Come One, Come All to St. Luke’s Annual Easter Fun Day
Saturday, March 31, 10am-noon
The fun includes the Easter Bunny, adorable baby bunnies to hold and photograph, Easter egg hunt, bouncy house, hand-on crafts, games, manicures and temporary tattoos, story time, cotton candy and more!
Everyone is welcome!

Join us in growing together toward full humanity through living the teachings of Jesus: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.

Please contact Lynne Butler 303-791-0659 x11 or email lynne@stlukeshr.com

MARCH 2007 CALENDAR

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
4 Monday of LENT 6:30pm: Opera Colorado Concert
5 8, 9, 11am: Worship
6 9am: SLY Retreat
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
6pm: SL Y PM
7pm: Lenten Supper
8 “Transforming Transitions” 2nd Sunday of LENT
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22

11am: Discovery Club
1pm: Discovery
Tye’s God’s Favorite

23 24 25 26 27 28 29
WML: Youth Mission Trip
WML: Mosque Program
Guatemala Mission Trip
Guatemala Mission Trip

30 31
Hear Easter Day Trip
Youth Mission Trip

APRIL

2 3 4 5 6 7
WML: Opera Colorado Concert
WML: Women’s Night Out
Tye’s Manhattan Thursday
No Little School

8-11:30pm: Lenten Supper

9-11:30pm: Lenten Supper

10-11:30pm: Lenten Supper

11am: SLY Retreat

12 13 14 15 16 17 18
Little School Break Youth Mission Trip
Youth Mission Trip
Guatemala Mission Trip
Little School Break Youth Mission Trip
Youth Mission Trip
Guatemala Mission Trip

19 20 21 22 23 24 25
WML: Women’s Night Out
WML: Youth Mission Trip
Youth Mission Trip
Guatemala Mission Trip

WEDNESDAY LENTEN CLASSES
Feb. 21, 28 March 7, 14, 21, 28 April 4
EVENINGS at 6:30pm
“Following in Jesus’ Steps” – Rev. Janet Forbes
MORNINGS at 6:30am at the Egg & I
(Highlands Ranch Pkwy between Broadway & Lucent)
“From Nomads to Pilgrims” based on The Last Week by Marcus Borg and John Danneker Creason

WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINE NERS
Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4
Soup & Salad Supper 5:45-6:45pm

DINNER DANCE
SATURDAY March 10 – 6:00pm
3rd SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY March 11 – 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

“GOOD’S FAVORITE” THURSDAY March 15 –
Open Dress Rehearsal 7:00pm
FRIDAY March 16 – Show 7:00pm
SATURDAY March 17 –
Denver 5:00pm, Show 7:00pm
SUNDAY March 18 – Show 3:00pm
Drama Ministry presents Neil Simon’s comedy based on the story of the book of Job.

THE ROAD WHERE FAITH IS FOUND
The Season of Lent at St. Luke’s

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Drama Ministry presents Neil Simon’s comedy based on the story of the book of Job.
Keeping our Church Home Safe and Clean

We welcome Barry Curtis to the St. Luke’s staff team as our Facilities Manager. Barry and Lisé Takayama of the Board of Trustees, have taken an inventory of the myriad collection of cleaning products stored at the church and make these requests for keeping our church home clean and safe.

1. All chemicals and cleaning supplies will be kept in the locked custodian’s closet off the lobby. We know our collections were down about $15,000 for January and they were driven through the parking areas and left because there were no available spaces. We know that some of you are concerned about the parking areas and left because there were no available spaces.

2. All restroom stocking supplies will be kept in the closet across from the elevator downstairs.

3. All product requests should go through Barry Curtis or Bonnie Funk in the church office. Your contributions of volunteerism are most welcome as well—for example, LeRoy Butler regularly coordinated the removal of snow so our parking lot is more accessible—what a difference he made for so many of us.

Please send your input, recommendations and offers of support via notes to the office manager. Thank you for making a difference and helping us to make the most of your contributions as we work together to improve St. Luke’s!

Department of Finance

Dave Cupp
Director of Finance

How Bad has the Snow Hurt our Finances? It’s impossible to be sure but here are some possibilities

- We know our attendance was affected to some unknown extent because of our restricted parking due to the snow accumulations. We know that some of you drove around the parking areas and left because there were no available spaces.
- We know our collections were down about $15,000 for January and they were less than we normally receive on Christmas Eve. It’s unknown how much of this can be directly attributed to the snow but no doubt the very wet conditions contributed.
- We know we spent $5,000 for snow removal at the end of December and another $3,900 in January. Also, we know that wasn’t enough since we still had restricted parking. This spending is approximately $6,000 more than we planned to spend during December and January even though we had allocated a January budget for snow removal.
- We know we did better than some of the inter-city churches that depends heavily on street parking. The newspapers reported the dilemma those churches faced and the budget problems it created for them.

- We know that we owe a big THANK YOU to LeRoy Butler and his crew for volunteering their time and equipment to finish getting all of our parking back. They spent a full day and part of the day.

GIVING TO THE CHURCH THROUGH YOUR IRA

We have received the following donations.

- $250,000 from Mr. and Mrs. A.
- $300,000 from Mr. and Mrs. B.
- $600,000 from Mr. and Mrs. C.

This notion of pilgrimage is at the heart of our Lenten faith journeys may be solitary, but no faith journey is someone new.

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March 2007

3/4 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM 6:10pm
3/7 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
3/11 – Jr. High Youth Quest Retreat
3/11 – Jr. & Sr. High AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM 6-8pm
3/14 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
3/16 – Jr. & Sr. High AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM District Worship @ Grace UMC 6-8pm
3/20 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
3/25-31 – Spring Break Mission Trips to Mississippi & Guatemala
3/25-5 – Jr. & Sr. High AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM 6-8pm
3/24 – NO SLAM (Spring Break)
4/1 – Palm Sunday
  - Jr. & Sr. High AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM 6-8pm
4/4 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
4/8 – Easter No SLAM or PM
4/15-17 – Sr. High Up With Youth Retreat
April 2007

4/1 – Palm Sunday
  - Jr. & Sr. High AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM 6-8pm
4/4 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
4/8 EASTER Sunrise Service with Sr. Andrew Young – 6:00am
  - Redstone Park
  - No SLAM or PM
4/11 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
4/15-17 – Sr. High Up With Youth Retreat
4/15 – Jr. & Sr. High AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM 6-8pm
4/18 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
4/22 – No SLAM (Youth Sunday!!)
  - SLY PM 6-8pm
4/24 – SLY PM 6-8pm
4/28 – Confirmation Dinner
4/29 – Confirmation Sunday
4/29 – Jr. & Sr. High AM 9:30am
  - Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
  - SLY PM 6-8pm

2007 Up With Youth: A retreat for Sr. High youth from April 13-15. Registrations are now available.

Summer Mission Trips
Applications will be available by the end of the month.
• Sr. High to Maine from June 17-20
• Jr. High to Wyoming from July 14-20

Graduate Sunday comes up in May! We need kindergartener pictures of all our graduating seniors. Please bring them by or mail them to Chris’ Office.

Dinner & God’s Favorite Purchase dinner tickets for the March 17 show of God’s Favorite and help raise building supply money for the Mississippi Spring Break Work Team.

Easter Sunrise Service at Redstone Park 6:00am April 8. Lead by Sr. Luke’s and Andrew Youth. Come and experience a fun and unique way to celebrate Easter.

THE SPIRIT OF ST. LUKE’S

More From Les: Giving to Fulfill a Mission

Church growth guru, Herb Miller, reminds us that we extend our personalities in several ways: by the way we spend our time, the people we associate with, how we raise our kids.

But one of the most powerful means by which we express who we are is through the ways we use money. Major credit card companies and retailers have known this for a long time. Through money we choose the kind of car we drive, the place we live, what we do for recreation. Money is an expression of our priorities in living.

Neither the Bible nor Jesus disapproves of money or wealth. Money in itself is not viewed as evil. By itself, money is an amoral force like electricity, which can light a church or can power an illicit laboratory for drug manufacturing.

Our use of our money is another matter, we can do great good, or we can be wasteful. We can be humanitarian or we can be selfish. The choice is ours.

Our giving to the church is a powerful expression of our faith and a part of our ministry to those around us. It allows us to reach beyond ourselves to help make lives better for others, it makes us partners with God.

Since churches are led by human beings, they can succumb to the temptation to focus on getting money to run the budget rather than focusing on the full meaning of stewardship and the integral part of giving to support the kingdom of God plays in our lives as Christians.

Our Capital Campaign is in the final planning phases right now. As we participate by pledging to this campaign, we will be focusing on what it takes to prepare ourselves, and our facility, for the future.

To fulfill our vision of being Invitational, Relational and Missional for those we may encounter and serve in the future, we must make commitments now. By doing so we will keep this vision alive and meaningful.

May we express our faith and confidence in the future by participating in this campaign. Our commitment to the Capital Campaign is not merely commitment to a specific dollar amount, but a commitment to growing this church’s capability to reach out in ministry and teaching and service.

God bless this church, God bless us all! – Rev. Les

GET TO KNOW ST. LUKE’S NEW! Orientation of St. Luke’s
Come Explore St. Luke’s on the second and fourth Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and meet some new friends to explore all that St. Luke’s has for your spiritual journey. During this 45 minute orientation, we will discuss the ministry programs, fellowship opportunities, and the mission and vision of our church. Along with the information, we will answer any questions you may have. Contact Linda Yelland, Our Director of Volunteer Ministry 303-791-6595 x20 or email lyland@stlukeshr.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
• April 27-29 Rocky Mountain Conference UMW Spiritual Retreat, Estes Park (Registration date is March 19)
• Get information and registration on website www.rmcumw.org

You have questions about UMW go to the Conference website rmcumw.org or Women’s Division website ummwmission.org or contact District President, Ruth Willis at ruthwillis@cox.net or Betty Ludlam at bludlam@wyoming.com

Scrapbook Circle starting up again! We are meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. We are also going to meet on Sat., May 5th for an all-day Crew for the Cure 9:00am-5:00pm.

The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women: 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.

Senior Girl Scout Troop #652 and Junior Troop #2732 donated dozens of boxes of Girl Scout cookies to St. Luke’s Mission of the Month, “Support Our Troops.” The cookies, along with other donated items will be a great treat for our servicemen and women serving in Iraq. Senior Scouts pictured are Jill Raddick, Tricia McCarthy, and Junior Scouts, Garrett Ann Nevin and Nikki Markum.

Christopher Leinonen Compassion
(March 17 show of God’s Favorite)

“Bible Boot” is the topic being debated. Karin Wesson, Elizabeth Bauer, and Susan Stanley formed an after having been through the Bible and familiarizing ourselves with other religions’ views on the topic being debated. Karin Wesson contributes a few words about why she began Bible Boot. “I started Bible Boot for two reasons; one because there was an expressed interest in Bible study specifically and because there was a handful of high-schoolers who were overwhelmed by the sheer size of the high school Sunday School class.” Bible Boot Camp consists of a fairly small group of high school and Susan Stanley of LUCOM, and Boulder partnering to serve others over Spring Break, and there is no way to experience compassion quite like giving yourself completely to others on a mission experience, it really makes you into a new pair of shoes and lets you walk around to get someone else’s perspective.

These trips will return by the beginning of April, so check in with us to see what compassion feels like! It just might inspire you to try something new. Try on some new shoes, walk around for a bit, and see how it makes you feel!

Making Super Bowl subs to raise money for missions.

Chris Willis  •  Susan Johnson
Director of Youth Ministries  •  Associate Director of Youth Ministries

ST. LUKE’S YOUTH

DON’T MISS!

Consists of a fairly small group of a handful of high-schoolers who specifically and because there were “I started Bible Boot for two about why she began Bible Boot, the topic being debated. Karin Wesson contributed a few words about why she began Bible Boot. “I started Bible Boot for two reasons; one because there was an expressed interest in Bible study specifically and because there was a handful of high-schoolers who were overwhelmed by the sheer size of the high school Sunday School class.” Bible Boot Camp consists of a fairly small group of youth and Karin Wesson as the adult leader. Bible Boot Camp meets at 9:30am every Sunday morning in room 101, where 7th and 12th grade students are welcome and welcome to see you there! ST. LUKE’S YOUTH
We are Called to Serve
Serving Opportunities March 2007

**Ushers:**
- Welcome Team:
  - Fellowship Events Team:
    - (“Lifekeys” Servant by Design Class, offered here at St. Luke’s)
  - Guest Service Station:
    - “The Fourth Principle of Biblical Servanthood: As we open our hearts to God’s purposes, we become...
    - Dave Koch (Kay Swanson’s assoc. pastor)
    - Deena Rice (friend of Cindy Barlow)
    - Phyllis Swift (Barb Decker’s mother)
    - Joe Forbes (Janet Forbes’ brother)
    - Cheryl Grey (Lisé Takayama’s former sister-in-law)
    - Paul Dunlop
    - Wilma Ashbaugh (friend of Marilyn law)
    - Lisa Maciejewski (Jennifer Jiang’s sister)
- Gifts: Hospitality, Administration, Leadership

**Fellowship Events Team:**
- Volunteers to attend to before, during and after the service. Ushers typically serve in the foyer where you will meet and greet for 30 minutes one Sunday a month at the “Get Connected” table in the narthex.
- Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality

**Guest Service Station:**
- Join this very popular team of volunteers one Sunday a month, contact Wally and begin serving on one of most valued teams of volunteers.
- Spiritual Gifts: Helps, Hospitality, Administration, Leadership

**E-Mail Connections:**
- Available to move to the places God wants us to be.
- We open our hearts to God’s purposes, we become...

**Serving St. Luke’s**
- Make sure we have your email so that you can “stay in the loop.” Email lyndalitkus@comcast.com with your email address or include it with your name in the friendship pad.

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**Weekly Schedule for Music Ensembles**
(Musical Groups to start up the week of January 7th.)

**Tuesday**
- 6:30pm: Kids Pray I and II
- 7:00pm: Chancel Choir
- 7:30pm: Chapel Choir

**Wednesday**
- 5:30pm: Youth Handbell Choir

**Thursday**
- 6:30pm: Women of Note
- 7:00pm: Women’s Choir

**Friday**
- 6:00pm: Flower Ensemble
- 9:00am: Brass Ensemble
- 10:30am: Wind Ensemble

**Saturday**
- 8:00am: Youth Orchestra
- 10:00am: Off-Notes Youth Choir

**Sunday**
- 8:00am: Youth Choir
- 8:15am: Off-Notes Youth Choir
- 9:00am: Rhythm Saints (Mel Scott) - tbd

**Weekly Series**
- James Ramsey - Organ & Arts
- Carrie Mallory - Organ & Arts
- Jay Correll - Organ & Arts

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**ADULT ED**

**Lenten Series Starts March 11th**
9:30am Sundays, Classroom B

The Christian Connection class will be starting a Lenten series called, “Bound for Golgotha” on Sunday, March 11th. Come join us! We look forward to seeing you!

**Prayer Ministries**
- Bruce Olson’s nephew: James Pzech
- Joyce Petie
- Jacob Lobyn (Lisa Lehnus’ nephew)
- Sara Powers (friend of Audra Merger’s)
- Courtney Nylund (Kay Swenson’s mother)
- Carol Nilsen (Kay Swenson’s mother)
- Newa Harris
- Eldon Wilder (Bobbi Kingsby’s mother)
- Betty O’Malley
- Michael (brother of Karen Maki’s friend)
- Lauren Welch (Katy Kesler’s daughter)
- Maxine Hoffman (Henry Hoffman’s mother)
- Olivia & Daniel Dunston (family friends of Carol Dardsen)
- Betty Kizer (Brenda Floyd’s mother)
- Joel Holmgren (Steve Hendrick’s uncle)
- Tracy Turner
- Cassie Grande (Emily Hallam’s gr. mother)
- Frank Rhodes (Dave Rhodes’ father)
- Diana Stephens
- Brendan Bernard’s grandmother Bul
- Danny Chalus (Ken & Barb Decker’s friend)
- Susan Ashley (friend of Angela Chaplin)
- Karen Faye (Mona Daniel’s friend)
- Cynthia Johnson’s friend - the Coleman family
- Jerry Payten (the Joe & Darlene family)
- Ann Sinnis (Ann Ashby’s mother)
- Terry Walters
- Jen Faye
- Ellen Lynch (Valerie Goodstein’s friend)
- Harald Johnson (Laury Gillfall’s father)
- Donn Schultz (friend of Wendy Wallberg/Harry Moon’s sons)
- Matthew Melheby (neighbor of Sharon Williams)
- Doreen’s friend of Sharon Williams
- Marshall Johnson (Dang Johnson’s friend)
- Brenda Sheets
- Megan Weg (Re: Lois Lindahl and Betty gobland)
- Brain Win
- Budi Roden (Peter Walton’s brother)
- Patricia Wilson (friend of Sharon Williams
- Rosalind Martin (Rosalind Martin)
- Jim Geiber
- Tom Rucker

**Sympathies:**
- To the Miyoshi family on the passing of their sister, Mark Auyeung
- To Michelle Pozza on the passing of her brother, Constant Pozza
- To Barbara Hamblin Grigg on the passing of her sister’s brother, (Garrett Garcia & Isaac brother)

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**Music & Drama Ministries**
continued from page 1
- Proceeds to Missions, from November’s performances of The Sound of Music were $19,890.51. This amount was distributed as follows:
  - $200 - Prayer Appeal Ophphale in South Africa, for which the church has also been asked to help from AIDS
  - $2500 - Ecumenical Refugee Services, which helps refugees settle in the Denver area;
  - $500 - Harem/Persian, helps prisoners rehabilitate their lives, including women with babies;
  - $2000 - Baptist University Ministries (NUM)
  - $3500 - Guatemalan missions - the John Wesley School in Santa Cruz del Quiche and ministries in the village of Lemos.
  - $2000 - Dr. Manuca in Zimbabwe, who works at the Fairfield Ophphale;
  - $500 - Missionary Janine Roberts, who also works at the Fairfield Ophphale;
  - $1000 - UMCOR for the malala and mosquitoes net program;
  - $500 - Shannons Hope - for young single pregnant women;
  - $2000 - Interfaith Community Services, Englewood, which provides help to people in the southern suburbs;
  - $1000 - Denver Inner City Pets, which helps people in west Denver;
  - $1000 - Urban Peak, which helps homeless teenagers.

**Extraordinary Contributions**
- $116,000 - March 2007 - $116,000
- Hal Heit - project - raised by youth - $528.83
- One Great Hour of Sharing for UMCOR (March) - $1765
- Appolonia Service Project - special offering - $784.35
- Cambodia Missionary Job - $250
- Cambodia Scholarships - $4800
- Mission of the Month - Lenten Series - $535 (Shannon’s Hope, Donum, Colorado AIDS Project)
- Offerings - Global AIDS Fund - $322.55
- St. Luke’s AIDS Walk - about $1200 for Global AIDS Fund
- UMCOR - Microsinos - $20
- UMCOR - Pakistan - $190
- Peace with Justice Sunday - $47.23
- Mission of the Month - Poland and Zimbabwe - $50
- Sound of the Rockies Concert - for Poland and Zimbabwe - $845
- Mission of the Month - Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - $800
- biking/ prayed for this family’s recovery - for their friend
- UMCOR - Project Agape Orphanage in South Africa, for children whose parents have died from AIDS;
- UMCOR - Urban Peak - $1000 - Urban Peak, which helps homeless teenagers.

- The Sound of Music is, this year... $40,000! This doesn’t include youth fundraisers, UNW and small group support of mission ministries, other fundraisers such as breakfast burritos and Christmas offering for mission!
Two Very Different Afflictions

The Faith in Action class recently read two books that provide stark contrast between the haves and the have-nots of the world. Consider the following two statistics:

• Half the world’s nearly three billion people live on less than two dollars a day.
• The richest 2% of the world own more than half of the global household assets.

This kind of data is what we discovered as we learned about two afflictions that are taking hold of the world. One very concretely causes pain, illness and death. The other, while somewhat humorous, could be the end of us all.

The first book we studied was the world’s distribution of wealth and how our shopping malls over the lives of most Americans, and has created an emptiness in our world experience, we in the consumer society of the United States suffer from a different epidemic. In their book, authors John deGraaf, David Wann, and Thomas H. Naylor describe how the need to consume, the need to have STUFF, has taken

In striking contrast to the poverty and lack of food that so many in the States. Rev. Messer and his colleagues note that, in 2002, 7 million Americans suffered from hunger and were regularly deprived of enough calories. And, according to a recent article in The Denver Post, about 12% of Colorado households suffer from “food insecurity” each year, meaning the members of that family don’t always have enough to eat.

Hunger is not just an issue found “somewhere else,” it’s here in the United States. Rev. Messer and his colleagues note that, in 2002, 7 million Americans suffered from hunger and were regularly deprived of enough calories. And, according to a recent article in The Denver Post, about 12% of Colorado households suffer from “food insecurity” each year, meaning the members of that family don’t always have enough to eat.

Also, through discussions on the afflictions of hunger and Affluenza, we realize that both issues require a community that will care for its members and its surroundings. We have decided that we must respond in some way, and encourage each of you to consider what you can do to help the hungry, and ease your affliction at the same time. Some of the actions we hope to take include:

• Continue to support local food banks by donating and volunteering.
• Educate St. Luke’s about the hunger crisis (thanks for reading!)
• Promote economic development through UMCOR, Heifer Project, and other economic development initiatives
• Buy more fair trade and organic products
• Encourage continued growth of the United Nations’ international school lunch program
• Ask the US to increase its budget by 1% to provide for basic needs (such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare)
• Promote light bulb with more energy-efficient types
• Recycle as much trash as possible
• Reduce our use of non-biodegradable items (plastic bags, Styrofoam, etc.)
• Eat dinner with our families (extended and church families as well!)
• Grow a garden
• Encourage a “Green Sunday,” where no bulletins are printed to help. The number of deaths to help. The tsunami sweeping the earth, killing 21,000 every week. While we do well to respond to major catastrophes (tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes), our response to this continual killer is not as aggressive. If the world were represented by a village of 100 people, only 24 would have enough to eat, while 26 would be severely malnourished.

One (affliction) very concretely causes pain, illness and death. The other, while somewhat humorous, could be the end of us all.

Affluenza identifies the main symptoms of this “illsness” with clarity and humor:

• Shopping Fever – the only way to have fun is to spend money, and spend it often
• A Rash of Bankruptcies – In the US, it is more common to spend MORE than what you make on a regular basis, and get deeper into debt
• Resource Exhaustion – How do we make sure that our natural resources (trees, canyons, and wildlife) will be around for our grandchildren to enjoy?
• Diluted Values – Did you know that the average 12-year-old is exposed to 48 hours a week of commercial messages, and spends 40 minutes a week in meaningful conversation with a parent? What values will they develop?
• Community Chills – Did you know that the number of community public sites (churches, libraries, parks) has decreased by one-fifth since 1950? What community do we have and cultivate?
• Ache for Meaning – What percentage of your day is spent doing something that you find is meaningful? Do you really find meaning in the stuff you buy?
• And on and on...

In what St. Luke’s activities are you involved?

In the 1990s, Carolyn was involved with the Youth Ministries, helping with events and chauffeuring on overnight trips. She has taught Sunday school since 1998, participates in Women of St. Luke’s activities and has taken four Disciple and other classes. She served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) from 2001-2004. In 2006, she was invited to again serve on SPRC.

John served on St. Luke’s Finance Committee from 2002-2005. He has been involved in United Methodist Men’s activities and is presently a member of the Board. He currently is involved with the Board of Directors and other committees. He served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) from 2001-2004. In 2006, she was invited to again serve on SPRC.

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PEAK Adventures
–Sunday School at 9:30
Workshop Rotation Unit for March 4–April 8 will be our Lenten season focus “The Easter Story.” We will be making a Good News scrapbook, learning about Easter and the events surrounding it through skin, cooking, science, playing Holy Week Jeopardy and more!

Sly, Jr. Lock In was a HOOT!
Our 5th and 6th grade students had a great time during their annual Lock-In in February. Our theme was local missions and how they could make a difference. We heard from Cara Holmquist with DefyUs about the needs of the homeless and individuals in crisis and how their organization serves them. We made hygiene kits filled with items the kids has collected and brought. Each activity included a scripture and discussion that illustrated a spiritual concept. For example, they hunted for glow-in-the-dark eyes hidden all over the church then discussed the question, “do you act differently if you know someone is watching you?” After popping a balloon to collect scripture bits telling the story of Jacob’s Ladder, they discussed ways they feel God speaks to them and how to hear him when he does. We watched the movie “Brave” then made pinecone bird feeders for home or the church yard. A HUGE THANK YOU to the adults who provided food, companionship and great clean up support! A program like this would not be possible with such caring adults.

On January 7, 2007, St. Luke’s celebrated Epiphany Sunday with a very special service which included the story of the three wise men who came to Bethlehem to pay tribute to the King of Kings. My family and I have enjoyed that particular service for many years which includes the procession of the 15’ tall King puppets and associated characters. I had hoped that someday our family would participate in this special service, and this was the year for the Ballards to join in! My daughters, Emma and Kate (12 and 1) and I participated as the king Melchior, or the Asian King. Along with many other wonderful friends and families of St. Luke’s, the Epiphany story came to life once again. My father and I have enjoyed that particular service for many years which includes the procession of the 15’ tall King puppets and associated characters. I had hoped that someday our family would participate in this special service, and this was the year for the Ballards to join in! My daughters, Emma and Kate (12 and 12) and I participated as the king Melchior, or the Asian King. Along with many other wonderful friends and families of St. Luke’s, the Epiphany story came to life once again. My family and I have enjoyed that particular service for many years which includes the procession of the 15’ tall King puppets and associated characters. I had hoped that someday our family would participate in this special service, and this was the year for the Ballards to join in! My daughters, Emma and Kate (12 and 12) and I participated as the king Melchior, or the Asian King. Along with many other wonderful friends and families of St. Luke’s, the Epiphany story came to life once again.

Though my “typical” teen-aged daughters were a bit hesitant when I announced that I had contacted the performance organizer, Nancy Cushing, and asked if we could participate this year, my girls threw in their wind and enthusiastically joined in. The event was not only a great family, social, and religious experience, but it demonstrated the true meaning of fellowship to my young impressionable teenagers.

It was significant to me to see children of all ages in the audience once again astounded by all of the characters in the performance and realizing that, whatever the age, the story of the Birth of the King and the Epiphany creates a basic foundation for our beliefs. It was wonderful to be a part of this year’s Epiphany service at St. Luke’s and hopefully the tradition will continue (in some form) for many years to come.

God Bless, Craig Ballard and family

Children’s Ministry Education Team
This team will meet Tuesday, March 20th from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Abraham Room. This team is responsible for the oversight and focus of the Children’s Ministry programs. In March we will be planning the Summer Sunday School program hopefully to involve the movie Cars in the curriculum. In April, curriculum for 2007–08 Workshop Rotation year will be available and specific units will be chosen. All workshop leaders for this year are invited to come and share their wisdom. This team is for anyone who enjoys children, is concerned with their spiritual development and is willing to share their creativity. New members are always welcomed. Contact Jenita Rhodes for more information.

Children’s Dinner Theater
Our annual Children’s Dinner Theater will be held on Friday evening May 4th. The theme for Children’s Ministry this year is “justice,” so our play will help illustrate that concept. In a fancy tale courtroom we will put the big, bad wolf on trial and try to find out if he is truly guilty or maybe just misunderstood. Auditions will be held Sundays, March 4th & 18th at 11:00am in the David area downstairs. Come be a part of this fun drama experience! Contact Lynne Butler for more information.

Vacation Bible School
Save the Date! June 25-29, Children’s Ministry will soar to new heights as we learn how high God’s love for us will go. Vacation Bible School will transform the lower level of St. Luke’s into a hot air balloon paradise.

WANTED: Family Camp 2007 Volunteers. Help continue this great St. Luke’s tradition! In the past Family Camp has been held at Grand River Resort (near Rocky Mountain National Park), Golden Gate State Park and other beautiful places. John and Caroline Merchant have coordinated Family Camp every year since 2000, and they are ready to pass their batons. They are currently looking for help with administration, publicity, activities, crafts, music and food. To offer your assistance, please call John or Caroline Merchant at 303-791-6251. Look for Family Camp dates on in the April Chronicle, and check stlukesht.com after March 1.

Joining St. Luke’s – A NEW Process:
1. Persons may join the church any Sunday by transfer of their membership or by profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We recognize the Sacrament of Baptism from all Christian churches. Any person who has received this baptism does not need to be baptized again. Baptism is a covenant between an individual and God. If you have not been baptized, please contact Rev. Janet, Rev. Pam or Lynda Fickling, our Director of Servant Ministry.
3. Fill out the membership card located in the “Friendship Pad.” During the Hymn of Grace, persons are invited to come forward to be welcomed into the family of St. Luke’s. Or you may simply hand the membership card to one of our Pastors at any time.
4. Persons joining are asked to stay after the service to meet with our Director of Servant Ministry, to give and receive additional information and have a picture made.
5. Although not required, we encourage you to attend the “Orientation to St. Luke’s” held monthly to explore St. Luke’s programs, ministry and mission.
6. You will be invited to attend a New Member Brunch! We will welcome you with food and fellowship and introduce you to our staff.

The Commitment:
• To worship regularly.
• To grow in faith by participating in a small group.
• To participate in hands-on mission to the congregation, the community, and the world.
• To reach out in care and hospitality.
• To grow in generosity through giving to our shared life.
Children's Ministry Education Team
This team will meet twice, March 20th from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Abraham Room. This team is responsible for the oversight and focus of the Children's Ministry programs. In March we will be planning the Summer Sunday School program hopefully to involve the movie Cars in the curriculum. In April, curriculum for 2007-08 Workshop Rotation year will be available and specific units will be chosen. All workshop leaders for this year are invited to come and share their wisdom. This team is for anyone who enjoys children, is concerned with their spiritual development and is willing to share their creativity. New members are always welcomed. Contact Jenita Rhodes for more information.

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Vacation Bible School
Save the Date! June 25-29, Children’s Ministry will soar to new heights as we learn how high God’s love for us is compared to our love for anything else. We will have a team of staff, volunteers, and professionals to help teach our children the stories of the Bible! The theme for VBS this year will be "Children’s Bible Stories." Pastor Les has been reading to us all year long! We will have over 2,500 pieces of art work on display, depicting our favorite stories. Each room will be a different story and the whole school will be magically transformed into an amazing art gallery! PLEASE COME! We promise that you will be amazed and delighted! (Are you getting out your calendars???)

On January 7, 2007, St. Luke’s celebrated Epiphany Sunday with a very special service which included the story of the three wise men. The pastor read the story to the children and had them each hold a piece of the robe of Baby Jesus. It was wonderful to be part of this year’s Epiphany service at St. Luke’s and hopefully the performance and realizing that, whatever the age, the story of the Nativity and the Epiphany creates a basic foundation for our beliefs. It was wonderful to be part of this year’s Epiphany service at St. Luke’s and hopefully the tradition will continue (in some form) for many years to come.

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God Bless, Craig Ballard and family
Two Very Different Afflictions

The Faith in Action class recently read two books that provide stark contrast between the haves and the have-nots of the world. Consider the following two statistics:

- Half the world—nearly three billion people—live on less than two dollars a day.
- The richest 2% of the world own more than half of the global household assets.

This kind of data is what we discovered as we learned about two afflictions that are taking hold of the world. One very concretely causes pain, illness and death. The other, while somewhat humorous, could be the end of us all.

The first book we studied on the world's distribution of wealth was Don Messer's thoughtful study on hunger, Ending Hunger: A Challenge to Persons of Faith. Together with Bob Doyle and George McGovern, Messer presents information about why so many people struggle with hunger around the world—even here in the United States. Rev. Messer and his colleagues note that, in 2002, 7 million Americans suffered from hunger and were regularly deprived of enough calories. And, according to a recent article in The Denver Post, about 12% of Colorado households suffer from "food insecurity" each year, meaning the members of that family don't have enough to eat.

In contriving contrast to the poverty and lack of food that so many in the world experience, we in the consumer society of the United States suffer from a different epidemic. In their book Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic, authors John de Graaf, David Wann, and Thomas H. Naylor describe what it means to have been "cured" of the need for more possessions and how this has enabled us to "live better" with less...,

Affluenza identifies the main "symptoms" of this illness with clarity and humor:

- Shopping Fever—"the only way to have fun is to spend money, and spend lots of it..."
- A Rash of Bankruptcies—"In the US, it is more common to spend MORE than what you make on a regular basis, and get deeper into debt..."
- Resource Exhaustion—"How do we make sure that our natural resources (trees, canyons, and wildlife) will be around for our grandchildren to enjoy?"
- Dilapidated Houses—"Did you know that the average 12-year-old is exposed to 48 hours a week of commercial messages, and spends 40 minutes a week in meaningful conversation with a parent? What values will they develop?"
- Community Chill—"Did you know that the number of community public sites (churches, libraries, parks) has decreased by one-fifth since 1950? What community do we have and cultivate?"
- Ache for Meaning—"What percentage of your day is spent doing something that you find is meaningful? Do you really find meaning in the stuff you buy?"
- And on and on...

Through discussions on the afflictions of hunger and Affluenza, we realize that both issues require a community that will care for its members and its surroundings. We have decided that we must respond in some way, and encourage each of you to consider what you can do to help the hungry, and ease your affliction at the same time. Some of the actions we hope to take include:

• Continue to support local food banks by donating and volunteering.
• Educate St. Luke's about the hunger crisis (thanks for reading?)
• Promote economic development through UMCoR, Heifer Project, and other economic development initiatives
• Buy more fair trade and organic products
• Encourage continued growth of the United Nation's international school lunch program
• Ask the US to increase its budget by 1% to provide for basic needs (such as food, shelter, education, and healthcare)
• Promote economic development through UMCoR, Heifer Project, and other economic development initiatives

One (affliction) very concretely causes pain, illness and death. The other, while somewhat humorous, could be the end of us all.

Servant Spotlight: John & Caroline Merchant

One sunny September day in the mid-1980s, John Merchant, a freshman at the University of California, Davis, knocked on a freshman girl's dorm room door to ask for a date. The coed he sought was not there. Instead, he invited the room's other occupant, a freshman named Caroline, to see a movie with him that evening. Although she was studying for an exam the next morning, Caroline accepted. Romance followed, and a few years later, in August 1989, they married.

Today John and Caroline live in Highlands Ranch with their three boys: Austin, Josh, and Matthew, and assorted pets. Here are some interesting facts about the Merchant family:

**Backgrounds:** Both are UC Davis graduates. Caroline received a VMED degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She was a practicing veterinarian until 2002, when she quit to become a full-time mom. She now occasionally fills in for vacations and other leaves of absence for veterinarian colleagues. John earned a MBA degree from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a Business Development Manager for Cisco.

**Community Chills—Did you know that the number of community public sites (churches, libraries, parks) has decreased by one-fifth since 1950? What community do we have and cultivate?**

- The richest 2% of the world own more than half of the global household assets.

WELCOME New Members: Dec. 2006-Feb. 11, 2007

Welcome our newest members: Carol, Barry, and their daughter, Cara.
**We are Called to Serve**

**Serving Opportunities March 2007**

_Lynda Fickling Directer of the Church Volunteer Ministry_

*“The Fourth Principle of Biblical Servanthood: As we open our hearts to God’s purpose, we become available to move to the place God wants us to be.” (Lifekey’s Servant by Design Class, offered here at St. Luke’s)*

Join one of our Ministry Teams:

**Fellowship Events Team:** Help plan, cook, serve, set up/clean up for Special Events at St. Luke’s. We have many events beginning with “Fat Tuesday” and running through May! We could use help for many more events!

**Spiritual Gifts:** Hospitality, Administration, Hospitality.

Contact: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x220 lynda@stlukeshr.com

**Get Connected Ministry Team:** Our Newest Team! Help for 30 minutes one Sunday a month at the “Get Connected” table in the narthex. We are looking to get everyone connected in his or her ministry of interest. You do NOT have to have the answer for everything, just the willingness to invite others to hear Spiritual Gifts: Helps, Hospitality, Administration, Leadership

Contact: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x220 lynda@stlukeshr.com

**Welcome Team:** Seeking friendly, outgoing people to serve on a team whose mission it is to welcome friends who have been visiting St. Luke’s. We don’t ask a lot of gifts of time, but just a sincere welcome to St. Luke’s. If you can spare 5 minutes and no more than 2 times a month, contact Wally Sackett 303-794-4303 wsackett©comcast.net

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Administration

**Serving Opportunities**

**Lenten Series Starts March 11th, 9:30am Sundays, Classroom B**

_The Christian Connection class will be starting a Lenten series called, “Bound for Golgotha” on Sunday, March 11th. Come join us! We look forward to seeing you! The books will be available in classroom B._

Contact: Scott Wesson at 303-683-0196 or swesson©aimco.com

**Weekly Schedule for Music Ensembles**

(Musical Groups to start up the week of January 7th)

**Monday 6:30pm** Church Youth Choir

**Tuesday 6:30pm** Kidz Prayz I and II

**Wednesday 6:30pm** Chancel Choir

**Thursday 6:30pm** Women of Note

**Friday 6:00pm** Flute Ensemble

**Friday 9:00pm** Brass Ensemble

**Friday 9:45pm** Ministers of Swing

**Friday 10:30pm** Wind Ensemble

**Saturday 6:30pm** Bluegrass/Old Time Gospel Group (Matt Rose) - tbd

**Sunday 8:00am** Flute Ensemble

**Sunday 9:00am** Chancel Choir

**Sunday 11:00am** Youth Handbell Choir

**Sunday 1:00pm** Timpani/Timpanisturels

**Questions about any ensemble, please contact Jim at 303-683-0196 or swesson©aimco.com or go to site www.stlukeshr.com to read descriptions about each group._

**ADULT ED**

**Adult Education**

E-Mail Connections: Make sure we have your email so that you can “stay in the loop.” Email lynda@stlukeshr.com with your email address or include it with your name in the Friendship Pad!

**MUSIC & DRAMA MINISTRIES continued from page 1**

Proceeds to Missions, from November’s performances of The Sound of Music were $19, 890.51. This amount was distributed as follows:

- $200 - Prayer Answer Orphanage in South Africa, for children whose parents have died from AIDS.
- $2500 - Ecumenical Refugee Services, which helps refugees settle in the Denver area.
- $500 - Haven/Per L, helps prisoners rehabilitate their lives, including women with babies;
- $2000 - Denver Urban Missions (DUM) -
- $3500 - Guatemalan missions - the John Wesley School in Santa Cruz del Quiche and missions in the village of Lemus.
- $2000 - Dr. Mannys in Zimbabwe, who works at the Fairfield Orphange.
- $500 - Missionaries Johnies Roberts, who also works at the Fairfield Orphange.
- $1000 - UMCOM for the malaga and malana net program;
- $500 - Hope for young single pregnant women;
- $2000 - Interfaith Community Services, Englewood, which provides help to people in the southern suburbs;
- $500 - Denver Inner City Parish, which helps people in west Denver;
- $1000 - Urban Peak, which helps homeless teenegers.
- $1890.51 - Placed in Missions general account for unspecied needs and special projects.

Additional donotions to missions were:

- Human Relations Sunday - Jan 1st - $4150
- Haiti Project - raised by youth - $582.83
- One Great Hour of Sharing for UMCOM (March) - $1765
- Appalachia Service Project - special offering - $784.35
- Cambodian Mission Jim - $250
- Cambodian Scholarships - $4800
- Mission of the Month - Lenten Season - $355 (Shannon’s Hope, Div.LM, Colorado AIDS Project)
- Offerings - Global AIDS Fund - $322.55
- St. Luke’s AIDS Walk - about $1200 for Global AIDS Fund
- UMCOM - Midwest - $20
- UMCOM - Pakistan - $170
- Peace with Justice Sunday - $47.23
- Mission of the Month - Poland and Zimbabwe - $50
- Sound of the Rockies Concert - for Poland and Zimbabwe - $845
- Mission of the Month - Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - $800
- Print Concert - Colorado Coalition for the Homeless - $659
- Christmas Guatemalan Milk Program - $894.70
- Christmas Guatemalan Drum program for John Wesley School - $1274.00
- Offering for Family to family program - $6000 - for real homeless - $5010 (we sent out $1200 to help one family. We have $5810 to help more families.)

Including _The Sound of Music_, this is over $40,000! This doesn’t include youth fundraisers, UMW and small group support of mission ministries, other fundraisers such as breakfast buffets and Christmas offering for missions!

Another way that St. Luke’s gives to missions is through our Apportionments. Apportionments are a church’s fair share contribution to the wider work of the church. They are very important to our spirit of being connected with the United Methodist denomination. A portion of Apportionments goes to missions - Africa University, Black College Fund, World Service Fund. Our goal is to pay a higher and higher percentage of our Apportionments every year.

Also, you the congregation have been very generous in giving in-kind donations, including:

- Food for Denver Urban Ministries. We give special thanks for the great food drive in July!
- Clothing for Denver Urban Ministries
- Soup for Interfaith Community Services
- Baby items for Shannon’s Hope
- Clothing for children in El Salvador
- Burritos and Christmas offerings for missions!
- About 200 gifts for the Giving Trees for Interfaith Community Services families and Urban Peak youth.

Special thanks to all the many volunteers who delivered the in-kind donations to the right place! Wow! In my next installment, I will give a report on St. Luke’s seven 2006 mission trips and special mission projects in which you participated!
**CHRISS CONNER**

**Compassion**

(Hey, I got some new shoes on, and everything seems all right)

Matthew 14:14 – “And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion towards them, and healed their sick.”

**Compassion** (oft-used n) – A sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it. (Thanks Merriam-Webster! What does that mean?)

Just turn on your radio (or yourube.com), and see if you can’t find the new song by Paolo Nutini. See what trying on a pair of shoes will do for you.

If you are not one to try on new shoes too quickly, you could ask one of the 40 fortunate servants going to Guatemala, or one of the 40 passionate builders going to Mississippi, them what their new shoes feel like after they get back to Colorado! We have 80 participants from St. Luke’s, Littleton UMC, and Boulder partnering to serve others over Spring Break, and there is no way to experience compassion quite like giving yourself completely to others on a mission experience, it really puts you into a new pair of shoes and let’s you walk around to get someone else’s perspective.

These trips will return by the beginning of April, so check in with them to see what compassion feels like! It just might inspire you to try something new. Try on some new shoes, walk around for a bit, and see how it makes you feel!

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**2007 Up With Youth: A retreat for Sr. high youth from April 13-15. Registrations are now available.**

**Summer Mission Trips**

Applications will be available by the end of the month.

• Sr. High to Maine from June 17-20
• Jr. High to Wyoming from July 14-20

**Graduate Sunday comes up in May! We need kindergarten pictures of all our graduating seniors. Please bring them by or mail them to Chris’ Office.**

**Dinner & God’s Favorite Purchase dinner tickets for the March 17 show of God’s Favorite and help raise building supply money for the Mississippi Spring Break Work Team.**

**Easter Sunrise Service** at Redstone Park 6:00am April 8. Lead by St. Luke’s & St. Andrew Youth. Come and experience a fun and unique way to celebrate Easter.

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**THE SPIRIT OF ST. LUKE’S**

**More from Les:**

**Giving to Fulfill a Mission**


Church growth guru, Herb Miller, reminds us that we extend our personalities in several ways: how we spend our time, the people we associate with, how we raise our kids.

But one of the most powerful means by which we express who we are is through the ways we use money. Major credit card companies and retailers have known this for a long time. Through money we choose the kind of car we drive, the place we live, what we do for recreation. Money is an expression of our priorities in living.

Neither the Bible nor Jesus disparages money or wealth. Money in itself is not viewed as evil. By itself, money is an amoral force like electricity, which can light a church or can power an illicit laboratory for drug manufacturing.

Our use of our money is another matter, we can do great good, we can do wasteful. We can be humanitarian or we can be selfish. The choice is ours.

Our giving to the church is a powerful expression of our faith and a part of our ministry to those around us. It allows us to reach beyond ourselves to help make lives better for others, it makes us partners with God. Since churches are led by human beings, they can succumb to the temptation to focus on getting money to run the budget rather than focusing on the full meaning of stewardship and the integral part of giving to support the kingdom of God plays in our lives as Christians.

Our Capital Campaign is in the final planning phases right now.

As we participate by pledging to this campaign, we will be focusing on what it takes to prepare ourselves, and our facility, for the future. To fulfill our vision of being Invitational, Relational and Missional for those who may encounter and serve in the future, we must make commitments now. By doing this we will keep this vision alive and meaningful.

May we express our faith and confidence in the future by participating in this campaign. Our commitment to the Capital Campaign is not merely commitment to a specific dollar amount, but a commitment to growing this church’s capability to reach out in ministry and teaching and service.

God bless this church, God bless us all! – Rev. Les

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**The Purpose of United Methodist Women:**

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to associate with, how we raise our kids.

The catalyst in the final planning phases right now.

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**GET TO KNOW ST. LUKE’S**

**NEW! Orientation of St. Luke’s**

Come explore St. Luke’s on the second and fourth Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and meet some new friends to explore all that St. Luke’s has for your spiritual journey. During this 45 minute orientation, we will discuss the ministry programs, fellowship opportunities, and the mission and vision of our church. Along with the information, we will answer any questions you may have. Contact Lynda Fickling our Director of Volunteer Ministry 303-791-6559 x20 or email lyndaf@stlukeshr.com.

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**March 2007**

3/4 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am

- Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
- SLY PM 6:30-8pm

3/7 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm

11 – Jr. High Youth Quest Retreat
3/11 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am

- Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
- SLY PM 6:30-8pm

3/14 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm

3/14 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am

- Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
- SLY PM District Worship @ Grace UMC 6:30pm

3/21 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm

3/25 – Spring Break Mission Trips to Mississippi & Guatemala

3/27 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am

- Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
- SLY PM 6:30pm

4/24 – No SLAM (Spring Break)

4/1 – Palm Sunday

- Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am

- Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
- SLY PM 6:30pm

4/6 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm

18 – Easter No SLY AM or PM

4/13-15 – Sr. High Up With Youth Retreat

April 2007

4/1 – Palm Sunday

- Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am

- Bible Boot 9:30am (7-12 Grades)
- SLY PM 6:30pm

4/6 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm

4/9-11 – Jr. High Youth Quest Retreat

9:00am-5:00pm.

Friday, August 24th, lunch then 1:30pm start at Fossil Trace Golf Club. New Volunteers on the St. Luke’s Golf Committee are needed. Please contact Dean Conklin at dean@stlukeshr.com or 720-987-6745.

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Come explore St. Luke’s on the second and fourth Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and meet some new friends to explore all that St. Luke’s has for your spiritual journey. During this 45 minute orientation, we will discuss the ministry programs, fellowship opportunities, and the mission and vision of our church. Along with the information, we will answer any questions you may have. Contact Lynda Fickling our Director of Volunteer Ministry 303-791-6559 x20 or email lyndaf@stlukeshr.com.

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**Save the Date for the 3rd Annual St. Luke’s Invitational Golf Tournament:** Friday, August 24th, lunch then 1:30pm start at Fossil Trace Golf Club. New Volunteers on the St. Luke’s Golf Committee are needed. Please contact Dean Conklin at dean@stlukeshr.com or 720-987-6745.
Sunday Worship Services:
8:00am; 9:30am & 11:00am

Sunday School:
Adult, Youth & Children
9:30am & 11:00am
Nursery available for all services.

Church Office: 303-794-0659
Fax: 303-470-5622
St. Luke’s Church
303-794-0659

Barry Curtis......................x39
Susan Johnson...................x19
Rev. Janet Forbes...............x13
Jenita Rhodes....................x27
Kay Swanson........................
Kristina Linn...................x40
Bonnie Funk....................x10
Kay Coryell......................x43

Jenita Rhodes is the Director of Children’s Ministry.

Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle©stlukeshr.com

The Season of Lent at St. Luke’s

Dr. John H. Witte, Jr.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Barry Curtis

Senior Pastor

The ROAD WHERE FAITH IS FOUND: From Nomads to Pilgrims

Noah is the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. He was a man who knew much suffering. His family had been nomads, but Noah found a way for his family to find a new home. One day, while he was swimming in the river, he realized that he needed to find a safe place to live. He built an ark, a large boat, and started to fill it with animals and his family. He sailed away into the ocean, and the waters rose and flooded the earth. The ark was the only thing that kept him safe. After 40 days, the waters receded, and Noah stepped out onto the land. He realized that he had been given a new home, but he also knew that he had to be careful about how he used his new resources. From that moment on, Noah taught his family to build a community and to live peacefully with one another. He showed them the importance of faith and the power of hope. Noah’s story reminds us that faith is not just a matter of beliefs, but it is about living a life of purpose and integrity. Noah’s legacy is a reminder that faith can guide us through both the good and the bad times of our lives. Noah’s story is a testament to the power of faith and the importance of community. We are called to be Noahs, to build our own communities, and to live with purpose and integrity. We are called to be peacemakers, to seek understanding and to work towards a better world. We are called to be faithful to our beliefs and to live our lives with integrity. Noah’s story is a reminder of the power of faith and the importance of community. We are called to be Noahs, to build our own communities, and to live with purpose and integrity. We are called to be peacemakers, to seek understanding and to work towards a better world. We are called to be faithful to our beliefs and to live our lives with integrity. We are called to be Noahs, to build our own communities, and to live with purpose and integrity. We are called to be peacemakers, to seek understanding and to work towards a better world. We are called to be faithful to our beliefs and to live our lives with integrity. We are called to be Noahs, to build our own communities, and to live with purpose and integrity. We are called to be peacemakers, to seek understanding and to work towards a better world. We are called to be faithful to our beliefs and to live our lives with integrity. We are called to be Noahs, to build our own communities, and to live with purpose and integrity. We are called to be peacemakers, to seek understanding and to work towards a better world. We are called to be faithful to our beliefs and to live our lives with integrity.

Dave Cupp

Director of Finance

FINANCIAL UPDATE

How Bad has the Snow Hurt our Finances?
It’s impossible to be sure but here are some possibilities:

• We know our attendance was affected to some unknown extent because of our restricted parking due to the snow accumulations. We know that some of you drove through the parking areas and left because there were no available spaces.

• We know our collections were down about $15,000 for January and they were less than we normally receive on Christmas Eve. It’s unknown how much of this can be directly attributed to the snow but no doubt the very unusual weather factor.

• We know we spent $5,000 for snow removal at the end of December and another $3,900 in January. Also, we know that wasn’t enough since we still had restricted parking. This spending is approximately $6,000 more than we planned to spend during December and January even though we had $15,000 in the January budget for snow removal.

• We know we did better than some of the other inter-city churches that depends heavily on street parking. The newspapers reported the dilemma those churches faced and the budget problems it created for them.

• We know that we owe a big THANK YOU to LeRoy Butler and his crew for volunteering their time and equipment to finish getting all of our parking back. They spent a full day and part of the day.

GIVING TO THE CHURCH THROUGH YOUR IRA.

Those who put cash in the offering plates take notice. There is a new tax law for givers who use cash donation as tax deductions. Beginning in 2007, to deduct any charitable donation of money, a taxpayer must have a bank record or a written communication from the charity showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. A bank record includes canceled checks, bank or credit union statements and credit card statements.

Donations of money include those made in cash or check, electronic funds transfer, credit card, and payroll deduction. Prior law allowed taxpayers to back up their donation of money with personal bank registers, diaries or notes made around the time of the donation. Those types of records are no longer sufficient. We have always gone beyond the requirement of issuing a giving statement only to those who make a one time donation of $250 or more. We record all donations that are identifiable and provide a written giving record to the donor reflecting those gifts. Identifiable means we receive the money in a manner that allows us to know who is giving the money and what is being given. I.e., EFT, church provided envelopes with the donor’s name and the amount written on them legitimately, etc.

We encourage you to use the envelopes you can find at the back of the sanctuary or in the fellowship pouch for your cash donations. And, please make sure the donor’s name (first and last) and the amount of the gift on the envelope.

Electronic Funds Transfer Program (EFT)

Don’t forget that you get a free $25 certificate if you sign up for the grocery certificate EFT program. See the bulletin announcements about our free certificate program for details.

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KEEPPING OUR CHURCH HOME SAFE AND CLEAN

We welcome Barry Curtis to the St. Luke’s staff team as our Facilities Manager. Barry and Linda Curtis are the new Executive Team members for the myriad of collection of cleaning products stored at the church and make these requests for keeping our church home clean and safe.

1. All chemicals and cleaning supplies will be kept in the locked custodian’s closet off the Goliat area. Cleaning kits for use by the congregation will be easily accessible throughout the church so that we can participate in keeping our church clean. The vacuum and brooms will continue to be stored in the Missions closet off the lobby.

2. All restroom supplies will be kept in the closet across from the Bathrooms.

3. All product requests should go through Barry Curtis or Bonnie Funk in the church office. Please do not purchase chemicals or bring them from home.

4. No food or drink is allowed in the sanctuary, except water. Help us to keep our sacred space free of coffee, food, and junk food.

Thank you for your support. It is our hope to minimize the duplication of products, stay within budgetary guidelines, and eliminate hazardous chemicals.

Your Input Wanted!

As the Trustees organization contemplates the changes supported by the capital campaign, we’d like to reach out to everyone and thank you in advance for your input as choices are offered and we move forward with our building improvements. We want to make sure we’re doing the best financial stewards for our church home and your input helps us to make that possible.

By the same token, just as we find with our home decisions, many hands make great work. Many of the items on our refreshment list may be right up your alley—in that case, having your expertise or that of trusted resources will make all of the difference in the world. We’re biased towards balancing good value with ownership by the people doing the work and we know our members and constituents share that value with us.

Your contributions of volunterism are most welcome as well—for example, LeRoy Butler recently coordinated the removal of snow so our parking lot is more accessible—what a difference he made for so many of us.

Please send your input, recommendations and offers of support via notes to the office marked TRUSTEES or via email to klong@stl.net. Thank you for being a difference maker in helping us to make the most of your contributions as we work together to improve St. Luke’s!

The Chronicle: March 15th

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

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
303-791-0659 • stlukeshr.com

**MARCH 2007 CALENDAR**

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- **March 16, 17 @ 7:00pm & March 18 @ 5:00pm**
  - The story of the book of Job is modernized into a comedy by Neil Simon and proves to be a wonderful and entertaining evening for nearly any age. Make plans now to see this great story of the bible set in New York. You won't want to miss this great performance by our very own Wesley Majors. The performance is free, however, donations will be accepted to benefit the St. Luke's Missions program. A pre-show southern dinner will be served on Saturday at 5:30pm. Tickets for the dinner are $35 and benefit the Youth Missions Team trip to Mississippi.

**THE ROAD WHERE FAITH IS FOUND**

The Season of Lent at St. Luke's

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN CLASSES**

- **Friday, March 16** - 7:00pm
  - “The Questions Job Asks” by Betsy Keyack
  - 60 Tales of Proverbs

**DINNER DANCE**

- **Saturday, March 10** - 6:00pm
  - Guatemalan Mission Trip
  - Guatemalan Mission Trip

**4th SUNDAY OF LENT**

- **Sunday, March 18** - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
  - “Partners and Pigeons” by Rev. Janet Forbes
  - featuring music by the 80-voice Kansas Wesleyan Choir and our own Chancel Choir

**EASTER FUN DAY**

- **Saturday, March 31** - 10:00am-noon
  - Join the fun! Easter eggs, carnival games and, of course, the Easter Bunny!

**PALM SUNDAY SERVICES**

- **Sunday, April 1** - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
  - “A Tale of Two Prophets” by Rev. Janet Forbes
  - featuring music by the Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble

**SPORTS**

- **Saturday, April 7** - 7:00pm
  - A Tindarsa Services of Darkness featuring the Chancel Choir and readings that reflect upon the last words of Jesus and his final act of compassion.

**EASTER SERVICES**

- **Sunday, April 8**
  - **8:00am** - Sunrise Service
  - **9:00am** - 10:00am
  - featuring music by the Chancel Choir, Handbells, Brass and Organ

- **9:30am** - 11:00am
  - featuring music by the Children's Choir, Chancel Choir, Brass and Organ

**Thank You**

Thank you to the LITTLETON, CO NON-PROFIT PERMIT #7

**Inside This Issue:**

- More from Les
- Called to Serve
- Servant Education
- Financial Update
- and much more!