

## WHY WE GIVE

Our financial generosity is one expression of our love for God and our neighbors. We give freely out of gratitude for what God has given us. By sharing your God-given time, talents and financial resources, you are participating in God's work in our congregation, our community and neighbors, and around the world.

Read on for stories on how your offering is at work and making a difference!



*Creating a place where*

*God is experienced,*

*Community is shared,*

*Lives are changed!*

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## RENEWING *our* MISSION



*GOD  
experienced*



**COMMUNITY**  
*shared*



**LIVES**  
*changed*

STORIES *of* FAITH  
*in* ACTION

## RENEWING OUR MISSION... Your Giving at Work

- Children proudly bring back their Club WOW handiwork to their parents – “Look what I made!”
- Middle School and High School youth munch pizza, laugh, then dig in with their mentors to figure out what it means to be a follower of Jesus
- A neighbor’s family is comforted and cared for in a time of crisis
- A powerful song and message bring us closer to God and encourage us to show up with love for our neighbors
- A new family is welcomed into worship and joins in deep discussions in a weekly small group
- A person prays and ponders where God is calling them to use their gifts and serve... “what do you have in mind for me now, God?”

This is what happens through the ministries of Rejoice. These are the tangible ways that we see Rejoice’s mission come to life: *to be a place where God is Experienced, Community is shared, and Lives are changed.* For nearly 20 years of Rejoice’s history this has been our passion! The staff and ministry leaders have put together a plan for ministry this year shows our renewed energy to join God in living this mission in the lives of our congregation, in our neighborhoods, and to the ends of the earth.

Our fall 2016 pledge drive, *Renewing our Mission*, is a time for each of us to pray and give thanks for what God has given us, and THEN, consider the mission we share and how we will grow in our stewardship of what God is giving. Your pledge will allow Rejoice to do God’s mission in these powerful ways:

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

God is growing the faith of our families through the renewed energy and quality of our Children and Youth ministries.

- Visit Club WOW on Sunday morning and you’ll see children in action, learning the stories and lessons of our faith from our volunteer teachers and leaders Jessica and Janeen. Our Tuesday Power UP! children’s youth group will focus on serving others as they learn about being the hands and hearts of Christ to others. This summer our VBS program served over 80 children from Rejoice and our community.
- Mike and our volunteer mentors have an exciting vision to grow our youth ministry to reach the many young people in Mill Creek, Geneva, and surrounding neighborhoods. Matrix and Summit now include a meal and are built around small groups and growing relationships.



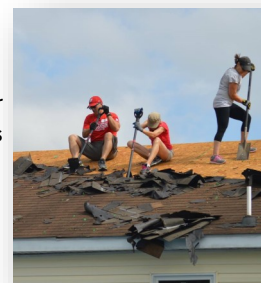
### WORSHIP

Most people first experience Rejoice through our unique worship. Every week Patrick, Marco and the Rejoice Worship Ensemble lead through powerful music and media as Pastor Lou’s brings the Word and Sacrament to all of us. People experience God! They also experience the welcoming love and hospitality that invites them to keep coming.



### MISSION & SERVICE

God works through our missions to bless and help our neighbors nearby and far away. For example, Rejoice volunteers serve the homeless at Hesus House every other month, and our Mission on the Bay celebrates a 8-year relationship with our neighbors in Slidell, LA and Biloxi, MS. Lives are changed as we both give and receive.



### SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FORMATION

Our faith grows mainly in community as we make new friends, learn, pray, and share how God is at work in our lives. Rejoice’s many small groups are where this happens – in Women’s Ministry events, Bible Study groups, and more. This year Pastor Lou and Mike are focused on increasing the number and depth of these groups through our Turbo leader development groups.



### CARING

Pastor Lou and the Rejoice Care Team show up with love when people need it most – at times of crisis, sickness, loss, any of life’s challenges.

### OUR BUILDING

Did you know our building has its own ministry? As a way to serve our community, we offer our space to other groups and organizations to use throughout the year, such as the Valleybrook Church Women’s Bible Study, Blackberry Township, local Girl Scout troops, and a polling place during election years. Every May we open our doors and our bathrooms to thousands of visitors during the Mill Creek Garage Sales!

### MINISTRY SUPPORT

Helping all our ministry leaders fulfill their mission through excellence in communications, financial management, and facilities are our talented and devoted team of Julie, Neil, and Hugh.

### THE CHURCH AT LARGE

A portion of what we receive is given to fund ELCA ministries in our synod and beyond.



Your offering will help Rejoice accomplish all of this... and more!