

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 teachings of Christ: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. – Adult, Youth & Children's Classes

Nursery available for all services.

Staff

Rev. Janet Forbes	Senior Pastor - ext. 13
Rev. Fred Venable	Associate Pastor - ext. 12
Rev. Dave Money	Associate Pastor - ext. 33
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Terri Beecher	Data Base & Special Projects - ext. 22
Dan Kuhl	Facilities/Custodian - ext. 44
Childcare Reservation Line.....	ext. 47

All articles, photos and notices for the JANUARY issue of *The Chronicle* are due

DECEMBER 15

Please place them in *The Chronicle* folder at St. Luke's or e-mail to

chronicle@stlukeshr.com

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The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Chronicle

A NEWS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM

DECEMBER 2004



Children's Holiday Shop

St. Luke's Children's Holiday Shop provides a Christmas shopping experience for children up to age 12. They can purchase gifts for family members, teachers and others on their shopping list. They can avoid mall shopping and get great gifts at discounted prices ranging from \$2.00 - \$7.00. Adult volunteers will help children with shopping and will wrap their gifts while they wait. The shop will be held on December 4th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m..

Adult volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday, Dec. 3rd from 9:00 a.m. – noon and to help on Saturday, Dec. 4th from either 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.. If you would like to volunteer, you may sign up in the Narthex between services beginning on November 7th.

Donations needed: wrapping paper, gift boxes (to make wrapping those odd shaped gifts easier), gift items to add to the shop (new items please), gift tags and tape. Donations may be dropped off in boxes marked Holiday Shop located in the Narthex.

Proceeds made through the holiday shop will go towards purchasing two additional highchairs for the Fellowship Hall and one luncheon for Vacation Bible School volunteers. The church provides lunch each day for all volunteers helping with VBS. Each lunch costs the church approximately \$100.

Call Amy Antinoro if you have any questions; (303) 663-6656.

A KEEPSAKE CHRISTMAS

Rev. Janet Forbes

It comes every year and will go on forever. And along with Christmas belong the keepsakes and the customs. Those humble, everyday things a mother clings to, and ponders, like Mary in the secret spaces of her heart. (Marjorie Holmes)

It happened in a large church in Washington, D.C. where I grew up. During an annual Christmas Eve nativity pageant, the church was especially full. Hushed in darkness, the congregation watched the lighting of the candles. Toward the back, I sat, one timid little girl, with my family.

This large cathedral was so different from our smaller, friendlier suburban congregation in Alexandria. I was greatly disappointed that we were missing the most special night of the year in our home church. A traditionalist at three and one-half years, I expected my parents to honor the Forbes family ritual of oyster stew, new velvet dress, eggnog, and 11:00 communion. Instead, we were in the city with friends, celebrating “in a new way”. I was not impressed!!

That night, however, caught up in awe as organ music rolled out from balcony to rafters, I heard a familiar story I loved, and was transported to another time and place. Down the aisle swept a colorful procession as the lights went up, revealing the magnificent manger scene. Travelers, bearded shepherds and finally the three kings bearing gifts, advanced majestically. Before anyone know it, I found myself following them.

The journey down that long aisle was

Upcoming Services & Sermons

Sunday, November 28	“God Comes!” Matthew 24: 36-44
Sunday, December 5	The Christmas Cantata at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 12	“A Preacher in the Desert” Matthew 3: 1-12
Sunday, December 19	“Joseph Names the Baby” Matthew 1: 18-25

an early spiritual pilgrimage for me, yet it felt like a kind of homecoming. When I reached the manger scene, there were a sleepy donkey, real sheep, and Mary and Joseph beneath an angel with outstretched wings. Above all, there was a light in the manger, enfolding us in its glow. Kneeling in front of it, I had a sense of exaltation, of self-offering as real as any I have ever know since. This was real to me and I was there.

Of course, it didn't last long. I was lifted to my feet by an usher and carried down the aisle, back to my embarrassed family, and the pageant swept on. I was vaguely aware of the subdued smiles, and my parent's whispered scolding didn't matter. My discovery was my own, and I had something now that no one could ever take from me. I have been to Bethlehem. I had seen it all for the first time and I would never forget it.

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasure of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home! (Charles Dickens)

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF BAPTISM

Sunday, December 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Sunday is a traditional and joyous time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism, an experience of faith in Jesus Christ, the rite of initiation into the family of God, and an act of grace. Following the 11:00 service on Christmas Sunday, December 19 at 12:30 p.m., we will offer a special service of baptism for persons of all ages. Please call Bonnie in the church office (303-791-0659) to indicate your desire to visit with a pastor about this opportunity.

Message from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Janet Forbes



THANKSGIVING IS A WAY OF LIFE

I remember it as if it were yesterday. My brother and I are visiting a cousin during summer vacation. Granny Brown calls us to dinner. After washing up, we storm the kitchen and slide into our seats. Our ravenous appetites are thwarted for a moment when Granny silences us and says, “Before you can eat, you must share one thing you are grateful for.” At best, it is an unfair interruption. At worst, it is a gross violation of the rhythm of the day. We play hard in those days. We are hungry. It is time to eat. We squirm as each of us gives an answer, then dig into our meal. I do not remember how my sibling and cousin respond to the question. I do remember my muttering something about being grateful for Granny Brown!

Every now and then, when my brother and I are together as adults, one of us will say in memory of our moment with Granny Brown, “What are you grateful for?” While our childhood answers have faded, the question stuck. It is a part of our family formation.

We express gratitude in lots of ways. Sometimes our offering of appreciation centers on that which pleases us. When something we consider good happens, we give thanks. At other times, our thanksgiving is set in sharp relief to those who are not as materially blessed as we.

Thanksgiving takes a curious turn when it is put in the Christian context. The author of I Thessalonians (5:14-18) says, “And we urge you, beloved, to... encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them... Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Giving thanks in all conditions of life is quite different from thanksgiving for that which is pleasing to us or better than what others might have.

In the Christian scheme of things, thanksgiving is a way of life. It is a attitude toward life. It assumes that all of life is a gift. When we live as if we deserve what we have been given, we live from the notion that we are creator. We place ourselves over life in an arrogant way. G.K. Chesterton, when asked to write one sentence that describes what life is about, said, “The critical thing is whether we take life for granted or whether we take it with gratitude.”

Thanksgiving is rooted in the experience of God’s radical love for each of us, no matter what. When we come face to face with God’s mercy, all we can do is give thanks, even when it is in the midst of consternation, despair, grief, or confusion. Thanksgiving assumes a “receiving” rather than a “taking” posture to life. It extends hands wide open rather than fists clenched tightly.

Ponder your own thanksgiving. For what are you grateful?

Rev. Janet



Holiday Haven returns to St. Luke’s!

Attention all volunteers... If you enjoy working with children, the Holiday Haven is the thing for you! This parent’s morning out for kids, ages 3-9 yrs was greatly appreciated last year. We gave parents a chance to catch up on last minute holiday preparations.

On Saturday, December 18, is back in swing but we need YOU! Volunteer to baby-sit from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.. Busy that day but you still want to help?... We need you to help us plan the day!

If you sign up to plan, you will help us to get ready, from crafts to books. Adult and youth volunteers are needed. For more information or to sign up, call Caitlin Bauer at 303-638-5247 or ebbauer@comcast.net. Thank you!

Your help is needed!

Home Improvements is sponsoring a BOOK & PUZZLE DRIVE.

New and gently used books and puzzles are needed for the Cardiac Care Unit at Children’s Hospital.

Up to 100 kids a day pass through the waiting rooms, some waiting for hours while tests are run. Your donation of a new or gently used book or puzzle will help make their wait a little easier! Books for all ages are needed.

Look for specially marked bins around church from November 15 through December 12.

Questions? Call Patti Speedy at 303-470-2945.

Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us this Advent Season

Starting with the “Jesus Christ Superstar” performances, Advent schedule cards will be available for you to use to invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Simply say, “We are having a special Christmas season at St. Luke’s. You would be most welcome if you could attend.”

Pick up some cards at the Guest Services desk and use them as a non-intrusive invitation to attend St. Luke’s.



Superstar stuns!

And raises thousands of dollars for DenUM

Jesus Christ Superstar, the fifth St. Luke’s Wesley Players production, was a truly ecumenical experience, involving nearly 140 performers and crew members. The reservation fees and free will offerings at each of the four performances benefit Denver Urban Ministries, a human service agency the provides emergency and stabilization services in Denver’s most impoverished areas. The total raised was not final, but the goal was \$10,000 for DenUM. The production was ecumenical in that it involved not only members of St. Luke’s, but also Christ Lutheran, St. Mark Catholic and Englewood United Methodist churches, among others. Artistic director was Charlotte Warren Sass, with music direction from Jim Ramsey. Co-producers were Kathy Balu and Leigh Ramsey.

“You are who they say you are!” caps the triumphant finale. Mary Magdelene (Amanda Goldrick), Judas (Jack Kennedy), and Jesus (Patrick Griggs) in an early confrontation. Pilate (Kevin Larsen) along with the Priests and guards, challenges Jesus to prove himself. And yes, that is Rev. Janet as Pilate’s wife in the upper left. Herod and the Soul Girls sarcastically invite Jesus to “walk across my swimming pool.” Photos by Steve Ashby



December birthdays

1-Dec	Nathalee Porter	17-Dec	Samantha Leahy
1-Dec	Lisa Hajek	18-Dec	Steven Belmear
1-Dec	Robin Kessel	18-Dec	Kelly Goering
1-Dec	Anneli Richards	19-Dec	Bob Oliver
2-Dec	Martha Jane Burgett	19-Dec	Matt Pesce
2-Dec	Julie Barrette	19-Dec	Devin Brown
3-Dec	Caroline Butler	19-Dec	Kelsey Wesson
3-Dec	Mike Camelio	20-Dec	Jean Layton
4-Dec	Joni Ross	20-Dec	Virginia Hinds
4-Dec	Sheri Shea	20-Dec	Kim Lamee
5-Dec	John Williams	21-Dec	Nancy Wood
5-Dec	Lynne Sorsby	21-Dec	Sue Datson
6-Dec	Kathy Gross	21-Dec	Pat Reinhardt
7-Dec	Linda Streaty	21-Dec	Jay Graham IV
7-Dec	Linda Walker	22-Dec	Rob Ross
7-Dec	Leigh Ramsey	22-Dec	Dawn Branch
8-Dec	Joyce Rovetta	24-Dec	Meg Mara
8-Dec	Jan Lindquist	24-Dec	Steve Baird
9-Dec	Karena Ballas	24-Dec	Jamie Alexander
9-Dec	Liz Grow	25-Dec	Robert Christensen
10-Dec	Frank Scholle	25-Dec	Glen Graf
10-Dec	Laura Levorsen	26-Dec	Bonnie Funk
10-Dec	Brian Sorsby	26-Dec	Jeanette Barth
10-Dec	David Ashby	27-Dec	Lisa Myers
11-Dec	Mandy Fortier	27-Dec	Tammy Heister
11-Dec	Kerry Lucero	27-Dec	Chris Jenkins
12-Dec	Marcia Hannan	27-Dec	Lindsey Lennek
12-Dec	Tammy Dunlap	28-Dec	Sallie Suby-Long
12-Dec	Larry Andriunas	28-Dec	Darcy Hanson
13-Dec	Bill Van Horne	28-Dec	Blair Goering
13-Dec	Elizabeth Bauer	29-Dec	Rod Gottula
14-Dec	Kathleen Kennedy	29-Dec	Roger Bowden
14-Dec	Bob Hardaway	29-Dec	Tim Leahy
14-Dec	Pam Crawford	30-Dec	Gregory Plamp
14-Dec	Brett Romke	30-Dec	Arianna Hutchinson
14-Dec	Perry Eliassen	31-Dec	Monte Adams
15-Dec	Mark Johnson	31-Dec	Nancy Plamp
17-Dec	Donna Trunz	31-Dec	Gene Eliassen
17-Dec	Angela Holbrook	31-Dec	Melissa Leggett

Members who have moved:

It is always difficult to say good-bye to dear friends... Take a minute and write a note to the following members who have moved out of the area. May God's Peace & Grace be with them always, as they begin a new journey away from their St. Luke's family:

Larry & Robin Andriunas
Adam and Emily
9051 Tewsbury Gate
Maple Grove, MN 55311

New edition of Fred's Class starts in January

One question occasionally laid on me is "What will be your next class? From the number of times I'm asked that, I could conclude that my next class always is much more popular than my present class. I'm intrigued enough, however, to give you an advance look at what I'm thinking about for January.

About five/six years ago Don Miguel Ruiz jumped into the publishing spotlight with a small edition called "The Four Agreements." I bought a copy, read it, thought it interesting, and tossed it on the shelf. Recently, I retrieved it from under the dust, and reread it. Wham-O !!! Simple, in almost non-professional writing, but with truths that unfold in layer after layer, I thought it would be great for a class study.

Ruiz was a surgeon in Mexico City, who after an accident, changed his career to rediscovering the ancient teaching of the Toltec Indian healers, who go back a thousand years. The teachings of the "Agreements" have taken hold in large sections of our population, and they are as up-to-date as tomorrow's news. They are really "insights for living." I'm challenged by them, and want to share them with some of you. We'll begin in January, no doubt on Wednesday evenings. I'll have sign-up sheets a couple of weeks in advance, or call me at the church, 303 791 0659 x12.

And on Sunday mornings at 11:00, I'll begin another edition of Fred's Class. This will be for 30, 40, 50-year-olds (and all others) who are still walking around with images of the Bible, God, and Jesus, they learned in their sixth grade Sunday School class !!! A lot has happened since you were in sixth grade. And updating is needed by many in our congregation. Join me Sundays at 11:00, beginning in January, and we'll take a revealing and exciting look.

Fred Venable, Associate Pastor

St. Luke's Pictorial Member Directory

Maybe you forgot last time... Maybe you're new to St. Luke's... Or maybe you had a bad hair day and don't like your 2003 photo! Whatever your reason, now is the time to register to have your family's photo taken for the 2004-05 update to the St. Luke's Member Directory! There is no fee for the sitting, and all families or individuals who participate will receive one FREE 8"x10" portrait. Additional portrait packages are available. A team from Olan Mills' studios will be at St. Luke's on the following dates:

Friday, Dec. 10, 3:00 to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Trustees Corner

The Trustees of St. Luke's would like to take a moment to thank all of our hardworking team members and constituents for so many tasks completed throughout 2004. Through your generosity of time and talent we've successfully completed many projects -- some very small like regular clean-ups and fix-ups were taken care of so quickly most of us didn't notice them, while others like our landscaping improvements from our new sign to our meditation garden really show what we can do when we work together.

As you work to finalize your holiday gift giving lists, we'd like to let you know we maintain a 'wish list' for St. Luke's we're working to complete, as resources are available. If you'd like to take a look at it, please contact Bonnie in the office. As with our accomplishments of this year, some are very small and others like our sanctuary lighting improvements are a result of several accumulated gifts.

We wish the very best of God's blessings on you, your friends and family for the holidays and throughout 2005. Thank you again.

The complete St. Luke's Advent Calendar should be an insert in this newsletter. Please post it prominently in your home and join us in a community celebration of the Christmas season.



Staffing changes in Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry is growing and expanding everyday. Because of this, some exciting changes are taking place in the individuals involved in Children's Ministry. We are very pleased to announce the addition of Kristina Linn to our staff as Nursery and Childcare Coordinator. Kristina has been a paid caregiver in our nursery for over four years. Over the last year, she was our nursery supervisor overseeing the safety, cleanliness and equipment in the nursery. Kristina's new position will move the additional responsibilities of scheduling, time sheets, and making sure all of our children, parents and caregivers are happy under her watchful eye.

Lynne Butler will become our Preschool Coordinator and focus her time on coordinating the preschool Sunday School program, Joy Trek, and chairing and directing all the many activities offered by the Children's Ministry Fellowship Team. Yes, this still includes Vacation Bible School! Lynne is also looking forward to helping to expand the programs offered for our preschoolers and their parents. Please welcome Kristina and congratulate Lynne on their new opportunities.

Sharing our thanks

Thank you from all of us in Children's Ministry. With Thanksgiving just past 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.

Children's Sunday School, Joy Trek, PEAK Adventures and Summit Seekers, Fall Festival, Wednesday Night Live Kidz Club, Third Grade Bibles, Hanging of the Greens, Children's 3:00 Christmas Eve Service, Children's Dinner Theater, Easter Fun Day Celebration, Wacky Wednesdays, Vacation Bible School, and Summer Sunday School. Our Children's Ministry Fellowship Team that directs the various program areas, Nursery Ministry Team, lead by Lynne Butler and staffed by an incredible group of caregivers.

Library Ministry Team (right now only Terri Beecher) for the decorating, organizing, cataloging and maintenance of the Faith and Vern Harder Library.

All the dedicated volunteers who have helped in Sunday School from Nursery check-in and Superintendents to each classroom of Children's Sunday School; Joy Trek, PEAK Adventures and Summit Seekers.

What a wonderful program we have because of the volunteer support and tireless effort of a very

dedicated group of people.

The Faith Harder Memorial Library is always open! CHECK IT OUT in Goliath (the Elementary/ Youth open area). Books and Videos may be checked out for a three-week time period. Parents, please look around your homes for items that might be over due and return them as soon as possible. Donations of new or used books and videos with a Christian theme and in good condition are always accepted.

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.

Special events for your family this holiday season

Hanging of the Greens, Saturday, Nov. 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 is a family event for kids 4 to 14. We will decorate our Sunday school class rooms and the open area (Goliath) make an ornament to decorate our tree and one to take home. We will, of course, be doing our life-sized nativity for the wall again this year. Don't miss out! Contact Lynne Butler to find out how to get involved. Please Parents, we ask that you either volunteer this block of time by decorating the main floor of the church or by helping with our festivities downstairs.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Sunday, Nov. 28 at 6:30. Join in the fun as we begin the Christmas at St. Luke's, (and celebrate our hard work from the day before). We will gather in the Narthex to be entertained by several of St. Luke's amazing musical groups and the Cherubs Choir. We ask each family to bring a generous plate of cookies to share following the ceremony.

Have questions? Can't wait to get involved? Contact: Lynne Butler, Preschool Coordinator at 303-791-0695 ext. 11 or lynne@stlukeshr.com or Kristina Linn, Nursery and Childcard Coordinator, at 303-221-3447 or Jenita Rhodes. Children's Ministry's Director at 303-791-0695 ext. 27 or jenita@stlukeshr.com.

We look forward to hearing from YOU!

Children's Ministry's Calendar

November
27 Hanging of the Greens 9:00-11:00 in Goliath
28 PEAK Adventures 9:30 Elem. SS 3rd Rotation — Christmas around the World
Tree Lighting 6:00-7:30

December
1 WNL Kid'z Club 6:30-7:30
5 SLY Jr. 5th & 6th Grade Fellowship 6:00-8:00
7 Children's Ministry Education Team Meeting 7:00-8:30
8 Children's Ministry Fellowship Team Meeting 9:30-11:00
WNL Kid'z Club 6:30-7:30
15 WNL Kid'z Club 6:30-7:30
19 God & Country Program 12:15-1:30
22 WNL Kid'z Club 6:30-7:30
24 Christmas Eve services 3:00 (Children's) 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00
25 Merry Christmas!
26 **NO** Sunday School - Only Nursery to 2's 9:30 & 11

January
2 SLY Jr. 5th & 6th Grade Fellowship 6:00-8:00
4 Children's Ministry Education Team Meeting 7:00-8:30
9 Epiphany Sunday
12 Children's Ministry Fellowship Team Meeting 9:30-11:00

DenUM Food For All huge success!

By David Ashby

On Nov. 21, St. Luke's Youth participated in the annual *DenUM Food for All*. The *Food for All* made over 250 Thanksgiving food baskets to give to underprivileged families in Denver. Over 25 different church youth groups participated by holding food drives at their churches, and helping make baskets at Park Hill UMC in Denver.

Together we collected mounds of food plus \$6,000 worth of money in supermarket gift cards to be given away.

Not only did the afternoon provide for those less fortunate, but it also let us work along side our friends from other congregations, and appreciate what we have this holiday season. *Food For All* itself is a very fun activity, with a small worship service before the real work begins. The youth groups all unload their food and begin to make the baskets to help feed the hungry. Each bag gets enough food for a family to eat an entire Thanksgiving dinner, along with grocery cards so they can eat on other days as well.

Thank you for all who donated food and time to this awesome event!

Chris' Corner

SLY STYLE

Can't spell "youth" without you! Worthy of a tagline for a shirt, don't you think?

My first four months at St. Luke's have passed by incredibly fast, and I'm getting so much better with faces and names. In fact, I think I'm pretty close to knowing everybody that I see on a regular basis (Sundays, Wednesdays, or in between), and I'm just beginning to figure out the style that each person wears to youth activities.

Everybody I've met has a different style that they bring into the church, and we definitely have a style in the making for our youth group, the *SLY Style* if you will; it isn't quite the same as *Livin' the SLY Life* but we'll work on it...

As the Spring begins there will be several new programs or "outfits" that we'll "try on" the SLY program, and the success or failure of many programs will depend on your involvement in their beginnings and their evolution. Inevitably, a program (outfit) or two won't fit, be the right color, or even (gasp) have last season's farmer-inspired plaid pattern instead of this year's preppie-argyle look.

Unfortunately I can be a terrible judge of style – just ask my girlfriend, especially when it comes to newer outfits. So please take a moment to preview some of the new outfits I have assembled for the Spring:

New Outfits YOU Can Try On:

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will begin again in January under the direction of Mrs. Kay Coryell, who will serve an expanded role in our Music and Drama Department by taking on another project with youth music.

The choir is still in its formative stages, and if you have an interest in making (joyful) noise for the Lord, this may be the place for you. This is a style of expression that SLY has not had for nearly two years now, and I am excited to have it back (retro looks are in don't you know).

We had our first organizational meeting in mid-November, and there is still a lot to be decided. Several youth have all ready expressed interest in joining the choir, and there is still room for you! Youth will have a say in what pieces are practiced and sung, as well as have the opportunity to perform on a regular basis for the youth group and for the church as a whole.

Help us decide what this outfit will look like before we wear it out in public! Contact Chris or Kay C. with any interests or questions.

Monthly Mission

The SLY program will have a youth-oriented mission project organized once every month. The time, date, and location will change any given month based on the project at hand. This month our mission is the *Urban Peak Pizza Bake*.

This event will take place Sunday the 19th from 9:00 to 10:30 at Boston's Gourmet Pizza (between Red Robin and CB and Potts on Dad Clark) This is the first time we have ever tried anything like this at St. Luke's!!!

Usually we collect food for charities like DenUM and Urban Peak, then watch it disappear into a car or truck as someone delivers it for us. This time however, Boston's will let us into their kitchen so we can hand make and bake pizzas, then a small group will deliver them down to Urban Peak!

For \$10 you can make yourself a pizza, have all the soft drinks you want, learn about kitchen safety, and make a large pizza for the homeless teens of Urban Peak!!! We only have space for 45 people to make pizzas, so make sure you sign up and pay Chris by December 15!!! This should be a blast, food for yourself and helping others. Giving never goes out of style!

Confirmation

Confirmation has a new and exciting look to it! Nearly every aspect of the program will be modified from last year's look. This year's style will include 8th graders in the class, and of course any youth that are older than 8th grade that haven't yet taken Confirmation classes.

The youth class will meet from 10:45 to 12:15 Sunday mornings in the Sr. High Room, and the *parent's class* (that's right, parents class) will meet at the same time in the Jr. High room. Oh yes, this is a style for all ages! At least one parent of every youth will be enrolled in a class that covers the same curriculum, but a little bit more in depth.

So youth, don't worry about the extra homework load because you're taking a class outside of school, because your parents will be given most of the answers! The class itself will run from Jan 23 until April 17 with a retreat sandwiched in between those two dates. An informational meeting will be held Sunday January 9 at 10:45 am in the Goliath Area downstairs.

All interested youth and parents are invited to come and get some basic information about the class, take a peek at the curriculum, and register. Call Chris with any questions.

SLAM

___SLAM (St. Luke's At the Movies) will be entering its second semester of study, and we have yet to decide on which films will be worthy of our viewing and discussion for the Spring. If you haven't tried this easy-going bible study yet, come check us out this

month as we expose some of Hollywood's most well known angels.

This is an easy way to incorporate biblical stylings and knowledge into your everyday life, without giving up your own personal style. Think of it as a nice-looking jacket you can toss on when it feels a little cold in your life.

Retreats

Several retreat options will be offered in the Spring so youth can "get outside themselves." Often your style has to adapt if you are in different surroundings, a skill that becomes invaluable as life continues to change. Adapting to your surroundings will increase your chances of survival, and that includes having the right gear. The springtime trips we have planned will help add another layer to any personal outfit you've all ready got. Ski retreats will help us to enjoy Colorado's God-given beauty, large scale district retreats like *YouthQuest* and *Up With Youth* will help us to reconnect with other churches and youth in the Rocky Mountain Conference, and every trip we take together will help us to bond together as a youth group! Keep your ear to the ground for developments in the retreat outfit!

Adults

This word may strike fear into some, because of its connotations of responsibility, but none of the above outfits can be made without supervision and the care of quality inspectors, and adulthood is pretty great when you have a handle on it. There is always room for adults in any of our outfits, and if you have an interest in working with or mentoring youth, contact Chris ASAP.

Many other programs and events will develop as the Spring goes on and eventually fades into the summer, where a whole new style is necessary to stay cool. Thank you for taking a peek at the upcoming Spring Edition of *SLY Style* and if you have an idea for a new outfit, think something is missing from one of these outfits, or just want to become a designer along with me, just catch up with me here at the church! Remember, there is no YOUTH without YOU!

In Christ, Chris Wilterdink

Don't Miss

Urban Peak Pizza Bake @ Boston's Gourmet Pizza! Take this opportunity to make yourself a pizza just the way you always wanted it, and get the chance to bake one for a homeless teen! For \$10 you can travel to Boston's Gourmet Pizza on Sunday December 19 for half an hour between 9:00 and 10:30 to bake a pizza for Urban Peak. This is the first time we have tried this, so please please please sign up!!! Open to grades 7 – 12.

SLY Calendar

November

28 Motivational Speaker Troy Goulding 7:30 pm.

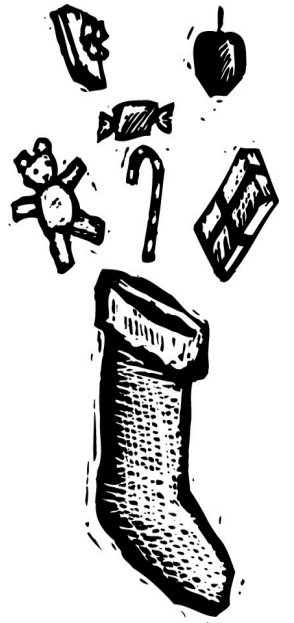
December

1 SLAM "Michael"
5 Worship Sunday
8 SLAM "The Preacher's Wife"
12 SLY PM – Video Scavenger Hunt
15 SLAM "It's A Wonderful Life"
19 SLY AM – Urban Peak Pizza Bake @ Boston's
SLY PM – WildLights @ Denver Zoo

Dec 20-Jan 8 No SLY Activities.

January

9 SLY Spring Begins
23 Confirmation Begins



Cambodia Initiatives Conference

Laurie Gilbert, Dalai Dy and Dale Balu represented St. Luke's UMC at the Cambodia Initiatives Conference in King, NC on 10/22 & 23. The event was a celebration of the mission work on-going in Cambodia together with plans for the future mission work in the country.

There are 58 UMC churches in Cambodia and 36 of them are still in need of sister churches to support their ministry. There were some representatives from conferences not presently supporting the mission work in Cambodia. They were impressed to see the progress being made and hopefully they will be involved in the future.

The St. Luke's team built some good relationships with members

of the missionary team currently in Cambodia and sister churches within the US. It was great to see some of the Cambodia leaders at the meeting and to be able to share their vision of the future.

Dalai Dy presented the sermon on Friday evening and it was very inspiring. This was not an easy task since the scripture basis was Lamentations. Dalai made St. Luke's proud to have been associated with her education and personal growth these past years.

The mission in Cambodia is working and St. Luke's involvement is truly part of our core values of being Invitational, Missional, and Relational.

Guatemala Mission Trip

On March 4 2005, members and friends of St. Luke's will be stepping out of their comfort zones and heading to Lemoa, Guatemala. Our team leader is Mark Ely from Trinity UMC, in Denver. He has traveled to this location for several years and taken many teams.

He offers us a chance to make meaningful connections, while sharing life and fellowship with the rural people. The team will be working with the local people on a community building project and

offering a Bible School to the local children, anywhere from 200-500 children can be expected each day.

Currently, we have 19 people committed and ready to go. Watch for future ways you can be involved and help support this mission.

If you'd like to check out the web site for more information and pictures, go to www.puravida.org. Also, if you'd like to be on the stand by list, please contact Laurie Gilbert at 303-791-1328.