

DECEMBER 2019

# JOYFUL JOURNAL

ST LUKE JOY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Fall on your knees  
Oh hear the angels voices  
Oh night, devine, oh night  
when Christ was born*





# A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

WRITTEN BY PASTOR LUKE JOHNSTON

Beloved Church of St. Luke, I have been your pastor for just over a month! God is good, gracious, and faithful. It has been a joy serving you thus far. As many of you know, we have been studying the prophet Isaiah's prayer in chapter 63 and 64 of his book. The prayer is a calling and yearning for God to "come down." Isaiah longed for the presence of God to restore, revive, and renew Israel as God's chosen people.

Within the period of Isaiah (pre-Christ), there was a restoration of God's people in their land (Israel). Under the Priest Ezra and Administrator Nehemiah, God's temple is rebuilt! At last, we see a more profound longing in Isaiah and the people. They don't merely desire the temple or Israel restored - they desire God to dwell with them in fullness! They crave the coming day of their Messiah. Isaiah and the people of Israel knew the covenant promise of ultimate renewal. They knew that God desired to restore them to where He is. They knew the promise of a Redeemer who would set all things right. Israel, just 400 years before the birth of Christ, would find themselves in a period of waiting - again. The -"now, but not yet!"

We are in a similar Advent season. Advent is not merely four weeks before Christmas. It is year-round. Advent simply means "coming." As Isaiah predicted, the Messiah did come! Jesus Christ accomplished His mission and defeated sin and death on the cross. He then gave His Church a job to do and promised to return again - to set all things right and take us to where He is (John 14:2). We are (like Israel) in a period of, "now, but not yet." It is for this reason that I encourage you to view this advent season with not only anticipation for Christmas, but a longing for Christ's final return. Remember the first week of our study in Isaiah, "We MISS you!" It is this tension (a paradox if you will) that carries an element of darkness and angst. Our world is still full of suffering, death, tears, and brokenness. We are in the morning hours before the dawn, where Christ will "wipe every tear away," (Revelation 21:4).





## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR CONTINUED

As Theologian Jurgeon Moltmann once put it, "Darkness and night, these are always symbols for the Godforsakeness of the world. The lostness of men and women. In the darkness, we see nothing and no longer know where we are." There is an apt passage in the book of Isaiah, "Watchman, what of the night?"... The Watchman answers, "The morning comes, but it is night still..." But Paul, Christ's witness proclaims, "The night is far gone, the day is at hand

Let us in cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." So it is time to get up from sleep, to forget the dreams and the night terrors, and to experience life in the light of God's new day, which is now dawning... "Get up," says Christ to the benumbed disciples, "let us be going." So let us also go with eager attentiveness to each new day. We are expected!"

Things have changed since Isaiah. We are on the other side of Easter. The light is dawning and in the world! We have been given a lantern in the dark. The light is Christ Jesus. Let us haste the day for His return, calling all people out of shadow! Calling all people the glorius hope found in the Christ Child. Come Down, Lord!

Under The Mercy, -Pastor Luke





## Adventful Night of Music

Written by Darlene Lewis & The Hospitality Team

On December 8, 2019, at 6:30 PM, there will be "Adventful Night Of Music" The Hospitality Team will host desserts and beverages after the evening event. We need 8-10 volunteers to decorate a table with a Christmas Theme. Bring your own decorations and provide a table service/setting of (plates, cups, glassware, silverware and table linen). You can borrow linen for a round table, if you do not have that type.

A Poster will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall with two sign-up sheets, one for decorating a table in the Fellowship Hall and another one for a special dessert you wish to bring and share with all.

This year all the desserts will be put on a special table for everyone to choose from instead of keeping at an individual tables.

Looking forward for all to attend this very special Christmas Event

## Service of Light

Join us for a Service of Light on Wednesday, December 18th, at 7 pm. This service is a special time for healing, wholeness, and hope amid the dark nights of winter. During the advent season, we should remember that Light has come into the world! The service will provide a reverent time for healing, prayer, and anointing by our elders.



## Christmas Eve

The Christmas Eve Service will begin at 5:30pm.





## St. Luke Family Service Trip

A reminder that our Family Service Trip is scheduled for 6/13-6/20, 2020 to the XLazyF Ranch outside Crawford, Colorado. Our first joint meeting for the 2020 Mission Trip will be January 12 following the church service. We will meet in the Forum Room. All those who are planning on, or thinking about going on the trip must be there.

We are looking for volunteers to step up and get involved in the planning and scheduling for the trip. Mentors are willing to assist you in this endeavor. Melissa Gould will continue her awesome work with the meal planning and continue to work with the food preparations by the teams.

As you can recognize, early notification of participation is welcomed and helps greatly in the planning process.

Feel free to contact Bill Stewart 816-863-9199 for information.



## Annual Review Reports

**January 9, 2020**

2019 Annual Review  
reports from Ministry  
Teams, Deacons, & Boy  
Scouts will be due to  
Selina via email.

## 2020 Contribution Envelopes New Church Directory

2020 Contribution Offering Envelopes will be placed on a table in the Fellowship Hall on December 8. Please do not use these until 2020. An updated Church Directory will be available as well. One per family please.

## Online Giving

You can send your Church offering securely  
using the church website  
<https://thejoychurch.churchcenter.com/giving>







## **Graves/Hollingsworth**

Rosemary Graves and George Hollingsworth will have their wedding ceremony at St Luke Joy Church on Thursday, December 12 at 1:00pm. A wedding celebration of light hors d'oeuvres will be provided to all at noon following service on Sunday, December 15.

## **Operation Shoebox Update**

Our 240 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are on their way around the world. 179 of the shoeboxes were generously donated by the Girl Scout troops that meet in our church. These girls work throughout the year to fill these boxes and make them special for the girls who will receive them. A special thanks to all the many hands that helped to load them into vehicles and to Jennifer Reyes who also drove to the drop off location .

We remember that the purpose of the boxes is not only to give children gifts but to also introduce them to Jesus Christ. We can continue to pray for the children who will receive them and for their families. Most of the boxes will be distributed around the world but also for areas where there are natural disasters. We can be collecting items throughout the year and saving them for next year. Thanks to all who help in any way.  
Beulah Rule

## **A Message From The McHenry Family**

Dear Friends, Your respect for Jim has been awesome! A sincere thanks to each of you who was involved in organizing the facility, ushering, greeting, cooking, child care, special music, etc. Jim would have liked the beauty of the overall facility and the service. Your gracious hospitality made everyone feel welcome. Pastors' Joe and Luke's messages gave us hope and peace. Blessings to all, Jean, Brian, Susie, Macie, Natalie & Families





## Thank You!



Melissa Ball - For collecting, editing and preparing all Advent Devotionals and creating a booklet for all to read and enjoy! Great Work!



To all that provided donations to Pat Pearl's Mission, The Northland Christmas Tree Store and Operation Shoebox!

## Santa's Wonderland

Come be apart of "Santa's Wonderland" on December 7th, 5:30-8pm in Penguin Park! This is a great opportunity for our church to mingle among our community and hand out hot chocolate and flyers! Will you pray that God sets up Divine appointments?



Luke 2:9-14 "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Matthew 2:1-2 "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."





## *Happy* **BIRTHDAY**

- 1 Andrea Phipps
- 2 Rebecca Hughes
- 6 Kim Smedley
- 6 Jacob Horowitz
- 6 Everett Fisher
- 9 Tyler Jenkins-Austin
- 11 Pamela Bailey
- 13 Ron Jenkins
- 15 Emily Seymour
- 15 James Phillips
- 26 Marti Mitchell

## *Happy* **ANNIVERSARY**

- 17 Rich & Dodie Rayl
- 25 Richard & Ruth Kimmel
- 30 Joe & Leonie Pallikkathayil

## **Announcements & Reminders**

- 6-7 5:30pm-11am Girl Scout Sleep Over Fellowship Hall
- 7 5:30-8pm Penguin Park Santa's Wonderland
- 8 6:30pm Adventful Night of Music & Party
- 8 2020 Contribution Envelope & New Directories pick up
- 11 Final Joyful Journey meal & Bible Study
- 12 1-3pm Rosemary Graves/George Hollingsworth wedding ceremony
- 13 3-10pm Horowitz Family Gathering
- 15 Noon Deacons Meeting
- 15 Noon Graves/Hollingsworth Potluck Celebration
- 16 Team Table TBD
- 18 7pm Service of Light
- 20 12:30 Senior Lunch Group Meeting
- 20-21 4pm-2pm Boy Scout Sleep Over
- 21 5pm Mariners - Turkey Dinner
- 24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day - Office closed
- 31 5pm-midnight CA Group New Years Gathering





# COMING IN DECEMBER

## 01 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
3:00 Girl Scouts  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 02 MONDAY

6:00 Boy Scouts  
7:00 Evening Prayer  
7:00 CA Group

## 03 TUESDAY

7:00 Girl Scouts

## 04 WEDNESDAY

12:30 Fellowship Lunch  
1:00 Midweek Prayer  
6:00 Joyful Journey  
6:30 Bible Study  
6:30 Girl Scouts  
7:00 CA Group

## 05 THURSDAY

6:00 Girl Scouts

## 06 FRIDAY

5:30pm-11:00am Girl Scout  
Sleepover  
7:00 CA Group

## 07 SATURDAY

5:30-8pm Penguin Park

## 08 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
6:30 AdventFull Service

## 09 MONDAY

6:00 Boy Scouts  
7:00 Ministry Teams  
7:00 CA Group

## 11 WEDNESDAY

12:30 Fellowship Lunch  
1:00 Midweek Prayer  
6:00 Final Joyful Journey  
6:30 Bible Study  
7:00 CA Group

## 12 THURSDAY

1-3 Graves Wedding Ceremony

## 13 FRIDAY

3-10pm Horowitz-Fellowship Hall  
7:00 CA Group

## 14 SATURDAY

8:30-noon Boy Scout/Forum Room

## 15 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
noon - Deacons  
noon - Graves Wedding Celebration  
Hors D'oeuvre  
3:00 Girl Scouts  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 16 MONDAY

6:00 Boy Scouts  
7:00 Evening Prayer  
7:00 CA Group  
TBD Team Table

## 18 WEDNESDAY

12:30 Fellowship Lunch  
1:00 Midweek Prayer  
7:00 Service of Light  
7:00 CA Group

## 19 THURSDAY

6:00 Girl Scouts

## 20 FRIDAY

12:30 Senior Lunch  
4pm-2pm Boy Scout  
Sleepover  
7:00 CA Group

## 21 SATURDAY

5:00 Mariners/turkey dinner

## 22 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 23 MONDAY

6:00 Boy Scouts  
7:00 CA Group

## 24 TUESDAY

5:30 Christmas Eve Service

## 25 WEDNESDAY

Christmas - Office Closed

## 27 FRIDAY

7:00 CA Group

## 29 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
3:00 Girl Scouts  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 30 MONDAY

6:00 Boy Scouts  
7:00 Session  
7:00 CA Group

## 31 TUESDAY

5pm-midnight CA Group

