



# The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2011

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*and much more!*

Join us on Saturday, Nov. 26 as we decorate our church for Christmas from top to bottom from 8:00am-noon. Drop in any time but the earlier the better! Families are welcome! Childcare will be available for the wee-littles with reservations 48hrs in advance. Breakfast treats and Christmas music will lift your spirits and put you in the holiday mood! If you are interested in helping on the "core" team, please contact Annie Van Hoosen: avhaugen@comcast.net 303-738-3282 as they will prepare the way for this fun-filled annual event! You won't want to miss out!

## Changing Lives for GOOD: Celebrate Making a Difference

Changing Lives for **GOOD**

Thank you for your generous response to CHANGING LIVES

FOR GOOD. We continue to grow our ministry with attention to the wise use of your gifts and God's bounty. The proposed needs for ministry for 2012 reflect a commitment to maintain both the quantity and quality of ministry opportunities as was experienced in 2011. The Finance Team and St. Luke's staff understand the need for fiscal restraint in an uncertain economic season. However, we pray for our ministries to continue growing in faithfulness and for the mission of our congregation to be realized. Through the ministries of our church, we make a difference in countless lives. People of all ages are touched by the ministries and services that we make possible through the faithful return of our offerings. We are changing lives!

### NEW MINISTRIES PLANNED FOR 2012:

- Because of our program growth, we are in the joyous position to need resources to support growing youth ministries, particularly confirmation, mission expansion, and youth music ensembles. As more musicians participate in the Chancel Choir, we need more copies of the songs we love. The popular Spirituality and Wellness initiative expands in 2012 with the offering of group and individual spiritual direction. The Seasoned Voyagers have sparked tremendous response to senior ministries. Thanks be to God!
- We anticipate an increase for the Staff Parish Relations Team for the new category of staff continuing education. We also have requests for additional hours to accommodate growth in pastoral care, youth, and drama ministries.
- The Executive Team is eager to create a Capital Repairs Contingency Fund in anticipation of future major repairs to our church house.
- The Trustees are hoping to upgrade our aging Sanctuary sound and lighting systems.

Thank you, St. Luke's. Your generosity has touched so many. Because of your faithfulness, you are making a difference. You are changing lives for good!



*Look for a twinkling flash of wonder  
That opens up our eyes  
To the unexpected gifts in life—  
Each one a sweet surprise.*

**Join us for the celebration of Advent and Christmas at**

**St. Luke's! Our theme this year is**

**"Christmas Present: The Gift of the Moment."**

It's the moments that surprise us, that always come as gifts, that we are encouraged to attend to in The Christmas Present. Let us look for the simple things that are all around us when we are present to life: children's excitement, show sparkling in the streetlights, the many colors of the season, a fresh crisp winter sky, families, sounds, and scents that surround us but have no expectations of us. The Christmas Present is more about being than doing, about relationships, laughter, carols... simple, real, uncomplicated, joyful.

### November 26

HANGING OF THE GREENS.....8:00am-noon

### November 27 ADVENT 1

TREE LIGHTING.....6:34pm

### December 3

PUPPET CHRISTMAS SHOW.....6:30pm

### December 4 ADVENT 2

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION...8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 6:34pm

### December 6

UMW CANDLELIGHT DINNER.....6:00pm

### December 10-12

HOLIDAY SHOP FOR CHILDREN.....times vary

### December 11 ADVENT 3

CHAPEL COMMUNION.....8:00am

CANTATA.....9:30 & 11:00am

### December 14-15

LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

### December 18 ADVENT 4 CANDY CANE SUNDAY

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT.....3:00pm

### December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

CHILDREN.....1:00 & 3:00pm

Puppets, Youth Choir, Cherub's Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz, and Joyful Noise Youth Handbell Choir

TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm

Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulators

Handbell Choir, Soloists, Brass and Organ

COMMUNION.....10:00pm

Communion Service, Soloists and Organ

### December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP.....10:00am

No Sunday School or Fusion/SLY PM

### January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

COVENANT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 6:34pm

### January 8 EPIPHANY

SERVICE OF THE KINGS.....8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**Sunday Worship Services:**

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

6:34pm: Fusion

Contemplative Services also offered  
(Check website for dates and times)**Sunday School:**

Adult, Youth &amp; Children:

9:30am &amp; 11:00am

**Nursery available for:**

8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00am services

**Church Office.....303-791-0659**

Fax.....303-470-5615

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

**Preschool Office.....303-791-1982****Staff:****Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes.....x13**  
Senior Minister Emergency: 303-241-9312**Rev. Bradley Laurvick.....x12**  
Associate Minister Emergency: 720-296-1251**Rev. Sallie Suby-Long.....x32**  
Associate Minister Emergency: 303-475-0141**Angie Steinhauer.....x28**  
Pastoral and Children's Ministry Intern**Sharon Oliver.....x27**  
Director of Children's Ministry**Dawn Johnson.....x11**  
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry**Samantha Leahy.....x40**  
Director of Childcare**Erin Klein.....x14**  
Interim Director of Youth Ministry**Susan Johnson.....x19**  
Assistant Director of Youth Ministry**Kay Swanson.....303-791-1982**  
Director of Little School**Dr. James Ramsey.....x23**  
Director of Music & Arts Ministries**Kenrick Mervine.....x33**  
Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist**Jennifer Ferguson.....x37**  
Associate Director of Music Ministry**Kay Coryell.....x36**  
Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry**Ernie Rodgers.....x44**  
Fusion Worship Leader**Carrie Mallory.....x35**  
Assistant Fusion Worship Leader**Jenna Wilcox.....x22**  
Director of Drama Ministry**Brenda Schafer.....x10**  
Office Administrator**Dave Cupp.....x24**  
Director of Finance**Lisé Takayama.....x16**  
Assistant Director of Finance**Lynda Fickling.....x20**  
Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director**Barry Curtis.....x39**  
Facilities ManagerAll submissions for the  
**Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012 issue**  
of *The Chronicle* are due **Dec. 1**Editor: Sharon Oliver  
chronicle@stlukeshr.comThe *Chronicle* prints 10 times per year and  
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and it can be found on the church website.Printed copies are available at church  
entrances. To receive *The Chronicle* via US  
mail, please call or email the Church Office.**Rev. Janet Forbes**  
Senior Pastor

## The Christmas Present: Surviving the Holidays After Loss

In our Celebration of All-Saints, we remembered nearly eighty loved ones whose loss will dramatically impact the holiday season for their grieving friends and families. This year, as we seek to be present to the surprising moments of Advent and Christmas, I want to encourage care and attentiveness to these days of sadness and remembrance.

**Take care of yourself physically**

Allow yourself to get rest. Your body will tell you what you need. Loss drains the body of energy and strength. Don't try to do what you have done at previous Christmases. If you want baking and decorating to be done, ask someone to help you. Don't be afraid to admit your physical weakness. Remember, at holiday time your emotions will play a large part of your everyday schedule. Take time to sit down and weep, if necessary. Let the tears come; they are important. You and your family are the most important consideration. Remember, it is okay to put yourself first! It is okay to do things differently this year.

**Celebrate Christmas in a simple manner**

Christmas had its beginnings in the simple surroundings of a stable. This may not be the year to put up all the extra decorations and lights—perhaps just a tree and some trimmings, with the family joining in to help. A simple nativity scene on a table can help bring your attention to the meaning of the holiday. Don't do all the time-consuming Christmas baking you usually do. Your family will be okay! Allow yourself to buy cookies from the bakery. Christmas dinner can be special. It may be better this year to have dinner at another person's home. Let a relative or close friend host dinner at his or her home. Don't feel responsible to bring anything. Or, go out to a restaurant for dinner; you might want to invite a friend who might be alone this Christmas.

**Remember your loved one**

At Christmas, you usually want to do something to remember your loved one. Perhaps going to the cemetery and placing new flowers or a small tree will help you. Sometimes it helps to see how others have remembered their loved ones. Some people donate time or money to people in need as a memorial. Others help those who have lost loved ones by contributing money to the family. It seems to help a grieving heart to do something tangible to remember the loved one. Many families can sit around the dinner table or Christmas tree and talk about their loved one. Sharing good memories brings healing to everyone. Remember, though, to let all the family members grieve in their own way.

**Next year will be better**

Always keep in mind through the holiday that this season will soon be past. Life will heal with time. Also remember that there are many people like you who are walking through this season just as you are doing. You may think that most families are having a wonderful holiday season, but that is not always the real story. You are not alone in your grieving. This thought may not comfort you now, but later God will show you opportunities to help others who grieve as you have grieved.

Be gentle with yourself in this Christmas Present. God's care is all around you!

Grace,  
Rev. Janet

**Don't  
miss  
this  
Holiday  
Family  
Treat!****Fri. Nov. 18 - 7:00pm****Sat. Nov. 19 - 2:00pm & 7:00pm****Benefit Dinner: Sat. Nov. 19 - 5:30pm****Tickets for the dinner only:****\$30 each Adult, \$5 each student**

If you are looking for a way to usher in the holiday season, the Wesley Players have an answer for you. Our production of *A Christmas Carol* is terrific. With all the characters you know well, Scrooge, Marley, The Spirits, The Fezziwigs and our beloved Cratchits, this production has something for everyone. It is a play in two acts which will run just under two hours with intermission. Any donations given on the night of the shows will go to cover the costs of the show and support Warren Village and Milk for Guatemala. We welcome your generosity. These are worthy causes!

If you would like to join us for dinner please plan to purchase a ticket after service or in the Main Office. The Fellowship Events Team is hosting a full holiday feast steeped in holiday tradition.

If you would like to have a date night you can reserve a space in the Nursery for your children for Friday night's show. Please make your reservation 48 hours in advance:  
sam@stlukeshr.com.





**Rev. Bradley  
Laurvick**  
Associate Minister

## Tree Lighting Sunday Nov. 27 6:34pm!



This holiday season, we are inviting our community to share in the joy of Christmas Present. Not past, not future, but right here and now—and to treat it as the gift it is. I cannot think of a more appropriate way to begin the Christmas season in the moment than our Tree Lighting (Sunday, November 27, 6:34pm). The tree lighting is about engaging us in a moment—and I hope it is a moment you will create in your home as well.

The Christmas tree is a symbol of life (yes, even the twelve inch artificial one from my first apartment), green even amidst the cold of the winter. We bring this symbol of life into our homes, and into our church home, to center our focus on the life we have been given and that we continue to live.

The lights that encircle our trees shine bring us twinkling reminders of the Light of the World, shining right now on our tree and in each one of our hearts, just as it shown that first Christmas. Layering upon the branches and lights are the ornaments. Whether the Christian symbols we use upon the church tree or the Hallmark ornaments collected over the years, each ornament symbolizes a gift—not just a gift—*The Gift*. Just as God has given us the gift of Jesus at Christmas, so we too give one another gifts to reenact and symbolize that moment. As we share together in our Christmas Present, we are reminded that it is a gift to do so.

As songs are sung, stories are shared, and the tree shares the warmth of its light, we will all be present with each other, with the gift of Christmas, and with the divine presence that invites us into the season of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. (*Bring cookies to share after the service.*)

It is my hope that you will enjoy each gracious moment given you in the months to come, and that one of them will be our Tree Lighting as a church family.

## Fall is a Time of Gathering

**We invite you to gather with us in fellowship on Monday Nov. 14 6:00-8:00pm at the Common Table when our topic will be “How United Methodist Churches Get Their Clergy.”**

Have you ever wondered? Let's find out together how this process works and how it impacts our own St. Luke's community. Come at 6:00pm for a meal\* in Fellowship Hall, and our presentation and discussion will continue from 6:30-8:00pm. Childcare is available with advance notice. The Common Table is open to everyone - you, yes you, reading this right now, are cordially invited to be with us! *\*Usually our meals are potluck, but this time we ask that you please bring a dessert to share, and we'll provide the soup and bread.*

Our September Common Table meeting (on the 19th) was a wonderful opportunity for those in attendance to hear about the next steps in St. Luke's Long Range Planning. Marty Davidson led a discussion around creating our foundation, to support our collective vision and ensure its success. Our Q&A session brought out some important points about how we can get involved, how we can make the things we do now even more successful, and keeping our core values at the forefront. We then moved into updates from the Leadership Teams, and looked at our Calendar and Upcoming Events. There's a lot going on this season! The minutes of the meeting are posted on the St. Luke's website for you. Thanks to everyone who helped make this such a fun time for us!

## Planning for Severe Weather



In the event of inclement weather, the pastors and staff of St. Luke's have adopted these procedures:

### During the week:

- When North Douglas County cancels school, St. Luke's will close the Church Office and cancel daytime classes, meetings, and events in the building. All childcare for the day will be cancelled.
- Group leaders will determine by 3:00pm if evening classes, meetings, and events will be held beginning at 6:00pm. There will be no childcare provided.
- When North Douglas County schools announce an early dismissal, St. Luke's will close the office at noon and cancel all afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events.
- When North Douglas County delays the start of the school day, the morning classes, meetings, and events will be cancelled. The Church Office will open at noon and the afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events will continue, weather permitting.

### On weekends and holidays:

- The church staff and group leaders will determine whether classes, meetings, and events will be held.

These closures will be posted on the St. Luke's website ([www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com)) as soon as a decision is made. The closure of the St. Luke's Little School will also be given to local television and radio stations.

## Drop In and Learn with Us!

**Micah Series** Going Strong Sundays at 11:00am!

- Nov. 20: Concepts of “*Restorative*” Justice and meeting the needs of Youth
- Dec. 4: *Restorative Justice* Restoring Lives in Guatemala
- Dec. 11: *Restorative Justice* The Sand Creek Massacre. What does the Lord require of us now?
- Dec. 18: *Restorative Justice* The Criminal Justice System and people of color

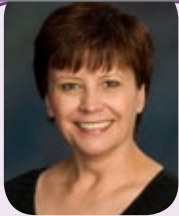
More info on the Micah Series in the next issue of *The Chronicle*.

## The Thrift Store Needs a Name

The Love INC Thrift Store team at St. Luke's is working toward making the store a reality. We need your help! We need a catchy name for the store.

So we're going to have a **Thrift Store Naming Contest!!** Get those creative juices flowing and start working on a clever name for the Thrift Store. Watch for more details in the coming weeks! Also, we're planning a sale of donated items on November 18 and 19 at the new Love INC office location. Keep an eye out for the details about that event! If you have some resale items you'd like to include in the sale, please let us know. There are still opportunities to volunteer to help get the Thrift Store off the ground. Please contact Nita Dunn at 303-886-0381 [nitadunn@gmail.com](mailto:nitadunn@gmail.com) or Jerry Hertzler at 720-480-0476 [jmhertzler@comcast.net](mailto:jmhertzler@comcast.net) for more information!





**Lynda Fickling**  
Director of  
Servant Ministry/  
Spiritual Director

## We are Called to Serve

*Rather than waiting around for God's special plan for your life, you should just go find where God is at work and join in.*

—Shane Claiborne

**Library Team:** Love Books? This team organizes, inspects and repairs the books for both the Children's and Adult libraries at St. Luke's. Meets periodically for library work days. **Spiritual Gifts:** Administration, Craftsmanship, Helps **Contact:** Anne Reck 303-346-8122 ereco215@comcast.net

**Guest Calling Team:** Make a phone call to thank and welcome our first time guests from our Sunday services. If you enjoy reaching out to others with your hospitality, this team is for you. Average phone calls 1-2 a month. **Spiritual Gifts:** Hospitality, Helps **Contact:** Louise Jasper 303-791-1907 louise9168@comcast.net

**Soundbooth Team:** This team has an active role during Sunday morning worship. You may not see the hard work behind the sound, PowerPoint and lights but they are there providing us with a wonderful worship experience. They also work special events such as our musicals, dramas, and weddings. If you enjoy working as a techie (or always wanted to!) join our team! **Spiritual Gifts:** Administration, Helps, Creative Communication **Contact:** Tim Boles 303-791-9643 tmboles@aol.com

**To Discover more about your own Spiritual Gifts** and where you may serve best, visit [http://stlukeshr.com/p\\_volunteer.asp](http://stlukeshr.com/p_volunteer.asp), and beginning serving where God has given you talents and gifts!

If you are searching for a place to connect at St. Luke's, please contact Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry, 303-791-0659 x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com) or Bruce Pawley, Co-Leader for Lay Leadership, 303-471-8353 [brucepawley@comcast.net](mailto:brucepawley@comcast.net) or Karin Wesson, Co-Leader for Lay Leadership, 303-683-0196 [karin@thewessons.com](mailto:karin@thewessons.com) and/or stop by our Get Connected Center.



**Rev. Sallie Suby-Long**  
Associate Minister



**Brenda Schafer**  
Office Administrator

### LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Brent Wester  
Charlene Johnson (Eileen Law's friend)  
Gerald Gates (Bret Wilcox's uncle)  
Magdalene Acker  
Marion Boon (Rich Boon's mother)  
Maxine Campbell  
Richard Dropik (Elizabeth Bauer's stepfather)  
Sherrie Miller  
Rick Nelson (Tami Clement's brother)  
Dannette Jenkins  
Charlie Ernster  
Jack Knight (Rick Jasper's friend)

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Please stop by the Information Center, by the front door, where you will find the complete and updated Prayer Concerns list or view the listing on our website. Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or Brenda Schafer if you have any additions/removals. 303-791-0659 x32, leave a note on the front desk, or email at [sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sallie@stlukeshr.com) or [brenda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:brenda@stlukeshr.com)

Jim Klein (Brad & Erin Klein's father)  
Dave McQuerry (Bud & Sharon Scholle's friend)  
Gene Blair (Sharon Scholle's brother-in-law)  
Sara Wright (Kathy Swier's friend)  
Richard Swier (Kathy Swier's father-in-law)  
Suzanne Piskaldo

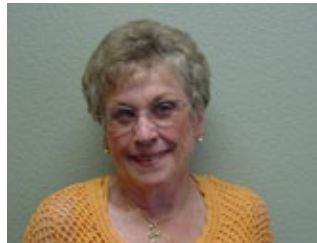
### SYMPATHIES TO:

Candy Keller on the passing of friend, David Mueller  
Ken & Barbara Mervine on the passing of Ken's father, Charles Mervine  
Marcia Benshoof on the passing of her father, Donald Craig

## Welcoming our newest members

of St. Luke's and their reasons for joining our community.

**Contact Lynda Fickling for more info** x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com)



### Gerry Ryder

*"The mix of young and old in the congregation; the beautiful music and friendliness of the congregation making you feel welcome. I was introduced to St. Luke's by Marilyn Curtis and have a lot of friends from Wind Crest who attend there also. I also enjoy the sermons."*



### Peter & Linda Young (no pic)

*"Agree with the church's Faith statement. Enjoy the welcome we received and the fellowship offered."*

### Lee & Yvonne Seaman



*Journey toward Wholeness*

**ST. LUKE'S UMC  
SPIRITUALITY  
AND WELLNESS  
WORKSHOP  
SERIES 2011/2012**

## Continuing our Journey toward Wholeness *by Jane Staller*

The 2011/2012 Spirituality and Wellness Series launched on October 4 with Chasing Happiness, led by Dr. Andi Pusavat. Dr. Pusavat (Andi) led the well-received Stress Management workshop for the 2010/2011 Spirituality and Wellness Series, and she is back by popular demand. In Chasing Happiness, Andi tackled the common, but less-than-satisfying quest for happiness. She grounded her talk in some universal questions: *How can I be happy? How can we be present in the moment? How can I quiet myself and be content with where I am now? What if I don't have access to the things that I thought defined happiness? What does spirituality mean in the midst of all these questions?*

Andi introduced the ancient concept of "Dayeinu," which she described as the ability to claim, or to recognize, that what has been, is good enough. Dayeinu comes from the celebration of God's deliverance of the Hebrew people through their exodus from Egypt.

Always practical in her approach to the tough questions, Andi walked us through strategies to help us focus on what really matters in life. Andi's workshop handout, *Chasing Happiness: Strategies for Focusing on What Really Matters*, is a self-study guide that we can use to bring clarity to our own Dayeinu experiences. The handout contains questions (with room to record our thoughts and reflections) to guide us through the processes of:

*continued on page 11*



## More from Les: Transformation #3 The Palmer, Alaska, Fellowship – Changed for Good!

by Rev. Les Ludlam, St. Luke's Lay Associate Pastor 1993-1997

*This is the third installment of a three-part series of the story of transformation during the three years I served as pastor of a very small, rural United Methodist congregation in Alaska. I believe this story has an important message about how we recognize a "call" in our own lives, whatever it may be, how we respond to that call, and how God uses people around us to affirm and support us as we move forward. I hope you enjoy the story. It's not just mine, but a story of the people who traveled with me and helped me on this sometimes confusing and circuitous path.*

Palmer UM Fellowship was small but it mirrored a larger congregation. We looked, sounded and acted like a church – we *were* a church! I preached, Betty ran the Sunday school.

This engineer, newly reformatted as a minister, found that the task went far beyond preaching on Sunday morning. There were pastoral care issues to be dealt with and I knew that I was not qualified to deal with these issues alone. A technological background was virtually useless in this arena of human relationships.

My regular meetings with Rev. Billy Still provided time for reflecting on what was happening at Palmer and my role in it. I thought I was beginning to get it. Then, on April 24, Good Friday, 1989, the supertanker, "Exxon Valdez" struck Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska. My first response was disbelief, then shock, and then dismay. I was devastated! How could this happen?

Members of the Palmer Fellowship, however, became a resource for me as we all dealt with this horrible tragedy! I felt responsible as an employee of the industry that had developed the huge North Slope oil fields and built the pipeline and marine terminal now delivering that crude oil to ships that coursed Prince William Sound.

I shared my feelings with the congregation on several Sundays. They too, were grieving over the loss! "We hate what has happened, but we don't hate you," said one member, "and the best way to do our grief work is to talk about it and do something constructive."

I told them I had volunteered to work on a multi-company task force to develop a new Oil Spill Prevention and Response Plan and promised to keep them informed as much as I could. It became a shared experience for all of us and tended to build more trust within the congregation.

Over the years the Palmer Fellowship became an effective community of faith. It held its own financially and was not in immediate danger of fading away. With effort and commitment, members of this community of faith were beginning to reach out and serve some of the human needs in the community of Palmer. I was proud of them but in no way could claim credit for their success.

I served the Fellowship for three years and was profoundly changed by the experience. My initial attitude had been that ministry would be a "good second-career choice," but during this time **it evolved into a true passion for ministry, a deep love for each member of the congregation and a sense that I was following a path that fit God's intention.**

With 30 ½ years of tenure with the company, I officially retired from Atlantic Richfield Company on Dec. 31, 1992. The company had implemented an early retirement program and my company job was eliminated. This, and my experience with the Palmer Fellowship, convinced me that this was the time to move toward full-time ministry. I decided to switch from the Local Pastor candidacy path to the Seminary and Board of Ordained Ministry supervision path to Ordination and local church appointment. Late in the fall of 1992, I applied for

admission to Iliff and prepared to leave the Palmer Congregation.

On our last Sunday with Palmer, Betty and I were treated to a departure dinner at a local restaurant. During the meal Keith said some things that touched me deeply. "Les," he began, "We have come to know that you have certainly been called to be a minister. We are sad that you are going, but rejoice in where God is taking you. We feel that God has called us too, to become a church, and just as importantly, to help teach you what it takes to become a pastor. God has done some amazing things with ordinary people." We cried. Betty and I completed our move from Anchorage to Denver in November 1992. In January '93, I began Winter Quarter classes at Iliff School of Theology.

We found a United Methodist church, "St. Luke's," a few miles from the house we were buying, so we began attending worship services. After a couple of visits, the minister, Rev. Bill Selby, stopped us after worship and invited us to sit and talk. "Tell me your story," he said, "everyone here has a story about how they came to be here." He listened intently as Betty and I told him of our Alaskan experiences, the Palmer Fellowship, and our move to Colorado to begin Seminary studies at Iliff. "We are buying a home in Highlands Ranch because I feel we might need to sell it rapidly once Seminary is finished and the Candidacy process is completed," I commented, "We have no specific plans beyond that for the moment." Bill leaned back, thought for a moment and then turned to me, "Les, don't make any commitments for the moment; I think we could use someone like you right here."

About halfway through the quarter at Iliff, I began working part-time at St. Luke's as Lay Pastor. I would quickly learn that members of St. Luke's were strong supporters of candidates for Ministry. Later, I would serve as an Iliff Seminary Intern at St. Luke's. Strong support came from St. Luke's Staff Parish Committee and others in the church. When it was discovered that my candidacy file and documentation of Certified Candidacy by the Alaska Missionary Conference Board of Ordained Ministry had been lost and I would have to redo some of the candidacy work, St. Luke's members helped me get all the necessary documentation together to start over. I was elected to "Probationary" membership in the Annual Conference and appointed to St. Luke's as Associate Minister from 1995-1997.

I learned from all this that **St. Luke's is a teaching church** and happy to see today the same enthusiastic support for ordained ministry candidates that I enjoyed from 1993 to 1997. Thank you for what you have been and continue to be for those who have responded to God's call.

Keep up the blessed work, you are changing the world for good!

**God bless us all! Rev. Les**

## H.A.A.T. Force Update

Our Fall Kick-off celebration was a big success. We exceeded our attendance expectation and it was successful financially also.

H.A.A.T. Force has volunteer opportunities at this time. We are looking for someone to help with developing our social media presence and someone to help in event planning, from fund raising events to informational events. Both of these positions would be working from home and the time commitment would be 1-2 hours per week. We also need volunteers to help in the distribution of motel vouchers. The dates would vary. The times would be in the afternoons. There will be a schedule developed every month. You tell us when you are available and we will work within those parameters.

Our season starts Nov. 1, 2011 and runs until March 31, 2012. The snow and cold is almost here time to think of keeping our homeless neighbors out of the freezing temperatures.



## Jake's Take

Woof! Woof! Jake, Ms. Sharon's dog, here. November is a month for giving thanks and I am thankful for doggie treats and for all of the amazing things happening for St. Luke's Kids!

Annual **Children's Christmas Pageant** - Dec. 18 3:00pm.

This year's pageant is **"Where Are You Christmas"** Our director and pageant writer, Linda Walker, is creating another memorable pageant with the traditional scripture story and mixing in lots of Christmas carols. All children age 2-grade 6 are welcome to participate—sign up now! We practice the songs during music time at Sunday School and will have a dress rehearsal on the morning of Sat. Dec. 17. If your child is interested in having a specific speaking or solo part please sign up online or contact Sharon Oliver Sharon@stlukeshr.com by Nov. 13. Children wanting to participate in the pageant ensemble may sign up through Dec. 11. [www.stlukeshr.com/children](http://www.stlukeshr.com/children)



**SLY, Jr.** will be meeting:

Nov. 20 5:30pm Thanksgiving Celebration!

Dec. 3 6:00pm Puppet Show!

Dec. 11 5:30pm White Elephant Gift Exchange!

YEA!!! The St. Luke's **Tree Lighting Service** will be held Sunday Nov. 27 at 6:34pm. Join us in this special Christmas season event and **bring a plate of cookies** to share afterwards! This is the way to kick off the season!!!



**Holiday Shop** will be Saturday Dec. 10-Tues. Dec. 12. This is an opportunity for children to independently shop for inexpensive gifts for their family and friends. Additionally proceeds from the shop support lunches for VBS teachers and VBS scholarships! As always, helpers are needed to set up the shop on Friday Dec. 9 as well as to pack away the shop. During the shop hours helpers are needed at the gift wrapping station, cashier table and to assist children with shopping. Sign up to help online [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com) or contact Amy Antinoro at [rkymtnrph@hotmail.com](mailto:rkymtnrph@hotmail.com) if you are interested in serving in one of these much needed and fun areas!

Mid-Week Spiritual Fill Up! Bring the family and join us for **Family Advent Devotionals** on Wednesday nights Nov. 30-Dec. 21 - 6:00-6:30pm. Let's share this special season together and stay focused on what Christmas is truly about. We'll also have family devotionals you can do at home.

Don't forget we have a great website [www.stlukeshr.com/children](http://www.stlukeshr.com/children) with

### Upcoming Events BUZZ:

Nov. 17 - Children & Chattin' Playgroup  
9:30am

Nov. 20 - **PEAK** Elementary Sunday School  
starts new 5-week workshop  
rotation: "Good News!" 9:30am

Nov. 20 - SLY, Jr. 5:30pm

Nov. 24 - **Happy Thanksgiving!!**

Nov. 27 - **Tree Lighting Service** 6:34pm

Nov. 30 - **Family Advent Devotional** 6:00pm

Dec. 1 - Children & Chattin' Playgroup  
9:30am

Dec. 3 - SLY, Jr. 6:00pm (puppet show)

Dec. 3 - **Christmas Puppet Show!** 6:30pm

lots of important info on it. You can even check out the **Sunday School servant schedule** there!

Please let Sharon, Dawn & Sam know if you have any questions. This is Jake, signing out until next month! Sending everyone big wet doggie kisses!



**Sharon Oliver**  
Director of  
Children's Ministry



**Dawn Johnson**  
Asst. Director of  
Children's Ministry



**Samantha Leahy**  
Director of Childcare

**St. Luke's Kids**  
Growing with God



**Kay Swanson**  
Director of  
Little School



### Little School News: **We Give Thanks to God!**

Little School will spend the month of November celebrating all the blessings that God has given us! The classes will be learning about our early American history and we will top it off with our fun, annual "Thanksgiving Feast" Nov 16-17 with turkey and all the trimmings. This is always a very special event and the children and staff enjoy all the

great food! Little School will be closed from Nov. 21-25 to celebrate the holiday with our families.

It has been so fun to see the school all decorated for fall, with beautiful colors, bulletin boards and children's art work! We now have a new rotating art gallery which showcases different classes' art work each week. I hope you will all venture downstairs to look at all the fun and creative displays.

PLEASE REMEMBER: that we are collecting leftover Halloween candy the first week of Nov. for the Colorado AIDS Project. Candy may be left downstairs at the Little School/Sunday School Office or in the Main Office of the church. This is always a fun way to share the wealth of candy and save on calories!

On December 2, we will celebrate St. Nicholas Day. This is a wonderful tradition and helps children understand the true meaning of Santa Claus and how he was originally known for giving gifts to the poor. The children place their shoes outside of their classroom door and mysteriously they are filled with candy and pennies. We always have so much fun and we learn how important it is to think of others!

As always please keep Little School and its children in your prayers! We will do the same for you!

Blessings,

Ms. Kay and Staff—*Ms. Kay and Staff*

## Care, Counseling and Spiritual Growth Ministries: Connecting to God's Healing and Transforming Grace

*Would you love to feel more intentional about how you live your life? Are you in the midst of some difficult life transitions? Would you feel more at peace knowing someone is praying for you and for your loved ones? Are you grieving a loss or coping with illness? Would you welcome a safe place where someone listens and is present to you? Would you appreciate some new approaches for working through personal or professional challenges?*

In our recent Wellness Inventory, many of you named emotional and spiritual health as top priorities. St. Luke's has many ministries to encourage your emotional, mental, and spiritual health. Often we become more aware of God's healing and transforming grace through intentional connection with others. We invite you to let us know about your interests or needs and we'll help connect you with one of the following ministries or with other resources. Confidentiality is highly respected. We welcome your calls, emails, and conversations. You may reach me at 303-791-0659 x32 or [sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sallie@stlukeshr.com) or Brenda Schafer at the church office at 303-791-0659.

**Pastoral Counseling and Care** – Rev. Sallie, Rev. Janet, and Rev. Brad offer short-term, faith-based counseling, pastoral care, and referrals for individuals, couples, and families seeking support.

**Stephen Ministry** – provides confidential, one-on-one care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Stephen Ministers provide the emotional and spiritual care we often need when faced with a difficult or challenging time such as loss of a loved one, divorce or separation, loneliness, parenting struggles, care giving challenges, unemployment or work-related challenges, aging, relocation, illness, life transitions, birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility, and challenging life circumstances. Stephen Ministers are lay persons who have specialized training in providing emotional and spiritual care.

**The Caring Connection** – provides support to members of St. Luke's and the community by making companion visits, taking meals to families in need, running errands or providing transportation.

**Care/Prayer Team** – is a small group of individuals that gather regularly to pray for concerns of individuals, the congregation, and the community. Requests for prayers may be called in to the church office, sent through the website, written on a prayer request card or shared with a member of the staff team. The Care/Prayer team ministers together with The Caring Connection, Pastoral Team, and Stephen Ministers.

**Support Groups and Classes** – St. Luke's offers support groups and classes focused on a variety of topics including 12-step programs, divorce recovery classes, grief support groups, and parenting classes. Information about current groups is available on St. Luke's website and in the Care Ministries brochures in the church entry. Watch for upcoming announcements of new classes and groups.

**Individual or Group Spiritual Direction** – is intended to provide a place where you can experience what it means to be listened to by others so that you can listen to God more attentively in your daily life. Spiritual Direction supports those who are discerning life decisions, embracing change, negotiating challenges, celebrating important insights, enhancing self-awareness and being attentive to what is sacred in all aspects of life. This ministry is offered by individuals who have completed specialized, professional training as Spiritual Directors.

**Spirituality and Wellness Series** – an annual series to help us integrate faith into our daily lives. The interactive workshops, featuring excellent guest facilitators, engage participants in learning new skills and practices that contribute to health and wholeness. Upcoming sessions are on January 17, and March 6, from 6:30-8:30pm.

**The Samaritan Fund** – provides financial support and assistance for those who are part of our St. Luke's family. If you or someone you love is in need of some extra financial support to make it through a difficult stretch, please contact one of the pastors.

**Benevolence Fund** – provides support for those in need who are not directly connected with the St. Luke's family.

If St. Luke's does not offer the type of support you need, the pastoral team will make every effort to connect you to additional resources, support networks, and care providers within our community.



**Rev. Sallie Suby-Long**  
Associate Minister

## From Rev. Sallie Gracious Space

We've been talking about Gracious Space at St. Luke's over the past year or so. You may have heard someone make reference to the concept in a class or at meetings you've attended or in worship services. And, you might still be asking the questions: What is Gracious Space?

What exactly does it mean and why is it important?

Gracious Space is a philosophy that was initially advocated by the Center for Ethical Leadership. Gracious Space is a simple yet powerful approach for people to work better together. By creating interactions that prioritize honest dialogue, deep listening, and creativity around challenges, Gracious Space helps individuals and groups experience enhanced understanding, resolution of conflict and solid problem-solving.

The philosophy of Gracious Space aligns with our St. Luke's commitment to seek justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. The foundation is grace reflecting the abundant grace God offers us. Gracious Space highlights simple ways to practice our faith in any setting. The core elements include:

***Offering a Spirit of Compassion and Curiosity.*** When we bring compassion, curiosity, and humor to relationships and conversations, communication naturally becomes more effective.

***Creating Settings that Reflect Hospitality.*** Intentionally creating an atmosphere that is welcoming invites more meaningful dialogue and extends respect to others even in the midst of tension or conflict.

***Welcoming Different Ideas and Perspectives.*** Openness to considering new voices and new ideas so that our actions are inclusive, respectful, and well-informed.

***Honoring a Commitment to Learn More and Judge Less.*** In Gracious Space, people listen more, remain open to possibilities, discover transformative solutions, and develop innovations for change.

A commitment to these elements builds trust and sets the tone for honest and engaged exchange whether at home, at St. Luke's, at work or in our community. I invite all of us to continue practicing Gracious Space and to continue learning with each other. Gracious Space is a framework for practicing faith that can guide conflict toward transformation, shape meaningful conversations, and create a path toward peace.

Studies have shown that individuals who volunteer lead happier and healthier lives. Love INC has many opportunities for you to assist those in our community having a tough time right now. Not only will your volunteer experience at Love INC help you become happier and healthier, you will likely enhance Love INC's clients' happiness and health, too. Please call to learn more about our volunteer needs and opportunities.

**Love INC.....303-794-LOVE (5683)**  
**[www.loveinlittleton.org](http://www.loveinlittleton.org)**





*"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."*

## Candlelight Dinner

**Annual Candlelight Dinner:** Join us on Tuesday, December 6 for the Annual Candlelight Dinner. Our mission for the evening will be "Baby Shower for Bridgeway" (home for teen moms). A list of items will be available at the Get Connected Center. The Smithtonians Bell Choir will provide the evening's entertainment. Tickets are \$15 and will go on sale Nov. 13.

**Subgroups of United Methodist Women at St. Luke's UMC:** Remember to check out the Interest Groups and find your spot to help us fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women.

• **Simply Saturday** First Saturday of the month, 8:30-10:00am; bring a breakfast item to share. Women ages 18 & up are invited for devotion and mission. This year's theme: *Friendship of Women-The Hidden Tradition of the Bible* by Joan Chittester

**December 3: Holiday Traditions/Memories:** Traditions and the Christmas season go hand in hand. Do yours date back to the 1700's or are you establishing new traditions that more closely align with today's busy world? Are your traditions making the holidays for joyful or stressful?

**Mission Focus:** Mittens/hats for Urban Peak - Shelter for Homeless Teens

Childcare available sam@stlukeshr.com. 48hrs in advance. For more information, please contact: Elena Lynch elenalyndch@gmail.com or Lynda Fickling lynda@stlukeshr.com. Visit www.stlukeshr.com, Quick links, Email Lists, to add your name to the email distribution list.

• **Book Group** Fourth Monday of the month, Room 206. Afternoon meeting 1:00pm Evening meeting 7:00pm.

November 28 – *The Miracles of Santo Fico* by D.L. Smith  
For more information, please call Renae Parra at 303-683-0872. To be added to the email mailing list, send a request to RenaeParra@aol.com

• **Itch to Stitch** Third Wednesdays of the month, 7:00-8:30pm downstairs near the Children's Library. For more information, please call Fran West at 303-797-7107.

• **Women's Night Out** First Monday of the month, 6:30pm various locations

November 7 – Wild Ginger, Littleton Ave

December 6 – we will attend the Annual Candlelight dinner

January 2 – Slattery's Irish Pub, 5364 Greenwood Plaza

Contact Sandy Frasier Sandy.Frasier@yahoo.com or Elaine Carlstrom ecarlstrom@comcast.net

### Mark Your Calendars:

- January 27, 2012 Church Women United Fashion Show hosted by Littleton United Methodist Church. The show, a benefit luncheon event, costs \$10. Clothes are from the Neighborly Thrift Shop of Englewood. Models of all shapes and sizes are needed. Interested? Contact Pat Kenning, 303-794-0357. Tickets will be available in December.

### Keep Connected

Rocky Mountain Conference United Methodist Women Website: [www.rmcmw.org](http://www.rmcmw.org)

Women's Division website: <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umw/>

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) website: <http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor>

Visit [www.UMWOnline.net](http://www.UMWOnline.net) to network with others, as well as get and share resources.

## Make Christmas Brighter for Those in Need

Connor, 5, likes the color green and wants cars or a basketball for Christmas. Karen, 13, is hoping for some makeup or a movie gift card; and Maria, 34, is wishing for a crock pot or kitchen towels. You can make Christmas a whole lot brighter for these three and others in need when you take "wishes" off the **Giving Tree**. The tree will be decorated with wishes from needy children, teens and adults beginning Nov. 13. Simply take a tag, purchase your gift and return it to St. Luke's by Nov. 27. Your generosity will bring great joy to families in need on Christmas morning.

## Holiday Mission Opportunities

**1. POTATOES** for Denver Inner City Parrish Thanksgiving dinner - 400 lbs of potatoes are needed. Please bring potatoes to the church between November 13-17. Delivery will be made on Friday, November 19. Volunteers are also needed to serve the meal.

**2. THANKSGIVING BASKETS** for Epworth Foundation - Volunteers are needed to work in the office and to stuff baskets to deliver to families in need. Please go on-line to [denverfeedafamily.org](http://denverfeedafamily.org) to register.

**3. It only takes \$22 to fill a basket** with a turkey, vegetables, cake mix, gravy, cranberries, etc. A table will be in Fellowship Hall during the month of November if you would like to donate.

**4. GIVING TREE:** Yes, Christmas is coming. St. Luke's will be sponsoring families through Interfaith Community Services again this year. Watch for the Christmas Tree with the tags on it in Fellowship Hall. Deliveries will be made the first part of December.

## DenUM Food For All

*Yes, it's that time again!*

Leaves are changing, families calling to make plans, kids making decorations...  
*But what if there were no food?*

This Thanksgiving, for many reasons, not every family will gather around a delicious meal with all the trimmings.

### But you can help!

Denver Urban Ministries is collecting these food items to create Thanksgiving meals for families who would otherwise go without:

- Boxed Stuffing
  - Gravy (can or mix)
  - 2 Cans Green Beans
  - 2 Cans Corn
  - Crunchy Fried Onions
  - Cream of Mushroom Soup
  - Sweet Potatoes (can or box)
  - Canned Cranberries
  - Fruit Cocktail
  - Jell-O
  - Pie Filling
  - Pie Crust (pre-made/mix)
  - \$10 Grocery Gift Card
- Food For All is November 20! Thank You!

Also, all new or increased financial donations before the end of the year are being matched up to \$10,000. Donate online at [www.bit.ly/gfDenUM](http://www.bit.ly/gfDenUM)

## a big thanks

from DenUM for everyone's efforts around the Feeding of the 5,000. This will keep our food pantry well-stocked into next year, which is critical because we had seen more families through September of this year than we had in all of last year. We heard from one of our clients, Sean, the other day that "this help means that we can catch up and be able to buy diapers and coats for our kids this year." It's thanks to the support of St. Luke's and many others that it's possible for families to not have to choose between buying food, diapers, or coats.





## The Wesley Players Spring Production: *She Loves Me*

It is the rare musical theatre aficionado who doesn't have a soft spot

in his heart for this intimate show, considered by many the most charming musical ever written.

Georg and Amalia are two feuding clerks in a European parfumerie during the 1930's who secretly find solace in their anonymous romantic pen pals, little knowing their respective correspondents are none other than each other. Funny, intelligent, honest and sentimental, *SHE LOVES ME* is a warm romantic comedy with an endearing innocence and a touch of old world elegance and nostalgia, yet as universal and relevant as ever in this age of internet romances.

The premise may seem familiar as the movie "You've Got Mail" is based on this musical. *SHE LOVES ME* showcases a small but strong ensemble cast playing a range of vivid, memorable characters of all ages. Dance is mostly eschewed in favor of clever character-driven songs full of melody and personality. The cast has roles for adults ages 20 - 80+. There is one male teen role and other teen roles are in the chorus. We welcome anyone ages 13-80+ to audition.

Jenna Wilcox will be directing the show and Dr. James Ramsey will conduct the pit orchestra. We are thrilled to bring back Lena Line as our choreographer and overjoyed to announce that our very own Jennifer Ferguson will be our Musical Director and vocal coach! We will hold auditions in third weekend of December and will post those details along with a character listing and rehearsal schedule soon. We hope to see you all out for this fun and light hearted show!



**Come see the St. Luke's Puppet Ministry perform  
"Silas Angel and the Christmas Curmudgeon:  
A Sheepish Look at Christmas"  
Sat. Dec. 3 - 6:30pm in the Sanctuary**

Silas Angel doesn't like Christmas, but is he the curmudgeon everyone thinks he is? Three sheep from the manger 2000 years ago in Bethlehem think not. And they make it their job to make sure that Silas discovers again the true meaning of Christmas and reunites with the daughter he's not seen in fourteen years. Can Silas survive three sheep, carolers that like Hall and Oates tunes, a 1980s hair band, and a 1950s doo-wop chorus, all in his living room on Christmas Eve? Does he have a choice? Come see this heartwarming and humorous look at the true meaning of Christmas with the whole family!



**James Ramsey**  
Director of Music  
& Arts Ministries



**Kenrick Mervine**  
Associate Dir. of  
Music Ministry/  
Organist



**Jennifer Ferguson**  
Associate Director  
of Music Ministry



**Kay Coryell**  
Dir. of Handbells  
& Children's Music  
Ministry



**Jenna Wilcox**  
Director of  
Drama Ministry



## Christmas Cantata Dec. 11!

St. Luke's annual Christmas Cantata will be Sunday Dec. 11 at the 9:30 and 11:00am services. Get in the holiday spirit with St. Luke's myriad of musical groups. With instrumental features and sing-a-longs, this is an event at St. Luke's you don't want to miss!

Dr. James Ramsey, Founding Director

CONNECTING *Musicians to Mission*

featuring the  
**Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra**  
and the Festival Chorus -  
**St. Luke's UMC,  
Littleton UMC,  
St. Andrew UMC and  
Applewood Valley UMC**  
with Kenrick Mervine, organ

**NOVEMBER 13, 2011  
7:00pm**

Benefit Performance for the **John Wesley School and Band Program**  
in Santa Cruz, del Quiche Guatemala.

**University of Denver**  
Robert and Judi Newman  
Center for the Performing Arts  
**2344 E. Iliff Avenue**  
(across from Iliff School of Theology)

**Reserved Seating:** Tickets are \$11-\$30  
[www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com) or [www.newmantix.com](http://www.newmantix.com)

NEWMAN CENTER  
PERFORMING ARTS

1115 S. W. 11th Ave., Suite 100  
Denver, CO 80202  
Phone: 303.733.1111  
Fax: 303.733.1112  
[www.newmantix.com](http://www.newmantix.com)

*A Letter to Youth Music at St. Luke's:* The music staff at St. Luke's is so blessed to have the participation of so many young people in such a wide variety of music groups. We are so grateful to have you on our team so we can work together creating music for the glory of God. We will all get to hear a sample of your great talent on November 13 for Youth Sunday. At each of the church services we will enjoy music from Soul Purpose, Kids Prayz, Joyful Noise Youth Handbells, and SLYJO. We recognize that the young people at St. Luke's work so hard to enrich musical and spiritual lives for themselves and others. We are grateful to have them, and we will enjoy working with you on Youth Sunday! *In Christ, St. Luke's Music Staff*



### Upcoming Events

- \* **Sunday Nov. 6 - District Event Talent Show**
- \* **Sunday Nov. 13 - Youth Sunday**  
NO SLY AM or PM
- \* **Sunday Nov. 20 - Food for All**  
noon-4:00pm
- \* **Sunday Nov. 27 Tree Lighting & College Cookie Care Boxes**  
6:34pm
- \* **Sunday Dec. 4 - Scavenger Hunt (with a twist)**
- \* **Sunday Dec. 11 - Zoo Lights at the Denver Zoo**
- \* **Youth Email Lists** – Looking for weekly info and updates from SLY? Well, you can sign up for an email list and get tons of important information straight to your inbox! Simply go to [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com), click on the 'Eministry' button at the top of the page, then select 'Email Lists'. Parents should sign up an email address for the 'SLY Parents' list and youth should sign up for the 'St. Luke's Youth' list. *Make sure we have a recent & working email address for you!*
- \* **Check [www.stlukeshr.com/sly](http://www.stlukeshr.com/sly)** for up-to-date info on programs, activities, ministry opportunities and more!

## HELLO FROM BELOW

### Thank You!

First and foremost, we would like to say a huge THANK YOU! for all of your support of this year's pumpkin patch. The official numbers are not in yet, but so far it is looking like we had VERY successful year. We'll be doing more fundraisers throughout the year, but your generosity has gotten us that much closer already.

October was very busy for the youth at St. Luke's. We welcome November with open arms! At the beginning of the month, we are welcoming our neighboring United Methodist youth groups to join us for a night of talent and laughs. The district wide talent show should be a fun way to let loose and unwind. We are gracious for the opportunity to have a presence in worship again this year. Youth Sunday, on November 13, will be a beautiful display of how our youth understand God's plan for their lives and looking at what it means to be instruments of God. It is truly a Sunday not to be missed! At the end of the month, we will be giving back to our community and our graduates. Food for All (held on November 20) is a day where youth groups from all over Denver get together to make Thanksgiving dinner boxes for families in need. St. Luke's Little School will once again be collecting canned food for us this year. If you are willing and able to help in this cause, you can donate a \$25 King Soopers gift card. The gift cards will be included in each box to allow families to purchase a turkey. Thank you in advance to both the Little School and to you St. Luke's for your continued generosity. Time continues to fly and December will be here before you know it. November concludes with the fun-filled Tree Lighting and cookie social. While we will be upstairs sharing in community with you all that evening, we will also spend part of our evening downstairs putting together "cookie and care" boxes for our SLY alums that have fast approaching finals. If you have a young adult in college that you would like us to send a care box to, please email [sly.kids@me.com](mailto:sly.kids@me.com) with their name and address by Sunday November 20.

As things begin to get even busier, it is a good time to remember that we are here as a community of faith to love and support one another. May we continue to feel connected to one another and to God as we hustle and bustle towards the Christmas season. *Until next month, Erin*



**Erin Laurvick**  
Interim Director of  
Youth Ministry



**Susan Johnson**  
Assistant Director  
of Youth Ministry

### Join Us!

Sundays:

**SLY AM - 9:30am**

**WITY - 11:00am**

**SLYJO - 3:30pm**

**Soul Purpose - 4:30pm**

**Youth Dinner (check  
calendar) - 5:30pm (\$2)**

**SLY PM - 6:00-7:30pm**

Wednesdays:

**Homework Hour -**

**5:00-6:00pm**

**SLY WED -**

**6:00-8:00pm**

## SEASONED VOYAGERS: SENIORS MINISTRY



Well the **Seasoned Voyagers** have set sail!! We had 52 people turn out for our Kick-Off on Sept 21, what a good time we all had. That set the tone for our next get together which was a day trip to the Baldpate Inn and a drive on the Peak to Peak highway to see the beautiful fall colors, picture perfect. Lunch was served and we all ate until we were stuffed. The Baldpate Inn had a buffet

that was outstanding. We used St Luke's bus, plus 2 cars to take everyone on the trip. We had 32 people sign up. We were overflowing and everyone had a great time taking pictures and enjoying good conversation and fellowship.

Joyce Rovetta chair of the Travel and Activities Committee wanted to share her favorite time of the year with us; what an outstanding job she did! Her passion is sharing activities and outings with others. She had assistance from Linda Young who has agreed to be on this committee. Linda has worked in the travel industry for many years and has experience planning short and long trips. From what I hear there is going to be a lot going on in 2012. Judy Dearasaugh has also said she would join the committee and help with the planning. People are starting to become involved, we need your passion! We need people who want to share their passion with others, whatever

you enjoy doing and you want to share your interest, please contact Ann Roadarmel at 303-792-5110 or email her at [alroadarmel@gmail.com](mailto:alroadarmel@gmail.com) to see how you can make it happen and share your joys with others.

We also had an inspiring presentation on "What You Ever Wanted to Know About Missions" by Laura Richards and Edee Worth on Oct.18. We learned that missions are not just for going to other countries, but that St Luke's has a vibrant local missions outreach right here in the Denver Metro Area. Laura's and Edee's passions for helping others opened our eyes to how giving of oneself is rewarded in many ways.

On Nov 15 there will be GAME DAY from 1:00-3:00pm, here at St. Luke's. The Seasoned Voyagers Core Team would like to make these a monthly outing, if you were unable to make it on those dates but would like to be involved call or email Ann Roadarmel at 303-792-5110 or [alroadarmel@gmail.com](mailto:alroadarmel@gmail.com) to be put on the list.







**Dave Cupp**  
Director of Finance



**Lisé Takayama**  
Assistant Director  
of Finance

**Thank You for your continued support!  
With About 60 Days Remaining in 2011, It's  
Time To Begin Your Year-End Tax Planning.**

To give you credit for your donations in 2011, we must receive them on or before December 31 or they must be postmarked on or before December 31. Keep in mind that some of the methods you may choose to use for your donations may take a considerable amount of time for processing and getting them to the church before the December 31 deadline.

If you need assistance or information for getting your transaction processed, please give Lisé or me a call. We will be glad to assist you.

**IRA Charitable Rollover Reminder.** The IRA Charitable Rollover expires on December 31, 2011, unless congress acts to change the law. If you own an IRA and are over age 70 ½, you may transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA as a donation to St. Luke's because we are a qualified 501 (c) (3) charity. This gift will count toward your 2011 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and will not count toward taxable income on the IRA RMD.

In the past, some of our members have elected to take advantage of this opportunity to pay their current year pledge and to prepay one or more future years at the same time—before the law expires. We're happy to receive your prepay for future years. We hold those funds in reserve and apply them to the income for the applicable future year(s).

Keep in mind that Financial Advisors get very busy near the end of the year. It would be a good idea to get the process started now to avoid missing the December 31 cutoff date.

**Free King Soopers Grocery Cards Available at Grocery Card Table. *Yep—FREE.*** If you are a King's shopper and do not currently participate in our grocery card program, it's easy to get started. Just stop by the grocery card table on Sunday mornings and pick-up your free Kings Soopers \$5.00 reloadable gift card. St Luke's will receive a 5% rebate for every purchase you do with this reloadable card. You can load the card at Kings with any dollar amount you need and as often as you like by going to the Kings service desk or at the cashier using cash, check or your regular credit card. What a great way to build up points on your credit card.

The grocery card rebates from Kings, Safeway and Tony's contribute approximately \$12,000 to our general budget each year. This is a considerable amount that can grow significantly if more of our members and constituents will use the Kings reloadable cards that you obtain at our grocery card table. *Give it a try.*

**Pick and Choose Your Method Of Giving to SLUMC.** We have many ways for you to make your giving to SLUMC easy and convenient. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions. In addition to cash and checks, we offer online credit card transactions, stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts. The following is a general summary:

- 1. General Fund and Capital Campaign:** All methods.
- 2. Grocery Cards:** Cash, check, scheduled eft from checking accounts.
- 3. Special Events:** Depending on the type of event may include cash, check, PayPal and online credit card transactions.
- 4. Plus:** We'd consider any reasonable method you know about that we haven't adopted.

*continued from page 4*

- Identifying Purpose
- Choosing Our Lens,
- Becoming Present,
- Reflecting on Right Relationships,
- Prioritizing What Really Matters

If you were unable to attend Chasing Happiness on October 4 and would like to see a video of Dr. Pusavat's workshop, please see Rev. Sallie. (Thank you Ken Fong!) Copies of Andi's handout are also available.

Participants in the Chasing Happiness workshop will be receiving an email invitation to complete a survey about the impact of Chasing Happiness. We will also be asking for

your suggestions and ideas for planning future Spirituality and Wellness workshops. We hope you will give us your feedback.

**Save the dates for our next Spirituality and Wellness sessions:**

***Finding Wellness – Jan. 17, 2012,  
6:30-8:30pm Rev. Jerry Herships***

Jerry will lead us with humor on an exploration of the different stages in our lives, including those challenging transitions. We'll consider ways to validate and celebrate what has come before, where we are right now, and where we want to go next.

***Maintaining Wholeness – March 6, 6:30-8:30pm Dr. Andi Pusavat & Rev. Jerry Herships***

## Trustees Corner: Thank you for Helping Us with our Fire Drill Sunday Exercise!

You did a terrific job of following our instructions – and offering great feedback! We truly appreciate your participation and input. We're also glad we got to play the alarms so you have some familiarity with them and our process for reconnecting our families.

## Calling all Elves!

Our Annual Hanging of the Greens workday is planned for Saturday, November 26 from 8:00am-noon. This is always a fun project! The gift to workday volunteers is a terrific design team who creates the plan before we assemble. A few of us start early and pull everything out of storage on Friday. Then on Saturday, fueled by some tasty treats, and our first playing of Rev. Brad's, and Dr. Jim's favorite Christmas tunes, we get everything in place. We welcome helpers of all ages, shapes and sizes – Come and join us as we Prepare St. Luke's for the Season of Advent!

## Trustees Team has Room for You!

As we launch into a new calendar year, we'll again be looking for a few new Trustees Team members. Our role is primarily to preserve and enhance the investment value of the church property and oversee the use of the building and grounds. We meet each month on the second Monday at 6:00pm for 90 minutes or so, and assemble quarterly for a Saturday morning workday. In between meetings, we work on projects that need attention, dividing tasks between team members, specialists, Mr. Barry (our facilities manager), and an occasional contractor. With the oversight of the Executive Team, we work within our budget to prioritize various projects for completion. If you'd like to learn more, please call Sandi Miyaki: 303-913-9993, Ken Fong 720-253-6569, or email Alan Babcock: albab930@comcast.net. We truly appreciate the gifts of time and talent from all of our team members, specialists, and our volunteers! Thank You All!

Together, Andi and Jerry will facilitate a conversation among all of us about living intentionally and embracing with acceptance and gratitude. all the aspects of who we are. We'll explore what "a life well-lived" means to each of us, and how faith can help us experience joy in the present and guide us to wholeness.

Each Spirituality and Wellness workshop is rooted in the transformative principles of Gracious Space – a framework to build trust, listen deeply to one another, and engage in honest and creative exchange around challenging issues.

For more information contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long – sallie@stlukeshr.com/303-475-0141



**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**  
8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
303-791-0659 • [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com)

*St. Luke's United Methodist Church welcomes 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.*



**Join us for Coffee & Conversation**  
about the History of St. Luke's, the United  
Methodist Church, our programs and ministries.  
**9:30am Nov. 13** in Rm 213. All are Welcome!

## FAMILY CAMP

Did you take time to stop and  
smell the campfire this summer?!! If your summer just flew by and  
you didn't get enough family time or relaxing time in, think about  
joining us next year for Family Camp 2012. For more info call Amy  
Antinoro at 303-663-6656. **Sign-ups start in January!**

## NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>13</b> <b>Youth Sunday</b> 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship 9:30am: Café St. Luke's 11:00am: Christmas in the Bible noon: UMW Committee Mtg. 4:00pm: Grief Support 5:00pm: A Simple Christmas 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion 7:00pm: Wesley Choral Festival 	<b>14</b> 6:00pm: Common Table 7:00pm: Trustees Meeting	<b>15</b> 1:00pm: Seasoned Voyagers 6:30pm: Craft Prep 7:30pm: Planned Giving	<b>16</b> Little School Thanksgiving 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday 6:30pm: Parents of Teens/Young Adults with Depression/Bipolar 7:00pm: Itch to Stitch	<b>17</b> Little School Thanksgiving 9:30am: Children & Chattin' Playgroup 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>18</b>  7:00pm: A Christmas Carol	<b>19</b> 10:00am: Wesley Writers 2:00pm: A Christmas Carol 5:30pm: Dinner 7:00pm: A Christmas Carol
<b>20</b> <b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 8:15am: Contemplative Worship 11:00am: Christmas in the Bible 12:15pm: Learning With St. Luke's Team Mtg. 4:00pm: Grief Support 5:00pm: Short Term Study: A Simple Christmas 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	<b>21</b> Little School Closed	<b>22</b> Little School Closed 7:00pm: Staff Parish Relations Team	<b>23</b> Little School Closed 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>24</b>  Happy Thanksgiving Church Office Closed Little School Closed	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed Little School Closed	<b>26</b>  8:00am: Hanging of the Greens/ Work Day
<b>27</b> <b>Advent 1: HOPE</b> 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 11:00am: Christmas in the Bible 4:00pm: Grief Support 5:00pm: Short Term Study: A Simple Christmas 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion/Tree Lighting Service	<b>28</b> 1:00pm: Women's Afternoon Book Club 6:00pm: Women's Evening Book Club Potluck (Club at 7:00pm)	<b>29</b> 7:00am: Men's Group @ Egg & I	<b>30</b> 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:00pm: Family Advent Devotional 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>DEC 1</b> 9:30am: Children & Chattin' Playgroup 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:30am: Simply Saturday 6:00pm: SLY, Jr. 6:30pm: Christmas Puppet Show
<b>4</b>  <b>Advent 2: PEACE</b> 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 11:00am: Christmas in the Bible 4:00pm: Grief Support 5:00pm: Short Term Study: A Simple Christmas 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  2:00pm: Seasoned Voyagers 6:00pm: UMW Candlelight Dinner	<b>7</b> 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:00pm: Family Advent Devotional 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday 6:30pm: Parents of Teens/Young Adults with Depression/Bipolar	<b>8</b> 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>9</b> 1:00pm: Seasoned Voyagers 5:45pm: Parent's Night Out	<b>10</b>  Holiday Shop 9:00am: Sanctuary Care Team 10:00am: Genealogy 101 6:45pm: Bridge Club