REJOICE Lutheran Church

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

Contact R e j o i c e !
330-653-5980
office@rejoicelc.org
www.rejoicelc.org

Church Council
Mike Procop
Tim Boebel
Pete Moore
Glenn Fasnacht
Kathy Jacobsen
Brian Pillsbury
Kate Hartland

Bulletin and Newsletter
office@rejoicelc.org

Sunday Worship
10:30am
(In-person or Face Book Live,)

Bible Study

Adult Formation Study
Sundays
9:30am
in person

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

Council President's Letter

Reformation Day and All Saints Day

Late October and early November in the church are known for two things, neither of them are Halloween. So please don't come to church dressed up as a goblin or a witch carrying a plastic pumpkin saying Trick or Treat. On the serious side, October is known for All Saints Day and Reformation Sunday. October and early November give us two special opportunities as Lutherans to reflect on our faith and the people who have helped shape it. **Reformation Day**, observed on October 31, and **All Saints Day**, observed on November 1, remind us of both our Lutheran heritage .and the great family of faith to which we belong.

Reformation Day takes us back to October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther challenged practices and teachings within the church and called Christians back to the central message of Scripture. The Reformation emphasized that we are saved not by our own accomplishments, but by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8–9, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."* This message remains at the heart of Lutheran faith. Reformation Day is not simply a celebration of Martin Luther or an event from more than 500 years ago. It is an opportunity to remember that the church is continually called back to God's Word and to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Then, on **All Saints Day**, we turn our attention to those faithful Christians who have gone before us. We remember family members, friends, pastors, teachers and others whose lives reflected God's love and whose faith influenced our own.

As we remember those who have died in the faith, we may experience both sadness and gratitude. We miss their presence, their voices and their companionship. Yet we also give thanks for the ways God worked through their lives. Their examples of faith, love, service and perseverance can continue to encourage us.

These two observances belong together in a beautiful way. **Reformation Day reminds us what we believe and All Saints Day reminds us of the people who lived that faith.** Both point us beyond ourselves to Jesus Christ.

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Council President's Letter—continued from page 1

As we celebrate these days, may we give thanks for God's grace, for the gift of faith, for the church that has carried the Gospel through the generations, and for all those saints who have touched our lives.

And may we continue the journey of faith, trusting the promise of Jesus:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." — John 11:25

Mike

STEWARDSHIP 2026

Well it's that time of year again. The days are growing shorter, the air is crisp, the leaves are falling **and** it's time to prayerfully consider our commitment of treasure to the work of Rejoice. This year's Stewardship Campaign is a little different from past years in that there is a greater emphasis on monies pledged and given to the capital side of the ledger (mortgage balance reduction). Of course, we still need to cover our operating costs - the electric bill must be paid, the grass cut and the driveway plowed – but we plan to put a serious dent in our mortgage balance by year end. To that end, your Church Council has approved a lump sum payment of about $35,000 to the mortgage account by year end. These monies currently reside in a savings account that yields less economic impact than a payment to the mortgage account. What we are asking is that our members consider making an aggregate lump sum donation of at least $15,000 **by year end** so that a payment of **$50,000** can be made to the mortgage. In addition, we are asking for a pledge of monthly contributions to pay the monthly mortgage estimated to be $7,000 in 2027. Think of it this way: a 1% share of the monthly mortgage payment is $70.00. How many shares can each of us pledge to contribute?

Pledge cards will be available on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2026". These cards will be designed to allow for lump sum as well as monthly Capital pledges as well as weekly or other periodic pledges to the Operating Budget. If you have any questions, please contact your Stewardship Team – Pete Moore or Brian Pillsbury.

Sunday Morning Adult Formation Study 9:30am



Adult Formation: Study of Ezra-Nehemiah

The sixth century BCE: It has been over a century since the northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians. Now the southern kingdom of Judah falls to the Babylonians. The elites – scholars, rabbis, wealthy – are herded to Babylonia. The peasants, subsistence workers, and slaves are left. A third imperial power takes over – the Persians. Surprisingly, King Cyrus issues an edict for the Jews to return to Judah and rebuild the temple. As they return to the now-decimated city of Jerusalem, many wonder: who are the "true" Israelites?

In our reading, we'll listen to writers Ezra and Nehemiah and learn about this confusing time. A word warning: there are a lot of names, but only a dozen or so are important for us.

Join me on September 20, at 9:30am as we begin this book study.

Dave Denes

Rejoice Lutheran Church Council Minutes- September 21, 2026

Present: Procop, Moore, Fasnacht, Hartland, Pillsbury, Jacobsen, Boebel, Butchko

Pete had devotions and opening prayer

Tim reviewed August financials:

General giving was $7.6K vs budgeted $10.4K. Capital $1.2K vs $2.1K and total $9.6K vs $13.1K. YTD General giving $98.9K vs $83.3K, Capital $13.9K vs $16.7K and total $124.9K vs $105K. Revenues continue to be favorable to budget due to front-end loaded giving by a few members of the congregation.

Expenses were $10.4K vs $12.7K budget. YTD expenses were $103.6K vs $101.4K. Expenses for the month were favorable to budget due to less than budgeted supply pastor and building maintenance expense. YTD expenses were slightly over budget due to extra principal mortgage payments (considered positive) and slightly higher than budgeted snow removal

Net income for August was (.83K) vs .45K budget. YTD net income is $21.4K vs $3.6K. Cash ended at $112.2K from $113K

- Ministry Committee updates: Clambake was cancelled due to low turnout; Quilt Sunday - Oct. 4th; Church anniversary Sunday: November 15th; October 15th - 6 PM @ St. Stephens Nathan from ELCA Synod to speak. Kate recommended that an Outreach Committee be formed to explore additional ways in which Rejoice can interact with the local community. It should be noted that Paige Giannetti submitted several community outreach ideas to Council in an email that was distributed to prior to the meeting.

Council discussed the One Church Experiment meeting September 19th and recommended that Rejoice continue to participate in OCE meetings but primarily for the benefit of help with lay-led leadership, evangelism and outreach and not as a source for Pastoral services.

Council briefly discussed the possibility of a sale of the building and/or some portion of the property as a solution to our large existing mortgage balance. It was agreed that we explore this possibility with a local realtor while also considering partnering with another real estate holding entity that might invest in the property for alternate use but allow some form of leaseback by the Church. Paige Giannetti has provided a name of a possible realtor for consideration. Mike confirmed that the Food Pantry has agreed to an increase in rent of $200 monthly to $500 in conjunction with adding an additional Saturday per month.

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Rejoice Lutheran Church Council Minutes- September 21, 2026 *(continued from page 3)*

Tim reviewed his discussions with our mortgage company and Council approved increasing our monthly mortgage payment to the original contracted amount of $7.4K, which would end any modifications which we have been operating under the last few years.

Council reaffirmed its commitment to a principal mortgage reduction payment of approximately $50K by year end consisting of using a portion of our designated funds (approximated to be $30K), commitments by members of Council and the congregation. Pastor Butchko pledged along with Council. Giving Sunday is Nov 1 and Brian Pillsbury volunteered to work on handouts for the mortgage reduction appeal as well as stewardship pledge cards.

Council recommended reducing our annual $6K commitment to the Synod to $3K/ $4K in lieu of our financial position and the fact that very few churches in our Synod are contributing at Rejoice's level currently. Glenn recently negotiated a switch to Spectrum from Windstream for the church phone and internet saving approximately $3K annually.

Pastor Butchko has agreed to extend his current 3rd/ 4th Sunday contract through March of 2027.

Council approved a 3 year contract with TurfScape for snow removal services with a slight adjustment to the proposal that being that on non-Sunday's, only one row of parking spaces be plowed given light usage during the week.

Kate provided a summary of the book/exercise "Assessing Congregational Sustainability" by highlighting two major takeaways: Congregational outreach to the community and willingness to consider change, or deviation from norms that Rejoice has had the last several years. With this in mind, Council recommended that Carla and/or a member of the congregation familiar with Facebook operation be tasked with building a more robust outreach using Facebook postings.

Next Council meeting: Monday, October 19th, 6:30 PM. Tim has devotions.

On Sunday, Oct. 4 we will Bless the Quilts and Personal Care Kits before they are shipped to Lutheran World Relief.



Summary of One Church Experiment meeting on Sept. 19, 2026

One Church Experiment

One Church Experiment: What to Share with Your Congregation

1. What we talked about

We had an honest conversation about the different needs and levels of urgency among our congregations, including questions about pastoral leadership, worship, Communion, congregational sustainability, and the role of lay leaders. We also reflected on the August fellowship gathering and recognized that relationships are beginning to grow among people from our different congregations.

Much of our conversation focused on an important question:

How can we help each congregation live out its mission of witnessing to the gospel of Jesus Christ, using the people and gifts God has already given us?

We began exploring lay-led ministry with clergy support, particularly in worship, and discussed how congregations might learn from and support one another.

2. What we learned

We learned that our congregations are not all in the same place, and that is okay. Some have immediate needs, while others have greater stability. The One Church Experiment will need to recognize those differences rather than assume the same solution will work everywhere.

We also discovered something encouraging:

Every congregation has something it needs from others, and every congregation has something it can offer others.

For example, Rejoice has significant experience with lay-led worship, while other congregations expressed interest in developing more lay worship leadership. At the same time, other congregations have rostered leadership, programs, ministries, and other resources that can potentially strengthen the whole group.

Most importantly, we are beginning to understand that the One Church Experiment is not simply about sharing pastors. It is about becoming more connected as the body of Christ, developing the ministry of the baptized, sharing our gifts, and finding new ways to witness to the gospel together.

3. What happens next

At our next gathering, we will focus on outreach and evangelism. Each congregation is invited to bring examples of ministries it is already doing in these areas. Together we will look for places where the congregations might support, strengthen, or participate in one another's ministries rather than each congregation trying to do everything alone.

We will also continue exploring ways to develop lay leadership with clergy support and begin looking for concrete ministry experiments that we can try together.

Our direction: **Lay-led. Clergy-supported. Mission-focused.**

And perhaps an even more important question for us going forward is:

What has God given our congregation that could become a gift to the others?

Women's Bible Study – Via Zoom

Currently studying the book of Romans



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



October Birthdays

5	Marilyn Olzmann
17	Dan Jacobsen
19	Sue Simmons
31	Bob Treend

Thank you!

A huge shout out to Glenn Fasnacht for his efforts in making changes to our Windstream phone & internet system that reduced our monthly expense from $421 to $171. Woohoo! Thanks, Glenn!



October Anniversaries

14	Paul & Monica Leszek

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

From the Fellowship Team...

Rejoice! 30th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, November 8th

Potluck to follow worship

Pastor William Matlack, our first pastor, will join us

Save the Date!

Holiday Dinner Celebration

Sunday, December 6

at 5 PM

Leo's Italian Social

2251 Front Street, Cuyahoga Falls

Financial Report - August 2026

2026	August Actual	August Budget	August Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2026 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	$7,723	$10,542	($2,819)	$99,757	$84,333	$15,424	$125,000
Capital Revenue	$1,170	$2,083	($913)	$13,900	$16,667	($2,767)	$25,000
Other	$688	$500	$188	$11,308	$4,000	$7,308	$7,500
Total Income	**$9,581**	**$13,125**	**($3,544)**	**$124,965**	**$105,000**	**$19,965**	**$157,500**
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	$4,411	$6,594	$2,183	$46,372	$52,746	$6,374	$79,124
Capital Expense	$6,594	$5,583	($1,011)	$54,241	$44,667	($9,574)	$67,000
Total Expenses	**$11,005**	**$12,177**	**$1,172**	**$100,613**	**$97,413**	**($3,200)**	**$146,124**
Net Total	($1,424)	$948		$24,352	$7,587		$11,376
Benevolence Giving	*$0*	*$500*	*($500)*	*$3,000*	*$4,000*	*($1,000)*	*$6,000*



October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Clam Bake *CANCELLED* 
4 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion 11:30 Care Team Meeting	5	6 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting	7 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	8	9 Women's Retreat	10 Food Pantry
11 Women's Retreat 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship	12 6:30 PM Quilting Group 	13 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting	14 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	15 One Church Experiment meeting at St. Stephens Fellowship Hall 6:00pm	16	17 Sweetest Day
18 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion	19 6:30 PM Church Council	20 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting	21 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	22	23	24 12-2 PM Hudson Food Pantry 
25 REFORMATION WEAR RED TO CHURCH 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 AM Worship & Communion 4:00 PM Worship Team Zoom Meeting	26	27 6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 PM Solstice Flute Concert	28 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN  Daylight Saving Time Ends Turn your clock 



~~~ October Worship Helpers ~~~

10:30am SERVICE	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25		Nov 1
PRESIDER	Rev. John Butchko	Jenn Lue	Rev. John Butchko	Rev. Richard Seaks		Rev. John Butchko
COMMUNION SET UP	Jenn Lue	N/A	Kathy Jacobsen	Diane Procop		Jenn Lue
LAY READER	Jenn Lue	Russ Ackerman	Sue Holman	Bill Holman		Jenn Lue
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Francine McBride	Pete Moore	Jenn Lue	Brian Pillsbury		Francine McBride
GREETER / USHER	Tim Boebel	Paul Mallott	Tim Boebel	Russ Ackerman		Paul Mallott
COUNTERS	Dave Denes/ Paige Giannetti	Bill Clothier/ Paige Giannetti	W Klukow / Carla Maurer	Brian Pillsbury/ Carla Maurer		Dave Denes/ Paige Giannetti
POWER POINT PREP	Judi Boebel	Nancy Fasnacht	Nancy Fasnacht	Carla Maurer		Judi Boebel
SOUND BOOTH	Wisbar	Wisbar	Tim Boebel	Dan Jacobsen		Wisbar
FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM	G Fasnacht, D Denes, D Jacobsen, or E Wisbar	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes, Dan Jacobsen, or Ellen Wisbar	G Fasnacht, D Denes, D Jacobsen, or E Wisbar	Glenn Fasnacht, Dave Denes, Dan Jacobsen, or Ellen Wisbar		G Fasnacht, D Denes, D Jacobsen, or E Wisbar

Communion Pick-up—pick up communion bread from Great Harvest Bread Co. in Stow

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
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We're on the web!
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Pics from our September 12 Fellowship Dinner at Tulum in Twinsburg





