

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

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www.rejoicelc.org

Church Council

Chris Wisbar
Jake Biltz
Tim Boebel
Pete Moore
Mike Procop

**Bulletin and
Newsletter**

office@rejoicelc.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

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

Thursday
7:00pm
on zoom

Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that I wrote this piece for **The Charlotte Observer** over 20 years ago! But the themes still apply. As we move forward to the election in November, reconciliation, not division, is the answer.

We must forgive all our enemies or be damned.

- C.S. Lewis, **God in the Dock**, 1940

I am a political convention junkie. C-SPAN becomes my nightly exercise during the Democratic and Republican Conventions. I watch the proceedings gavel-to-gavel and am enthralled by the process, the "spins", the balloon drops, and the politics involved in nominating candidates to run for the highest office in our land.

If I cannot watch the conventions on television, I listen on NPR as the speakers praise their nominee, press forth the ideology of their party's platform, and whenever possible, take jabs at the opposition. It is an amazing, complicated, and highly orchestrated process. Yet, every four years I find the whole experience captivating.

The other night, though, I was taken back by a speech given by Ron Silver, the actor and political activist. While speaking about the events of 9/11, he said, "We will never forgive. We will never forget. Never excuse!" The delegates erupted into a prolonged ovation.

As a Christian leader, I found these words particularly disconcerting. Three years after the horrific events of September 11, our nation is still breathing revenge and retribution. The war, the continued threat of suicide bombings, the deaths of almost 1000 American soldiers, the wounding of thousands more, and the political rhetoric of both parties keeps the wounds of that frightful day open and festering. When will the true process of healing begin? When will our national leaders, many who assert religious affiliation, lead our nation into healing and renewal?

Forgiveness is the business of the Church. C.S. Lewis, writing in the year 1947, "We believe that God forgives us our sins; but also that he will not do so unless we forgive other people their sins against us. There is no doubt about the second part of this statement. It is in the Lord's Prayer: it was emphatically stated by our Lord. If you don't forgive you will not be forgiven. No part of his teaching is clearer: and there are no exceptions to it. He doesn't say that we are to forgive other people's sins provided they are not too frightful, or provided there are extenuating circumstances, or anything of the sort. We are to forgive them all, however spiteful, however mean, however often they are repeated. If we don't, we shall be forgiven none of our own." Lewis would add, "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

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Ron Silver is entitled to his opinion; this is what makes our nation great. The freedom to openly express one's views is an aspect of our democracy that I hold most dear. However, it is reckless, irresponsible, and shows a clear lack of moral leadership when party-approved speakers at national political conventions, who publicly claim Judaic or Christian beliefs, make statements that unmistakably run counter to their religious heritage and principals.

The events of 9/11 were horrifying. We witnessed the personification of evil in a ghastly and gruesome way. Innocent men, women and children suffered and died needlessly. We must not forget such despicable behavior. But as Christians, we must forgive.

When we define ourselves by the people who have hurt us, or the people who hate us, we remain in bondage to them until we are able to forgive. When we are unable to let go of the past, our identity is defined by those moments of hatred and pain and, in the end, will lead to our spiritual and emotional death. To forgive does not mean that we are to excuse as many persons seem to think it does. For many persons believe that when you ask them to forgive someone who has cheated or intimidated or brutalized them you are trying to demonstrate that there was really no deceitfulness or maltreatment or assault. If that were so, there would be nothing to forgive.

Forgiveness is much more demanding. It means, in Lewis' words, "that you must make every effort to kill every trace of resentment in your own heart – every wish to humiliate or hurt someone or to pay them out." Forgiveness springs from humility, in the realization of our own weakness, imperfection, and sinfulness. If God, who is perfect, can forgive sinners, how much more should humans do so?

Two thousand years ago, another innocent man, whose very life showed us the nature and character of God, was brutally put to death by a terrorist act known as crucifixion. On the cross, Jesus uttered the words, "Father, forgive them."

As a Christian, I believe in a God who reconciles. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. Those who declare to be disciples of Jesus are called to identify ourselves by the one who loves us and was willing to die on the cross that we might have life and have it abundantly. God wants us to be free – free of the burdens of past and present so that we might live fully in the present-day and walk with hope into a glorious future. Forgiveness is about freedom. It is a freedom that liberates and transforms.

I will be continually fascinated by our national conventions and, come November, participate fully in the election process. As a priest in the Church, I call upon all the candidates, who confess religious values, to lead our nation by faithfully adhering to the moral principals and spiritual disciplines to which they have professed their lives. We will never forget. We will never excuse. We **WILL** forgive.

Brian

Adult Formation – Sundays at 9:30 am

The Christian movement did not start out as a culturally significant phenomenon; it began in a remote part of the Roman Empire as a small, lower-class group of followers of a Jewish apocalyptic preacher, crucified as an enemy of the state. How did Christianity grow into such an enormously influential institution from such humble beginnings? Come and see.

May 5 – The Beginnings of Jewish-Christian Relations

May 12 -The Rise of Christian Anti-Judaism

May 19 - The Early Christian Mission

May 26 – The Christianization of the Roman Empire



Altar Guild News

Palms

The Palms were ordered by St. Stephens, and **Carla Maurer** drove there to pick them up and bring them to Rejoice. Thank you **Carla!**

Easter Flowers

Kate & Jay Hartland did a *GREAT* job of ordering, delivering and arranging the altar Easter flowers. Many, many thanks to **Kate** and **Jay**, and to **everyone** who ordered the beautiful Easter flowers!

Wooden Cross

The six foot wooden cross on our chancel was made by **Glenn Fasnacht**, and he finished it to match our altar. Bravo **Glenn!** On **Good Friday**, the cross was veiled with black to mark the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. On **Easter** the cross was adorned with white to symbolize the purity, grace, and, ultimately, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pentecost is May 19th

WEAR RED TO CHURCH ON MAY 19

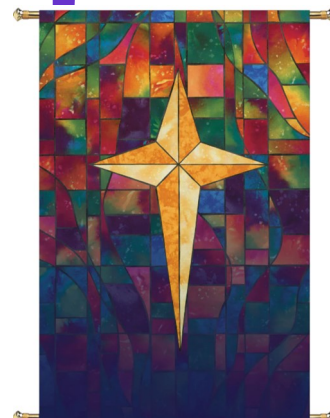
We celebrate Pentecost fifty days after Easter. Red at Pentecost symbolizes the joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit that descended upon the Apostles when they received the Holy Spirit. Watch for information on ordering red geraniums to adorn our altar for Pentecost.

Candlelighters

Glenn Fasnacht polished the brass and cleaned the wax from our four candlelighters. He made the wooden, wall hanging shelf, and the brass cross on it, for their storage. It is on the wall to the left as you enter the sanctuary. Nice job **Glenn!** Thank you. It looks great!

Altar Linens

We appreciate the amazing job **Sue Simmons** has been doing of washing and ironing, and organizing all of our altar linens. Thanks **Sue!!**



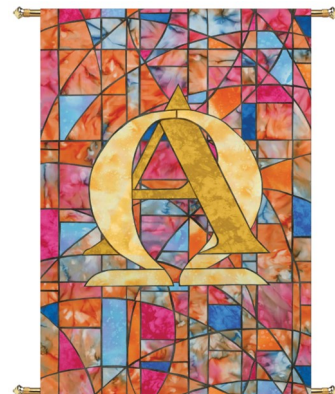
Rejoice Church Banners

Rejoice has a variety of sanctuary banners for church holidays like Easter, Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, etc. Recently funding was approved for our Altar Guild to order two new banners to be used for ordinary church days. The "lamb" and "shell" banners have been ordered and we will receive them soon.

Other banners are available and may be purchased "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved one. Each banner is 3' x 5', and they have similar "stained-glass" backgrounds, so they can be mixed and matched. They are quite colorful and will truly brighten our sanctuary, and glorify our Lord.

The Altar Guild is planning to get and display a book, where the banner dedications, or other dedications, may be listed.

If you would like more information about acquiring a banner for Rejoice, please contact Nancy Fasnacht at nfasnacht@roadrunner.com.



Women's Bible Study —Via Zoom



The Women's Bible Study group is now studying —
 "Christian Disciplines"
 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



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

Brian's Zoom Bible Study will continue to be on Thursday evenings until further notice

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



March 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!c.org

Financial Report - March 2024

2024	Mar Actual	Mar Budget	Mar Vari- ance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Vari- ance to Budget	2024 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$12,679	\$12,833	(\$154)	\$46,553	\$38,500	\$8,053	\$154,000
Capital Revenue	\$1,805	\$2,917	(\$1,112)	\$9,255	\$8,750	\$505	\$35,000
Other	\$1,092	\$358	\$734	\$3,793	\$1,075	\$2,718	\$4,300
Total Income	\$15,576	\$16,108	(\$532)	\$59,601	\$48,325	\$11,276	\$193,300
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$7,574	\$9,194	\$1,620	\$28,867	\$27,585	(\$1,282)	\$117,340
Capital Expense	\$5,546	\$5,667	\$121	\$16,638	\$17,000	\$362	\$68,000
Total Expenses	\$13,120	\$14,861	\$1,741	\$45,505	\$44,585	(\$920)	\$185,340
Net Total	\$2,456	\$1,247		\$14,096	\$3,740		\$7,960
Benevolence Giving	\$2,000	\$1,250	\$750	\$2,000	\$3,750	(\$1,750)	\$15,000

Daytime Bible Study—Simply Good News

I want to thank everyone that took part in the book study Simply Good News by N.T. Wright. Over the last several months, we've discussed what exactly the Good News is, how it can be distorted into good advice, and how we can pray the Good News. Personally, it has been a blessing for me and hope it's also been a blessing for all who attended. (for anyone interested: there are still 2 copies of the book)
Peace, Dave Denes

Ladies Night Out—Last Chance!

Friday, May 3, 7-9PM

Grace Baptist Church, Laurel Road, Brunswick, OH, USA
3480 Laurel Road Brunswick, OH 44212

Featuring Nicole Nordeman. Hosted by Sara Carnes from 95.5 the Fish. With special guest, Robin Swoboda. General Admission tickets are \$30 (+\$3.85 fee). Doors open at 6:30PM

Join us for a fabulous evening of music and inspiration with the incredible **Nicole Nordeman!** This in-person event will be held at **Grace Baptist Church** on Laurel Road in Brunswick, OH, USA. Get ready to be uplifted and encouraged as Nicole shares her heartfelt songs and stories. This is a night you won't want to miss! Grab your girlfriends and mark your calendars for a night of laughter, tears, and unforgettable moments. Come as you are and let's celebrate the power of sisterhood together!

I hear there are a few tickets left! Purchase your ticket at 955thefish.com and let Carla know!



Rejoice Spring Cleaning

Please mark your calendar for our annual spring cleaning on Saturday May 18th from 9am-11am. Pete Moore volunteered to bring donuts!



Matthew, Mark, Luke, and (beers with) John
Thursday, May 2 at 7pm at the Brew Kettle in Hudson.

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



Lots of praise and appreciation to Rejoice's Audio/Video Team! They give their time and talents to meet and work together to successfully and professionally broadcast Rejoice's worship services live on Facebook. They also make certain that the audio/video for our "in person" worship service is of the highest quality. They are:

Dave Denes	Janet Juliano	AJ Stokes
Glenn Fasnacht	Carla Maurer	Brian Suntken
Ethan Hogue	Marisa McLelland	Chris Wisbar

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

Fellowship Time Hospitality

Enjoy Coffee and Snacks After Worship?

Looking for volunteers to bring a snack, make coffee and clean up after. Since everyone likes a snack now and then, weekly volunteers are needed to make Sunday morning coffee, put out the snacks and stay to clean up afterwards. Sign up sheet is at the coffee bar window.



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.



We now have a collection basket in the entryway at Rejoice



MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	2 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting Matt., Mark, Luke, beer with John, 7:00PM Brew Kettle	3	4
5 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship & Communion	6 6:30 PM Quilting Group 7 PM AA Women's Group	7 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	8 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	9 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting	10	11
12 Mother's Day 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship & Communion	13 7 pm Church Council Meeting 7 PM AA Women's Group	14 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	15 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	16 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting	17	18
19 PENTECOST (Wear Red) 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship & Communion	20 7 PM AA Women's Group	21 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	22 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	23 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting	24	25 12 - 2 PM Hudson Food Pantry February Distribution
26 HOLY TRINITY 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship & Communion	27 Memorial Day 7 PM AA Women's Group	28 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	29 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	30 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting	31	



May Worship Helpers

10:30am SERVICE	5-May	12-May	19-May	26-May	2-June
COMMUNION SET UP	Jenn Lue	Dana Biltz	Kathy Jacobsen	Marisa McLelland	Jenn Lue
LAY READER	Becky Hogue	Sue Holman	Brian Pillsbury	Francine McBride	Dave Denes
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Bethany Bryant	Bill Holman	Tim Hagan	Marisa McLelland	Pete Moore
GREETER / USHER	Paul Mallott	Tim Boebel	Paul Mallott	George Arnold	Paul Mallott
COUNTERS	C Maurer / W Klukow	N Fasnacht/ C Maurer	W Klukow / B Bryant	C Maurer/ N Fasnacht	C Maurer / W Klukow
POWER POINT PREP	Bethany Bryant	Judi Boebel	Carla Maurer	Nancy Fasnacht	Bethany Bryant
SOUND BOOTH	Dan Jacobsen	Wisbar	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
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 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.

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

HCSA Food Pantry News—May 2024

An exciting and successful "Stuff the Ambulance" was held at ACME on April 13th. Thanks to Kristen from Hudson EMS and Dustin, ACME manager for coordinating. We were able to restock the pantry thanks to community contributions from this food drive! EMS staff enjoyed the event and hope to repeat next year.

Another fun donation of make up samples and make up bags from a community member will be given out to our neighbors as Mothers' Day gifts. Another plus for the month of May!

Happy graduations and other spring events to all!

**ALTAR
FLOWERS**

There is a Flower Chart on the bulletin board where you may sign-up, on an 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. You will find all the details in the order forms on the Welcome Desk.

A Personal Request...

The Hudson Garden Club will host its 76th annual Home and Garden Tour on Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, with a special Preview on Thursday, June 20. 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. Most volunteer shifts are 2-3 hours.

If any of these sound interesting, please contact me for more information or to sign up. If you can't help I hope you will consider purchasing a ticket to see the beautiful homes and gardens on this year's tour!

Thanks so much!

Carla Maurer

330-524-8026

cbmaurer@roadrunner.com