

# JOYFUL JOURNAL

ST LUKE JOY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"WHETHER  
IT BE  
THROUGH  
PRAYERS OR  
BIBLE  
STUDIES, IT'S  
IMPORTANT  
TO SPEND  
TIME WITH  
CHRIST  
EACH DAY."

**Psalm 126:2-3 "Our  
mouths were filled with  
laughter, our tongues  
with songs of joy. Then it  
was said among the  
nations, "The Lord has  
done great things for  
them." The Lord has done  
great things for us, and  
we are filled with joy."**





## Remember, Repent, and Renew

WRITTEN BY PASTOR LUKE JOHNSTON

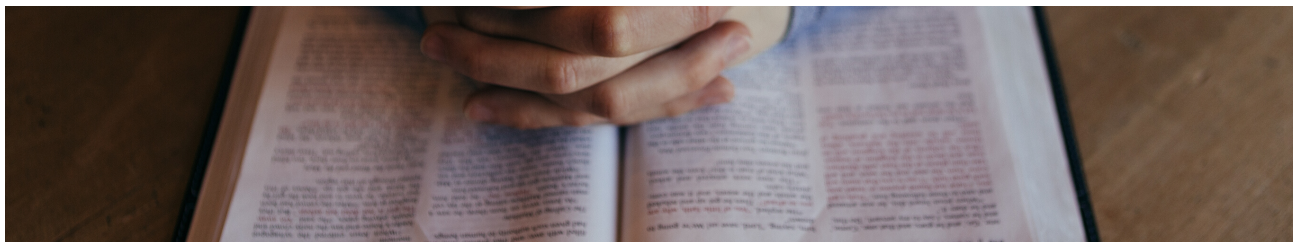
Greetings, beloved of Christ! It has been a joy getting to know this congregation! I am looking forward to meeting every one of you. My family and I are richly blessed! The legacy and faithfulness displayed by St. Luke Joy over the years, warms my heart. I think of the Apostle Paul's words from Colossians chapter 1:

*"I always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when I pray for you, because I have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras (Wallace, Melvin, Joe, and Mark), our dear fellow servant(s), who are faithful minister(s) of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit."*

As we begin our journey together, I encourage you to look carefully at three points behind Paul's words.

1.) Remember: It is good to remember and celebrate what God has done with St. Luke Joy! Not only that, but what God has done for you individually! Remember how your faith has grown and the joy of your salvation (Psalm 51:12)! Think of the faithful men and women who have served Christ throughout the years. Think of all the families that have passed through our doors and heard the gospel! Do you remember when you first heard the good news? Each Sunday, I will be looking for someone willing to share their testimony of salvation with our congregation. Our testimonies are vital! We must go back to the beginning of our initial motivation for being a church body. We are not merely here to "do church" or keep the lights on. We are here to give testimony to what Christ has done in our lives and for the world! As it says in Revelation 12:11, *"They triumphed over him (the Devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."*

2.) Repent: In the book of Revelation, Jesus spoke directly to several churches. Many of these churches had been in operation for some time! The church in Ephesus had been open for over 40 years! In Chapter 2, Jesus gets right to the heart of the matter. He starts by complimenting the church's holiness and sound doctrine. Jesus then goes on to say these stark words. *"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first."*



# Remember, Repent, and Renew

## CONTINUED

*Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.*" We must "remember" our first love! Remember the love of Christ, our Savior, that was freely given to us. We must be a people of continual repentance. As time goes on, it is easy to take on other "loves." The key to a healthy church is repentance. Ask God, "how have I forsaken you?"

3.) Renew: Therefore, let us be a simple church. Jesus commands us to get back to the basics! The "things we did in the beginning." In everything we do, we must ask, "How does this give glory and honor to Christ?" Every great renewal must start with prayer and confession. Let us confess the ways we have strayed from God and His will. Let us confess our other "loves."

Will you pray? Without prayer, there can be no renewal. Starting this Sunday, we will begin a short series on "revival" from Isaiah 63 and 64. Renewal and revival is a work of the Holy Spirit. You can not fabricate or manipulate it. Therefore, we must lean wholly and consistently on God's power. This series will be leading us up to the Advent season!

It is a new day at St. Luke Joy. God is calling us into a new chapter of ministry. Let us have grace for one another as we enter this season. If we put God first, repent, and live according to His will, there is no telling what He can do! I ask you to "ponder anew what the Almighty can do!"

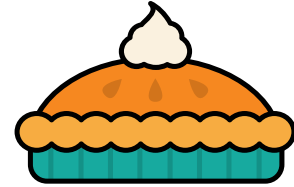
Under The Mercy,  
Pastor Luke Johnston

## PIE AUCTION

By: Janice Stewart

Mark your calendars! The annual Pie Auction will be after church on Sunday, November 24. All proceeds go to our Youth Activities Fund. Bring a pie, cake, cookies, or any other tempting delight for Auction. We will have a light lunch of soup and bread. If you have a favorite soup you would like to share, please bring it, too. Sign up for auction items and soups will be up in the Fellowship Hall beginning November 3.

Plan to attend for a great time of fellowship and an opportunity to get your Thanksgiving "goodies". See ya there!



## OPERATION SHOEBOX

By: Rich Rayl

Our Annual **OPERATION SHOEBOX** is in full swing. Pick up one or two boxes and a brochure that shows you how to pack your **SHOEBOX**. Your **SHOEBOX** will become a gift for children around the world as an expression of God's love. What an opportunity to touch a child's life!

## Pat Pearl's Mission

While you are "shoebox shopping", please remember that Pat Pearl is collecting children's gifts for her mission trip, Dec 10-17, as well! She has a display in the lobby for the kind of the things she needs.

Coloring books  
Crayons  
Small cars  
Small dolls  
Christmas pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners  
Small deodorant  
Small toothpaste/toothbrush  
small Puzzle books (word search, Sudoku)  
White socks, all sizes

Can you name three or four things wrong with this gospel? H. Richard Niebuhr's description of liberal Protestant theology: A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."



# DEACONS REPORT

By: Brenda Hunnicutt

The September Deacon's meeting was opened with prayer. Care group reports were shared by attending members. Current Deacon terms were reviewed, the nominating committee will be making recommendations for three open Deacon positions for 2020. The group discussed the need for an Automatic Defibrillator at St. Luke. A recommendation was made to contact the American Red Cross for additional information and training.

The Deacon's did not meet in October. We would however like to know of anyone who does not receive email and would like the monthly newsletter mailed to them. If you know of anyone please contact Brenda Hunnicutt

## Northland Christmas Store Food Drive

During November, we have the opportunity to reach out to our neighbors served by the Northland Christmas Store this year. We will be collecting nonperishable food items in the fellowship hall all month long. The Northland Christmas Store is a charitable organization dedicated to providing aid to needy families and individuals in Clay County at Christmas time. Their goal is to see that each deserving person or family has ample food and that each child has gifts to open on Christmas morning. As we prepare for the holidays, let's share the bounty God has provided. The collection will be picked up the first week of December. If you have any questions, contact Debbie Blackman.

## Honoring our Veterans

On Sunday November 10, we are proud to honor the Veterans and Military families in our midst. As part of this day of tribute, we ask that those who have served, or have loved ones who have served, would share their photos in uniform with us. We would like to display these photos on our bulletin board across from the office. Please bring your photos up to church anytime from November 1-9, marked with your name so we can be sure to return them to the proper family. We are grateful to the servicemen and women, and the families, who have sacrificed for our nation. Thank you and God bless you.



# Congregational Meeting

By: Debbie Blackman

The Session of St. Luke Joy Church has called a meeting of the Congregation to elect Elders and Deacons for the 2020 term on **November 17, 2019**. This meeting will be held immediately after the service at 12:00PM, and will be followed by a Potluck Dinner. Enormous thanks is due to the dedicated people who worked on our Nominating Committee: Dennis Bailey, Jean McHenry, Tom Rule, Mary Srack, Al Steed, and Cass Sullivan. Our gratitude also goes out to those who have agreed to serve as Elders and Deacons, and to those who prayerfully considered serving. Debbie Blackman, Chairperson

## Hospital of Hope - Fall Gala

Save The Date: Hospital of Hope

Fall Gala and Silent Auction

November 23, 2019 6-9pm

Harmony Vineyard Church

600 NE 46th Street, KCMO 64116

Dinner - Music - Silent Auction - Updates of the Mission Hospital in Zambia

In honor of our team partners and supporters

RSVP: [www.allGodschildrenkc.com](http://www.allGodschildrenkc.com)

## Advent Devotionals

By: Melissa  
Ball

It's that time of year again to prayerfully consider writing an Advent devotional. This year, the week to have devotions turned in is the week of November 11 since Advent starts on December 1 this year. **The latest I will accept completed articles is Sunday, November 17.**

Feel free to write on something partially or totally different than what I've got suggested because, for me, these Advent devotions aren't about how well you write or whether you have something important to say but about sharing something from your heart. If you have difficulty writing something but know of a poem or short devotion that means something to you that you would like to share, those submissions will be accepted as well. So please keep that in mind as you prayerfully consider signing up for one. Since there are 25 days available to write for, I would like to get 24 people or less besides myself to submit one or two devotionals.





## Hospice Bags The Twelve Days of Christmas


Join Mariners to put together Hospice Bags on November 9th at 5:00pm.  
Bring a brown bag dinner for yourself and enjoy great fellowship

## Senior Lunch Group

November 15 at 12:30 is the Senior Lunch Group. Bring your own lunch.  
Join Pastor Luke as he is the guest speaker!

## Horowitz Wedding Shower

Ladies, a wedding shower for Hannah Horowitz is on the church calendar and everyone is invited! The date is Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 1:30 pm at St Luke. A light lunch will be served and we will celebrate her upcoming wedding with gifts, lots of love and good food! Hannah and Ryan (Barnett) are registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and also Amazon. You must RSVP to Melissa Gould (816-405-7968, [mgould345@gmail.com](mailto:mgould345@gmail.com)) or Rebecca Gordon by November 3 so we can prepare for a really special day for Hannah!





6 Jan Wiley  
9 Gerald Strasburg  
17 Becky Reyes  
19 Alice Staves  
20 Jo Dillingham  
27 John Brown  
28 Isaiah Hughes  
30 Benjamin Horowitz

18 Bob & Kathy Haywood  
27 Tom & Beulah Rule

## **Announcements & Reminders**

1 Operation Shoebox  
1 Northland Christmas Store  
5 5am-7pm Election Day at St. Luke Joy  
9-10 3pm-9am Boy Scout Sleep/Shut In  
9 5:00pm Mariners: Hospice Bags/Bring your own dinner!  
11 Advent Devotionals Due to Melissa Ball  
15 12:30pm Senior Lunch Group Meeting  
16 8am Men's Breakfast  
16 12-4pm Hannah Horowitz Wedding Shower  
17 noon Deacon Meeting and Congregational Meeting potluck  
23 6-9pm All God's Children Hospital of Hope Fall Gala  
24 12-2pm Pie Auction



# COMING IN NOVEMBER

## 01 SATURDAY

8-5 Boy Scouts  
Forum Room

## 03 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
3-5:30 Girl Scouts  
Fellowship Hall  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 04 MONDAY

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

## 05 TUESDAY

5am-7pm Election Day  
7:00 Girl Scouts  
Forum Room

## 06 WEDNESDAY

6:00 Joyful Journey  
6:30 Bible Study  
7:00 CA Group

## 07 THURSDAY

6:00 Girl Scouts

## 08 FRIDAY

7:00 CA Group

## 09 SATURDAY

3:00 Boy Scout Sleep  
Over  
5:00 Hospice Bags  
Fellowship Hall

## 10 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
2-5 Boy Scout COH  
Fellowship Hall  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 11 MONDAY

Advent Devotional Due  
6:00 Boy Scouts  
7:00 Ministry Teams  
7:00 CA Group

## 13 WEDNESDAY

6:00 Joyful Journey  
6:30 Bible Study  
7:00 CA Group

## 15 FRIDAY

12:30 Senior Lunch Group  
7:00 CA Group

## 16 SATURDAY

8:00 Men's Breakfast  
12-4 Horowitz Wedding Shower  
Fellowship Hall  
9:30 CA Group

## 17 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
Noon Deacon Meeting  
Noon Congregational Meeting  
Potluck  
3:00 Girl Scouts  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 18 MONDAY

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

## 20 WEDNESDAY

6:00 Joyful Journey  
6:30 Bible Study  
7:00 CA Group

## 21 THURSDAY

6:00 Girl Scouts

## 22 FRIDAY

7:00 CA Group

## 24 SUNDAY

9:15 Discipleship  
10:30 Worship  
12-2 Pie Auction  
Fellowship Hall  
6:30 Choir Practice

## 25 MONDAY

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

## 27 WEDNESDAY

6:00 Joyful Journey  
6:30 Bible Study  
7:00 CA Group

## 28 THURSDAY

Closed Thanksgiving