

JANUARY 2021

# JOYFUL JOURNAL

*Saint Luke Joy Presbyterian Church*



## ISAIAH 40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Perhaps you're feeling weak and tired as 2020 comes to a close. Maybe you've struggled and are in need of strength and sustenance. Have no fear. Place your hope in God and pray for His supernatural strength to fill your heart and comfort you. You can find renewed strength and a new beginning in Him.

## PSALM 40:30

"He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him."

As you pursue a new beginning in 2021, remember to place your full confidence, reliance and trust in Christ. He has the power to totally transform you.



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# Happy New Year

*Written by Pastor Luke Johnston*

Happy New Year, Beloved of Christ. I pray you are well and joyful in the Lord. May we be encouraged in 2021 that "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

I encourage you - as a church - to once again make some resolutions with me.

## **1.) More intentional prayer.**

Set up your prayer closet. Set aside a time each day (preferably in the morning) and meet with God. Cast everything upon Him - allow for Him to minister to your Spirit. Also - pray with fellow believers. Call your fellow church members and pray together. Join us 12 pm on Wednesdays in the fellowship hall. Prayer is the furnace! When you can do nothing else - you can always pray.

## **2.) More time in the word.**

Our church is offering a variety of ways to engage the word in 2021. Make sure to join all the classes you can! There is nothing like the accountability of group Bible study. The Word of God will change you and mold you. We need to saturate in it daily - in this way - our faith will grow! Our joy will overflow! I encourage you to call a friend if you are isolated - read through the book of John and discuss it.


## **3.) Volunteer to serve.**

We are always in need of volunteers and leaders. From children, youth, buildings, and grounds to outreach - we need your talents and gifts. You can fill out the opportunities form to let us know what your interests are. (Contact the office information). Remember, you are a piece of the body of Christ - we need you!

These three simple resolutions - will change the life of our church. If we all dedicate ourselves to these things- there is no telling what God will do with us! God is the great strategist - we are merely the tools He uses. Therefore, we must stay sharp and ready for Him to move/call!

Let us arise into this new year with joy and courage. Fear no darkness! Jesus has gone before us. He is leading!

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." (Hebrews 12: 2-4).



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# Church Movement Workshop

Investing in the first steps of making disciples is often overlooked - connecting people to Jesus in ways that are open, gracious and wise. An event on Saturday, February 6 has been designed to engage this topic. The Changing Face of Evangelism & the Wellbeing of the City affirms that: the Church is ready for a paradigm shift from events to moments, we want **to equip** every believer to have meaningful gospel conversations, and offering practical tools helps make sharing our faith more natural!

This workshop is designed for lay people, pastors and mission leaders. The training focuses on motivation, theology, tools and training for conversational evangelism. It is comprised of interactive sessions, experiential learning, self-discovery and both mentoring and on-line community opportunities

We invite you to join us!

- DATE, PLACE & TIME: St Luke Joy Church (4301 NE Vivion Rd, KC, MO 64119) on Saturday, February 6, from 9:00 to noon. There will be an additional, optional session from 12:00- 1:00pm for those who are interested.
- COST: \$15.
- Register at: [CFE – Church Movements](#).
- Please consider inviting as many pastors, missional leaders, laypersons, as you'd like - ANYONE you know and would love to influence and serve in this way.
- It is sponsored by Bridgebuilders, Cru, and the Jesus Film Project.

It will greatly enhance your experience if you have downloaded the following phone apps from your app store before the training begins: GodTools, Soularium, and Jesus Film Project (JFP)



Eager to hear from you and have you join us in bringing the Body of Christ together to advance the mission of Jesus.

-Pastor Luke



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# Session Report to the Congregation

December 21, 2020

Written by Clerk of Session: Debbie Blackman

The Session met via Zoom at 7:00pm with all members present.

Pastor Luke opened the meeting in prayer.

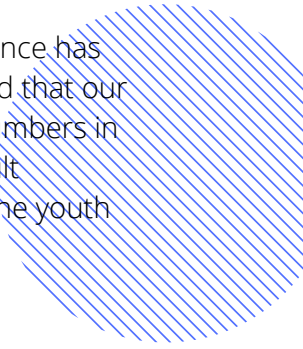
The Elders discussed their reading of Chapter 4 on Being God's Servant from the book Experiencing God by Henry and Richard Blackaby. This chapter focused on the need to humble ourselves and surrender to God so that we may be used to do the work He has intended.

A discussion on the initial conversations with the Pastor and a team of leaders from Colonial Presbyterian held via Zoom on December 17 followed. That team has read the book Replant Roadmap by Mark Hallick, which has been read previously by Pastor Luke, and partially by Debbie Blackman and Pat Schoenrade. All the St. Luke/GlenHaven Elders have received a copy of the book and will be studying it in the months ahead. The consensus from all those who participated in the conversation was that the possibilities that were discussed regarding a relationship between Colonial and our church in our replanting efforts were exciting, hopeful, and worth continued discussions. The Session will be reconnecting again soon with the group from Colonial, and we will continue to pray for wisdom and direction.

Clerk of Session Report – In the annual report sent to the EPC, information is included on membership statistics. Debbie brought up the fact that Covid19 restrictions have had an impact on our ability to track attendance, since we have not seen some members for much of this year but do not know if it is for safety or other reasons. As Elders, it is our responsibility to be good and caring shepherds of the flock. Pastor Luke and the Deacon Care Group leaders have had contact with many members, but we need to follow up to check on those whose presence either virtually or physically has not been noted. The Session has only received notice from a few individuals who have requested to be removed as members. Elders will be contacting others about whom we are uncertain.

## Ministry Reports:

Christian Education: (Al Steed and Janice Stewart). Al reported that small group attendance has been consistent, and that active participation in the sessions has grown. Janice reported that our intern McKayla has been doing a great job working with the youth and outreach. The numbers in youth meetings and activities has grown, which has prompted a need for additional adult volunteers. She has put out a request for anyone interested to let her or Janice know. The youth are also taking on a few renovations in their youth room.



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## Session Report to the Congregation...Continued

### December 21, 2020

Volunteers Janice, Brenda Hunnicutt, and Debbie Blackman have been happy to work with boys from one of our Classical Conversations families on Wednesday nights using the Orange Curriculum. The boys have loved the activities, and we will be continuing with this curriculum in the winter and spring thanks to a free trial from Orange.

Personnel and Placement: (Pat Schoenrade). Pat reported that Judy Teague has been doing a great job with new expanded responsibilities in the Nursery. Another staff Covid positive case was reported but with no contact to the church. Vacation days were approved for Pastor Luke December 27-30, and for Selina December 30-31. Volunteer staffing of the office will occur, and Pat will be filling the pulpit on December 27. Personnel evaluations will be conducted in January.

Missions and Outreach: (Pastor Luke). A plan to restructure and include more team members for this committee is in the works. Brenda Hunnicutt has done a fantastic job building the relationship with Golden Oaks School. Gifts from the congregation were distributed, and ideas for more engagement with staff and families are in the works. There was a wonderful response from the congregation for the gift drive for Rachel House, including contributions from the Classical Conversations families. A bottle drive is planned for January as well as a new baby celebration for some of their new moms hosted by our church in January as well. Thirty-four homes within our GlenHaven neighborhood have been identified and will be targeted with prayer and invitations to our church and activities. A prayer walk in our neighborhood and the park is planned for January 13 prior to Open Table. Pastor Luke has connected with all of our missionaries. Most are home right now during the holidays.

Worship: (Debbie Blackman). The team has been busy preparing for special services including the Adventful Celebration, Service of Light, and Christmas Eve service. Melissa Ball did an outstanding job once again with the Christmas devotionals. Our sound director has been gone due to illness and Luke and Melissa have really stepped up to take care of the sound and streaming! It is greatly appreciated.

Building and Grounds: (Don Smith). Don shared a bid from Summit Heating and Cooling for replacement of a faulty heater blower in the Scout Room, and for a twice yearly inspection of our HVAC systems, and moved that we accept those bids. The session approved.

Stewardship: (Kim Smedley). Kim reported that the investment accounts showed a gain last month and the total is almost back to the original donation. Contributions have been up slightly as well. The Session went over the budget for 2021, and approved it as presented with the amendment of additional HVAC expenses in the maintenance budget. The budget will be shared with the congregation in detail at the Congregational Meeting in January.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:30pm.



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# Annual Report Articles

Ministry Teams - Deacons - Boy Scouts - Music - Joy Funds:

Please draft and email your annual report to the office by Monday, January 11.

## Open Table

January 6th is the start of The Open Table. The Open Table is designed to go deeper into the sermon text.

We invite our community to join us in scriptural conversation and Holy fellowship!

## Men's Bible Study

January 12th is the start of The Men's Bible Study. We hope you can join us!

## Pray & Go Walk

January 13th at 5pm prior to the OpenTable Bible Study, we will meet in the church parking lot to walk and pray around the GlenHaven community. Come and be a part of this new beginning of community partnership!


## Rachel House Diaper Bag Drive

The Rachel House Diaper Drive was a success! The diaper bags will be delivered to Rachel House the first week of January. Thank you to all who donated diaper bags and gift cards!

## Golden Oaks School

Once again, a very special Thank you from Golden Oaks School - including all teachers, they were so appreciative of all Christmas donations! Thank you to all who donated!

Joy is the second "fruit of the Spirit," according to Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is...joy...."



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*Happy*  
**BIRTHDAY**

*Happy*  
**ANNIVERSARY**

3 Hannah Horowitz  
7 Pam Payne  
11 David Cassell  
13 Beth Burns  
15 Rusty Quinn  
20 Jude Bailey  
25 Rosemary Graves-Hollingsworth  
26 Marisol Hubbard  
28 Robert Busch

8 Bill & Janice Stewart  
29 Gerald & Judy Strasburg

## Special Reminders

January 4 - Classical Conversations Begins for 2021  
January 6 - Open Table Bible Study Begins for 2021  
January 9 - Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Workday  
January 11 - Annual Report Articles DUE  
January 11 - Ministry Teams Meet  
January 12 - Men's Bible Study Begins for 2021  
January 13 - Prayer Walk at 5pm  
January 17 - Congregation Meeting  
January 18 - Martin Luther King Day - Church Office Closed  
January 25 - Boy Scout Arrow of Light Crossover 7-8pm  
January 25 - Session Meeting 7pm

**\*\*January 17: Congregation Meeting at Noon\*\***  
The 2020 Annual Report and 2020 Financial Contribution letters  
will be available at the January 17th Congregation Meeting



# Coming In January

**01 FRIDAY**

7pm CA Group

**02 SATURDAY**

9pm CA Group

**03 SUNDAY**

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

**04 MONDAY**

8am Classical  
Conversations  
6pm Boy Scouts

**05 TUESDAY**

7pm CA Group

**06 WEDNESDAY**

Noon Prayer Group  
6:30pm Open Table/Bible  
Study  
7pm CA Group

**07 THURSDAY**

6pm Girl Scouts

**08 FRIDAY**

7:00 CA Group

**09 SATURDAY**

9am-3pm Cub Scout  
Pinewood Derby  
Workday  
9pm CA Group

**10 SUNDAY**

9am Bible Study  
10:30am Worship

**11 MONDAY**

Annual Reports DUE  
8am Classical Conversations  
6pm Boy Scouts  
7pm Ministry Teams

**12 TUESDAY**

7pm Men's Bible Study  
7pm CA Group

**13 WEDNESDAY**

Noon Prayer Group  
5pm Prayer Walk  
6:30pm Open Table/Bible  
Study  
7pm CA Group

**15 FRIDAY**

7pm CA Group

**16 SATURDAY**

9pm CA Group

**17 SUNDAY**

9am Bible Study  
10:30am Worship  
Noon Congregation Meeting

**18 MONDAY**

MLK DAY  
Office Closed  
6pm Boy Scouts

**19 TUESDAY**

7pm Men's Bible Study  
7pm CA Group

**20 WEDNESDAY**

Noon Prayer Group  
6:30pm Open Table/Bible  
Study  
7pm CA Group

**21 THURSDAY**

6pm Girl Scouts

**22 FRIDAY**

7:00 CA Group

**23 SATURDAY**

9pm CA Group

**24 SUNDAY**

9am Bible Study  
10:30am Worship

**25 MONDAY**

8am Classical  
Conversations  
7pm Boy Scout Arrow of  
Light Crossover  
7pm Session

**26 TUESDAY**

7pm Men's Bible Study  
7pm CA Group

**27 WEDNESDAY**

Noon Prayer Group  
6:30pm Open Table/Bible  
Study  
7pm CA Group

**29 FRIDAY**

7pm CA Group

**30 SATURDAY**

9pm CA Group

**31 SUNDAY**

9am Bible Study  
10:30am Worship