

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
www.rejoicelc.org

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

**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

Tuesday afternoon Bible
Study, 1:00pm

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

Thursday
7:00pm
on zoom

O God, your days are without beginning and without end. We dedicate this coming year to you. Give us such prosperity as you know is good for us, and make us abound in doing whatever is pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Source: Mozarabic Collect for New Year)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We stand at the precipice of a New Year. For some people, they are looking forward in hope to what might be. For others, there is fear and uncertainty with all the changes that our nation is going through. It is easy for us to lose sight of the good which is in the world when we are anxious, observe conflict, witness violence and have unmet needs. This New Year holds before us as much promise as it does uncertainty. As Christians, what is our role to play as we journey together with our friends, families, neighbors, and as a nation, into 2025?

First, we must be people of hope and promise. For example, hope in the realization that issues like laboring to eliminate extreme poverty are working and continue to show promise. Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics, author and philosopher has written, "Two hundred years ago that was the condition of 80 percent of the world's population. By 1990 that figure had been reduced to 38 percent, and in 2007, for the first time, it fell below 20 percent. Now, despite the rise in population, it is down to 8.5 percent. The number of children dying before their fifth birthday has declined in tandem with the reduction in extreme poverty. When I wrote *The Life You Can Save*, in 2008, it was 9.8 million. Now it is just half that, 4.9 million. That's 13,000 fewer children dying every day." (Newsweek, December 2024)

Hope.... I spent the holidays visiting with many young people. Their energy, compassion, and intelligence are staggering. The young people who I spoke with, and shared meals with, have an amazing creativity and innovation to shape a better world for all of us. They are problem solvers and have, I believe, the potential to generate positive social change. If we both listen and allow them to lead, the future for our nation and the world is bright.

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Second, this coming year affords each of us an opportunity to witness to what we believe. British priest and author, Kenneth Leech, in his inspiring book *The Eye of the Storm: Living Spirituality in the Real World*, reminds us that in the midst of a hurricane when everything around us is in chaos and disorder, the eye of the storm is in perfect peace. Leech inspires the church community to get involved in the earthy, real-world work of justice and peace for all persons. As Christians, we are able to remain calm in the midst of the fray because we are anchored in and with Christ. In the uncertainty of the New Year, we are called by God to spread light where we can; speak up when we must; and share the Gospel of Christ with all.

May the New Year bring you, your family, your neighbors, and our nation, joy, peace, and abundant blessings. Here's to looking back in gratitude for the past year and looking forward to new beginnings! Wishing you a year filled with opportunities, good health, and prosperity. God's blessing to you and yours!

Brian



JEOPARDY!

Kudos to Art Flemming,
or was it Alex Trebek?
or was it Ken Jennings?
No, its not them.

It's kudos to Vicar Brian for brilliantly writing and hosting *JEOPARDY 2024 (Rejoice Lutheran Version)*.

It was laughter, fun, and even learning during the Sunday morning Adult Forum at Rejoice as Brian coaxed, cajoled, charmed and wheedled the questions (a.k.a. answers) from the brave contestants (a.k.a. congregants). It was great! Even the "Weird Christmas" categories were a blast. Thank YOU Brian, Please do it again next year!!

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.



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



Feb 6, 2025 7:00pm
 HiHo Brewing Company, 1707
 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.

(NOTE: No MML(bw)J in January)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and (beers with)

John

Schedule through June 2025

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.

There will be a brief Altar Guild Meeting following worship on January 5th.

Tuesday's at Rejoice at 1:00pm

Resumes on January 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.



January Birthdays

8	Sharon Straka
11	Marisa McLelland
16	Dana Bryant
22	Joyce Clothier
24	Ellen Ackerman



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

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

May God Bless you in 2025!



—Carla Maurer

Brian's Zoom Bible Study

Thursday Evenings at 7:00 pm Resumes on January 9.

"A Zoom study led by Brian Suntken. Meet friends from Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, and California. Zoom ID#3222400299 Password: COSJ2020 .



Financial Report - November 2024

2024	Nov Actual	Nov Budget	Nov Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2024 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$8,101	\$12,833	(\$4,732)	\$130,663	\$141,167	(\$10,504)	\$154,000
Capital Revenue	\$2,135	\$2,917	(\$782)	\$30,170	\$32,083	(\$1,913)	\$35,000
Other	\$678	\$358	\$320	\$13,302	\$3,942	\$9,360	\$4,300
Total Income	\$10,914	\$16,108	(\$5,194)	\$174,135	\$177,192	(\$3,057)	\$193,300
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$13,528	\$9,162	(\$4,366)	\$107,343	\$100,778	(\$6,565)	\$117,340
Capital Expense	\$5,546	\$5,667	\$121	\$61,426	\$62,333	\$907	\$68,000
Total Expenses	\$19,074	\$14,829	(\$4,245)	\$168,769	\$163,111	(\$5,658)	\$185,340
Net Total	(\$8,160)	\$1,279		\$5,366	\$14,081		\$7,960

Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$1,283	(\$1,283)	\$6,000	\$14,117	(\$8,117)	\$15,000
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January 2025



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1 New Year's Day		2	3 10:30AM Hudson Senior Citizens Board Mtg.	4
		5 2nd Sunday After Christmas 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion 11:30 AM Altar Guild Meeting	6	7 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting	8 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	9 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study
12 Epiphany 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion	13 6:30 PM Rejoice Quilting Group	14 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting	15 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	16 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study	17	18
19 2nd Sunday After Epiphany 9:30 AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion	20 Martin Luther King Day 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	21 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting	22 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	23 10:30AM Christian Unity Prayer Service 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study	24	25 12 - 2 PM Hudson Food Pantry January Distribution
26 3rd Sunday After Epiphany 9:30AM Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion 11:30 AM Worship Committee Meeting	27	28 1:00 PM Bible Study with Dave 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting	29 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	30 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Study	31 	

10:30am SERVICE	05-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan		02-Feb
COMMUNION PICK-UP COMMUNION SET UP	Dave Denes Jenn Lue	Gregg Verser Dana Biltz	Jacobsen's Kathy Jacobsen	Michael Lue Marisa McLelland		Procop's Jenn Lue
LAY READER	Robyn Crane	Russ Ackerman	Bill Holman	Jenn Lue		George Arnold
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Sue Holman	Dave Denes	Francine McBride	Marisa McLelland		Angie Hagan
GREETER / USHER	Tim Boebel	George Arnold	Paul Mallott	George Arnold		Tim Boebel
COUNTERS	W Klukow/ K Jacobsen	N Fasnacht/ C Maurer	W Klukow / C Maurer	W Klukow/ K Jacobsen		N Fasnacht/ C Maurer
POWER POINT PREP	Nancy Fasnacht	Judi Boebel	Carla Maurer	Bethany Bryant		Nancy Fasnacht
SOUND BOOTH	Wisbar	Tim Boebel	Dan Jacobsen	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
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

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



On Christmas Eve Grace Lue sang Lula Lullay, accompanied by Derek Carter, Rejoice Music Director

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.

