily lives. We want that for our own fulfillment as believers and share it with others that need to hear God's word
- Provide a central hub in Hudson for community outreach. Our building is a place where ministry comes alive. From housing the food pantry, offering a place for recovery, and a location for worship, fellowship and outreach activities, our building can be utilized for many ministries.

Provide benevolence to show God's love to local, regional and worldwide ministries. By increasing our benevolence and support, our financial gifts can impact the world in ways that our time and talents cannot. We want to make a meaningful impact on the lives of people.

Join us on November 19 when we make our financial commitments for 2024 and celebrate all the blessings the Lord provides.

Thanks be to God!
Bethany Bryant



Hudson Ministerial Association 2023 Holiday Laundry Detergent Drive

The Hudson Ministerial Association is collecting
Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener
to support the Hudson School's Holiday baskets.

The Holiday Gift Baskets specifically need bigger ticket items like Laundry Detergent (preferably liquid) and Fabric Softener. These are items typically not given by the students or their families during the drive.

Donations are needed by Wednesday, **November 15th**. Please drop off donations at the main office of Christ Community Chapel, 750 W Streetsboro St, Hudson, OH. Questions? Contact Jon Dodson (330) 655 1770.

Thank You for your participation! We can do more together than we can separately!

Faith Communities Make Good Neighbors

Help Wanted...Singers!

The Worship Committee is "In Search Of" singers that enjoy contemporary praise music and are interested in being part of a group to lead songs during worship.

Rehearsals will start October 15 at 9:30am to learn new music.

Looking for individuals committed to learning and rehearsing for a quality sound. Come prepared to work, smile and have fun!

Please contact Derek Carter at rejoicemusicdirector@gmail.com with any questions or interest.

Fellowship Time! All are welcome!

Come out and join us for our **re-scheduled** Fellowship Dinner on **Saturday, Nov. 11 at 6:00 p.m.** at Tulum Mexican Restaurant (8910 Hadden Rd., Twinsburg - Ph#330-998-6117). A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Desk. Please contact Marisa (mclellandmarisa@gmail.com) with questions or if you would like a ride.



**Women's
Bible
Study –
Via Zoom**

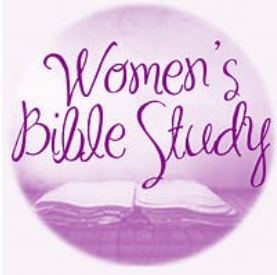
The Women's Bible Study group is now studying a Life Guide Bible Study entitled, "Motherhood".

No pressure, no homework! Just fellowship time with Christian friends studying God's Word.

Join us Wednesdays at 8:00pm on Zoom

<https://johncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/628894291>

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



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)

Meeting ID: 322 240 0299 Pass code: COSJ2020



November Birthdays

1	Kathy Jacobsen
11	Russ Ackerman
23	Michael Lue
27	Devyn Giannetti
27	Ellen Wisbar



November Anniversaries

8	Bill & Joyce Clothier
18	Glenn & Nancy Fasnacht

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

Financial Report - September 2023

2023	Sept Actual	Sept Budget	Sept Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2023 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$6,045	\$8,638	(\$2,593)	\$100,539	\$77,738	\$22,801	\$103,650
Capital Revenue	\$1,901	\$2,667	(\$766)	\$27,739	\$24,000	\$3,739	\$32,000
Other	\$199	\$1,251	(\$1,052)	\$14,467	\$11,265	\$3,202	\$15,020
Total Income	\$8,145	\$12,556	(\$4,411)	\$142,745	\$113,003	\$29,742	\$150,670
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$4,757	\$9,180	\$4,423	\$48,425	\$82,624	\$34,199	\$110,165
Capital Expense	\$24,000	\$4,500	(\$19,500)	\$63,970	\$40,500	(\$23,470)	\$54,000
Total Expenses	\$28,757	\$13,680	(\$15,077)	\$112,395	\$123,124	\$10,729	\$164,165
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	(\$20,612)	(\$1,124)		\$30,350	(\$10,121)		(\$13,495)
Benevolence Giving	\$1,250	\$417	\$833	\$3,907	\$3,750	\$157	\$5,000

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS – What a gift!

If your marriage has had some struggles during the past few years, you are not alone! The pandemic and inflation alone put a great deal of stress on a lot of marriages, and others simply need some time to focus on just being a couple in love. So now might be the perfect time to sign up to attend the Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend November 17-19 at the Fairfield Inn, Streetsboro. This event is designed to bless your relationship, whether you have been married a year or 60+, or whether you are happy, arguing, or “doing ok.”

The deadline is November 3rd. Should complications arise, your payment is refundable. And if \$275 causes you financial hardship, scholarship assistance can be discussed. Go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org to register and to learn lots more about this amazing adventure.

Gratitude List

~ I am extremely grateful for Bethany Bryant and all the leaders at Rejoice, Bishop Barbins, Pastor John, and Vicar Brian who have worked diligently to form our alliance with St. Stephens and Vicar Brian. It is a Win! Win! Win! for all of us!
Anonymous



Matthew, Mark, Luke and
(Beers with) John
St. Stephens/Rejoice Fellowship
Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:00pm
Bell Tower Brewing
310 Park Ave.
Kent, OH 44240

Helping Hands at Our Church, Spreading the Love of Jesus ...

- This month I want to thank the ladies who helped in the office while I was on medical leave a few months ago:

-Nancy Fasnacht
-Juliet Jaeger
-Marisa McLelland
-Paige Giannetti

Nancy and Juliet have continued to help with preparing bulletins and/or submitting newsletter articles! Thank you all so much! Carla

Please let the church office know if we missed anyone's good deeds, because we want to recognize all helping hands!

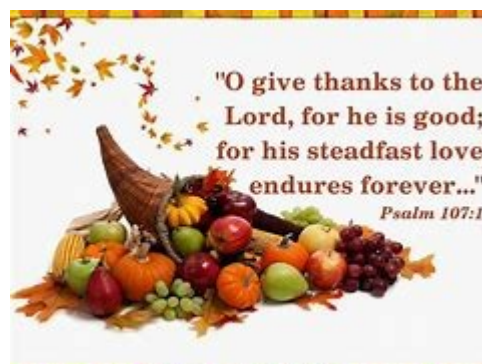
HCSA Food Pantry News

In September we were fortunate to host one of the Vincent William Baran Memorial Service Day sites. Vincent passed away a few years ago; hit by a car while on his bicycle in downtown Hudson. His family sponsors an annual service day in his memory. We had two of their volunteers at our distribution day. We decorated the pantry in streamers and served cupcakes (icing donated by CCC), in green, Vincent's favorite color!

We also began sign-ups for the annual Thanksgiving dinner for Hudson City School District residents. Hudson High School will collect food items to be distributed to those in need. The pantry will benefit as well, receiving leftover donations.

We are gearing up for the holidays; after our October 28th distribution on the 4th Saturday, November and December distributions will move to the 3rd weekends, November 18th and December 16th due to holiday celebrations.

Our Hudson School District residents will be receiving a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings; the pantry will benefit from the leftover donations. Last year we had enough canned corn and green beans to last nearly a year. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone; The Pantry is grateful for Rejoice Lutheran.





November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 5 All Saints Sunday 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	6 7 PM AA Women's Group	7 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	1 All Saints Day 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	2 Matthew, Mark, Luke and (beers with) John at Bell Tower Brewing 310 Park Ave. Kent, 7:00pm	3 Hudson Senior Citizen Board meeting at Rejoice, 10:30am	4 Daylight Saving Time Ends Before going to bed, set your clock back one hour 
12 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	13 6:30 PM Quilting Group 7 pm Church Council Meeting 7 PM AA Women's Group	14 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	15 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	16	17	11 Veterans' Day Re-scheduled Fellowship Dinner at Tulum Mexican Restaurant in Twinsburg, 6:00pm
19 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	20 7 PM AA Women's Group	21 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	22 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	23 Thanksgiving Day 	24	18 12 - 2 PM Hudson Food Pantry November Distribution (One week early for Thanksgiving)
26 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	27 7 PM AA Women's Group	28 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	29 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	30 		

~~~ November Worship Helpers ~~~

10:30am SERVICE	5-Nov	12-Nov	19-Nov	26-Nov	3-Dec	
ALTAR GUILD	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	
COMMUNION SET UP	K Jacobsen/ TBA	D Biltz / D Procop	J Lue / M McLelland	A Hagan/ K Jacobsen	D Biltz/J Lue	
LAY READER	Sue Holman	David Denes	Angie Hagan	Pete Moore	Tim Hagan	
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Sue Holman	Jenn Lue	Marisa McLelland	Becky Hogue	Bethany Bryant	
GREETER / USHER	George Arnold	Russ Holford or George Arnold	Paul Mallott	Russ Holford	Tim Boebel	
COUNTERS	C Maurer / TBA	C Maurer/ W Klukow	Carla Maurer / N Fasnacht	B Bryant / W Klukow	C Maurer/ W Klukow	
POWER POINT PREP	Judi Boebel	Carla Maurer	Bethany Bryant	Judi Boebel	Nancy Fasnacht	
SOUND BOOTH	Tim Boebel	Wisbar	Dan Jacobsen	Tim Boebel	Wisbar or Marisa	
VIDEOGRAPHER	AJ Stokes	AJ Stokes	AJ Stokes	AJ Stokes	Dan Jacobsen	

Help is needed in all Worship Help areas. Please see Carla to volunteer!

Lay Reader – read the Scripture for the day. Readings can be emailed in advance for you to preview.

Communion Assistant – help with distribution of the Sacrament holding the wine and juice “The blood of Christ shed for you!”

Communion Set-up – cube bread and place in cups/basket, Pour wine into cups using sanitized hands and minimize touch of the communion elements.

Usher – make sure everyone has a bulletin, a chair, or any other assistance. Light the candles prior to the worship and extinguish them after worship.

Offering Counter – count the Sunday offering and prepare it for deposit.

Altar Guild – ensure that altar coverings (paraments), communion cloths and banners are clean and changed seasonally (can be done prior to Sunday) Fill altar candles with oil, as needed.

Power Point Prep – using the weekly bulletin as a guide, copy/paste the Order of Worship into a Power Point presentation (can be done at home in advance and emailed to the soundbooth).

Videographer – each week we live-stream the worship service. A new system is in place that is user friendly and training is available.

Sound booth tech and PowerPoint – sit at the sound booth, advance the power point slides when appropriate, and run the equipment.

Training is available for each position.

If you are unable to serve on the scheduled date, please make every effort to find a replacement and contact the church office no later than Wednesday, prior to the date you are scheduled. 330-653-5980

REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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