

MISSIONS



Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

St. Luke's is excited to provide a wide range of mission opportunities so that every member of our congregation can find a personal way to help others in need.

We support missions locally as well as internationally. You can volunteer to help directly with any of the missions we support. You can also participate in our fundraising

activities. Through our many ministry areas at St. Luke's including Children, Youth, Seasoned Voyagers, United Women in Faith, Music & Arts, Center for Spiritual Engagement and others, we support a wide variety of opportunities to give back. **Here are just some of the main missions that we currently support churchwide.**



HAAT FORCE South Metro provides sanctuary to homeless members of our community during severe winter weather. In addition to motel room vouchers, volunteers offer support services and counseling to help those experiencing homelessness find opportunities to enter permanent housing. Caring staff and volunteers assist families with children, handicapped individuals, people with pets, and others with challenging medical conditions. With its focus on the neediest in the Littleton and Englewood areas, HAAT FORCE has enjoyed great support from our congregation since its inception more than 10 years ago. **Contact Betsy Keyack, bkeyack@att.net**

WE DON'T WASTE provides food to people, not landfills. Across Colorado one in three people experience food insecurity. Meanwhile, up to 40% of food produced in the United States ends up in landfills where it produces harmful greenhouse gases. The organization recovers quality, unused food from producers, restaurants, event venues and other sources and delivers it without charge to nonprofit partners such as food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, schools and more. We Don't Waste also sponsors Mobile Food Markets in neighborhoods lacking access to affordable, nutritious food. Volunteers from St. Luke's are invited to assist with food recovery initiatives such as recovering food from donors, assisting at Mobile Food Markets, community education and fundraising. **Learn more by visiting wedontwaste.org or contact Bruce Kirchhoff, bkirchhoff0923@outlook.com**

LOVE INC (Love In the Name of Christ) unites churches in a mission to mend community brokenness by caring for people in all areas of life. St. Luke's is one of dozens of participating area churches, and many volunteers from St. Luke's have served our community by participating in Love INC activities over the years. The Love INC "Impact" program moves people from a place of need into self-sustaining realization of their God-given strengths. Love INC volunteers assist in providing weekly education programs; they listen, pray, provide resources and encourage those who call for assistance. Other volunteer opportunities include working in the Renewed Treasures store, a self-supporting retail operation, helping their furniture ministry and diaper ministry; driving those who have appointments; and assisting in fielding phone calls in the Connection Center. **For more information visit: LoveINCLittleton.org**

BLUE BIN supports Veterans who are in transition housing at the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. Pick up non-perishable goods and drop them in the Blue Bin outside St. Luke's front door. **Contact Steve Blue or Dave Laurvick**

LA PUENTE provides emergency shelter, food pantries, education programs, and other services to the San Luis Valley community. A La Puente visit includes an opportunity to directly participate in rural farming - volunteers glean fresh potatoes or other vegetables from the soil - a great activity for families. Our visit to La Puente may include a side trip to one of the amazing attractions such as the Great Sand Dunes National Park. **Contact John Mezger, johnmezger@comcast.net**

WARREN VILLAGE has a vital mission to enable low-income, single-parent families to achieve sustainable personal and economic self-sufficiency. St. Luke's members have successfully supported this Denver-based organization with Methodist roots for decades. **Visit warrenvillage.org for more information**

FEEDING OF THE 5,000, our annual fall food drive supporting the Food Exchange Resource Network (FERN), is a St. Luke's tradition. FERN feeds 500 families in need each week. In the spirit of Jesus' feeding of the multitudes, we collect food for distribution to the hungry in our community. Be a part of the team to help plan and organize this annual event or sign up to help collect food! **Contact: Liza Stoltz Hanson, liza@stlukehr.com**



THURSDAY LUNCHES is a team at St. Luke's that distributes around 80 sack lunches to people experiencing hunger and homelessness every week. Lunches are prepared on Thursdays at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall and delivered to Denver's Safe Outdoor Spaces to be safely distributed to housing-insecure individuals. Donations and volunteers are welcome and needed as we seek to serve those in need. We also support AfterHours Denver Ministry's annual **CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK** event on Christmas day to provide needed items to those experiencing homelessness. **Contact Sam Leahy, sam@stlukeshr.com**

PURA VIDA supports indigenous people in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. Nearly every year, St. Luke's members participate in mission trips to Guatemala to foster relationships and construct homes. There are additional opportunities to participate in the mission trips virtually. Church members also provide scholarships for students and at Christmas they contribute to the Guatemala Milk Program. Our Youth and Children's Ministries have also raised funds for water filters for Guatemala. **Contact: Laura Richards, laura@puravida.org; puravida.org**



COMMUNITY GARDEN Eighty pounds of food was harvested from our church garden in 2022! We partner with Grow Local CO, Garden in a Box and the Integrated Family Services food bank. Literally and figuratively, our garden is growing each year with the support of St. Luke's volunteers. **Contact Nichole Rairigh, nichole.rairigh@gmail.com**

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF - UMCOR works in communities left vulnerable by disaster, working alongside United Methodist churches and local partners to address immediate needs, as well as achieve sustainable recovery. UMCOR volunteers typically work in a "second responder" role:

- Providing essential relief supplies.
- Supporting long-term rebuilding efforts.
- Assisting communities as they adapt to their "new normal."

UMCOR sponsors projects to address root causes of hunger, improve community health, and assist refugees. St. Luke's members have served all around the world on UMCOR projects, particularly disaster relief. **To see what interests you, visit umcor.org**

INTEGRATED FAMILY COMMUNITY SERVICES (IFCS) provides basic human services and enrichment programs to low-income people, using community resources. IFCS fosters self-sufficiency and respects the dignity of each client, serving the greater Denver metro area. St. Luke's supports IFCS through the Advent Giving Tree and our Community Garden. **Visit ifcs.org for additional volunteer opportunities**

HONDURAS: ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL St. Luke's has supported this school in many ways and for many years, including the purchase of books for the school's library. **Contact Sallie Suby-Long, sallie@stlukeshr.com**

COLORADO FEEDING KIDS provides nutritious meals to families, schools, food banks and others in Colorado and around the world. A fun event for families, volunteers can pack meals that are given free of charge to those experiencing food insecurity. **Contact Liza Stoltz Hanson, liza@stlukeshr.com or visit cofeedingkids.org**

ADVENT GIVING TREE offers opportunities to support many of our mission partners.

LENTEN MISSIONS give us an annual opportunity to support one or more local missions during the 40 days of Lent. Missions we have supported in the past include Bayaud Enterprises, Showers for All, and Love INC.

CONTACT INFO

St. Luke's Mission Team Lead:

Carolyn Maddox - cjmaddox@ecentral.com

Staff Liaison:

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GRACE | COURAGE | WONDER | BEYOND

9/7/24



MISSIONS

ST. LUKE'S UMC



*Learn to do good;
seek justice;
rescue the oppressed;
defend the orphan;
plead for the widow.*

—ISAIAH 1:17

