

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@rejoiceelc.org

www.rejoiceelc.org

Church Council

Jake Biltz
Tim Boebel
Pete Moore
Mike Procop
Chris Wisbar

**Bulletin and
Newsletter**

office@rejoiceelc.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

Tuesdays at 1:00PM
Wednesdays
7:00pm & 8:00pm

Dear Friends:

Hodie (This Day) is a Christmas Cantata by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. Composed between 1953 and 1954, it is Vaughan William's last major choral-orchestral composition, and was premiered under his baton at Worcester Cathedral, as part of the Three Choirs Festival, on 8 September 1954. I first came to know the composition many years ago while a soloist with the New Jersey Oratorio Society. Each year at Christmastime I take an hour to listen again to the story of the birth of Christ and marvel how lovingly Vaughan Williams sets the story to music.

The first "choral", of the sixteen-movement work, is set for unaccompanied chorus, and uses a translation by Miles Coverdale of a hymn by Martin Luther. The poem reminds us of Christ's redeeming work for all of humanity. Enjoy this short but powerful text and give thanks to God for the gift of the Christ child.

The blessed son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.
Kyrie eleison. (Lord, have mercy)

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,
That we might live eternally.
Kyrie eleison.

All this did he for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.
Kyrie eleison.

Continued on page 2...

Continued from page 1...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family!

Brian

PS – If you wish to listen to the Cantata, might I suggest the YouTube option that features the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Willcocks with John Shirley-Quirk (baritone), Richard Lewis (tenor), and Dame Janet Baker (mezzo-soprano) which was recorded in 1965. Perfection!

Council Updates

We are ending 2023 with a bang. Looking back over the year, we can truly say that it has been a year of change, positive momentum and spiritual growth. Our engagement with Brian and our new partnership with St. Stephen's has set us on a renewed course with our mission squarely in focus. Many thanks to our Council leaders Chris Wisbar, Jake Biltz, Mike Procop, Tim Boebel, Pete Moore and Liz Franke for their service during this heavy lifting.

The congregation met for its annual meeting on December 10. The congregation heard a recap of the year, reviewed our current financial statements, approved a balanced budget for 2024, and elected individuals to the Synod assembly meeting. If you were unable to attend, a copy of the annual report is available electronically or in hard copy.

As we prepare for the year ahead, Council will be electing a new president in January and meeting with members to revisit our mission and priorities for ministry and impact. It has been a true pleasure serving as your leader the last few years. And I am excited to engage in other activities with you all as we start a new year. With God, all things are possible. Happy New Year!

Thanks be to God!
Bethany

Worship Committee News

Rejoice,

The Worship Committee is looking for Contemporary Praise singers to sing on Sunday mornings. Practice is at 9:30 Sunday morning. Please contact Derek if interested at rejoicemusicdirector@gmail.com.

Thanks and Happy New Year!
Chad Bryant



CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR January 18, 2024

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 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM. First Congregational Church of Hudson, located at 47 Aurora St., will host the event. The ecumenical prayer service, led by local clergy, will focus on the theme, "You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbor as yourself" (*Luke 10:27*). Rev Lynn Anderson, Chaplain of Independent Living at Laurel Lake, will give the sermon.

The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by a group of Christians from Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Ticket holders will enjoy a box lunch catered by Nosh, immediately following the service. The box lunch options are

Veggie Panini – roasted and marinated portabella mushroom – fried eggplant tomato aioli, roasted peppers, fresh mozzarella – balsamic and tart cherry reduction arugula – focaccia, includes chips and a cookie.

Turkey Wrap – roasted turkey, lemon and fresh herbs, boursin cheese, avocado, Nosh bacon, "free leafy greens" lettuce, tomato wheat wrap, includes chips and a cookie.

Coffee, tea, and bottled water will also be available. *You will need to make your lunch selection when you purchase your ticket.*

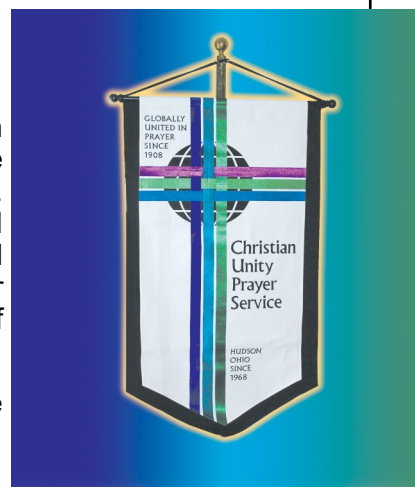
Our featured speaker after the luncheon is Sue Talarcek from the Hudson Community Service Assoc. (HCSA) Food Pantry

The ticket price is \$20.00 per person for the luncheon and speaker portion of the event. Tickets are available through Carla Maurer or Ginny Pillsbury. Make checks for tickets payable to Rejoice Lutheran Church. Attendees wishing to hostess a table may indicate their preference when contacting their church representative. **Reservation deadline is January 14, 2024.**

The prayer service is free and open to all; it does not require a ticket to attend. This year's offering will be divided with half going to the HCSA Food Pantry and half to Doctors Without Borders.

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.



HCSA Food Pantry News—January 2024

Happy New Year Rejoice and blessings to you all in 2024. We completed our final distribution for 2023 on December 16th (a week earlier than usual due to Christmas). Anna McLure, our resident "chef" took the month off from cooking and handed out small bags of Hershey's Kisses in holiday colors, and of course wearing her Elf garb!

We continue to serve record numbers of neighbors; however, in January we will be serving only our Hudson City School District neighbors. The Akron Canton Food Bank is allowing all their Food Pantry Partners to limit themselves to a specific geographic area due to the greatly increased demands on all area pantries.

Once again we are thankful to Rejoice for the use of your space, and looking forward to another successful year in partnership.

Women's Bible Study – Via Zoom

On January 3 the Women's Bible Study group will begin a new study—"The Coming King"

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



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

Wednesday Evening Bible Study resumes Jan. 3



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



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

May God Bless you in 2024!

Financial Report - November 2023

2023	Nov Actual	Nov Budget	Nov Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2023 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$11,440	\$8,638	\$2,802	\$119,793	\$95,013	\$24,780	\$103,650
Capital Revenue	\$2,192	\$2,667	(\$475)	\$31,817	\$29,333	\$2,484	\$32,000
Other	\$352	\$1,251	(\$899)	\$17,679	\$13,768	\$3,911	\$15,020
Total Income	\$13,984	\$12,556	\$1,428	\$169,289	\$138,114	\$31,175	\$150,670
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$8,392	\$9,180	\$788	\$67,225	\$100,985	\$33,760	\$110,165
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	\$71,970	\$49,500	(\$22,470)	\$54,000
Total Expenses	\$12,392	\$13,680	\$1,288	\$139,195	\$150,485	\$11,290	\$164,165
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$1,592	(\$1,124)		\$30,094	(\$12,371)		(\$13,495)
Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$3,907	\$4,583	(\$676)	\$5,000

~~ Automatic External Defibrillator (AED for short) ~~

AED Video Training

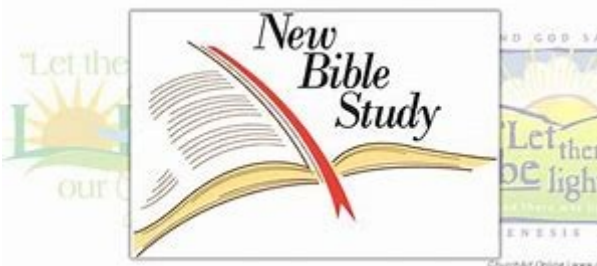
There are multiple training videos for our AED available on line at:

<https://www.zoll.com/contact/elearning/videos/aed-plus>

These are different than the video shown here at Rejoice, so you are encouraged to watch them even if you have seen the training video at Rejoice.

Beginning Jan 9 New Daytime Bible Study

Every Sunday we hear the Gospel read – dutifully responding with praise. Why? What makes the Gospel “good news” anyway? So, on Tuesdays at 1:00pm we’ll be reading and discussing the book Simply Good News by N.T. Wright. Led by Dave Denes, we will tackle this central message of Christianity. Please join us.



ACME Community Cash Back Collection at St. Stephens

Rejoice used to participate but in recent years we didn’t collect enough receipts to qualify for participation. If you can collect and turn in your Acme receipts, we can help St Stephens's earn 5% Community Cash Back, which goes toward Mission Support.

The Acme Community Cash Back program runs between AUGUST 1, 2023 to FEBRUARY 15, 2024. Place your receipt in the envelope on the Welcome desk by January 21, 2024. Please turn in your ENTIRE Acme receipt.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and (beers with) John

Thursday, February 1, 7:00pm

Green Valley Brewing Co..

Join our St. Stephen friends and family on a Brewery Trail at

Green Valley Brewing Co., 53 Milford Dr., Hudson.

Order your favorite beverage (it doesn’t have to be a beer) and snacks and catch up with friends. The Green Valley offers a full menu including vegetarian and gluten free options.



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

~So grateful to **Marisa McLelland** who comes in every week to mop the tile floors, wipe down the kitchen counters and check around to see what else is needed to ensure that everything is clean for Sunday. Also appreciate the many wonderful Fellowship activities that she and **Ellen Wisbar** have planned in the past.

~ Many thanks to **Janet Juliano** who quietly sits in the back and manages our Facebook Live video stream, and has been doing that for a couple of years! Thanks, Janet!

~In January we will welcome some new committee members to Rejoice's various committees. And, we welcome back many who will continue to serve. More details next month!

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

New Rejoice Directory

Now that the busy holiday season is behind us, I plan to update our Rejoice Friends and Family Directory. Soon I will email the contact information I currently have for everyone and you can update or edit as needed. Or, if I don't have your contact info and you'd like to be included, please email it to the office. You do not have to be a member to be included!

~Carla

Clear Bags Recycled into Park Benches - St. Stephens Collection

The local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) chapter is collecting clear plastic bags. The DAR chapter meets at St. Stephen on Saturdays. The clear plastic bags are collected and taken to the Kent Lions Club, who then delivers them to Terex. Terex takes the bags and recycles them into park benches. (see photo) The following clear plastic items are accepted for recycle:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Bubble wrap
- Ice bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Case overwrap (drinks)

If you have clear plastic to donate, please place it in the bag in the entryway. It is ok if there is print on the plastic.



Sharing Christmas Blessings at Crouse Elementary

On Sunday, Dec. 17 we packed gift bags for the children, assembly line style! Thank you to folks from Rejoice and a few members from St. Stephens who delivered socks and gloves and helped with the packing.

Then, on Thursday, Dec 21 several "elves" joined Santa at Crouse to distribute the gifts to 5 kindergarten classes. Pics below (children's faces are blurred)



Thank you to all who planned this ministry, purchased games, socks, and gloves, packed the gift bags and came to help Santa.

Special thanks to Sandy Molnar and Thrivent for the grant that purchased lotion, lip balm and snacks for the bags. Thanks to Paige Giannetti for arranging for a donation of books. And many thanks to Sue Holman who hand knit over 100 hats!



Santa's elves: L-R, Kathy Jacobsen, Carla Maurer, Santa (aka Tim), Sue Holman, Sandy Molnar, Barbara Shearer.. Not pictured, Paige Giannetti. Other committee members include Susan Busch, and Angie Hagan. Pictured at right are staff members from Crouse with Santa.



January 2024



EPIPHANY

PRE-LENT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Happy New Year!	1 New Year's Day	2 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	3 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	4	5 Hudson Senior Citizen Board meeting at Rejoice, 10:30am	6 The Epiphany of our Lord
7 The Baptism of our Lord 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	8 6:30 PM Quilting Group 7 PM AA Women's Group	9 Simply Good News Bible Study, 1:00PM at Rejoice 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	10 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	15 MLK Day 7 pm Church Council Meeting 7 PM AA Women's Group	16 Simply Good News Bible Study, 1:00PM at Rejoice 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	17 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	18 Christian Unity Prayer Service (CUPS) 10:00am	19	20
21 The Transfiguration of our Lord 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	22 7 PM AA Women's Group	23 Simply Good News Bible Study, 1:00PM at Rejoice 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	24 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	25	26	27 12 - 2 PM Hudson Food Pantry January Distribution
28 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	29 7 PM AA Women's Group	30 Simply Good News Bible Study, 1:00PM at Rejoice 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	31 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	Feb 1 Matthew, Mark, Luke and beers with John, 7PM Green Valley Brewing 53 Milford Rd. Hudson		

~~~ January Worship Helpers ~~~

10:30am SERVICE	7-Jan	14-Jan	21-Jan	28-Jan	4-Feb
ALTAR GUILD	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht
COMMUNION SET UP	D Procop/ D Biltz	J Lue / K Jacobsen	D Biltz / M McLelland	D Procop/ K Jacobsen	J Lue/ M McLelland
LAY READER	Susan Busch	David Denes	Becky Hogue	Pete Moore	Marisa McLelland
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Bethany Bryant	Jenn Lue	Marisa McLelland	Tim Hagan	Janet Juliano
GREETER / USHER	George Arnold	Paul Mallott	Tim Boebel	George Arnold	Paul Mallott
COUNTERS	C Maurer/ W Klukow	N Fasnacht/ W Klukow	Carla Maurer / Bethany Bryant	Carla Maurer / N Fasnacht	N Fasnacht/ Bethany Bryant
POWER POINT PREP	Judi Boebel	Carla Maurer	Nancy Fasnacht	Carla Maurer	Judi Boebel
SOUND BOOTH	Tim Boebel	Wisbar	Dan Jacobsen	Tim Boebel	Wisbar
VIDEOGRAPHER	AJ Stokes or Dan Jacobsen	Dan Jacobsen	AJ Stokes	AJ Stokes or Dan Jacobsen	AJ Stokes or Dan Jacobsen
FELLOWSHIP	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed

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.

Fellowship—ensure that someone is signed up to bring a snack, make coffee and clean-up

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

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

7855 Stow Rd.

Hudson, Ohio 44236

Phone: 330-653-5980

E-mail: office@rejoicelc.org

We're on the web!
www.rejoicelc.org

A few pics from Christmas Eve Worship...

