

**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@rejoicelc.org](mailto:office@rejoicelc.org)  
[www.rejoicelc.org](http://www.rejoicelc.org)

**Church Council**  
Chris Wisbar  
Jake Biltz  
Tim Boebel  
Pete Moore  
Mike Procop

**Bulletin and  
Newsletter**  
[office@rejoicelc.org](mailto: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**  
  
Tuesday afternoon Bible  
Study, 1:00pm  
  
Women's Bible Study  
Wednesdays  
8:00pm  
on zoom  
  
Thursday  
7:00pm  
on zoom

Dear Friends:

*Richard John Neuhaus (May 14, 1936–January 8, 2009) was a prominent writer and Christian cleric (first in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, then the ELCA and later the Catholic Church). Born in Canada, Neuhaus moved to the United States, where he became a naturalized United States citizen. He was the longtime editor of the Lutheran Forum magazine newsletter and the author of numerous books. Neuhaus served as an unofficial adviser to President George W. Bush on bioethical issues. Here is one of his reflections on Advent.*

Matthew's Gospel tells us about the centurion at Capernaum who asks Jesus to heal his servant in distress. "I will come and heal him," says Jesus. To which the centurion responds, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed," Jesus says the word and the servant is healed, Of the Roman centurion he then says, "Not even in Israel have I found such faith."

Faith does not assert claims; faith receives the gift that is undeserved. Faith is itself a gift, the gift of receptivity. Mary received the gift in saying, "Let it be to me according to your word." To her, and through her to us, was given the gift of the Child who is nothing less, no one less, than the Savior of the world. For us he lived and suffered and died; for us he was raised triumphant that we might, even though we suffer and die, forever live in his glory. The gift is already given and forever is now for those who give him permission to let life be a gift in response to gift. It really is a matter of giving God permission, as Mary gave God permission. He will not be the Lord of our life without our permission. Faith is giving permission.

"Lord, I am not worthy." On our lips and in our hearts, these are words of surrendering love – of love surrendering to love. They are words by which we empty ourselves, by which we open ourselves, to receive the gift. If we are full of ourselves, complaining about what we deserve and do not deserve, there is no room in our hearts to receive the gift. If we deserved the gift, it would not be a gift. "Lord, I am not worthy." With these words, we make room in our hearts for the gift.

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Christmas is the giving and receiving of gifts. What a joy. What a hassle. What gifts to give to whom? What gifts to expect in return? The hassle surrenders to gratitude as we, setting aside all calculations of who deserves what, respond by giving as we have been given. "Lord, I am not worthy." With these words, complaints and grievances are banished. With these words, the gift is given to receive the gift of giving. With these words, faith gives permission for Christ to be in our lives Emmanuel, God with us.

Richard John Neuhaus

**(God with Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas**, edited by Greg Pennoyer and Gregory Wolfe, (Paraclete Press|Brewster, MA), 2007, pp. 21-23)

### Concerts....Concerts....Galore!!

'Tis the Holiday Season and there is music in the air. Check out these three offerings:



#### Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm

##### **Carols Ancient and Modern**

Brecksville-Broadview Heights Community Chorus will present a holiday concert at the Brecksville/Broadview Heights Middle School Auditorium located on 6376 Mill Road, Broadview Hts, Ohio. Wheelchair accessible. Free Parking. Adults \$10. Seniors and Student \$5.

AJ Stokes and Brian Suntken will be singing under the direction of Nancy Stokes. Other surprises in store. Bring a friend.

#### Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm

##### **Solstice Flute Ensemble**

Holiday favorites and unusual and creative settings of contemporary songs as this twelve-member ensemble performs at Rejoice Lutheran Church. Free admission. Bring a friend or two.

#### Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm

##### **Western Reserve Community Band**

Hudson Middle School Auditorium with an amazing cookie reception following! Bev O'Connor conducts and Brian Suntken narrates *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Free admission and parking. Wheelchair accessible. Bring a friend.

### Dec 24 Services - In Person and Live Streamed at 5:00 p.m.

The Christmas Eve service, both in person and Facebook Live streamed will be at 5:00pm. Join us for this special worship service including carols, candlelight and Communion.



## CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER SERVICE AND LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR January 23, 2025

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 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM. St. Mary Parish in Hudson, located at 340 N Main St., will host the event. The ecumenical prayer service, led by local clergy, will focus on the theme, "Do you believe this?" (*John 11:26*).

This year the ecumenical celebration has been prepared by the community of Bose, an ecumenical monastery of brothers and sisters in northern Italy. As we celebrate 1700 years since the council of Nicaea, this worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed.

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

**Artichoke & Havarti Panini** – sauteed artichokes, Havarti cheese, basil aioli, roasted tomatoes, baby arugula, and white truffle oil on Focaccia bread.

**Chicken Salad sandwich** – grilled chicken, grapes, red onion, tarragon, basil, mint, toasted almonds, mayo, "free leafy greens" lettuce, and tomato on multigrain bread.

Lunches include house-cut chips. Dessert will be a banana-cinnamon mini-bundt cake. 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 Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones. She will share her faith journey.

Ticket price is \$20.00 per person for the luncheon and speaker portion of the event. Tickets are available after Dec. 10. See Carla Maurer or Ginny Pillsbury to purchase tickets. Make checks for tickets payable to St. Mary Parish. Reservation deadline is January 12, 2025.

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 the Hudson Ministerial Association.

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, and St. Mary Parish.





# ANNUAL MEETING

## Annual Congregational Meeting!

Rejoice's annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 15, immediately following worship

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



Dec 5, 2024 7:00pm  
Missing Mountain Brewing Company, 2811 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls 44221 V, GF, Vegan

Join our St. Stephen friends for fellowship. Order your favorite beverage (it doesn't have to be a beer) and snacks and catch up with friends.

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

## Schedule through June 2025

12/5 Missing Mountain Brewing Company 2811 Front St. Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 V, GF, Vegan

2/6 HiHo Brewing Company 1707 Front Street Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 V, GF, Vegan

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

## 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.

**There is a collection basket in the hall, across from the Food Pantry.**



## Tuesday's at Rejoice at 1:00pm

**Will meet on Dec 3, 10, 17, then break until Jan 7**

### 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.



### December Birthdays

6	Chelsea Yanda
15	Bill Holman
15	Evan Juliano
16	Mike Ramsey
24	Glenn Fasnacht



### December Anniversaries

3	Chris & Ellen Wisbar
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*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@rejoicelc.org](mailto:office@rejoicelc.org)*



### Women's Bible Study - via Zoom

For December the Women's Bible Study group is using an Advent publication.

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](mailto:lisaruns1969@gmail.com) or 234.380.2090

## Brian's Zoom Bible Study

**Thursday Evenings at 7:00 pm on a break until Dec 19**

"The First and the Last" – Saint Paul's letters to the Thessalonians and Romans. A Zoom study led by Brian Suntken. Meet friends from Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, and California. Zoom ID#3222400299 Password: COSJ2020 .



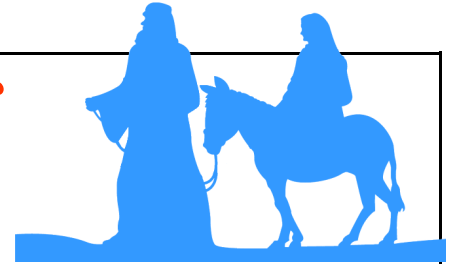
## Financial Report - October 2024

2024	Oct Actual	Oct Budget	Oct Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2024 Budget
<b>INCOME:</b>							
General Revenue	\$8,885	\$12,833	(\$3,948)	\$122,563	\$128,333	(\$5,770)	\$154,000
Capital Revenue	\$2,620	\$2,917	(\$297)	\$28,035	\$29,167	(\$1,132)	\$35,000
Other	\$2,946	\$358	\$2,588	\$12,624	\$3,583	\$9,041	\$4,300
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$14,451</b>	<b>\$16,108</b>	<b>(\$1,657)</b>	<b>\$163,222</b>	<b>\$161,083</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$193,300</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>							
General Expense	\$13,138	\$9,162	(\$3,976)	\$93,815	\$91,617	(\$2,198)	\$117,340
Capital Expense	\$5,546	\$5,667	\$121	\$55,880	\$56,667	\$787	\$68,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,684</b>	<b>\$14,829</b>	<b>(\$3,855)</b>	<b>\$149,695</b>	<b>\$148,284</b>	<b>(\$1,411)</b>	<b>\$185,340</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>(\$4,233)</b>	<b>\$1,279</b>		<b>\$13,527</b>	<b>\$12,799</b>		<b>\$7,960</b>

<b>Benevolence Giving</b>	\$0	\$1,283	(\$1,283)	\$6,000	\$12,833	(\$6,833)	\$15,000
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# December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1 1st Sunday of Advent</b>                      9:30                      Adult Formation                      10:30 AM                      Worship, NO Communion</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3                      1:00 PM                      Bible Study with Dave                      6:30 AM                      Al-Anon Meeting</p>	<p>4                      8 PM                      Women's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>5                      7 PM                      Brian's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p><b>8 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>                      9:30                      Adult Formation                      10:30 AM                      Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p>9                      6:00 PM                      Rejoice Quilting Group</p>	<p>10 1:00 PM                      Bible Study with Dave                      6:30 AM                      Al-Anon Meeting                      7:00 Solstice Christmas Flute Concert</p>	<p>11                      8 PM                      Women's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>12                      7 PM                      Brian's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14                        12 - 2 PM                      Hudson Food Pantry December Distribution</p>
<p><b>15 3rd Sunday of Advent</b>                      9:30                      Adult Formation                      10:30 AM                      Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p>16                      7:00 PM                      Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>17                      1:00 PM                      Bible Study with Dave                      6:30 AM                      Al-Anon Meeting</p>	<p>18                      8 PM                      Women's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>19                      7 PM                      Brian's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21                        Longest night of the year</p>
<p><b>22 4th Sunday of Advent</b>                      9:30                      Adult Formation                      10:30 AM                      Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>                      5:00 PM                      Worship</p>	<p>25 <b>Christmas Day</b>  </p>	<p>26                      7 PM                      Brian's Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p><b>29 1st Sunday after Christmas</b>                      9:30                      Adult Formation                      10:30 AM                      Worship &amp; Communion</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>  </p>			<p></p>	

10:30am SERVICE	01-Dec	08-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	29-Dec	05-Jan
COMMUNION PICK-UP COMMUNION SET UP	No Communion	Bob and Catherine Flower Dana Biltz	TBA Kathy Jacobsen	Wendy Klukow Marisa McLelland	TBA Diane Procop	Jenn Lue
LAY READER	Brian Pillsbury	Francine McBride	Bill Holman	Marisa McLelland	George Arnold	Robyn Crane
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Sue Holman	Dave Denes	Russ Ackerman	Jenn Lue	Tim Hagan	Sue Holman
GREETER / USHER	Paul Mallott	George Arnold	Tim Boebel	George Arnold	Paul Mallott	Tim Boebel
COUNTERS	N Fasnacht/ B Bryant	W Klukow/ K Jacobsen	W Klukow / C Maurer	C Maurer/ K Jacobsen	N Fasnacht/ C Maurer	W Klukow/ K Jacobsen
POWER POINT PREP	Nancy Fasnacht	Bethany Bryant	Judi Boebel	Carla Maurer	Judi Boebel	Nancy Fasnacht
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 or Dave Denes	Glenn Fasnacht or Dave Denes	Glenn Fasnacht or Dave Denes	Glenn Fasnacht or Dave Denes	Glenn Fasnacht or Dave Denes	Glenn Fasnacht or Dave Denes

**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

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**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.



Our Nov. 10 Anniversary Celebration was also an opportunity to let Vicar Brian know how much we appreciate him as our pastoral leader.