

# ST LUKE JOY CHURCH

JULY 2020

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## JOYFUL JOURNAL

Titus 3:2-7 To speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various

passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and

envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when

the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not

because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,

by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our

Savior, ...I

2 Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

Psalms 46:10 Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

2Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.



# Keep Up The Good Work

Written By: Pastor Luke Johnston

Happy mid-summer, beloved of Christ! I hope this message finds you well.

I want to update you on some wonderful developments. Recently we applied for a "revitalization grant" via our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. These funds are for churches that are invested/doing revitalization and replanting. They match our church's investment with either a \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000 grant. We applied for the \$10,000 grant praying they would see our needs and get behind the vision.

Our presbytery (regional churches) helped assist us in forming our proposal. The executive team loved what we are doing in replanting as "GlenHaven" that they, too, want to give us another \$10,000 to help accomplish our goals! Can you believe that? Praise God!

I then received a direct call from the stated clerk (Jeff Jeremiah) of the EPC, saying that we have been approved for the \$10,000 grant from General Assembly (our highest governing body). Jeff told me directly that they are overjoyed at our vision for GlenHaven and to "keep up the good work." That means we are receiving \$20,000 from our denomination to encourage us in our replanting work! Will you praise God with me? He is our provider!

Therefore, I am passing on the word to "keep up the good work!" God is on the move among us, and He is confirming our direction.

Hebrews 6: 10-11, "God is not unjust, after all – and he'd have to be if he forgot your work, and the love you showed for his name, and all the service you have rendered and are still rendering to his holy people. I want to encourage each one of you to show the same energetic enthusiasm for the task of bringing your hope to its full, assured goal."

Under The Mercy, Pastor Luke



# Do For The Few

Written By: Donna Shetler

## Do For The Few

**Do for the few what  
you wish you could  
do for the many.**



Outreach is not a one-time program. In fact, it isn't a program at all.

Outreach is consistent, intentional acts of love, service and care for friends and neighbors.

Outreach can be done alone or with a group of like-minded friends and family members.

Outreach thrives on prayer.

Outreach is a life-long commitment to  
Matthew 28:18-20

Mr. Kalulu sat by the sunny window sipping his hot tea. Wisps of steam streamed around his face as he closed his eyes and enjoyed the hot liquid. I had seen Mr. Kalulu in the elevator a few times. He held his eyes straight ahead and always held on to the stainless steel handrail that was attached to the side walls of the elevator. I didn't want to stare, but the scars on his face were so prominent and thick. His face looked like leather. It seemed like smiling would cause the scars to break open. On this particular day, there was only one seat left in the lunchroom. It was across from Mr. Kalulu. He looked me straight in the eyes and signaled to sit across from him. This would be the beginning of a friendship with a man who embodied the calling of "do for the few."

Mr. Kalulu was eloquent and knew his Bible. Over the years, I would learn about his harrowing work for Prison Fellowship International (PFI) in the country of Nigeria. He was an activist for prison reform driven by the torture and pain he had endured while incarcerated. His cause was the brutality Christian pastors were subjected to. He was a peaceful protestor raising money to make sure these pastors had food while incarcerated. From time to time, he raised enough money for a medical person to enter the prison to check on the pastors. It was on a fateful day when Mr. Kalulu went into the prison to minister to his friends that he was tricked and ended up in prison. Over our months of discussions, he shared about the atrocities he endured and the reason for the thick, horrible scars on his dark black skin. He had been burned with hot knives for sharing the gospel and protecting Christian pastors who were thought to be the enemy. Mr. Kalulu had been rescued from the prison, along with other Christians, when activists stormed the prison and freed everyone. Everyone except one pastor. And it was this man that Mr. Kalulu asked me to pray and fast for his release. This was the beginning of months of prayer for a man I didn't know except for hearing the anguish of Mr.



# Do For The Few... Continued

Kalulu, who feared his friend was being brutalized because he was the only Christian who didn't get out.

Mr. Kalulu's eventual trip to the United States to work for Prison Fellowship International (PFI) was not by "usual" means. For two weeks, he was transported across the country in an oil drum. Then he travelled in a livestock truck (with the livestock) until he was finally on a small plane heading to a major airport, where finally he would be on the plane to the US. Until the plane took off, he knew he was a fugitive and would be made an example of if he was apprehended.

Mr. Kalulu and I would meet regularly for "tea and prayer". He shared with me that PFI was helping with negotiations to have the one remaining pastor freed. He also shared that he was saving his salary to help this pastor once he was released. Little did I know that within a month of this conversation, I would be having "tea and prayer" with Mr. Kalulu and the pastor we had prayed for over the many months. Mr. Loki was very tall and emaciated. He was just so full of joy about being free. And, he was full of praise for God's protection in spite of the same thick, scars on his face. He thanked me profusely for praying for him as if I had given him millions of dollars to secure his release. Over time, when we met for "tea and prayer" I learned that Mr. Kalulu had been named by Mr. Loki. Kalulu meant "gift from God". When I asked Mr. Loki why he gave Mr. Kalulu that name he said, "because he would risk his life for me. After everyone else escaped, I was the only one left. The suffering was great, the hunger continuous but I knew Kalulu would be working to help me. If I would get out, it would be because Kalulu had given up everything he owned to secure my release. If none of that happened, I knew Kalulu would be praying for me to be able to live for Christ in that prison...to carry the light in that dark hellhole. To Kalulu, I am important. He showed me how much God loves me by the way he cared about me. He has done that for the others who were imprisoned." I asked Mr. Loki how many pastors were released. I thought he would say dozens or perhaps, hundreds, and the answer shocked me. "Two. There were two of us who worked with Kalulu. He encouraged us in the ministry. He worked while we provided ministry. He supported our families financially and sacrificially. He was our "gift from God."

Mr. Kalulu embodied the idea of "do for the few." His love, support, and encouragement of two very brave pastors in Nigeria is a heroic story of selflessness and courage.







## KIND WORDS TO CELEBRATE SELINA

Selina is a rock star! She has been a true Godsend in my life and the life of this congregation. Her role is a powerful ministry. She has weathered a tough season in our church with grace, poise, and resilience. We are truly a better church when Selina is in the building! I charge this congregation to continue supporting and praying for her as Paul said about Phoebe.

"I commend to you *our sister Selina*, a servant of the church at St. Luke, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a supporter of many and of myself as well"  
(Romans 16:1–2 ESV) (Luke)

God has blessed us with a 'first face and first voice' for those who come by the church beyond anyone I could have imagined. Time and time again, she has cleared confusion, offered guidance, uplifted me and many others. She brings professionalism led by God's grace and caring, and her friendship is genuine. I pray that this past year will be the start of many with this dear sister. (Pat)

Selina has been a pleasant addition to the St Luke staff. She is a joy to work with and is always eager to learn something new about the facility. When my wife calls, she enjoys her friendly voice and attitude. She is fantastic. (Bob)

Selina has proven to be an asset to the organization in many ways, and to me. She is always helpful and eager to learn new concepts, especially as related to the preparation and submission of financial reports. She has a very friendly personality and is a welcome addition to the church. (Bill)

Working with Selina is observing the fruits of the Spirit in action on a daily basis. She is a great colleague! (Donna)

## Happy Anniversary Selina!

We are so thankful God sent you to Saint Luke Joy Church on July 7, 2019.

It's hard to believe a year has passed.  
A lot has happened since you joined our staff.

Pastor Luke arrives in October.  
A pandemic breaks out globally.  
Saint Luke's undergoes a renovation.  
Racial unrest breaks out across America.  
SpaceX had spectacular launch on June 3.  
*Selina has been with us for a year.....*  
*Now that's really good news!*

Let's shower Selina with cards, emails and kind words between now and July 7.

I Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11



# Report From Session

Written By, Clerk Of Session: Debbie Blackman

Session Report – June 22, 2020

After a time of opening prayer and devotion, the Session discussed the following business:

- Introductions were made with the directors of Classical Conversations, a Christian home-school cooperative. Plans for their use of the building for twelve sessions this fall and twelve more in the spring were discussed. The leaders shared their interest in supporting the work of this congregation, and invited us to participate in Open Houses scheduled for later this fall.
- Pastor Luke shared the progress of the EPC Revitalization Grant process, and indicated that the Presbytery has indicated their interest in offering support as well.
- Reopening in August, as well as beginning the process for the 2021 relaunch were discussed. A cleaning day will be planned soon, and Congregational meetings will be scheduled as soon as possible to share plans with everyone. Plans for a Church prayer walk, fall classes, and the beginning of Open Table meals in October were also shared. Forum class is scheduled to begin meeting again on August 16, and the Mary class will resume in September.
- Janice Stewart and Debbie Blackman shared ideas and progress of the Honor Wall committee. Alonda Forde, Pam Payne, and Jo Dillingham have agreed to serve on this team with them. They are in the preliminary stages of gathering information and planning a wall display and a gathering prior to the relaunch in 2021 highlighting the history of this church.
- Session heard a report from Donna Shetler regarding her efforts to secure grants for outreach projects, and the planning for the Art in the Park program beginning August 19.
- A Congregational Meeting to elect a nominating committee will be scheduled for August 16 (pending any changes in Covid-19 status) following worship. Pam and Dennis Bailey have volunteered to serve as the representatives from the Board of Deacons, and Janice Stewart agreed to serve with Debbie Blackman as Elder representatives. Information on the outreach that has been going on all summer will be shared as well, along with plans for Art in the Park and fall activities.
- Don Smith shared that the painting has been completed and flooring installation was beginning. (It has already been completed as of this report!).
- The financial report was shared, with the status of the investment accounts showing some rebuilding. Congregational giving has been impacted by the Covid-19 changes to worship. It was decided to begin taking offering with safety precautions at drive-in church for the convenience of members.



# Deacon's Report

By Brenda Hunnicutt

Please, please don't forget to notify your care group leader, or any deacon, if you need assistance, prayers or have any concerns.

For the past several months with your contributions to the Deacon's fund we have been able to help St Luke friends, a member and some in our community with assistance. Each assistance was so needed. What a blessing to be able to help those in need.

In addition the fund provided seed money for the Community Care Packages, The requests for these items have now slowed way down, As we prepared for the remodeling and needed space, we decided to use the remaining items for the Art in the Park program and any that were not needed for the program were sent to In As Much food pantry. Thanks again for your generosity.

# Lester Page

Join me in welcoming our newest staff member, Lester Page! Lester will be taking on the role of Technology and Media coordinator. This means he will run our audio/visual components on Sunday mornings. Lester has years of experience working at the Church of Resurrection, Cerner, and Spirit Center. We are truly blessed to have someone of his caliber join us at St. Luke. Lester will oversee our volunteers and help update our technology to reach the community better! His first Sunday will officially be August 9th when we are back in the building. If you see him around, make sure to make him feel welcome! Praise God for this! -Pastor Luke and Worship Committee



# Yvonnda Smith

Please welcome Yvonnda Smith the new Jani King custodian. During this time that the church is in a limited use situation due to Covid-19, Yvonnda will be cleaning specific areas of the church, such as the offices, library, entry hall, kitchen, Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary.





## *Happy* **BIRTHDAY**

- 6 John Krall
- 7 Harry Morningstar
- 9 Patricia Newby
- 9 Mary Srack
- 13 Mike Smedley
- 15 Tom Rule
- 15 Dodie Rayl
- 17 Cass Sullivan
- 18 Beulah Rule
- 18 Kathy Bailey
- 18 Dennis Bailey
- 23 Donna Shetler
- 24 Isaiah Forde
- 26 Al Steed
- 27 Nancy Herron



## *Happy* **ANNIVERSARY**

- 2 Ron & Jeanie Jenkins
- 2 Curt & Donna Shetler
- 5 Kent & Debbie Blackman
- 12 Nancy & Earl Herron
- 13 Bob & Marcia Busch
- 14 Russell & Alice Staves
- 17 Cory & Chris Booz

## *Reminders:*

- Sundays: July 5, 12, 19 & 26 - Drive In Church at 10:30am
- Wednesdays: July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Bible Study
  - Noon - Prayer meeting in the Fellowship Hall
  - 6:00pm - Zoom Open Table Bible Study
- July 9 - Classical Conversations Parent meeting at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall

