

FEBRUARY 2021

SAINT LUKE JOY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# JOYFUL JOURNAL



JOHN 15:12

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**"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."**

ROMANS 5:5

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**"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."**



**God's love is contagious. When we walk in close fellowship with Christ, God's love flows through us to those around us. The Holy Spirit fills us so we can extend unconditional love to others**

# From The Pastor:

By Pastor Luke Johnston

“Greetings, beloved of Christ. I want to share with you what I presented at our Winter Presbytery meeting. Your faithfulness to God in Replanting is blessing others and continuing a movement! Keep it up!

GlenHaven Church is a replant of St. Luke Joy Presbyterian Church. A “replant” is when an existing congregation decides that simple/classic revitalization is not enough to disrupt decades of decline. Replanting is a reset/starting over with a whole new mission, vision, and methods. It means taking on the mentality of church plant in a new community. Focusing heavily on neighborhood outreach, incarnational ministries, and personal discipleship.

This of course can only be done when a congregation is aware of its need, repentant, and willing to let go of the past. **Otherwise known as a miracle.** Church, I am here to tell you about a miraculous work of God in the Northland of Kansas City.

Through a prayerful remnant - St. Luke Joy recognized there is nothing about a dying church that brings glory to God in our city. If we can lay down our idols and humble ourselves before the Lord - there is no telling what He can do with our few fish and loaves of bread.

St. Luke must decrease so He (Jesus Christ) can increase. This meant a process of refining and removing anything and everything that did/does not magnify Christ. Cut the fat and burn the dead wood - dying churches try to do too much! Our diet was all over the place - we needed to get healthy. We need to get simple. Refined.

We asked the question? Why do we exist? What is our purpose as a church? What is our calling as disciples? Using Acts 2: 42-47 as model, we measured everything. We must focus on the teaching of the word, fellowship, communion, and prayer. Emphasizing the power and work of the Holy Spirit - praising Him in every situation. Then trust “God will add to our number” (v.47).

You see, a Replant is not primarily about new ideas, creativity, fancy logos, or even outreach. **A Replant is an opportunity** to get healthy and recover one’s identity (within and without) as the body of Christ. We do not exist to fill seats or grow in numbers, that is God’s work, our calling is to grow in our knowledge and love for God. Out of that - every method change is formed. Our church “heart” was rotten.

## From The Pastor - Continued

Our bedrock verse, that defined our new mission and vision statement is from Philippians 3: 7-14, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **I want to know Christ**—yes, to know the power of his resurrection **and participation** in his sufferings, **becoming like** him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead...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.

"From this foundation we press on into a bright future as God's kingdom people. From this foundation we aim to grow where we are planted. To embrace our community with open arms. Our address is not an accident. We are perfectly equip to reach and disciple those around us. God is not done with our church HERE and He is not done **with your church**.

Unfortunately, where St. Luke found itself is not unique. Many churches, **just** in the EPC and our presbytery are struggling. The same methods, and mission from 50 years ago may not be as effective today. The same programs and outreach may be failing to reach a post-modern culture. I encourage you to think honestly about the state of your church. Do your members know God rightly? Are you doing too much? Spinning your wheels on ideas and bouncy houses? Does your community know who you are? Is your name doing you any favors? Have we made church too much about ourselves and our sacred cows? Would a visitor be confronted by the Spirit of God or our monuments and clubs? What are our boundaries to entry?

If you are finding your church in a downward spiral or at the bottom of years of decline – I encourage you to think about Replanting. I encourage you to be bold. Celebrate the past – but recognize that it may be time for a fresh plant to grow in that soil. Replanting has the power to encourage and motivate existing congregations that have run stale and dry and opens a new door for the community to join. Free of connotations and existing norms.

Fear No darkness!"

# Session Report to the Congregation

By Clerk Of Session: Debbie Blackman

January 25, 2021

The Session met via Zoom with Pastor Luke Johnston, Selina Garcia, and Elders Debra Blackman, Pat Schoenrade, Kim Smedley, Al Steed, and Janice Stewart present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Pastor Luke led the group in prayer.

The Session continued its study of the book *Experiencing God* by Henry and Richard Blackaby with a discussion of Chapter 5: "Seven Realities of Experiencing God". The chapter focused on recognizing when God is speaking to us, with the experience of Moses as an example. The seven realities that Moses experienced, and that we experience as well: God is at work around us; He pursues a relationship with us; He invites us to be part of His work; God speaks to us through prayer, Scripture, circumstances, and the Church; We face a crisis of belief; We make adjustments in our life to join God in what He is doing; and We come to know God as we obey Him and He accomplishes His work through us. We discussed the significance as we replant this church and as we individually seek to do God's will.

The group discussed where we are in the replanting process. The discussions with Colonial Presbyterian have revealed that there are differences in our missions and plans for revitalization, and that a partnership with them does not appear to be the best direction for either of us at this time. We will continue to seek advice and guidance from Colonial as we develop programs, and appreciate their willingness to share from their experiences. It was decided that Easter (April 4, 2021) would be a fitting day to begin our "soft launch", with the name GlenHaven Church reflected in our signs, bulletins, website, and Facebook page. Planning for a Celebration of our legacy and history as St. Luke JOY Church, during the weekend of April 17 - 18, 2021, has begun. It is hoped that former Pastors, members, and friends will join with all of us for a service of praise and gratitude and enjoy the unveiling of Honor Wall. Health department recommendations and guidelines will be monitored and may affect the scheduling of these events. A community launch is planned for the fall, with a number of community outreach events leading up to that during the summer, like Art in the Park and Backyard Bible Studies. The prayers of everyone are needed, and the congregation is encouraged to watch for many opportunities to serve as we prepare for these events.

## Session Report to the Congregation CONTINUED

### **Committee Reports**

**Christian Education** (Janice Stewart, Al Steed): Youth Director McKayla Stabler has worked with the help of Alonda Forde and Pat Schoenrade to repaint and fix up the youth room downstairs, with input from the teens. She has met with youth leaders to plan and discuss ways to best meet the individual needs of our youth. She has also been busy helping with the preparation of materials for the Orange curriculum, which is being used with the elementary aged students on Wednesday nights. All of her hard work is appreciated! Judy Teague has been working hard to plan activities and plans for the nursery-aged children. Janice is assisting her with recruiting and scheduling volunteers to help on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. The committee is holding its Super Bowl of Caring until February 7. They are also working on ways to strengthen the connections between our Scouting program and Classical Conversations families. The study of Knowing God continues for a few more weeks, and a study of Jonah will begin during Lent. Later this spring, a study of the Westminster Catechism and what we believe is planned for adults.

**Personnel and Placement** (Pat Schoenrade): The resignation of Lester Page was accepted as a result of family concerns. This position will not be filled at this time. Pastor Luke and Kim Smedley have been training media team volunteers on sound and video procedures, and more volunteers are needed. After excellent reviews during a trial period, Judy Teague has been confirmed as Nursery Coordinator. Staff reviews will be conducted in early February. A posting for a part-time Director of Children's Ministry has been placed in several places. Pastor Luke will be gone February 14-18. Debbie Blackman will fill the pulpit on Sunday February 14, and Pat Schoenrade will lead worship on Ash Wednesday.

**Missions and Outreach** (Pastor Luke Johnston): The bottle drive for Rachel House is ongoing for the next few weeks, and everyone is urged to take a bottle and fill it to aid them in their mission to help moms and dads choose life. The first "Pray and Go" was held during January, with prayers being said and flyers left at forty homes right behind our church. More of these are planned in other areas of the GlenHaven neighborhood and it is hoped that as things warm up and daylight lengthens, many of our members will be able to participate. An Evangelism Training event is coming up on Saturday Feb. 6 from 9:00am to noon. CRU, formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ, is leading this event and Bridge Builders is hosting it with us. All are encouraged to attend.

## Session Report to the Congregation CONTINUED

**Worship and Prayer** (Debbie Blackman): It has been exciting to begin a rotation of worship team singers as new members have joined the team, and it is hoped that others might join! Ted and Julia Horowitz have scheduled Saturday practices for the choir. The removal and storage of Christmas decorations was made possible with the help of Brenda Hunnicutt, Melissa Gould, Pam Payne, and other members of the Hospitality team. (Debbie was there at a separate time, so a more thorough list of helpers will be forthcoming.) The Boy Scouts were a HUGE help in taking down the lights and carrying things to storage, and it is very much appreciated.

**Stewardship** (Kim Smedley): The financial reports for the end of the year and January were reviewed. Kim made a motion to nominate Bill Stewart as Church Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Pat Schoenrade, and was approved by the Session. His generosity of time and expertise is greatly appreciated by the Session. He is looking into the possibility of obtaining a new Paycheck Protection loan during this second round of stimulus funding, and will be meeting with our Edward Jones representative along with Kim to review our investment plan. A meeting with Tom Rule, who has been graciously overseeing the Joy Mission Fund for the church, has been planned to outline procedures and additional administrators as needed.

Elders Pat Schoenrade and Debbie Blackman will be attending the Great Plains Presbytery meeting on January 29 at Colonial Presbyterian's Wornall campus, along with Pastor Luke. He will be making a presentation at 1:00 that afternoon to share our progress with replanting efforts.

The meeting was closed at 8:30 pm with prayer.  
Debra J Blackman, Clerk of Session



# Congregational Meeting Minutes

By Clerk Of Session: Debbie Blackman

January 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm following the worship service. Because of Covid-19 concerns the meeting was also made available to members via Zoom. It was established that there were 23 members present in person and 3 additional members present on Zoom, fulfilling the requirements for a quorum.

Pastor Luke Johnston opened the meeting with prayer. The Annual Report for 2020 was distributed to all members by email, and printed copies were made available at church as well. A call for questions regarding the ministry reports in the annual report was made. Hearing none, Pastor Luke referred attendees to the budget for this year. He pointed out that the largest changes were in the area of personnel expenditures. Salaries for a Director of Children's Ministries and a Director for Outreach were included in the budget, but hiring has been delayed during this time of restricted meeting. He also pointed out that projected contributions would cover less than half of the budget this year. He emphasized that this congregation is very generous, despite our smaller numbers. The investment account performed very well in the past year, and has helped us meet our budget needs. He reminded us that we have been blessed through the generosity of Charles and Irene Amick, and others, so that we might move forward in faith, using the gifts wisely and for God's purposes. He explained that the Session is dedicated to being good Stewards of what God has provided. Each committee and ministry worked hard to determine essentials and to cut costs where possible, with decisions based on fulfilling our vision and mission.

Those present in person and online were asked if they had any questions or comments regarding the budget. There were none. Pastor Luke reminded members that the budget is always available to members, and that if questions arise they should contact the Treasurer Bill Stewart, Stewardship Elder Kim Smedley, Administrative Assistant Selina Garcia, or the Pastor.

In compliance of By-laws, Pastor Luke and Jamie Johnston were asked to step out of the meeting so that a change in the Pastor's terms of calls could be discussed. Clerk of Session Debra Blackman called up Personnel Elder Pat Schoenrade, who explained that her committee has proposed a two percent raise be given to the Pastor and the Administrative Assistant, in light of increased responsibilities and performance over this past year.

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## Congregational Meeting Minutes CONTINUED

The Session has voiced their approval of this change. A vote by the congregation is needed for the Pastor's terms of call to change. Pat moved that the terms of call for Pastor Luke be amended with a two percent raise in compensation. It was seconded by Melissa Gould. The Clerk of Session asked for any discussion. There was none. The vote passed unanimously. Pastor Luke was invited back into the meeting. He shared his belief that the best days are ahead of us. God is refining a strong remnant here, and he feels blessed by this congregation and to be part of this church.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Debra J Blackman  
Clerk of Session



# Rachel House Baby Bottle Drive

Thank you to all that have filled a baby bottle! This drive will continue until February 7th! Help support our local partnership with Rachel House. Fill a baby bottle!

# Souper Bowl Canned Food Drive

The Souper Bowl canned food drive is going so well! Thank you to all that have sent in food for families in need. This drive will continue until next Sunday, February 7th. At that time all donations will be picked up from our church.

# 2020 Financial Offering Statements

Remaining 2020 Financial offering statements were placed in the mail.



the JOY of the Lord is your strength.  
the joy of the Lord is YOUR strength.  
the joy of the Lord is your STRENGTH.  
But the real emphasis? It's this: "The joy OF THE LORD is your strength."  
Nehemiah 8



*Happy*  
**BIRTHDAY**

*Happy*  
**ANNIVERSARY**

1 Rebecca Brown  
13 LaVerne Jones  
21 Ray Reyes  
22 Gina Hipple  
25 Breana Mitchell  
26 Kathy Hayward  
28 Hudson Bailey  
29 Olivia Drydale

14 Derrrick & Amber Quinnn

## Reminders

February 6 - 8:00-1:00 Evangelism Training/Fellowship Hall  
February 8 - 7pm Ministry Teams  
February 12-13 -Cub Scout Pinewood Derby - All day  
February 14-19 - Pastor Luke on Vacation  
February 15 - President's Day -Church Office Closed  
February 17 - TBD Ash Wednesday Service  
February 21 - Noon Deacons Meeting  
February 22 - 7pm Session Meeting



# COMING IN FEBRUARY

## 01 MONDAY

8am Classical  
Conversation  
6pm Boy Scouts

## 02 TUESDAY

7pm Men's Bible Study  
7pm CA Group

## 03 WEDNESDAY

Noon MidWeek Prayer  
6:30pm OpenTable Bible  
Study  
7pm CA Group

## 04 THURSDAY

6pm Girl Scouts

## 05 FRIDAY

7pm CA Group

## 06 SATURDAY

8-1 Evangelism  
Training/Fellowship Hall  
9pm CA Group

## 07 SUNDAY

9am Bible Study  
10:30 Worship  
3pm Girl Scouts

## 08 MONDAY

8am Classical  
Conversation  
6pm Boy Scouts  
7pm Ministry Teams

## 09 TUESDAY

7pm Men's Bible Study  
7pm CA Group

## 10 WEDNESDAY

Noon MidWeek Prayer  
6:30pm OpenTable Bible  
Study  
7pm CA Group

## 12 FRIDAY

5pm Set up Pinewood  
Derby  
7:00 CA Group

## 13 SATURDAY

8am-5pm Cub Scout  
Pinewood Derby  
9pm CA Group

## 14 SUNDAY

9am Bible Study  
10:30 Worship

## 15 MONDAY

President's Day  
Church Office Closed  
6pm Boy Scouts

## 16 TUESDAY

7pm Men's Bible Study  
7pm CA Group

## 17 WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday  
Noon MidWeek Prayer  
TBD Ash Wednesday  
Service  
7pm CA Group

## 18 THURSDAY

6pm Girl Scouts

## 19 FRIDAY

7:00 CA Group

## 20 SATURDAY

9pm CA Group

## 21 SUNDAY

9am Bible Study  
10:30 Worship  
Noon Deacons  
3pm Girl Scouts

## 22 MONDAY

8am Classical  
Conversation  
6pm Boy Scouts  
7pm Session

## 23 TUESDAY

7pm Men's Bible Study  
7pm CA Group

## 24 WEDNESDAY

Noon MidWeek Prayer  
6:30pm OpenTable Bible  
Study  
7pm CA Group

## 26 FRIDAY

7pm CA Group

## 27 SATURDAY

9pm CA Group

## 28 SUNDAY

9am Bible Study  
10:30 Worship