The CHRONICLE
St. Luke’s United Methodist Church
8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

November 2007

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Candlelight Dinner
Tuesday Dec. 4!

The United Methodist Church is presenting the Women’s Candlelight dinner Tuesday, Dec. 4.

The United Methodist Church welcomes you to our Christian family, where we share life. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually.

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

The purple prayer bracelets are back!

Everyone is invited to wear the bracelets as a reminder of our commitment to our church community and its future, and the positive effect we have on others locally and around the world. St. Luke’s is embarking on our “Hearts for Ministry” stewardship campaign and the bracelets are part of this special three-week emphasis focusing on St. Luke’s ministries. You make a difference in the lives of people throughout the year as you worship God with your tithes and offerings. Begin to pray now that God will show you how you can share in “Hearts for Ministry” for others to know and experience God’s forgiveness, grace and love. Through prayer and discernment, seek to answer the question, “What shall I render to the Lord for all these benefits toward me?” –Psalm 116:12.

Take time to consider the Hearts for Ministry prayer card and the St. Luke’s VISION pamphlet. Think about what makes St. Luke’s special and what your favorite things are and the St. Luke’s VISION pamphlet. Think about what makes St. Luke’s special and what your favorite things are about St. Luke’s. From recent surveys, we’ve heard a wide variety of responses to that question: “Just our sermon,” “my Disciple class,” “the music,” “the people,” “the warmth and welcome,” “my Sunday school class,” “the opportunities,” “kids’ fellowship,” “education,” “The Music Man and the Wesley Players,” “inclusiveness,” “SLY!”, “family fellowship,” “The new FUSION service”, and more! As we move forward together, let us pray and build our future together. Join us for worship and brunch on November 18th for Celebration Sunday.

GROWING OUR HEARTS FOR MINISTRY – PLANS FOR 2008
St. Luke’s will celebrate our Hearts for Ministry in 2008. We continue to grow our ministries with attention to the wise use of our gifts and God’s bounty. Let us join in prayer for these opportunities to grow in faithfulness and future.

- The largest single request for 2008 comes from Staff Parish Relations in support of our gifted staff. The Bold Venture capital campaign allowed us to fund the first year of a full-time Associate Minister serving ministry development (small group ministry), adult education, men’s ministries, and young adult ministries.
 - In 2008, we will assume one-half of that portfolio in the operating budget. After no raises in 2007, SPRC is committed to honoring our staff for their excellence.

- We plan to continue increasing our growth toward wider mission giving by 3%. We currently meet only half of our apportionments to the United Methodist Church.

- The Board of Trustees are projecting increases in the cost of utilities and snow removal.

Hearts for Ministry
Celebrating St. Luke’s–Planning Our Future

Hearts for Ministry: Celebration Sunday & Church Conference
Sunday Dec. 1! The United Methodist Church Conference will be held on Sunday, Dec. 1.

The annual St. Luke’s Church Conference is scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 28, at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. Rev. Olson Lindemann, Mile High-Pikes Peak District Superintendent, will be present to preside. We will review the Bold Venture building plans, review membership statistics, elect leadership, approve the pastoral compensations, and receive candidates for the ordained ministry. All members of St. Luke’s have voice and vote at this annual business session.

ST. LUKE’S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
St. Luke’s United Methodist Church welcomes you to our Christian family, where we share life. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually.

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

The CHRONICLE
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 cooks us dinner. After washing up, we storm the kitchen and dash 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 awkward 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 mother 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 stick. It is a part of our family formation.

We express gratitude in lots of ways. Sometimes our giving is directed toward others. We place ourselves over life in an arrogant way. G.K. Chesterton, when asked to write a 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 our condescending, despair, grief, and confusion.

Thanksgiving assumes a “receiving” rather than a “taking” posture to life. It extends hands wide open to our fellowman. 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 our condescending, despair, grief, and confusion. Thanksgiving is a joyful celebration of life! We express gratitude in lots of ways. Sometimes our giving is directed toward others.

Thanksgiving takes a curious turn when it is put in the Christian context. The author of the Epistle of James (5:14-18) says, “And let youraleza. Whether you are old or young, everyone is invited to share a meal. This is true not only for the new folks to St. Luke’s...we invite all that are seeking to get “Connected” to join us! Contact Lynda Fickling or Director of Servant Ministry 303-791-6569 x20 or email lyndafickling@stlukeshr.com.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Orientation of St. Luke’s

December 9 or 23

Come Explore St. Luke’s on the second or fourth Sunday of the month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and meet some new friends. Then explore all that St. Luke’s has for your spiritual journey. During this orientation, you will discover the many ministry programs, fellowship opportunities, and the mission and vision of our church. This is not true for the new folks to St. Luke’s...we invite all that are seeking to get “Connected” to join us! Contact Lynda Fickling or Director of Servant Ministry 303-791-6569 x20 or email lyndafickling@stlukeshr.com.

Help Send the Staff to School!

Breakfast Fundraiser on Dec. 2

The St. Luke’s staff is planning to study together at the Large Church Initiative Conference, “Making a World of Difference,” hosted by St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Orlando, Florida, January 24-28, 2008. Located close to the Disney and Universal Studio attractions, St. Luke’s (Orlando) vibrates with creative ministry and music and structural departments and the appropriate performance academy for all ages, extensive ministries with children and youth and adults that focus on spiritual formation, music and drama ministries, capital campaign projects, a second-campus new church start, and worldwide missional presence. Our staff will engage in peer learning with the staff of St. Luke’s and 600 other participants representing 150 churches across the country.

You can help send the staff to school by participating in their fund-raising breakfast on the morning of the Jubilee Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 2. Our operating budget has very limited funds for professional staff development. Help make this once-in-a-lifetime learning and community building opportunity a reality!

2008 Revolve Tour Register NOW!

The Revolve Tour is February 15-16 at the Denver Coliseum. It’s a weekend (Friday evening-Saturday) event for teen girls from Women of Faith. It’s fun, fast, action-packed time where thousands of teens get inspired at midnight mass and a chance to worship and love their Walk of Life T shirt. We love them. Come hear dynamic speakers and fabulous music and experience faith fellowship. To get the early bird group discount, register complete before Dec 15th. Pick up an information sheet by the youth room or contact Susan for details (or contact at x19 or Susan@stlukeshr.com) and don’t miss this amazing event!

F I N A N C I A L U P D A T E

Have You Started Your Financial Planning For The Year End?

Shame on me for not starting that long ago. Yes, we are all busy people trying to balance our lives and our priorities, but it is too late to start now. Here are my top ten reasons to consider:

1. You may want to pay the remainder of your pledges to the general fund and the capital campaign fund by transferring securities to the church and taking the advantages of the tax benefits of doing that. You could include your future year(s) of pledges in the one transfer. The amounts for the future year(s) would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate period and not charged in the next year. At this time period. Just mark your checks accordingly.

2. You may want to consider paying your future pledges. The amounts for the future would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate time period. Just mark your checks accordingly.

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CHRIS’S CORNER
November to Remember

So, October was super-busy!

Between the Pumpkin Patch, Fall Festivals, Snow, Fall Breaks, The Music Makers performances, and the rest of the SLY Life we were running around like crazy. And now of course, you go shopping and it seems like the world has already moved on to the Christmas season. With us looking toward the gifts and giving of December, it’s easy to leave November out of our minds as kind of a “gap filler month.”

So what can you do to make this November one to remember? Well, here at church you can come on the NUTS Retreat in the middle of the month. In the community, how about donating time at a shelter or soup kitchen? Could you help the less fortunate have a Thanksgiving meal? At home, you can take some time to make life easier for the rest of your family. Help a sibling with their homework (or even chores if you’re feeling ambitious!), help your parents cook some meals (Thanksgiving anyone!?) or clean up around the house, maybe take some extra time with your pets to make sure they know you love them. Tell someone in your life just how important they are to you!

The months that aren’t jam-packed in your personal life are just as important (if not more so) as the ones where you run your self ragged. You can recharge your own batteries, and pay attention to the things you really think are important.

Take some time this November to appreciate yourself and those that you care about. It can turn into a month where you give and show thanks for all that you have and all those love you because you aren’t sooo busy with a ton of special activities. Jesus had it right in Matthew 6:34 - “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today. Appreciate today because it gives you every opportunity to catch up to life, show your family you love them, and center yourself for the adventures and busy times ahead!”

—Peace & Love, Chris

* College Care Pack: SLY will be packing finals week care packages to send to our college age youth on Dec 2. We need volunteers to bake cookies and bring in old shoe-boxes to SLY on 12/2. If you can do either, please contact chris@stlukes4.org

* NUTS Fall Retreat: We are taking last minute adds to the retreat if you’d still like to come. Contact Chris or Susan ASAP to get added for the retreat (Nov 16-18)

* Thank You to everyone who bought pumpkins, and to those who worked the Pumpkin Patch and put on the Haunted House at Warren Village. You work is both made visible, and you helped us raise over $15,000 for youth missions.

* Confirmation registration materials are now available. Classes begin Jan 27 & run January-April at 1:15pm on Sundays for 8th graders up. Deadline to register is Jan 13.
We are Called to Serve

Visit www.stlukeshr.com and take the mini-assessment under Serve then contact Lynda Fickling lyndaluke@stlukeshr.com who will walk you through the process of applying your gifts to serving in the world!

Acolytes Contact: Jentia Rhodes 303-791-0659x27 jentia@stlukeshr.com

P R A Y E R  C O N C E R N S

Fr. August Beitman, Oct. 29

To remove someone from the prayer chain, contact Bonnie Berardi 303-791-0659 x10 or Bonnie@stlukeshr.com

Grief Support Group

Holidays lived in the absence of someone dear can be very difficult times. Customary routines are adjusted, some never to be repeated in quite the same way. Easy-going laughter, once so natural, may become awkward or even altogether missing. Grief-giving, once so filled with fun, may seem somehow empty and sad. Familiar songs, once so comforting, may catch in your throat or bring tears to your eyes. Significant loss, rather to death, divorce, or estrangement, brings about many changes in life and how we go about functioning during the holiday season. People who are grieving have many questions: How can I make it through all the events of the holidays while missing so desperately the one I love? Would I be better off to ignore the holidays this year? Should I act as if everything were normal? Should I make major changes in my holiday ritual? If you are grieving a loss, this Grief Support Group is for you. If you have questions about how to go about this holiday season in the midst of grief, this group is for you. If you have experienced loss in the past, and have suggestions for others coping with “first” holidays, this group is for you.

When: Tuesdays from 5:15-6:30 pm

November 13, 20, 27 & December 11 (A Service of Remembrance)
Where: Classroom B
Facilitator: Pam Rowley, please register with Pam at x32.
Child care will be available for 6h bev. advance reservations.

Grief Support Group:
- Holiday gatherings
- Gift giving
- Ongoing routines
- Acknowledgement of loss
- Emotional Support

All proceeds from Nov. 15 Jazz Benefit Concert will go to the Nuba Water Project.

St. Luke’s 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, friends and others on their shopping list. They can avoid mall shopping and get gifts at discounted prices ranging from $1.00-$7.00. Adult volunteers will help children with shopping and will wrap their gifts while they wait. The shop will be open on December 1 and 2, 9:00am -1:00pm.

Adult volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday, November 30 from 9:00am-noon and to help during the shop on both Saturday and Sunday. Shifts on Saturday, December 1 will be from 8:30-11:00am and 11:00am-2:00pm. Volunteers are also needed on Sunday, with shifts being 8:30-10:00am, 10:00-11:30am and 11:30-1:00pm. If you would like to volunteer, you must sign up in the Narthex between services beginning November 4 or call Any Antinoro at (303)663-6656.

Children’s Holiday Shop:
- Christmas shopping experience
- Voluntary support
- Discounted prices
- Volunteer opportunities

Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up during the Ministry Fair. If you are one of those wonderful people, you will be contacted to arrange specific times for volunteering, or you may visit the table in the Narthex in November.

Donations needed:
- Gift items to add to the shop (new items please)
- Wrapping supplies, especially tape and gift boxes

Donations may be dropped off in boxes marked Holiday Shop located in the Narthex or volunteering, or you may visit the table in the Narthex in November.

All proceeds from Nov. 15 Jazz Benefit Concert will go to the Nuba Water Project.

For more information, contact Steve Riley, a member of St. Luke’s or to go to our www.nubawaterproject.org. Are you wondering what Nuba is? The Nuba Water Project is a non-profit organization committed to bringing a better life to the people of the Nuba Mountain region of Sudan. By providing an adequate supply or water, especially ponds available, Nuba will improve the health care and sanitation of the area and will open the doorway to economic and social development for the Nuba people.

St. Luke’s Annual Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 2 at 9:00 and 11:00am

Come and hear the Music Ministry usher in the Christmas Season with this yearly favorite!


Jazz Benefit Concert

Thursday, November 15

Jazz at St. Luke’s Benefit Concert 6:30pm

featuring the CU Jazz Ensemble I with Dr. John Davis and the Ministers of Swing and the St. Luke’s Youth Jazz Orchestra. A Suggested Donation: $10

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Proceeds made through the Holiday Shop will go towards scholarships and volunteer lunches for Vacation Bible School, 2008.

Please call Any Antinoro if you have any questions. (303)663-6656.

Jazz Benefit Concert:
- CU Jazz Ensemble I
- Dr. John Davis
- Ministers of Swing
- St. Luke’s Youth Jazz Orchestra

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Please call Any Antinoro if you have any questions. (303)663-6656.
WELCOME
New Members: October 2007

Michele Cost-Phair (husband Carl) Alexander, Rachel
John & Kristi Dale Mats, Kaia
Adam & Jackie Hutzel “I love our new home”
Adam & Megan Snyder “We were looking for a church with a warm sense of community and an open mind. We found just what we were looking for at St. Luke’s!”
Zara Kruka Vargues (in picture with parents at left) “I want to learn more about God and when I came here Rev. Brad made me feel like an equal”
Bob von Normann & Mercedes McClure “We live close by and were looking for a church close to home. We felt at home here.”

St. Luke’s 25th Anniversary Speaker’s Series: Building Strong Families with Jonathan Sherman

The first in our series of speaker events was held Nov. 9 & 10th at St. Luke’s in the Fellowship Hall. Over 70 people came out to hear Jonathan Sherman, a sought after speaker and licensed marriage and family therapist, talk about Building Strong Families with ACCCTS. Rev. Marla Kauerz, who has much experience bringing about these types of events and is working as a consultant with St. Luke’s, helped organize the 2-day event which will be one of several held during our 25th Anniversary year. St. Luke’s is bringing the experts to you!

“We all know that building a strong family in today’s world is perhaps more challenging than ever before. Jonathan Sherman’s class was things many all at once: interesting, amusing, educational, and perhaps most of all just reassuring that we are not alone and that there are tools and resources available to help. We’re so happy to have attended and believe it was a day well-spent. Thank you.” –Nancy & Matthew Martinucci

November & December Missions: Fill Santa’s Bag!
Christmas is just around the corner and Santa need your help! Generous members of St. Luke’s have always shared with children and families less fortunate by taking “wisher” off of THE GIVING TREE. We have approximately 120 names of children, teens and adults who would love a gift to open Christmas morning. Giving to others can be as rewarding for you as it is for the one receiving.

URBAN PEAKS
Young people being given a hand up through URBAN PEAKS also have their names on THE GIVING TREE. Share your Christmas and help a troubled teen.

MILK FOR GUATEMALA
For only $2, you can provide a month’s supply of milk for an entire family. Look for the MILK FOR GUATEMALA tree in the narthex.

THE HEIFER PROJECT
Want the perfect, unique gift for Aunt Besie or Cousin Earl? Visit the HEIFER PROJECT, and give a llama, pig, ducks or other animals, in their name, to help families in poor countries all over the globe.

Want more information? Contact Jan Ruffin at jruffin@comcast.net

MISSIONS

More from Les: Self-Fulfilling Prophesies
An older couple were sitting on a bench, outside the Alaska Railroad station in downtown Anchorage, waiting to board the train to Denali National Park and Mr. McKinley.

A typical Alaskan summer rain was falling, not heavy enough to really soak you if you kept moving but just cold enough to make you uncomfortable if you didn’t have warm clothing. The Chugach mountain peaks were dappled with light where the clouds were broken, the snowy peaks, were just whitened with what locals call “Termination Dust.” (The first snow of the season and time for summer workers to get passage back to Seattle.)

The conversation between them was loaded enough that just about anyone standing nearby could hear.

“Why you ever suggested we come to this god-awful place is beyond me!”

“My suggestion was the one who said we needed to get out of the heat and humidity!”

“You were the one who wanted to get some fishing and sightseeing!”

“I never wanted to come in the first place!”

“It’s been cloudy the whole trip, we haven’t seen a thing.”

“I just know we wouldn’t enjoy this cruise!”

“Well, now’s a fine time to tell me!”

“We could have made reservations to go to Mexico or Hawaii!”

--Betsy Keyack

Self-Fulfilling Prophesies
Distances are long between stopping places, the weather, particularly in August and September, can be alternately warm and cloudy or cold and rainy, with some snow occasionally mixed in.

If you go the state with a sense of adventure, with an expectation that you will have a good time no matter what comes, and with a willingness to adjust with the weather changes and other circumstances, you will have a good time. But if you go expecting trouble, you will have plenty of opportunities to have those expectations fulfilled.

There is in this a profound truth about life.

As Dr. Roy Smith puts it, “Life usually comes out to meet us in about the form we expect it. We usually find what we look for.”

Maybe that was what Jesus meant when he said, “seek and ye shall find.”

If we start out in the morning confident that something bad will happen, chances are that we shall and the day quite satisfied that we have met disasters aplenty, self-fulfilling prophesies!

On the other hand, if we start out assuming ourselves that all is going to go well, the majority of the day is apt to fit pretty well into that pattern.

Life has a way of rewarding us with the things we expect, for our expectations become the lenses through which we look at life. These lenses determine what we perceive.

Will Rogers exhibited this attitude with his famous quip, “I never met a man I didn’t like!” He also said “There is no bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.”

Face a thunderstorm or a blizzard with that attitude and you will discover beauty in it. Face it with fear and its threat increases.

There’s an old, simple poem:

Twist the optimist and pessimist
The difference is droll, the optimist sees the doughnut,
And the pessimist the hole.

Life has its fair share of holes, and it also offers a good many doughnuts.

We cannot control the things that may happen to us, but we can control how we respond.

Don’t let your reaction to the irritating stuff blind you to the glorious stuff right beside you!

God Bless Us All – Rev. Les
**CALENDAR**

**Sat., Nov. 17**
Discovery Club, Register Program for Special Needs Children and their siblings.

**Sat., Nov. 24**
Hanging of the Greens 9:00-11:00am

**Sun., Nov. 25**
PEAK Adventures 3rd Rotation – Advent: In the Manger.
Tree Lighting 6:00-7:00pm

**Sun., Dec. 2**
PEAK Jr. 5th & 6th Grade Fellowship
6:00-8:00pm Christmas Celebration

**Sun., Dec. 9**
Candy Cane Sunday in Children's Sunday School
9:00-11:00am

**Sun., Dec. 15**
Discovery Club, Register Program for Special Needs Children and siblings.

**Sun., Dec. 16**
God's Country Program
12:15-1:30pm

**Sun., Dec. 23**
Regular Worship and Sunday School Children's Christmas Pageant

**Mon., Dec. 24**
Christmas Eve Services: 1:00 & 3:00 (Children's; 5:00; 7:00 & 10:00

**Tues., Dec. 25**
Merry Christmas!

**Sun., Dec. 30**
Regular Worship times
No Sunday School
Nursery at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**Tues., Jan. 1**
Happy New Year!

**Sun., Jan. 6**
Epiphany Sunday
No Sunday School
Nursery at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**Sun., Jan. 13**
PEAK Adventures 4th Rotation – Bible Knowledge, The Beatitude

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**Ministries**

**Director of Children’s Ministries**

Lynn Butler

**Director of Children’s Ministries**

Lynne Butler

**Ministries Director**

Lynne Butler

**Children’s Ministries**

**Sly 5th & 6th Grade Fellowship**

- November 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 Sly Jr. explored the Buddhist traditions of living and worshipping. After our dinner, we will be acting out a short script, creating a bird feeder, doing a few “team” games and even have a few moments of meditation. All the activities will help us better understand the beliefs of the Buddhist community. On December 2 we will celebrate Kouzan! Adult volunteers are needed to support our group by providing the meal and being in relationship with our children as they learn to appreciate worship traditions that are different from those we know at St. Luke’s. To volunteer, please contact Lynne Butler.

**Children’s Hanging of the Greens**

- Saturday, Nov. 24 - 9:00-11:00am in Golda’s

- While adults are involved with the decorating of the church’s main floor, our children will be happily involved with decorating the Elementary/Youth Sunday School area downstairs. They will have an opportunity to make an ornament for one of the many trees that will be decorating our church. Complete a life-sized nativity scene, enjoy a snack and watch a Christmas movie. Please come and share the first event of the Advent Season with your children. For more information, please contact Lynne or Jenita at the church office.

**Tree Lighting Ceremony**

- Sunday, Nov. 25 at 6:00pm

- Join the fun as we begin the Christmas Season at St. Luke’s. We will gather in the Sanctuary to sing Christmas carols, listen to a few of St. Luke’s amazing musical groups including the Cherubs Choir before we light the Christmas Trees decorating the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Our celebration will continue with fellowship, cookies and punch. We ask each family to bring a generous plate of cookies to share.

**St. Luke’s offers Respite program for parents through Discovery Club**

- Saturday, October 20

- 9:00am & 10:30am

- Provides a safe caring and fun environment for pre-registration is required by contacting Nancy at 303-233-1666 x237 or nhason@stlukescolorado.org. There is a minimal fee for each child.

- St. Luke’s supports Discovery Club by providing the facilities and extra volunteer help. You can volunteer for one or all sessions by contacting Nancy or Jenita.

- Please bring a generous plate of cookies to share.

**Children’s Christmas Pageant**

- This year’s Christmas pageant, “Christmas with the Star” is Sunday, December 23rd. All first- through sixth-graders are invited to participate. Practices begin Sunday, November 4. For more information, call Linda Walker at 303-470-6145 or contact Jenita.

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**LITTLE SCHOOL**

**We Give Thanks to God**

Little School will spend the month of November celebrating all the blessings that God has given us! The classrooms will be learning about our heritage and the month will be topped off with our annual “Thanksgiving Feast” (Nov. 19, 20) with turkey and all the trimmings! This is always a very special event and the children and staff will have a ball of the great food! Little School will be closed from Nov. 21-25 to celebrate the holiday with our families.

This year our school is learning about the “Children’s Ten Commandments”. In September we talked about “Thank God For Our Heritage” and in October we talked about “The Kind In Everything You Do Say And Do” and this month we will be “Sharing Things Cheerfully”. These commandments are helping the children learn how to be godly children in a simpler more child-friendly way. Jacque our chef is always in charge of making learning very fun!!

Please remember that we are collecting leftover Halloween candy the first week of November for our AIDS project and starting in December we will be collecting “UNIDES” and items for refugee children who attend Whiteman Elementary School in Denver. St. Luke’s proudly supports this school and the children are in need of many things. We want to help them have a wonderful Christmas just like you and teach our children the gift of sharing!

As always, you are welcome at our Little School to help out in the classrooms, read stories or do art projects! Just come in at the main office of the school.

**Thanksgiving Blessings from all of us at Little School!**

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**CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES**

**Third Grade Children Receive Bibles**

- October 14, 2007 – 9:30 & 11:00 Services

At St. Luke’s we value the children of our community and welcome any opportunity to help in their knowledge of the teachings of Christ and to enrich their spiritual journeys.

As part of this commitment, it is a tradition to present all third grade students in our church with a Bible. It is our hope that these Bibles will always hold a special meaning and be used for study or to come.

The following children were presented Bibles this past October:

- Reid Becker
- Alyssa Brown
- Christian Butler
- Justine Cunningham
- Jakob Fletcher
- Spencer Harned
- Samantha Hooke
- Ben Hurst
- Kristina Linn
- Emily Kinney
- Anthony Lorenzo
- Heidi Markel
- Joshua Merchant
- Jenna Nolder
- Christoph Raup
- James Sawyer
- McKay Smith
- Ransom Tyson
- Eric Wild

Without the support of our members and constituents, we would be unable to give these Bibles. We would like to gracefully thank each and everyone for contributing to St. Luke’s and Children’s Ministries through their time, talents and treasures.

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**PEAK Adventures Rotation 2**

- We will continue to learn about Stewardship “Samuel, Called to Serve” through most of November. Our lessons will tie in with this year’s Stewardship theme, “Hearts for Ministry”. In this unit our children will learn Samuel’s boyhood story; explore ways we hear God’s message today; and discuss ways we can serve God and help other people today, as Samuel did.

- On November 25th we will begin our Advent Rotation, “In the Manger”. In the unit we will be reminded of Jesus humble birth and of God’s great love for us.

- By the end of this study our children will:
  - Know that Jesus is called Emmanuel and explore the meaning of “God with us.”
  - Learn that Jesus is the Messiah and talk about what that means.
  - Discover the significance of the Messiah’s coming not as a king or warrior, but as a baby born in a humble place.
  - Understand why Jesus has a special love for the weak and the poor.
  - And be able to locate the story of Jesus’ birth in the Book of Luke.

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**We have Hearts for Our Children’s Ministries!**

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**Spencer Harned**

**Director of Sunday School**

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**Kay Swanson**

**Director of Little School**

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**peaks@stlukescolorado.org**

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**The following children were presented Bibles this past October:**

- Reid Becker
- Alyssa Brown
- Christian Butler
- Justine Cunningham
- Jakob Fletcher
- Spencer Harned
- Samantha Hooke
- Ben Hurst
- Kristina Linn
- Emily Kinney
- Anthony Lorenzo
- Heidi Markel
- Joshua Merchant
- Jenna Nolder
- Christoph Raup
- James Sawyer
- McKay Smith
- Ransom Tyson
- Eric Wild

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children's ministries

sly, jr. 5th & 6th grade fellowship

On November 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 Sly, Jr. explored the Buddhist traditions of living and worshiping. After our dinner, we will be acting out a short skit, creating a bird feeder, doing a few “team” games and even have a few moments of meditation. All the activities will help us better understand the beliefs of the Buddhist community. On December 2 we will celebrate Kwanzaa! Adult volunteers are needed to support our group by providing the meal and being in relationship with our children as they learn to appreciate worship traditions that are different from those we know at St. Luke’s. To volunteer, please contact Jenita.

children’s hanging of the greens

Saturday, Nov. 24 - 9:00-11:00am in Goliath

While adults are involved with the decorating of the church’s main floor, our children will be happily involved with decorating the Elementary/Youth Sunday School area downstairs. They will have an opportunity to make an ornament for one of the many trees that will be decorating our church. Complete a life-sized nativity scene, enjoy a snack and watch a Christmas video. Please come and share the first event of the Advent Season with your children. For more information, please contact Lynne or Jenita at the church office.

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, Nov. 25 at 6:00pm

Join us as we kick off the Christmas season at St. Luke’s. We will gather in the Sanctuary to sing Christmas carols, listen to a few of St. Luke’s amazing worship traditions that are different from those we worship, and experience God’s Love in each of these workshops. Our celebration will continue with a snack and watch a Christmas video. We ask each family to please come and share the first event of the Advent Season with your children. For more information, please contact Lynne or Jenita at the church office.

PEAK Adventures Rotation 2

We will continue to learn about stewardship “Samuel, Called to Serve” through most of November. Our lessons will tie in with this year’s Stewardship theme, “Called to Serve” through most of November. Our curriculum will focus on God’s call to Samuel, how he responded, and the impact it had on others. We will continue to learn about Stewardship “Samuel, Called to Serve” through most of November. Our curriculum will focus on God’s call to Samuel, how he responded, and the impact it had on others. We will continue to learn about Stewardship “Samuel, Called to Serve” through most of November. Our curriculum will focus on God’s call to Samuel, how he responded, and the impact it had on others. We will continue to learn about Stewardship “Samuel, Called to Serve” through most of November. Our curriculum will focus on God’s call to Samuel, how he responded, and the impact it had on others.

Thanksgiving Blessings from all of us at Little School!
Welcome New Members: October 2007

Michele Cost-Phair (husband Carl)  
Alexandra, Rachel  
John & Kristi Dale  
Mats, Kaia  
Adam & Jackie  
Hutzell  
Lynda told us so!  
Adam & Megan  
Snyder  
“We were looking for a church with a warm sense of community and an open mind. We found just what we were looking for at St. Luke’s”

Zara Kruskus  
Vargues (in picture with parents at left)  
“I want to learn more about God and when I came here Rev. Brad made me feel like an equal”

Bob von Normann  
& Mercedes  
McClure  
“We live close by and were looking for a church close to home. We felt at home here.”

November & December Missions: Fill Santa’s Bag

Christmas is just around the corner and Santa needs your help! Generous members of St. Luke’s have always shared with children and families less fortunate by taking “wishers” off of THE GIVING TREE. We have approximately 120 names of children, teens and adults who would love a gift to open Christmas morning. Giving to others can be rewarding for you as it is for the one receiving.

URBAN PEAKS
Young people being given a hand up through URBAN PEAKS also have their names on THE GIVING TREE. Share your Christmas and help a troubled teen.

MILK FOR GUATEMALA
For only $2, you can provide a month’s supply of milk for an entire family. Look for the MILK FOR GUATEMALA tree in the narthex.

THE HEIFER PROJECT
Want the perfect, unique gift for Aunt Besie or Cousin Earl? Visit the HEIFER PROJECT, and give a llama, pig, dogs or other animals, in their name, to help families in poor countries all over the globe.

More from Les
Self-Fulfilling Prophecies

An older couple were sitting on a bench, outside the Alaska Railroad station in downtown Anchorage, waiting to board the train to Denali National Park and Mount McKinley.

A typical Alaskan summer rain was falling, not heavy enough to really soak you if you kept moving but just cold enough to make you uncomfortable if you didn’t have warm clothing. The Chugach mountain peaks were dappled with light where the clouds were broken, the snowy peaks, were just whitened with what locals call “Termination Dust.” (The first snow of the season and time for summer workers to get passage back to Seattle.)

The conversation between them was loud enough that just about anyone standing nearby could hear:

“Why you ever suggested we come to this god-awful place is beyond me!”

“My suggestion! You were the one who said we needed to get out of the heat and humidity!”

“You were the one who wanted to get some fishing and sightseeing!”

“I never wanted to come in the first place!”

“It’s been cloudy the whole trip, we haven’t seen a thing.”

“I just knew we wouldn’t enjoy this cruise!”

“Well, now’s a fine time to tell me!”

“We could have made reservations to go to Mexico or Hawaii!”

If you go the state with a sense of adventure, with an expectation that you will have a good time no matter what comes, and with a willingness to adjust with the weather changes and other circumstances, you will have a good time. But if you go expecting trouble, you will have plenty of opportunities to have those expectations fulfilled.

There is in this a profound truth about life.

As Dr. Roy Smith puts it, “Life usually comes out to meet us in about the form we expect it. We usually find what we look for.”

Maybe that was what Jesus meant when he said, “seek and ye shall find.”

If we start out in the morning confident that something bad will happen, chances are that we will and the day quite satisfyed that we met disasters aplenty; self-fulfilling prophecies.

On the other hand, If we start our outing ourselves that all is going to go well, the majority of the day is apt to fit pretty well into that pattern.

Life has a way of rewarding us with the things we expect, for our expectations become the lenses through which we look at life. These lenses affect everything we perceive.

Will Rogers exhibited this attitude with his famous quote, “I never met a man I didn’t like!” He also said “There is no bad weather; only different kinds of good weather.”

Face a thunderstorm or a blizzard with that attitude and you will discover beauty in it. Face it with fear and its threats increase.

There’s an old, simple poem:

Twist the optimist and pessimist
The difference is droll,
The optimist sees the doughnut,
And the pessimist the hole.

God Bless Us All, – Rev. Les
We are Called to Serve

Visit www.stlukeshr.com and take the mini-assessment under Serve then contact Lynda Fickling lyndaf@stlukeshr.com who will walk you through the process of applying your gifts to serving in the world.

Acolytes Contact: Jennie Rhodes 303-791-0659x27 jennie@stlukeshr.com The Acolyte Ministry Team strives to create an invitational atmosphere for children to learn more about worship and building a faith-based relationship with God and each other and prepare them to serve in worship. Especially needed: 9:30am

Stephen Ministry Training Contact: Rev. Pam Rowley 303-791-0659x42 pam@stlukeshr.com Our next training class will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 8. Applications and information are available from Rev. Pam and between services in the Narthex. Please return all applications by November 11. We encourage everyone to consider joining this ministry.

Hospitality Teams:

Ushers Contact: Shawn Slade 303-660-6113 davesslade@comcast.net Dick Frame 303-791-4251 rframe5492@aol.com Assist in the weekly Sunday worship by ensuring worshippers are attended to before, during and after services. We typically serve on a quarterly basis. If you would enjoy serving our community as an Usher please contact Shawn or Dick. Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Services, Help

Greeters Contact: Kerrie Hillary 303-683-4096 kerriecosmeet@comcast.net Valerie Goodstein 303-799-0007 valgoodstein@Bellsouth.net Be the first smile and handshake our guests receive on Sunday mornings. We are the hosts and our mission is to make all who come to worship feel welcome and at ease. If you are someone who makes others feel comfortable and welcome please contact Karmie or Dick. Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Services, Help

Guest Calling Team Contact: Lynda Fickling lyndaf@stlukeshr.com Make a phone call to thank and welcome our guests for visiting with us at the front doors of St. Luke’s. spiritual gifts: hospitality, services, help

“Are we for the Spiritual Gifts, you may face one or two or more than one in each area. For further information regarding your Spiritual Gifts/Passions contact Lynda Fickling lyndaf@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659x20. Realize your potential for living a God-centered life: Plan on attending the next ‘Servant by Design’ class” in February 2008

Lynda Fickling
Lifelong Testament
Serve Ministry

Jazz Benefit Concert Thursday, November 15 Jazz at St. Luke’s Benefit Concert 6:30pm featuring the CU Jazz Ensemble I with Dr. John Davis and the Ministers of Swing and the St. Luke’s Youth Jazz Orchestra. A Suggested Donation: $10

St. Luke’s Annual Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 2nd at 9:00am and 11:00am Come and hear the Music Ministry usher in the Christmas Season with this yearly favorite!

Grief Support Group Holidays lived in the absence of someone dear can be very difficult times. Customary routines are adjusted, some never to be repeated in quite the same way. Easy-going laughter, once so natural, may become awkward or even altogether missing. Grief-giving, once so filled with fun, may seem somehow empty and sad. Familiar songs, once so comforting, may catch in your throat or bring tears to your eyes. Significant loss, rather to death, divorce, or estrangement, brings about many changes in life and how we go about functioning during the holiday season. People who are grieving have many questions: How can I make it through all the events of the holidays while missing so desperately the one I love? Would I be better off to ignore the holidays this year? Should I act as if everything were normal? Should I make major changes in my holiday rituals? If you are grieving a loss, this Grief Support Group is for you. If you have questions about how to go about this holiday season in the midst of grief, this group is for you. If you have experienced loss in the past, and have suggestions for others coping with “first” holidays, this group is for you.

When: Tuesday from 5:15-6:30 pm

November 13, 20, 27 & December 11 (A Service of Remembrance)

Contact: Pam Rowley, please register with Pam at x32.

Children’s Holiday Shop St. Luke’s Children’s Holiday Shop provides a Christmas shopping experience for children up to 12. They can purchase gifts for family members, teachers, friends and others on their shopping list. They can avoid mall shopping and get gifts at discounted prices ranging from $1.00-$7.00. Adult volunteers will help children with shopping and wrap their gifts while they wait. The shop will be open on December 1 and 2, 9:00am -10:00pm.

Adult volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday, November 30 from 9:00am -noon and to help during the shop on both Saturday and Sunday. Shifts on Saturday, December 1 will be from 8:30:11:00am and 11:00am - 2:00pm. Volunteers are also needed on Sunday, with shifts being 8:30-10:00am, 10:00-11:30am and 11:30-1:00pm. If you would like to volunteer, you may sign up in the Narthex between services beginning November 4 or call Antonino at 303-663-6656.

Donations needed:

• Gift items to add to the shop (new items please)

• Wrapping supplies, especially tape and gift boxes

Donations may be dropped off in boxes marked Holiday Shop located in the Narthex or church office.

Proceeds made through the Holiday Shop will go towards scholarships and volunteer lunches for Vacation Bible School, 2008.

Please call Antonino if you have any questions. 303-663-6656

All proceeds from Nov. 15 Jazz Benefit Concert will go to the Nuba Water Project.

For more information, contact Steve Riley, a member of St. Luke’s or go to www.nubawaterproject.org. Are you wondering what Nuba is? The Nuba Water Project is a non-profit organization committed to bringing a better life to the people of the Nuba Mountain region of Sudan. By providing an adequate supply or water, especially potable water, Nuba will improve the health and sanitation of the area and will open the dormway to economic and social development for the Nuba people.
**SLY: ST. LUKE’S YOUTH**

**November 2007**

11/14  - SLAM 6:30pm
11/15  - Donnie Whole 6:45pm
11/19  - Bible Boot 9:30am
11/25  - Donnie Whole 6:45pm

**11/16-11/18 – NUTS Fall Retreat**

All grades register now! $100 for the weekend.

- 11/16  - Jr. Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
- SLY PM: Bible Boot 9:30am
- Bible Boot 9:30am
- SLY PM: Tye Lighting & Carol Singing

11/28  - SLAM 6:30pm
11/29  - Donnie Whole 6:45pm
12/6   - Donnie Whole 6:45pm
12/9   - Donnie Whole 6:45pm
12/12  - SLAM 6:30pm
12/13  - Donut Whole 6:45am
12/19  - Bible Boot 9:30am
12/20  - Donut Whole 6:45am
12/23  - Donnie Whole 6:45am
12/25  - Donnie Whole 6:45am
12/27  - Bible Boot 9:30am
12/28  - Donnie Whole 6:45am
12/29  - Jr. Sr. High SLY 9:30am

**December 2007**

12/2   - No SLY AM (Cantata)
12/3   - SLY PM: College Care Packages 6pm
12/5   - SLAM 6:30pm
12/6   - Donnie Whole 6:45am
12/10  - Bible Boot 9:30am
12/11  - SLY PM: White Elephant Gift Exchange 5-8pm
12/14  - Hanging of the Greens 9am-midnight
12/15  - Jr. Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
12/16  - Bible Boot 9:30am
12/18  - SLAM 6:30pm
12/19  - Jr. Sr. High SLY 9:30am
12/20  - Bible Boot 9:30am
12/21  - SLY PM: Christmas Video Scavenger Hunt 5-8pm
12/24  - Donnie Whole 6:45am
12/25  - Jr. Sr. High SLY 9:30am
12/27  - Bible Boot 9:30am
12/28  - SLY PM: White Elephant Gift Exchange 5-8pm
12/29  - Final Christmas Service with Tacos 6:30pm
12/30  - Donnie Whole 6:45am
12/31  - Jr. Sr. High SLY 9:30am
1/7    - No SLY AM or SLY PM
12/25  - Christmas Day Hooray!

**CHRIS’S CORNER**

**November to Remember**

**SLY:** So, October was super-busy!

Between the Pumpkin Patch, Fall Festivals, Snow, Fall Breaks, The Music Life performances, and the rest of the SLY Life we were running around like crazy. And now of course, you go shopping and it seems like the world has already moved on to the Christmas season. With us looking toward the gifts and giving of December, it’s easy to leave November out of our minds as kind of a “gapiller time” ahead.

So what can you do to make this November one to remember? Well, here at church you can come on the NUTS Retreat in the middle of the month. In the community, how about donating time at a shelter or soup kitchen? Could you help the less fortunate have a Thanksgiving meal? At home, you can take some time to make life easier for the rest of your family. Help a sibling with their homework (or even chores if you’re feeling ambitious!), help your parents cook some meals (Thanksgiving anyone?!) or clean up around the house, maybe take some extra time with your pets to make sure they know that you love them. Tell someone in your life just how important they are to you!

The months that aren’t jam-packed in your personal life are just as important (if not more so) as the ones where you run your self ragged. You can recharge your own batteries, and pay attention to the things you really think are important.

Take some time this November to appreciate yourself and those that you care about. It can turn into a month where you give and show thanks for all that you have and all those you love because you aren’t sooo busy with a ton of special activities. Jesus had it right in Matthew 6:34 - “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today. Appreciate today because it gives you every opportunity to catch up to life, show your family you love them, and center yourself for the adventures and busy times ahead!”

—Peace & Love, Chris

**College Care Packets:** SLY will be packing final week care packages to send to our college age youth on Dec. 2. We need volunteers to bake cookies and bring in old shoe-boxes to SLY on 12/2. If you can do either, please contact chris@StLukesHR.com if you have a college-age youth that would like to receive a final care packet, please email their name and current address to Chris as well.

**NUTS Fall Retreat:** We are taking last minute adds to the retreat if you’ll still like to come! Contact Chris or Susan ASAP to get added for the retreat (Nov 16-18)

**Thank You** to everyone who bought pumpkins, and to those who worked the Pumpkin Patch and put on the Haunted House at Warren Village. You work is love and made visible, and you helped us raise over $15,000 for youth missions.

**Confirmation** registration materials are now available. Classes begin Jan. 27 & run January-April at 11:00am on Sundays for 8th graders and up. Deadline to register is Jan 13. What an awesome time at Warren Village!

If you have never been to Warren Village, it is a non-profit organization aiding single-parent and low income families located in Denver. Every year, we put on a Haunted House, organize a costume drive, order pizza and play games with the families at Warren Village. This year, we had a lot of little kids come to the festivities for the first time, and it was such a great experience. To see families on a limited income be able to give their kids a halloween costume for the first time is incredible. It makes you appreciate what the “little extras” in life mean... a costume, a tiny prize, some candy... Things that we take for granted put genuine smiles on their faces!

A huge thank you to the 30+ folks who organized and worked the Warren Village Haunted House this year!

**Advent at St. Luke’s**

**Christmas**

The children of St. Luke’s will be hosting our first Children’s Christmas pageant on December 23rd at 6:00pm. Watch this amazing spectacle and listen to your favorite story of hope.

**Services of Carols and Candles**

“A Judele Christmas: Prepare the Way” – Come and experience our Christmas Eve worship services held at 1:00, 3:00 (Children’s), 5:00, 7:00, and 10:00pm.

**Epiphany Sunday and Celebration of the Kings**

Join us on Sunday, January 6th as our 15 f tall Magi present their gifts to the Christ child in a family worship experience at 8:30, 9:00 and 11:00am.

**A Bold Venture**

A Bold Venture UPDATE:

**Building Committee Receives First Draft of Construction Plans**

Building Committee Chairperson, Scott Kohrs, reports that our architect, Jim Morgan, is ready to review a draft of the construction plans. Once reviewed by the Committee, there will be opportunities to share the plans with the staff and congregation. District Commissioners on Church Building and Location, and Douglas County Planning Commission. Our team continues to plan for breaking ground in the spring and opening the new addition in September 2008.

Elected to lead us in the planning and construction of the new youth/education/chapel addition off the west side of the current facility were: Scott Kohrs, David Rhodes, Randy Larson, Joyce Carnes, Dee Duncan, Ken Fong, Sandi Miyaki, Marge Harper, Peter Waldheim, Tim Krening, Ken Fong, Sandi Miyaki, Marge Harper, Peter Waldheim, Tim Krening, Terri Ary, Dave Capp and Janet Forbes will serve as staff liaison. The other projects of the Bold Venture Campaign have been prioritized for approval by the Executive Board, once we have determined the final cost of the construction. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is preparing their requests for compensation and benefit plans for our staff team. The Board of Deacons is determining exact costs for the refurbishment projects, especially carpeting, air conditioning, and additional security measures.

**F R O M  R E V .  B R A D**

Hello everyone! I would say we have come to a busy time of year at St. Luke’s, but so far in my time here, I haven’t found a time that is not busy... nevertheless, we have come to a busy time of year! With all that is going on, I have been trying to find a way to do more personal reflection. I am also one always to have plenty of observations and random thoughts about all sorts of things.

People, I am starting a blog. Seriously. What better way to reflect, share random observations, and talk about all those things I couldn’t fit into my sermons. Since blogs can be interactive, I also look forward to a relational side of blogging—getting some feedback on ideas and well, we will see what develops... Here’s what I am thinking — by the time the Chronicles arrive at your house — which it has, because you are reading this — all you will need to do is go to StLukesHR.com and click on Fusion. There will be a blog link right on the Fusion site.

In a recent study a Tech镁 (that’s a Technology Magazine) found that “66% of surveyed blogs had not been updated in two months... with an average blog-life of 126 days.”

I am not sure what to think about this… if the glass is half empty I should be scared that I will become one of the many flashes in the pan who disappear into the Google archives, but if the glass is half full, then as long as I post an update more than once every two months for 127 days, I will be a very successful blogger! I figure at three posts a week, we will have to see… I will see you online people! —Rev. Brad
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 in to dinner. We wash up in the sink and ride our bikes on up to the house. Our 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 awkward question. At worst, it is a grumpy 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 our answer, then dig into our meal. I do not remember how my sibling and cousin respond to the question. I do remember my mother saying something about being grateful for Granny Brown’s birthday. 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 children have answers, the question stands. It is a part of our family formation. We express gratitude in lots of ways. Sometimes we share our appreciation on centers that we give to others. Sometimes we consider good happenings, we give thanks. At other times, our thanksgiving is in sharp relief to those who are not as materially blessed. Of course, we do 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 but rather than fists clenched tightly. Ponder your own thanksgiving. For what are you grateful?

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Oriention of St. Luke’s
Dates to choose from:
November 11 or 25
December 9 or 23
Come Explore St. Luke’s on the second or fourth Sunday of the month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and meet some new friends. Then explore all that St. Luke’s has for your spiritual journey. This is not just for the new folks to St. Luke’s...we invite all that are seeking to get “Connected” to join us! Contact Lynda Ficking or our Director of Missions 303-791-6649 x20 or email lynda@stlukeshr.com

Help Send the Staff to School!
Breakfast Fundraiser on Dec. 2
The St. Luke’s staff is planning to study together at the Large Church Initiative Conference, “Making a World of Difference,” hosted by St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Orlando, Florida on January 24-26, 2008. Located close to the Disney and Universal Studio attractions, St. Luke’s (Orlando) vibrates with creative ministry. The leaders of the appropriate performing arts academy for all ages, extensive ministries with children and youth and adults that focus on spiritual formation, music and drama ministries, capital campaign projects, a second-campus new church start, and a worldwide missional presence. Our staff will engage in peer learning with the staff of St. Luke’s and 600 other participants, including representatives from 70 countries. You can help send the staff to school by participating in their fund-raising breakfast on the morning of the Jubilee Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 2. Our operating budget has very limited funds for professional staff development. Help make this once-in-a-lifetime learning and community building opportunity a reality!

2008 Revolve Tour Register NOW!
The Revolve Tour is February 15-16 at the Denver Coliseum. It’s a weekend (Friday evening-Saturday) event for teen girls from Women of Faith. It’s fast, fun, fast-paced, action-packed time when thousands of teens will get together in the arena to encounter God. For this we are so grateful! Come hear dynamic speakers and fabulous music and experience faith fellowship. To get the early bird group discount, register complete before Dec. 15th. Pick up an information sheet by the youth room or see Susan for details (or contact her at x19 or susan@stlukeshr.com) and don’t miss this amazing event!

EMERGENCY EVACUATION
Do you know what to do if St. Luke’s ever had to evacuate the building in an emergency? Do your children?
On October 28th, we provided answers to these questions and tested our evacuation procedures with our first-ever evacuation drills at the end of all 3 worship services. The evacuations were announced over our paging system. Sunday School teachers escorted their students to designated spots on the west and north sides of the Sanctuary. Students in the Sanctuary were directed to leave by 3 different routes: those in the northeast part of the Sanctuary go down the left side of the building. Those in the southeast part exit the church Choir Loft and those in the south part of the Sanctuary go through the Narthex to the leaves of the building (west) exit. Those in the east part of the Sanctuary exit by the Choir Loft, and those in the north part of the Sanctuary go through the Narthex to the leaves (east) of the building (A and B) and the Fellowship hall exit via the deck, and those in the Conference Room and Brad’s Office (Classroom C) leave by the South exit.
Parents should NOT go downstairs to retrieve their children, their children will already be outside. Parents should meet their children at their designated spots; the children will not be released by their teachers until parents meet them. Also, please do not leave the parking lot until after emergency equipment has arrived (otherwise, exiting vehicles may block their arrival).
Our goal was to clear the building in 3 minutes or less. The evacuation at the 9:30 service took the longest – 1.5 minutes. So the drill was a success! We also learned we needed to clarify our instructions for those on the main floor who might have trouble going down stairs; these people did not have to evacuate. Maps of evacuation routes, including the locations where children will be waiting for their parents, are online at stlukeshr.com under “About Us.”

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Another Good Month!
September was another good offering month. We exceeded our collections goal by about $8,000 for the month. That is the third consecutive month that we are $20,000-25,000 short at the end of the year unless we continue to increase our collections or find some way to decrease the expected expenses between now and the end of the year. I’ve worked with the staff in trying to keep our expenses as a minimum for the duration of the year. At this point, I believe our best approach is to go have collections for the remainder of the year–and hope we don’t have to be in competition with the snow. I can’t overestimate the importance of all of us working collectively to make sure we have a breakeven year.
This would be a great time for everyone to consider giving just a little more than planned between now and the end of the year. If our collections increase another 8% for October, November and December it would make up the $20,000-25,000 projected gap between expected income and expected expenses.

So Many Choices Makes Giving Easy And Convenient.
Cash, check, card (and card holder) present credit card transactions, scheduled automatic withdrawals. Any checking or credit card accounts and online credit card transactions are all available to you for doing transactions with St Luke’s. The following is a general summary:
• General Fund and Capital Campaign: All methods except card present credit card transactions.
• Grocery Cards: Cash, Check, Scheduled automatic withdrawal from checking accounts.
• Special Events: Depending on the type of event may include cash, check, card present credit card and credit card online transactions. The method(s) available at each event will be announced at the time of the event and are at the discretion of the sponsor.
• MetroLink: methods included cash, check, online credit card reservations and credit cards for the silent auction. It appears about 40% of the reservations were made online.

Have You Started Your Financial Planning For The Year End?
Shame on me for mentioning “year end.” We haven’t even celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas. However, it is less than two months away. Here are some points to consider:
1. You may want to pay the remainder of your pledges to the general fund and the capital campaign fund by transferring securities to the church and taking the advantages of the tax benefits of doing that. You could include your future year(s) pledges in the one transfer. The amounts for the future year(s) would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate period for the year(s) they might have.
2. If you need more deductions in 2007, you might consider prepaying future pledges. The amounts for the future would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate period time. Just mark your checks accordingly.
3. Make plans to get your last minute giving to the church on or before December 31. We will consider all collections received during 2007 as 2007 contributions unless instructed to apply them to a future year. Contributions received in the mail after December 31 will be posted to 2007 only if they are postmarked on or before December 31, and in the case of credit cards, the date of the charge.
4. If you are 70 ½ years of age, you may be able to roll some of your IRA funds to the church and reduce your taxable income. Check with your tax advisor for this one. Also, as of now, 2007 is your last opportunity to take advantage of this benefit.

All articles, photos and announcements for the December issue of The Chronicle are due December 1st. Email all articles, photos and announcements to ShayCorinne@stlukeshr.com

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