



# The Chronicle

A NEWS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM

December 2005



## Advent and Christmas 2005: COME TO THE MANGER

### A message from our Senior Pastor

#### THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

Rev. Janet Forbes

It was Christmas Eve 1223 at Greco, Italy, not far from Francis' hometown of Assisi. Clattering feet rang on the stony path up the mountainside and voices hummed excitedly. Then the footsteps and voices stopped abruptly. Torches and candles lit up the entrance to a cave in the mountain. Within the flickering shadows of the cave the watchers could make out the gently breathing forms of an ox and a donkey, standing patiently beside the carved wooden figure of a baby in a crib.

As the villagers watched, St. Francis began to tell the story of the first Christmas, taking the part of each character in turn. For too long the incarnation had been a subject to be studied by learned people. Francis was determined that ordi-

nary men, women, and children should understand what it meant for Jesus to be born in a stable in Bethlehem.

What do you call your "Christmas Crib"? A creche (France)? A krippe (Germany)? A nacimiento (Guatemala)? A pesebre (Brazil)? A nativity (United States)? A manger (Highlands Ranch)?

I invite your family to center its Christmas decorating with a nativity set. If you have young children, provide a set that can be handled and explored in play. Even if baby Jesus or the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wise Man gets lost under the sofa.

The Advent invitation is to "come to the manger"! What joy!

**Invitational**  
**Relational**  
**Missional**

**We welcome you to our Christian family, where we share life. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually. Join us in growing together toward full humanity through living the teachings of Jesus: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.**

**SATURDAY Nov. 26**

8:30am–noon **Hanging of the Greens**

Come join your church family for a festive morning as we decorate our church home for the holidays. Childcare is available.

10:00am–noon **Hanging of the Greens for Children** While others are involved with the decorating of the church's main floor, our children along with their families will be happily involved with decorating the Sunday School area downstairs.

**SUNDAY Nov. 27 (Advent I)**

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**“Come to the Manger: A Cribbin’ We Will Go”** – Rev. Janet Forbes

6:00pm

**Tree Lighting Celebration**

Come celebrate the lighting of the tree with your St. Luke's family. Carols, cookies, and fellowship—what a great way to start Advent!

**FRIDAY Dec. 2**

6:00–10:00pm

**GEMS (Girls Enrichment Ministry) Christmas Gift Making Night**

All girls in grades 7-12 welcome!

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

Dec. 3 & 4

12/3: 9:00am–1:00pm & 12/4: 8:45am–12:15pm

**St. Luke's Annual Children's Holiday Shop**

Our Children's Holiday Shop provides a Christmas shopping experience for children up to age 12. They can avoid mall shopping and get great gifts at discounted prices.

**SUNDAY Dec. 4 (Advent II)**

9:00 & 11:00am services

**St. Luke's Annual Christmas Cantata “Come to the Manger”**

This is one of St. Luke's favorite musical events of the year! Hear the wonder and mystery of the Christmas message presented by our very own singers and instrumentalists. With 130+ participants, you'll experience beautiful and powerful musical arrangements that will warm your soul.

6:00–8:00pm

**SLY, Jr. Christmas Gathering**

All kids in 5th & 6th grade are welcome to come have dinner and make ornaments.

**TUESDAY Dec. 6**

6:00–8:30pm

**Women of St. Luke's Candlelight Dinner**

The Women of St. Luke's cordially invite all women and young ladies to join us for a magical evening of fun and fellowship.

**THURSDAY Dec. 8**

8:00pm

**Sound of the Rockies Benefit Concert**

Hear the Rocky Mountain region's premier Barbershop Chorus sing your favorite Christmas tunes. The free will offering benefits the Colorado and Global AIDS project.

**SUNDAY Dec. 11 (Advent III)**

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**Candy Cane Sunday**

**“Come to the Manger: Mary Sings!”**

– Rev. Janet Forbes

**SATURDAY Dec. 17**

9:00am–noon

**Parent's Holiday Haven**

Providing childcare for ages 3-9 years old for parents needing last minute holiday preparations!

**SUNDAY Dec. 18 (Advent IV)**

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**“Come to the Manger: Joseph's Family Tree”**– Rev. Janet Forbes

9:00–11:00am

**SLY (St. Luke's Youth)**

**Urban Peak Pizza Bake at Boston's**

**MONDAY Dec. 19**

6:00–9:00pm

**GEMS (Girls Enrichment Ministry)**

**Spa Night** All girls in grades 7-12 welcome!

**WEDNESDAY Dec. 21**

6:00–9:00pm

**Churchwide Caroling Party** (adults & youth)

**Christmas Eve SATURDAY**

Dec. 24

**“Come to the Manger: Once Upon a Time... For All Time”** – Rev. Janet Forbes

• **3:00pm** – Children's Service with Puppet Ministry

• **5:00 & 7:00pm** – Carols and Candles Services •

**10:00pm** – Carols, Candles and Communion

**SUNDAY Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)**

10:30am (only 1 service)

**“Come to the Manger: When the Animals Speak”** – Rev. Janet Forbes

11:30am

**Service of Baptism**

The Sacrament of Baptism offered for persons of all ages. Call the office or visit with one of the pastors.

**SUNDAY Jan. 1, 2006 (New Year's Day)**

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

– Pam Rowley preaching

**SUNDAY Jan. 8, 2006 (Epiphany)**

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**“Three Kings Service”**– Rev. Janet Forbes

The entire family is encouraged to worship together as we watch our 15 foot high Magi journey through the sanctuary to present their gifts to the Christ child.

8:30–11:30am

**Guatemala Mission Team Breakfast**

Fundraiser for Guatemala mission.

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## From the Missions Committee

Thank you to all of the small groups that supported Urban Peak throughout 2005 by sponsoring a meal. These groups made our mission to provide one meal a month to the youth of Urban Peak a success! Thanks to the Hand bell Choir, Common Thread Circle, Women of Note, St. Luke's Softball Team, SLY, Chancel Choir, UMW, and Christian Connection Sunday School class. Also, thanks to the many individuals who signed up to provide food during the months, which were open. Thanks to Bernie O'Grady and family for serving and delivering meals as needed.

If your small group is interested in sponsoring the Urban Peak meal for a month in 2006, please contact Diane Tolleson at 303-683-1295. Individuals are also welcome to provide part of a meal. Please contact Diane with questions or see the sign up sheet on the Mission kiosk.

Thanks again to everyone at St. Luke's for supporting Urban Peak in 2005.

Diane Tollesen

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## Trustee's Corner

The next time you see him, would you please join with the members of St. Luke's Trustees organization in recognizing and thanking our tireless and devoted Director of Trustees, Mr. Ken Fong. If you've ever been on the business end of a honey-do list on your own home repairs, just imagine for a moment what it would be like if you had hundreds of people with different needs building that list! And that list would need your attention every day, every week, and every season of the year -- and due in large part to the incredible generosity of your extended family your home would be over 44,000 sq ft with more than 10 bathrooms!



Day in and day out Ken quietly schedules and oversees activities performed by volunteers and professional contractors so our church home can reliably support our programs. Whether monitoring electricity and water usage, finding ways to improve security, or checking in on a more personal level, Ken willingly provides caring, leadership and discipline towards keeping us all comfortable and safe all the while minding our investment in our home.

Thank you so much, Ken, we truly do appreciate your leadership, devotion, and grace!

The Trustees organization would also like to join with the staff in extending our thanks to all of you for supporting St. Luke's as we move into 2006, we really would not be who we are without you.



Sunday, December 4 at the 9:00 and 11:00 am services

Come and enjoy the sounds of Advent and Christmas presented by the Music Ministry at St. Luke's UMC. Over 130 performers will join to make this event one of St. Luke's most memorable worship experiences of the year. Songs of old and new will be presented by the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Women of Note, Sonrise Band, St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra, Tintinnabulators Handbell Choir, Grace Notes and Off-Notes Youth Choir. Contact James Ramsey at 303-791-0659 x23 for information.

### St. Luke's Annual Christmas Cantata

St. Luke's UMC Benefit  
Concert Series:

Sound of the Rockies  
Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 8th at 8:00 pm

Hear the internationally recognized Sound of the Rockies Barbershop Chorus sing your favorite Christmas tunes in classic men's barbershop harmony. The Sound of the Rockies are the premier Barbershop singing group in the Western United States and will treat you to an unforgettable evening of great music of the season. Proceeds for this year's concert will benefit the Colorado AIDS Project. Contact James Ramsey for more information at 303-791-0659 x23.

Epiphany Sunday -  
Three Kings Service

Sunday, January 8th at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 services

As seen on Channel 7 News and covered in area newspapers, come and see

the very popular 15 foot King Puppets and their entourage present gifts to the baby Jesus. This service is a wonderful and memorable experience for children as well as adults. Rev. Janet Forbes will be preaching and special music is provided by the Men's Choir. Contact James Ramsey at 303-791-0659 x23 for more information.

Instrumental Music:

On January 7th at 10:30 we're adding a new Instrumental Ensemble to the St. Luke's Music Ministry: *St. Luke's Wind Ensemble*. This new ensemble is designed to be a cross generational ensemble in which all are welcome to join who play or have played instruments in a concert band or wind ensemble. For more information, please contact James Ramsey at 303-791-0659 x23

Hello, Marcia!

We enjoyed our El Salvador trip, and of course there was no problem with distributing all of the clothing and supplies that we took with us. Thank you--and thank you, St. Luke's--for all those high quality donated items, which were so gladly received! The clothing met critical needs, and the toys were a source of unbridled joy! It is fun to let each child make his/her own toy selection!

We visited two orphanages and four refugee camps to make our distributions. I have photos, which I will try to get into the mail to you within a few days. It was rainy while we were there, and as you have probably noticed in the news during the last few days, it became much worse soon

after our departure. One of the orphanages that we had planned to visit had been evacuated because of mudslides, and the children had been moved into a larger orphanage in the city of San Salvador, so we tracked them down in their new location. They were so glad to have an infusion of new clothing! Sadly, the whole country has a pitifully large number of "throw away children." We plan to participate in Airline Ambassadors' next trip in January, so wonder whether we can be added to St. Luke's list of mission projects for at least part of the time during the next three months. With so many people displaced and having lost everything during the hurricanes, we certainly realize that there are many competing needs! We will await your thoughts

on this....

Again, thanks a million to you and to your friends at St. Luke's for being such generous suppliers for our September trip! Fully half of the total amount of donated goods that our group of volunteers had available for distribution came out of our duffle bags, which we had tightly stuffed with St. Luke's contributions. (Most volunteers buy their supplies at thrift shops, and thus have fewer items.) We are always painfully aware that it is like a drop in the ocean of need, but it certainly provides an invaluable lift to those we are able to reach with these supplies!

Thanks so much!

Linda & George Rathbun



Anne & Ken Reck



Sara Hankenson



Greg & Traci Frost



Laura McCarthy

Joy & Frank Makley



Andrea Price-Stogdill

We will be offering the following dates for our "Next Step" class. This class covers the History of Methodism, discussions about the people of the United Methodist Church and information about the many ministries of St. Luke's and how you can serve. Lunch or Dinner will be provided. Childcare is also available by making reservations at 202-791-0659 x47. If you are interested in joining St. Luke's family, the membership ceremony will be within the same month at the service of your choice. Please select the class you would like to attend and call Lynda Fickling for reservations 303-791-0659x20

Next Step Class:

Sunday, Dec. 11, 11am-2:30pm	Membership Ceremony on	Sunday Dec. 18th
Sunday, Jan. 22, 11am-2:30pm	Membership Ceremony on	Sunday, Jan. 29th
Sunday, Feb. 12, 11am-2:30pm	Membership Ceremony on	Sunday, Feb. 19th
Sunday, March 12, 11am-2:30pm	Membership Ceremony on	Sunday, March 19th
Sunday, April 23, 11am-2:30pm	Membership Ceremony on	Sunday, April 30th

*Thank you from all of us in Children's Ministry*

With Thanksgiving just passed and the preparation for Christmas beginning, I stopped for just a minute to count the blessings I have seen in Children's Ministry. These blessings are all the wonderfully generous people who have given of themselves to the programs of Children's Ministries over the past year.

We are thankful for all the volunteers (over 35 each Sunday) who serve in Children's Sunday School, Joy Trek's teaching teams and assistants, PEAK Adventure's workshop leaders and guides and Summit Seekers' teaching team, Music and opening teams, superintendents, nursery checking and Summer Sunday School.

We would not have any special events without our Children's Ministry Fellowship Team that directs Fall Festival, Hanging of the Greens, Children's Dinner Theater and the Friendly Giant production, Candy Cane Sunday, Family Movie night, the Easter Fun Day Celebration, and the months worth of planning and an intense, but fulfilling week of Vacation Bible School every summer.

We are thankful and so appreciative of our incredible group of caregivers who staff our Nursery for all three services on Sunday mornings and our Childcare during the week.

We have individuals who serve on the Faith Harder Children's Library Ministry Team who decorate, organize, catalog, and maintain our collection. Then we have others who serve with Third Grade Bibles, Children's 3:00 Christmas Eve Service, Sly Jr., and Wacky Wednesdays.

What a wonderful diverse Children's Ministry program St. Luke's has because of the volunteer support and tireless effort of this very dedicated group of people.

If you haven't gotten involved in Children's Ministries, please do. It is true, the blessings you give will come back to you many time over.

Have questions? Can't wait to get involved? Contact: Lynne Butler, Preschool Ministries at 303-791-0695 ext. 11 or

Kristina Linn, Nursery and Childcare Coordinator, at 303-221-3447

Jenita Rhodes - Children's Ministry's Director at 303-791-0695 ext. 27 .

**We look forward to hearing from YOU!**

**Attention Sly Jr. - all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders!**

Our next gathering is December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00.

Our theme is

"Tis the Season". We will continue our journey by make two special ornament, one to give and one to keep. A meal will be provided.

**Friends are always welcome!**

Below are the dates, times and activities.

**January 8<sup>th</sup> (second Sunday!) 6:00 – 8:00** Celebrate the New Year!

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> LOCK-IN!!!**

**Friday 6:00pm to Saturday 10:00am** Lord of the Ring Theme... More information for signing up and what to bring will be available in January!

*Volunteers are also needed to help with each evening's activities. There will be a sign up sheet available for parents want to join in the fun. Thank you so much for your help! Should you have any questions or can't wait to sign up, please contact Jenita Rhodes at 303-791-0659 ext 27.*

Candy Cane Sunday will be December 11. Every child who attends Sunday School will receive a candy cane and a special poem explaining it's special meaning to Christians.

"We are thankful for the individuals who spend many hours through the year sorting curriculum, sending birthday cards to our children and helping with activities from home."

Christmas Eve at St. Luke's

The 3:00 service on Christmas Eve has traditionally been a special service for our children complete with carols and candle light. Added to the service this year will be a special performance from our newly formed Puppet Ministry Team. Join us this Christmas Eve at **3:00** and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus as we "Come to the Manger" together.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABY JESUS!

Little School will have a fun filled December celebrating the Birthday of Baby Jesus and learning about different cultures, customs and religions. We will celebrate St. Nicholas Day (a Holland tradition where the children put out their shoes for pennies and treats), Chanukah, Kwanzaa and Canadian Boxing Day! We will also have our annual pajama day and Santa will visit with treats. We will be collecting Toys for Tots, a fun way to share our many blessings! It is a very exciting time and we love to see the wonder in the children's eyes. We know that the true meaning of Christmas and the Christ child lives in the hearts of our little ones.



Thank you to everyone who contributed extra Halloween candy to the Aid Project! We took several pounds of Candy to the adults and children impacted by HIV and AIDS. The project director was so pleased to have all of the leftovers to share with everyone!

Little School will have their annual Christmas programs on December 19th and 20th and then enjoy a Christmas break December 21st through January 3rd. We will return in full force on January 4th. We wish you all a very blessed family time and wonderful celebration!

Ms. Kay and the Little School Staff

## Stephen Ministry Training Class in Home Stretch

The class of 17 Stephen Ministers at St. Luke's is nearing completion, with just a few class sessions left before the class is commissioned in January.

Our trainees have worked extremely hard and their dedication is paying off, says Stephen Leader Sherry Merrill. The course has involved pre-class reading assignments and in-class lecture, discussion, and role playing. Our trainees are showing some real growth in knowledge and skills.

I've found the skill practicing to be the most valuable component, says trainee Marcia Enger. It takes what you are learning out of the realm of theory and turns it into something you have to apply. It can be very challenging to role-play, for instance, that you are ministering to a young mother whose husband has just died. But it is extremely helpful because it prepares you for actual care giving

situations.

"During the skill practice there has been real ministry going on too", says trainee Steve Treat. When you learn and discuss grief, you can't help but surface genuine issues from your own life. When this happens, we find ourselves ministering to each other. All of that will help us be better caregivers later on.

"The emphasis on confidentiality is important for potential care receivers", says Pastoral Care Minister and Stephen Leader Pam Rowley. Most people are reluctant to share their problems and situations because they're afraid of others finding out. The confidentiality of Stephen Ministry lets people know they can discuss difficult concerns with their Stephen Minister and not be afraid of others finding out.

Remaining topics include:

Dealing with Depression:  
The Stephen Ministers Role

Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care and How to Make a First Caring Visit

When these topics are completed, the trainees will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers and receive their first care giving assignments. But even then their training is far from over.

"Continuing education is an important component of Stephen Ministry training", says Pam. Stephen Ministers will meet for continuing education twice a month, even after they begin meeting with their care receivers. The goal is for Stephen Ministers to continually enhance their skills and learn new ways to care. We want them to provide the best care possible for their care receivers.



**Chris' Corner - A King-Sized Bed**

Christmas time already? Time to worry about relatives, time to stress about finding a great gift for everyone, time to freak about gaining weight at all those holiday parties... Nope!

It's time to enjoy the simple things in life, time to wonder at the birth of Jesus the Christ to a modest family in even

more modest surroundings. The Alpha and Omega, God among us, born surrounded by animals and those that cared about him most. Not lying in the comfort of a crib, or on cushy bedding; instead lying in a manger filled with hay. I mean, of course Jesus had to suffer a little bit by the end of his life, but why would God place his only Son into an uncomfortable manger surrounded by animals? I know babies smell a little, but not that bad...

Perhaps God provided us a preview of the inside-out & upside-down ministry that Jesus would begin as an adult. To find yourself, lose yourself in me. To become truly rich, discard your earthly possessions. To lead you must follow. Who would have thought that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords could fit into something as humble as a manger?

This Christmas season, do not stress over family, time, or the gifts you will give and receive. Instead begin to think inside-out & upside-down: That a simple manger really is a king-sized bed, and that sometimes the simplest gifts of all are those most remembered.

Blessings and Happy Holidays! Chris

**December**

- 12/3 – Holiday Shop, 9am-1pm
- 12/4 – SLY AM Worship  
SLY PM - District Worship
- 12/7 – SLAM
- 12/11 –Regular SLY AM  
SLY PM-Video Scavenger Hunt
- 12/14 –SLAM
- 12/17 –Parent's Holiday Haven
- 12/18 –SLY AM- UrbanPeakPizzaBake  
SLY PM - Holiday Surprise
- 12/21 –SLY Caroling
- 12/24 –Christmas Eve Services 3,5,7,10
- 12/25 –No SLY, Merry Christmas!

**January 2006**

- 1/1 – *No SLY, Happy New Year!*
- 1/8 – SLY AM Worship  
*Confirmation Begins*  
SLY PM
- 1/11 – SLAM
- 1/15 – Regular SLY AM  
Regular SLY PM
- 1/18 – SLAM
- 1/22 – Regular SLY AM  
Regular SLY PM
- 1/25 – SLAM
- 1/27-1/29 *Confirmation Retreat*
- 1/29 – Regular SLY AM  
Regular SLY PM
- 2/1 – SLAM

**Enormous thanks** to all those who donated food to the DenUM Food For All Food Drive in November. We made over 350 complete Thanksgiving Dinner Kits to feed those in need around Denver.

**The Pumpkin Patch and Fall Festival** raised \$16, 276 for youth missions! A great year and thanks for all the support!!!

If you missed the **Confirmation Information Meeting**, don't stress! You can still sign up for Confirmation classes and get your curriculum. Look for registration sheets on the information walls both upstairs and downstairs. Turn in your registration sheets to Chris before our first class on January 8. Confirmation is for all youth 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up and their families.

**Wednesday Nights!** If you have not yet tried out any youth activities on Wednesday nights, you should check them out before the end of the year! All Wednesday night activities are for all youth from 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. SLAM (St. Luke's at the Movies) from 6:30 – 8:30 looks at religious symbolism and meaning in films. Puppet Ministries

meets from 6:30-7:30 and gives you a great hand work out, as well as an awesome experience with other youth and adults preparing puppet presentations for members of the community. Puppets will be in the 3 pm Christmas Eve Service, and a few extra hands would be great!

**SLY Caroling 12/21!** We'll be visiting shut-ins and other families from St. Luke's the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> with the OffNotes and a few other strong voices in our congregation. Come and sing starting at 6pm!!!

**Parent's Holiday Haven** takes place on Saturday, 12/17 from 9-12. If you are willing to donate a few hours to baby-sit so parents can get some sanity back, please contact Chris Wilterdink or Caitlin Bauer.

**Urban Peak Pizza Bake on 12/18** Just like last year, we'll be invading the kitchen at Boston's to make and bake pizzas for the homeless teens of Urban Peak. If you are interested in participating, sign up downstairs, and bring \$10 on the 18<sup>th</sup> to donate to the cause!



## **Estimate of Giving Cards:**

If you have not completed your estimate of giving card for 2006, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. We are in the final stages of completing the 2006 budget. It would be helpful to have as many estimates of giving as possible to substantiate our projection for 2006 revenues. If you need a card to fill out, call me at 303.791.0659 Ext 24.



## **New Convenience For YOU---Electronic Funds**

**Transfer:** We continue to embrace technology and are continuously seeking giving options that you might find most convenient for your family. We have applied to VANCO Services to be a participant in their e.service Electronic Funds Transfer Service with plans to have the first transactions happen on January 1, 2006. The Finance Team reviewed other providers but found VANCO has the most economical fee structure due to an agreement they have in place with The United Methodist Church. Many prefer this method of payment rather than writing checks and already use it for mortgage payments, etc.

You will be able to choose a donation frequency of monthly or semi-monthly. We will have a sign-up table here at the church as soon as the Authorization Forms are printed. The forms will allow you to indicate the amount, frequency and the banking or savings account from which you want the funds withdrawn.

**Budget Update:** Our trend for having good financial months continued through October. October was a very good month for giving. I'm more encouraged that with this trend and by paying close attention to our spending we will be able to pay our bills for the remainder of the year from cash flow.

**Year End Cutoff Dates:** I'm sure some of you will want to make sure you complete your 2005 pledge before the end of the year or in some cases you may want to do that and pre-pay some of your 2006 planned giving. If your check is postmarked before January 1, 2006, or we actually receive your check before that date, your contribution will be posted as a 2005 contribution unless you specifically give instructions that it is to be posted as a 2006 contribution. **We cannot post back-dated checks to 2005.**

In the event you want to contribute stocks, the ownership transfer must be completed before January 1, 2006, for the contribution to appear as a 2005 contribution. I.e., the stock must be transferred to our account before January 1 or we must receive the endorsed stock certificates here at the church in the same time frame outlined above for checks. These transfers may take a few days to complete so you should get the process started early. We have an account at Charles Schwab for you to use in doing these transfers. Call or email me and I will provide the account information you need.

FINANCE

Dave Cupp

Director of Finance

Thoughts from Fred

In a recent class the subject was "Worldview." My consciousness of a worldview was slow a-dawning. I'm limiting this statement to a worldview as making one feel safe, or unsafe. As a kid, even during the Depression, I felt safe. My parents, and Brother Bonner, our pastor, made me safe locally. President Roosevelt took care of the bigger picture; I felt safe with him. And beyond that, God, in Heaven, took care of the Really Big. They all were "in charge."

Later I grew past parents and pastors. Some presidents made me feel safe, a couple unsafe. God was still in Heaven, but Browning's, "God's in his heaven--- All's right with the world," began to crumble. The Really Big picture was confusing. Why didn't God stop the Holocaust; and the Indian Ocean tsunami, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma? I preached, "God loves you," which soothed me, but didn't ring true for many. The image of God as an "idealized Superman" in the sky who pulled strings and protected my favorites began to fade. Over the years a

different image of God appeared. So, with a different image, now who's "in charge?"

God is still "in charge." Now, for me, God has changed places of residence. God now is IN me, and IN you. God is "in charge" THROUGH you and me. No longer do we need look to others for safety, and to a God in the sky, but to look within, where God is. It is an awesome responsibility to be "in charge." I had to "take charge" from my parents, a sobering thought. And that God is using me is a heavy responsibility. Paul gave us the clue as to how this is: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20) I believe God is very much "in charge" IN us and IN the world, not above and beyond it. And God is using ordinary people, like you and me, and some bigger ones, to make sure the world is a safe place. The world needs me, and you. That is a challenging worldview!!!

## ST. LUKE'S PRAYER CONCERNS



Bob Abbott; Gerry Wright (Gail Abernathy's mother); Rex Cochran Jacqueline Zgoda; (Laura Zgoda's mother-in-law); Madilyn Johnson (Katie Johnston's 2 yr. Old-cousin); Carolyn Dean; Clarine Ransick (Eric Ransick's mother); Jeff Patefield; Nancy Rawls (Betsy Keyack's sister); Jackie Durban; Linda Heister (Tammy Heister's mother); Jennifer Emerson-Roy (Harry & Nancy Cushing's niece); Deb Murphy; Syd Harrison (friend of Brad Chase); Erin Morgan (The Walter's family friend); Julie Reagan (Christine Harris' sister); Marge Snoddy (Kam Boles friend/neighbor); Dorothy Lloyd (Sheri Shea's mother); Jim Llyod (Sheri Shea's father); George Murphy (Barb Decker's mother's partner); Jack Taylor (Loree Kohrs friend); Loretta McFarlin (Meera Goel's friend's mother); Bob Lanham (Ann & Jan Holly Lanham's son/brother); Frances Boles (Tim Boles' mother); Ellen Riley (Steve Riley's mother); Natalie Murrow; Andy Bingaman (friend of Joy Damsgard); Lisa Maciejewski (Jennifer Jang's sister); Erienne Romaine (Raap's family friend); Marlyn Gaskin (friend of Diane Whetson); Betty Kieser (Bonnie Funk's mother); Karen Gumz (friend of Sandy Thompson); Nancy Obertier; Don Craig (Marcia Beshoof's father); Wendy Walker (friend of Sheri Shea); Shaun VanDyke (gr. Nephew of Bobbi King); Olivia Murrow; Eileen Williams (John Williams' mother); Charles Ingles (Dave & Meryl Cupp's brother-in-law); Pat Swanson (Jenita Rhodes' mother); Ingrid Warden (Carolyn Warden's sister-in-law); Bernie Mezger (John Mezger's father); Guillermo Rodriguez & family (Gail Abernathy's son-in-law); Edith Walters (Terry Walters mother); Cindy Barlow; Pat McManaway (Christine Harris' mother); Fran West's daughter Elaine; Gina Gilken (friend of Trudy Turner's sister); Roger Carlyle (Trudy Turner's son-in-law's father); Davis (Ed & Eileen Law's brother-in-law); Laverne Whetson (Bob Whetson's mother);

## Ministry Opportunities

### Prayerfully consider *your* part in St. Luke's!



"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-13

**Fellowship Events Ministry:** Seeking persons to join our new ministry team! Plan, decorate, set up/clean up for special fellowship events at St. Luke's (Dinners, Breakfasts, Picnics, meetings or banquets, Ministry Fair, Hanging of the Greens...) Team members attend meetings to prepare for events and work in conjunction with other ministries to provide guidance and tactical support for special events. This team also includes our **Sunday Morning Fellowship-Coffee & Donuts Team**, who provide the enjoyment of food and fellowship on Sunday mornings. Let's get our parties rolling! Contact: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20

and maintain our kitchen! Can't keep the cooks in-line without a clean kitchen!

Contact Lynda Fickling at 303-791-0659x20

**Sunday Morning Office Help:**

Seeking someone to serve as our receptionist during our 8am service. Answer important Sunday morning questions (what time is service, Sunday school...) and take messages off our phone system to deliver to the pastors and staff. Please help our church be as invitational and welcoming as possible by offering your time. This job can be shared with others, pick a Sunday-once a month (or more!) and we will build our new Team! Contact Bonnie Funk 303-791-0659x10

contact Lynda Fickling at 303-791-0659x20

*"...serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."  
1 Peter 4:10*

**Calling all Cooks:** Seeking cooks (as a part of the "Fellowship Events Ministry") to prepare meals for our special events here at St. Luke's. If you have a passion to cook in a large kitchen for lots of people (!) Please contact Jim Ramsey 303-791-0659x23

**Kitchen Team:** A part of the "Fellowship Events Ministry", we need persons who like to organize

**Bookstore:** Need people to help organize, purchase and maintain our newest bookstore located in the narthex. If you like books and are organized, please contact Terri Beecher 303-791-5009

**Guest Service Station:** Information central for St. Luke's! Great way to meet people and be helpful by answering simple questions, give direction to classrooms... all in all, be our minister of concierge! Choose to serve one Sunday a month (at the service convenient to you) 30 minutes prior to the service time. Please

**Called to Serve**

**Are you searching for a way and reason to get connected at St. Luke's? Whether you have been attending for a while or you just arrived here, we invite you to attend one of our monthly discovery classes. In this class "Called to Serve", we learn that we are born to serve God and follow in Jesus' footsteps by serving those around us. We grow by giving and grow by receiving. Let me help guide you on how you can change your life by serving through and at St. Luke's.**

**On the first Sunday of each month, I will give an orientation of the programs offered at St. Luke's and help to clarify your spiritual journey towards living a**

**God-centered life. Plan to attend one of these days:**

**Date:** First Sunday of every month (Jan.-Dec.)

**Time:** 9:30am-10:30 am

**Location:** Conference Room

**Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20**

St. Luke's United Methodist Church invites you to find new life through Jesus Christ. Engage your heart and mind within a community of faith that seeks to integrate scripture, tradition, reason and experience. Wherever you are in your life, you will be accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually, live relationally and walk in mission, as you relate your daily life and your faith. Join us in growing toward full humanity through living the teaching of Christ: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.

All articles, photos and notices for the Jan. issue of *The Chronicle* are due:

**Dec. 20th**

For more information, please contact the church office

**Phone: 303.791.0659**

Fax:303.470.5615

St. Luke's Youth ext. 45

Childcare reservations: ext. 47

**www.stlukeshr.com**

Emergency

Janet Forbes: 303.241.9312

Dave Money: 303.932.1035

Pam Rowley: 720.348.1528

**Sunday Worship Services**.....8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday School Classes** (adult, children & youth)...9:30 a.m. & 1100 a.m.

Nursery Available for all services

**Staff**

- Rev. Janet Forbes Senior Pastor..... ext. 13
- Rev. Dave Money Associate Pastor ..... ext. 33
- Pam Rowley Pastoral Care..... ext. 32
- James Ramsey Director of Worship & Arts ..... ext. 23
- Carrie Mallery Associate Director of Music Ministry ..... ext. 35
- Kay Coryell Assistant Music Director..... ext. 43
- Chris Wilterdink Director or Youth Ministry ..... ext. 14
- Ann Smith Assistant Youth Director ..... ext. 19
- Jenita Rhodes Director of Children's Ministry..... ext. 27
- Lynne Butler Pre-school Ministry ..... ext. 11
- Kristina Linn Childcare Ministry ..... ext. 40
- Lynda Fickling Director of Membership Ministry ..... ext. 20
- Bonnie Funk Administrative Assistant ..... ext. 10
- Dave Cupp Director of Finance ..... ext.24
- Dan Kuhl Facilities/Custodian..... ext. 44
- Kay Swanson Director of Little School ..... 303.791.1982

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The Chronicle

