

JOYFUL JOURNAL

ST. LUKE JOY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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COMING IN AUGUST



GOOD WORDS FOR GREAT SOULS

VERSES OF HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Romans 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 43:1-2

But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

JAMES 4:8 “DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU.”

Town Hall

By Pastor Luke Johnston

Greetings, beloved of Christ! I pray this message finds you well.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has robbed us of fellowship and proper communication avenues. The last time we had a congregational meeting or were able to communicate about the church's vision/mission - was in March! Therefore, we aim to do all we can to back up, slow down, circle the wagons, and talk about the future of St. Luke Joy.

As you know, there is still a lot left unsaid about the Replanting process and becoming GlenHaven Church. We understand there are many questions about how things will happen! The session would like to do all we can to hear your feedback and bring you in on the process.

We have set some dates outside of ordinary congregational meetings for more dialogue and vision casting. We are calling these meetings "town halls." As your Pastor, I am excited to share with you every detail about how we can successfully Replant our congregation. God is at work in tremendous ways! Our congregational meeting on the 16th will be our first opportunity to connect and answer some questions. We will also elect our nominating committee. This meeting will be outside immediately following the service. We will have a mic for you to use for questions if you desire.

On the 13th of September, we will be inviting in a Presbytery Rep to join us. This would be an excellent opportunity for you to ask them any questions about our process, the Book of Order, or the session's responsibilities.

Please put these dates on your calendar (No dates conflict with Chief's games!):

August 16th 12pm Congregational Meeting
September 13th 12pm Town Hall (with Presbytery Rep.)
October 18th 12pm Congregational Meeting
November 8th 4pm Town Hall
December 6th 12pm Town Hall

I look forward to continuing this journey with you all. I am blessed and privileged to serve our Lord with you. Let's band hands together!

"Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work" (Nehemiah 2:18).

-Pastor Luke

Classical Conversations

By Donna Shetler

Welcome Classical Conversations
and Nicole Moncada, Director KCMetro
North



Starting August 24, 2020, Classical Conversations will be using our facility to launch their KC Metro North location under the leadership of Nicole Moncada. We thought you would like to know a little more about the program and director.

Tell me a little about yourself and how you came to be in KCMO.

I am a wife and a mother of two boys ages 7 and 5. I love to read, spend time with my family, visit with friends (new and old), work on home projects, and marvel at the work of God. I am a recent transplant from Southern California. My family moved to Missouri to be near my parents and we landed in KC when my husband was hired as an electrician for the City of Kansas City. We homeschool our two boys using Classical Conversations resources and I now serve as Director of Classical Conversations KC Metro North.

Why would my family choose to attend Classical Conversations?

Classical Conversations is a resource for families to homeschool their children. Our approach includes three C's: Classical, Christian, Community. We use a classical approach for education, with a biblical worldview, and we meet in communities to encourage and support one another.

The classical approach to education is from the Trivium (Latin for "three roads") and is made up of three pathways that help children learn any subject. The first road is Grammar: along this road, children exercise core habits of naming, attending, memorizing, expressing, and storytelling; and in so doing they build a foundation of knowledge. The next road is Dialectic: along this road students learn to use their knowledge to gain understanding. The third road is Rhetoric where students are on a path to use and apply knowledge and understanding to discern the true, best, and most valuable use of things; they can persuade, defend ideas, and teach.

One of our key verses is Proverbs 24:3, "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches." At Classical Conversations, we believe education is a means to know God. We desire for our children to grow in knowledge, understanding and wisdom so their lives will be filled with the richness of knowing God and that they will share this glorious richness and make God known.

We do all this within community to have fellowship, accountability, support and encouragement along the homeschool journey.

Do you have some statistics that show the results of having a CC education that you can share?

2018-2019 Classical Conversations Grad Stats

95% of parents reported their teen's Christian faith was strong

92% of graduates plan to attend college

89% of graduates reported that their teenage faith in Christ was strengthened by attending Classical Conversations

US Grads vs Classical Conversations (CC) Grads SAT Scores

	US	CC
Math	531	536
Reading	536	645

National Average ACT Scores vs Challenge Average

	National Avg.	CC Challenge Grads
Math	20.6	24.5
English	20.2	28.7
Reading	21.3	28.7
Science	20.8	25.5
Composite	20.9	24.2

What caused you to reach out to Saint Luke's?

My neighborhood is not far from Saint Luke Joy Church, and I have often passed the church while driving around town. I noticed that Saint Luke's hosted Boy Scouts, harvest festivals and other events for the community. This caused me to believe the church might be receptive to the idea of hosting a homeschool group such as ours. When I first began the search for a host church, I determined to reach out to five churches per week until I found a good fit for our group. I'll be honest that I didn't plan to reach out to St. Luke's that first week; but as I began drafting the emails, St. Luke's kept coming into my mind. I know that the Lord was impressing your church on my heart and nudging me to reach out... I'm so glad that He did!

Can you share three things that have given you hope and joy at seeing God lead you in this collaboration with us?

My heart was greatly encouraged from the very first contact I had with the church. Pastor Luke acknowledged our organization as a ministry and a beacon for Christian Education, and it was so affirming. He and Donna caught the vision of who we are and what we do really quickly, and it seemed like our hearts were aligned in a desire to serve families in our community. I was overjoyed when the session of elders approved our facility use request and it gave me great hope in God's provisions for our community. I am sincerely looking forward to this collaboration and all that God will do in and through Classical Conversations and Saint Luke Joy Church.

Art In The Park Update



“I was really looking forward to Art in the Park this year. A little birdie told me that the Christian Ed team voted to postpone it until Summer 2021. Wow, something big must’ve come up.”

Deacons

Kudos to Cass Sullivan and Judy Coles for weeding and sprucing up our memorial garden. We appreciate you both!



JOIN US FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

A Congregational Meeting is planned for **August 16** immediately after Drive-in Worship. It is important that we have a quorum of at least 25 members present to elect a Nominating Committee. This committee will be working on seeking Elders and Deacons to replace outgoing officers in 2021. Debbie Blackman and Janice Stewart have agreed to represent the Session, and Pam and Dennis Bailey have agreed to represent the Board of Deacons. We need three at-large representatives to complete the committee.

Please prayerfully consider members you might nominate to be part of this important team and ask them if they are willing to serve before putting their name into nomination. If you feel led to participate, we welcome self-nominations as well. Updates on all the work that has been taking place, even as this virus has kept us closed, and plans for what is coming will be shared as well!

Please join us for this important gathering!

Questions? Please contact Debbie Blackman (816-225-3529 or dblackman4@gmail.com).

Report of Session Meeting - July 26, 2020

The meeting opened with prayer. Pastor Luke led a devotional on the things we must consider during this pandemic.

Pastor Luke shared information from the book Replant Roadmap, and the need to create a launch team including session members, congregation members, and others in our Christian community as we move toward our replant. A first draft of a replant proposal, team covenant, and team member assessment were given to the Elders for review and feedback. The importance of allowing adequate time to build this team and to provide for ongoing and open communication by all members of the congregation was discussed. A Congregational meeting is planned for August 16, to share information and elect a nominating committee. Another is planned in October to approve new officers and review progress. It was decided that in addition to these, regular town hall meetings should be held to facilitate dialogue among all church members, share information, and review our progress.

Session had approved a delay of reopening the church via online discussions until September 6. After some discussion regarding in-person meetings of the Knowing God study and other Sunday School sessions, it was decided a survey of members would be sent out to best determine how to proceed.

A proposal from Northside Fellowship, a church plant group commissioned by Northland Baptist Church, for use of our basement as a meeting place this fall, was presented to the Elders. Session will prayerfully review the information, gather additional information, and discuss this further at our next meeting.

Session approved the use of the building by existing groups, including Scout troops and the Classical Conversations program, with compliance of the Mayor's orders and our St Luke clean and care policies. Groups will be asked to sign a Covid-19 liability release waiver. Requests for individual uses of the building were approved with all church and local policy guidelines followed and no food or drink service at this time.

Donna Shetler reported on the progress of the cleaning and set-up of education rooms with an August 24 completion goal. Nineteen volunteers have completed background checks for child safety. She has developed a self-study that volunteers in the nursery and working with children will complete prior to work with the children. After multiple meetings with the KC Parks Department and church leaders, it was decided that Art in the Park is cancelled for this summer/fall. The goal is to offer this program in 2021.

Report Of Session - Continued

Team reports were shared:

Christian Education (Janice Stewart and Al Steed) has been hard at work preparing classrooms and planning for reopening. Two work days were held on July 18 and 20. Open Table discussions will continue via Zoom.

Hospitality (Darlene Lewis) Social distancing guidelines have interfered with church events. OpenTable meals are set to resume in October, if safe at that time.

Personnel and Placement (Pat Schoenrade) welcomed the new Technology and Media coordinator Lester Page July 8. Some interviews have begun for the Connections and Youth internship and Pat invites referrals from the congregation. Identifying persons and a process for responding to alarm calls, continued oversight of the janitorial service, records retention processes, and staff evaluation processes are in the works.

Missions and Outreach (Pastor Luke) is considering some fall and spring outreach events in light of the cancellation of the Art in the Park program to connect with community children and families. The St. Luke Mission Fund has been dispersed to our designated missions, and the team recommended that \$2000.00 from the remaining funds be used to support EPC missionaries Emory and Lizzy Widener in planting a church in Southeast Asia. Session approved this.

Worship (Debbie Blackman) has been evaluating and making adjustments to drive-in worship with the delay of reopening. It was decided that initially when church reopens, choir will be resumed with bi-monthly practices and one performance a month. Ensembles and solos will be used to fill out the music along with the praise team.

Building and Grounds (Don Smith) Bids for window tinting on the large single-paned windows along the south and east hallways to reduce heating and cooling concerns and preserve the new flooring were shared. A bid from ProtintKC was approved by Session. Session also approved the replacement of the air-conditioning unit for the Choir room which failed last week.

Stewardship (Kim Smedley) The statement of the church financial position, activities, and budget were reviewed. Contributions have been impacted by the pandemic. \$10,000 has been received from the General Assembly for replanting efforts, with \$10,000 coming soon from the Great Plains Presbytery. Paycheck Protection Program loan funds have been used, and documentation paperwork for forgiveness is in process.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Debra J. Blackman

Clerk of Session

HAPPY
birthday

04 Marcia Busch
04 Bob Haywood
05 Alonda Forde
05 Sandra Nordland
10 Judy Coles
11 John Bailey
11 Tina Barsness
12 Sue Fischer
12 Ruth Kimmel
14 Hannah Smedley
17 Jeanie Jenkins
21 David Morningstar
23 Selina Garcia
26 Patty Reyes
27 Mark Hughes
28 Judy Teague
30 Melissa Gould
31 Kathryn McLaughlin

HAPPY
anniversary

04
Michael & Melissa Gould

Reminders

Tuesday: 4th

- Primary Election - Fellowship Hall, all day

Sunday: 16th

- Noon Congregational Meeting

Sundays: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

- 10:30 am Drive In Church

Wednesdays: 5, 12, 19, 26

- Noon In person Prayer - Fellowship Hall

- 6:00pm Open Table Bible Study Via Zoom

Mondays: 24 & 31

- 8am-1:00 Classical Conversations - Education Wing

Coming In August

02 Sunday

10:30 Drive In Church

04 Tuesday

5am-7pm Primary Elections
Fellowship Hall

05 Wednesday

Noon Prayer/Fellowship Hall
6:00 Zoom Open Table Bible
Study

09 Sunday

10:30 Drive In Church

10 Monday

7:00 Ministry Teams

12 Wednesday

Noon Prayer/Fellowship Hall
6:00 Zoom Open Table Bible
Study

16 Sunday

10:30 Drive In Church
Noon - Congregational Meeting

19 Wednesday

Noon Prayer/Fellowship Hall
6:00 Zoom Open Table Bible
Study

23 Sunday

10:30 Drive In Church

24 Monday

8:00-3:00 Classical
Conversations
Education Wing

26 Wednesday

Noon Prayer/Fellowship Hall
6:00 Zoom Open Table Bible
Study

30 Sunday

10:30 Drive In Church

31 Monday

8:00-1:00 Classical
Conversations
Education Wing