

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
Chris Wisbar
Tim Boebel
Pete Moore
Mike Procop
Glenn Fasnacht

**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

Tuesday afternoon Bible
Study, 1:00pm

Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays
8:00pm
on zoom

Thursday
7:00pm
on zoom

Ash Wednesday:

The Ancient Tradition That Marks the Start of a Spiritual Reset

Emily Standley Allard

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter Sunday. It's a day of repentance, fasting, and self-reflection, reminding Christians of their mortality and the need for spiritual renewal. The name comes from the ashes that priests place on the foreheads of believers in the shape of a cross, accompanied by the words:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)
or

"Repent and believe in the Gospel." (Mark 1:15)

The ashes symbolize both the fragility of human life and the call to repentance, marking a commitment to change, let go of bad habits, and grow spiritually.

Where Do the Ashes Come From?

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday aren't just any random ashes—they come from burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday. These palms, which were once waved in celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, are burned to dust, symbolizing the fleeting nature of worldly glory and the need for humility.

The ritual of placing ashes on the forehead is an ancient tradition, dating back to at least the 10th century, though references to ashes as a sign of repentance go as far back as the Old Testament (think Job and sackcloth).

Why Do People Observe Ash Wednesday?

For many Christians, Ash Wednesday serves as a spiritual "reset button." It's a reminder to slow down, reflect, and ask, "Am I living in alignment with my values?" It calls people to humility, encouraging them to acknowledge their faults and work towards becoming better versions of themselves.

This day is particularly important for Roman Catholics, but many Protestant denominations, including Anglicans, Lutherans, and some Methodists, also observe it. Even those who don't regularly attend church often feel drawn to the solemnity and reflection that Ash Wednesday offers.

Fasting and Sacrifice: Why Do People Give Things Up for Lent?

Lent is a season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, inspired by Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert before beginning his ministry. But it's not just about food—many people give up something meaningful for Lent, such as:

- Social media detox (because doomscrolling isn't good for the soul)
- Caffeine or sugar (a real test of endurance)
- Gossiping or negativity (a challenge harder than giving up coffee)
- Netflix or video games (ouch)

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The idea is to practice self-discipline and make room for spiritual growth. Some people also take on new habits instead of giving something up—like volunteering, spending more time in prayer, or performing random acts of kindness.

Is Ash Wednesday in the Bible?

While the Bible doesn't mention Ash Wednesday specifically, the practice of using ashes as a symbol of repentance and mourning is deeply rooted in Scripture. Here are a few examples:

Job 42:6 – "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Daniel 9:3 – "So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes."

Jonah 3:6 – When the people of Nineveh repented, they put on sackcloth and sat in ashes as a sign of their sorrow.

So while Ash Wednesday as a specific observance developed later, its meaning and symbolism have been around for thousands of years.

Global Traditions and Unique Ash Wednesday Practices

While Ash Wednesday is recognized worldwide, different cultures have unique ways of observing it.

In the Philippines, large crowds gather for Mass, and people often leave their ashes on all day as a public declaration of faith.

In Latin America, churches are packed, and processions often take place to mark the beginning of Lent.

In Poland, some people also mark the day with "Fat Thursday" (Tłusty Czwartek) just before Lent begins—indulging in sweets like *paczki* (Polish donuts) before the fasting starts.

In New Orleans, Ash Wednesday follows the wild celebrations of Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), marking a sharp contrast between indulgence and repentance.

Ash Wednesday for Non-Religious People

Even if you're not religious, there's something universally powerful about the themes of Ash Wednesday—reflection, change, and acknowledging life's impermanence. It's a good day to pause and ask:

What habits do I need to break?

What do I want to focus on in the next 40 days?

How can I be more intentional with my time?

Some people use this period for personal challenges—like setting new health goals, breaking bad habits, or practicing mindfulness. It's a great excuse to reset and refocus, regardless of religious belief.

Final Thoughts: More Than Just Ashes

Ash Wednesday is more than just a ritual—it's an invitation. An invitation to slow down, reflect on what really matters, and make small but meaningful changes in your life. Whether you observe it with full devotion, participate out of tradition, or simply take it as a moment of self-reflection, it's a day that reminds us all of our shared humanity.

So whether you're wearing ashes on your forehead or simply thinking about what you want to change, take a moment to appreciate this centuries-old tradition and the wisdom it carries. Who knows? You might just come out of this Lenten season a little wiser, a little lighter, and a whole lot more centered.

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated at Rejoice Lutheran Church on March 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Your prayers and presence are encouraged and expected.

Adult Formation in March – Sundays at 9:30 an

March 2 – God Against the Gods: Monotheism and Polytheism
March 9 – God Against the Gods: Monotheism and Polytheism
March 16 – God Against the Gods: Monotheism and Polytheism
March 23 – Women in the Bible
March 30 – Women in the Bible

Save the Date!

May 4 – The Brecksville/Broadview Heights Community Chorus Spring Concert performing the music of **Brahms & Bernstein**. Come and support AJ Stokes and Brian Suntken as they join a chorus of 50 singers performing the Liebeslieder Waltzes, Opus 65 of Johannes Brahms and choral selections from Leonard Bernstein's "Candide", "West Side Story", and "Wonderful Town." The concert is being held at the BBH Middle School Auditorium in Brecksville. The concert begins promptly at 4:00 pm. Admission is \$10 at the door.

May 17 – **Salome** live in HD from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City
Join Brian Suntken at the opera on Saturday, May 17 at 1:00 pm. The live broadcast from The MET will be held at the Regal Movie Theater in Hudson. This is a follow-up to our Adult formation class: The Bible and the Opera.

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts his first Met performances of Strauss's white-hot one-act tragedy, which receives its first new production at the company in 20 years. Claus Guth, one of Europe's leading opera directors, gives the biblical story—already filtered through the beautiful and strange imagination of Oscar Wilde's play—a psychologically perceptive Victorian-era setting rich in symbolism and subtle shades of darkness and light. Headlining the new staging is soprano Elza van den Heever as the abused and unhinged antiheroine, who demands the head of Jochanaan, sung by celebrated baritone

Start Your Day Positive

For those who may have listened to the radio station, 95.5 The Fish, you're probably aware that they were recently bought by another company. The radio personalities from the Fish are no longer on that station, but morning show hosts Len Howser and Sara Carnes are now hosting a podcast called "Start Your Day Positive."

Rejoice members, Brian and Stacy Shanley have been listening and wanted to share with us how much they've enjoyed it. Stacy said, "There's a new podcast every weekday and it runs about 25 minutes.

Here's the link and a little bit about it from Len and Sara. Stacy said she and Brian listen to it using Spotify, but it can be accessed wherever you listen to Podcasts..

www.startyourdaypositive.com

Hey friends! Join us every weekday for our daily podcast designed to inspire and energize your mornings. Each episode drops at 6am and blends uplifting conversation, news, today in history, inspiration, humor and trending topics that are faith-building, fun and fascinating.

And we'll do it all in less than 25 minutes! We wrap up every episode with a heartfelt prayer to carry you through the day. Whether you're looking for encouragement, a touch of humor, or just getting up to speed in a positive way, we're here for you.

Start your day with a good cup of coffee and a smile.

Tech Help Wanted!

The Rejoice Facebook Live-Stream is very important. The last six weeks got between 81 and 331 views. That is a lot of people that wouldn't have gotten the good news if the Live-Stream didn't exist! Right now Dave Denes and Glenn Fasnacht are the only people performing this task, and we feel it would be wise to get another person or two trained on this. If you are interested, or have questions, please see Dave or Glenn

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

Schedule through June 2025

This is a casual fellowship opportunity with our friends at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Stow.



3/6 Missing Mountain Brewing Company 2811 Front St. Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 V, GF, Vegan

4/3 The Brew Kettle 11 Atterbury Blvd. Hudson, OH 44236 V

5/1 Bell Tower Brewing Company 310 Park Ave. Kent, OH 44240 V, GF, Vegan

6/5 Lock 15 Brewing Company 21 W. North St., Suite TL 1 Akron, OH 44304 V, GF

The Winning Chili recipe:

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 28-ounce cans diced tomatoes
- 2 15.25-ounce cans black beans, drained
- 2 15.25-ounce cans yellow corn, drained
- 1 30-ounce jar diced nopales (cactus)
- 1 8 ounce can tomato paste
- 3 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 chipotle pepper, chopped
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

Combine ground beef and onion in a large skillet over medium heat; cook and stir until beef is browned, about 5 minutes.

Transfer beef and onion to a slow cooker. Stir in diced tomatoes, black beans, corn, nopales, tomato past, chili power, sugar, chipotle pepper, garlic power, cumin, salt and pepper.

Cook on Low until flavors combine, about 4 hours.

Makes about 10 servings. 400 calories per serving.

ALTAR FLOWERS



There is a Flower Chart on the bulletin board where you can sign-up on any available Sunday to provide fresh flowers for Sunday Worship. They may be offered in Honor or in Memory of a Loved One, for an Anniversary, Birthday, Baptism, Graduation, or any special occasion.

Obtain your flowers from any source: from a florist, any flower provider, your garden, or even the grocery store.

Just deliver your flowers to Rejoice's Church Kitchen on *your* Sunday by 10:15 AM. An Altar Guild Member will place your flowers in the Altar area, and you may take them home after worship. You may have your dedication listed in Rejoice's Sunday Church Bulletin. All the details are on the Welcome Desk.

Tuesday's at Rejoice at 1:00pm

In the Steps of Saint Paul

Bible Study with Dave Denes. Please bring:

- A copy of *In the Steps of Saint Paul* (several copies are being purchased)
- A Bible

Please plan to join as we read and discuss this book, the Book of Acts, and sections of his letters.



March Birthdays

8	Samantha Klukow
20	Pam Rubenstahl
21	Francine McBride
27	Stephanie Klukow
28	Sean Giannetti



March Anniversaries

13	Bob & Catherine Flower
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Congratulations on 71 years, Bob and Catherine!



Women's Bible Study - Via Zoom

Beginning January 8 the Women's Bible Study group will begin using a Life Guide Study called "Growing Older and Wiser"

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

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

Brian's Zoom Bible Study

Thursday Evenings at 7:00 pm

"A Zoom study led by Brian Suntken. Meet friends from Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, and California.

Zoom ID#3222400299 Password: COSJ2020 .



Financial Report - January 2025

2025	Jan Actual	Jan Budget	Jan Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2025 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$24,610	\$12,708	\$11,902	\$24,610	\$12,708	\$11,902	\$152,500
Capital Revenue	\$3,515	\$2,833	\$682	\$3,515	\$2,833	\$682	\$34,000
Other	\$638	\$567	\$71	\$638	\$567	\$71	\$6,800
Total Income	\$28,763	\$16,108	\$12,655	\$28,763	\$16,108	\$12,655	\$193,300
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$8,639	\$9,433	\$794	\$8,639	\$9,433	\$794	\$113,200
Capital Expense	\$5,546	\$5,583	\$37	\$5,546	\$5,583	\$37	\$67,000
Total Expenses	\$14,185	\$15,016	\$831	\$14,185	\$15,016	\$831	\$180,200
Net Total	\$14,578	\$1,092		\$14,578	\$1,092		\$13,100
Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$667	(\$667)	\$0	\$667	(\$667)	\$8,000




March 2025





Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



2 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion	3	4 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM AI-Anon Meeting	5 ASH WEDNESDAY Service 7:00pm 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	6 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study	7	8 Daylight Savings Time Begins Turn Clocks Ahead at 2AM Sunday 
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9 1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion	10 6:30 PM Rejoice Quilting Group	11 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM AI-Anon Meeting	12 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	13 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study	14	15
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16 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00 PM Council Meeting 	18 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM AI-Anon Meeting	19 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	20 March Equinox, GMT 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study	21	22  12 - 2 PM Hudson Food Pantry Feb Distribution
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23 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion 11:30 Worship Committee	24	25 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM AI-Anon Meeting	26 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	27 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study	28	29
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30 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion	31					
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10:30am SERVICE	02-Mar	09-Mar	16-Mar	23-Mar	30-Mar	06-Apr
COMMUNION PICK-UP COMMUNION SET UP	Chris Wisbar Jenn Lue	Dave Denes Dana Biltz	Wendy Klukow Kathy Jacobsen	Gregg Verser Diane Procop	Jacobsen's Diane Procop	Michael Lue Jenn Lue
LAY READER	Brian Pillsbury	Becky Hogue	Bill Holman	Jenn Lue	Russ Ackerman	Pete Moore
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Tim Hagan	Dave Denes	Francine McBride	Robyn Crane	Angie Hagan	Sue Holman
GREETER / USHER	Tim Boebel	George Arnold	Paul Mallott	George Arnold	Tim Boebel	Paul Mallott
COUNTERS	Dave Denes/ C Maurer	Stacy Shanley/ C Maurer	W Klukow / Brian Pillsbury	C Maurer/ N Fasnacht	W Klukow/ K Jacobsen	Dave Denes/ W Klukow
POWER POINT PREP	Nancy Fasnacht	Carla Maurer	Judi Boebel	Bethany Bryant	Nancy Fasnacht	Judi Boebel
SOUND BOOTH	Tim Boebel	Wisbar	Dan Jacobsen	Wisbar	Tim Boebel	Wisbar
VIDEOGRAPHER	AJ Stokes, D Jacobsen or E Hogue	AJ Stokes, D Jacobsen or E Hogue	AJ Stokes, D Jacobsen or E Hogue	AJ Stokes, D Jacobsen or E Hogue	AJ Stokes, D Jacobsen or E Hogue	AJ Stokes, D Jacobsen or E Hogue
FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes Or Ellen Wisbar	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes Or Ellen Wisbar	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes Or Ellen Wisbar	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes Or Ellen Wisbar	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes Or Ellen Wisbar	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes Or Ellen Wisbar

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 members take care all things concerning the altar, including communion preparation (bread & wine), altar linens, candles, paraments, banners, and flowers. They make sure that the altar is set up appropriately for the times and seasons of the church year.

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



2025 Annual Chili Cook-off



And the winner—2nd year in a row—is Francine McBride. Look closely at her left hand for the “large” trophy! The winning recipe is printed on page 4

