



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

The CHRONICLE

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Happy 25th Anniversary!



Easter Fun Day! Saturday, March 15

Bring your family and friends to Easter Fun Day on Saturday, March 15th, from 10:00am-noon. We will have all of the popular attractions such as live bunnies, egg hunt, cookie walk, cotton candy, balloon animals, crafts and the Easter Bunny! Plus we will have some fun new activities like Easter egg dyeing. Bring a dozen hard boiled eggs and decorate them here at church. This event will occur rain or shine and cost is a free will donation. Come join us!



The Good Friday Tenebrae

March 21 is "God's Friday" on which Christians remember the death of Jesus on a cross outside

Jerusalem. In many churches there is a service at or before three o'clock, when it is thought he died. In some countries, believing Christians spend the rest of the day quietly. But, Seville, a city in the south of Spain, is crowded on Good Friday by thousands of people, all hoping to see the spectacular processions which wind through the streets when darkness falls. By the light of hundreds of flickering candles, richly dressed statues which portray scenes from the last days of Jesus' life are carried aloft.

In England, most people, whether Christian or not, like to eat hot cross buns: spicy buns decorated with an egg paste cross, which is a reminder of the cross of Jesus. But the custom of making cakes with crosses is even older. Two were found, still with their crosses on them, in the remains of the Roman town of Herculaneum, which was buried under mud when the volcano Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79. The custom – perhaps even the recipe – was brought by the Romans to Britain, and bakers are still producing them by the million every Holy Week.

At St. Luke's, we are planning to observe Good Friday with a service of Tenebrae, or "shadows". As the events of Holy Week unfold, there is a gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles in the sanctuary. The Chancel Choir will present the story of Holy Week in a choral cantata.

St. Luke's Celebrates 25 years! *Celebrate with us!*

Saturday, March 8 at 7:00pm

Concert: Featuring the Mel Scott Group (jazz) with the Brass Ensemble and Wind Ensemble! A reception sponsored by the Music Ministry will follow the concert in which Mel Scott will also be featured. Celebrate by joining the Music Ministry to mark this important milestone in our history!!

Sunday, March 9 at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am

Worship: Rev. Dr. Jay Rundell, President of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, is our guest preacher for the Silver Jubilee celebration. As a student at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Jay served St. Luke's as a student intern in 1986. He gave leadership to the congregation in one of its most trying seasons, the Sunday morning when nine people attended church. Come and hear his compelling story that marked the defining moment in St. Luke's history and how St. Luke's prepared him to nurture change agents for the 21st century church.

Decisions that just floor us

So, you're looking around and you're noticing we still have the same old floors downstairs, so what's the deal, Trustees? Imagine your last home improvement project and how many decisions had to be made within your family to pick colors, textures and styles. Now, imagine yourself living in a home with several hundred of your closest friends and relatives and the planning and decision process becomes more challenging.

To date as a small staff group we've toured 3 local pre-schools, the Little School staff secured additional feedback from several nearby churches, and in January, most of the staff went to Orlando for the Large Church Initiative and in all cases we saw examples of many successful conversions from carpets to the tile we'd proposed. Earlier this month Sallie Suby-Long lead discussions to review priorities, concerns and ideas with a cross-functional team that included our pastors, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Little School staff and board members, Trustees, Finance committee, and Gary Gilbert our flooring expert.

Top priorities we're working to balance include health, safety, appearance, versatility, daily and long-term maintenance, life cycle, first cost and replacement expenses. By conducting a quick inventory of the use of the Goliath space, we noted 49 groups that meet regularly here – mornings are focused on serving small children and their families while evenings host mostly adults and fewer small children, so versatility is key as we work to support our various programs. Health and safety issues include increasing concerns with asthma, allergies, mold, excessive moisture on stormy days, and slip and fall concerns.

Clean and new carpets can look warm and soft and inviting, but where sand, rocks, and salt are routinely tracked in, carpets quickly become less appealing. With the blessing of growth in so many very diverse groups of all ages using our spaces for all sorts of activities, we haven't been successful at keeping our existing carpets acceptably clean, so they look bad, and are a concern for all of the reasons listed above. We all agree replacement is long overdue.

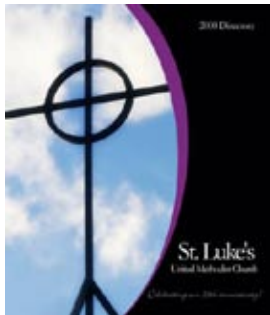
We're narrowing to a small number of options and plan to be ready to share the final decisions in the next couple of months. We've delayed the install until the beginning of summer and we'll schedule it around already planned summer activities, to try to cause the least disruption. The good news is we expect to formalize a process for making decisions on building finishes before we come to that phase with our new construction and we hope that will help us to stay on schedule. Thank you all for your patience as we work through this process.

—Sandi Miyaki

St. Luke's 25th Anniversary Pictorial Directory

Thanks to the wonderful folks at Bettinger Photography and our amazing communications team and volunteers, the new directory is now available beginning March 9. If you had your picture taken for the church directory, your copy is available with your name

on it for pick up at the church anytime beginning Sunday, March 9. If you didn't participate in the photo directory but would like to purchase one of the extra copies, the cost is \$10.



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Janet Maxwell
Assistant Director
of Finance

Thank You! Thanks to Marty Davidson for arranging a donation of four lateral file cabinets from Comcast. These files were badly needed for storing our financial records and other historic data. This represents 55 lineal feet of file space which is the additional space needed to keep

all our records secured in locked files. This is a substantial donation and I appreciate Marty's efforts in working with his employer to get these files. Also, a big thanks is due to Susan Brown who is an account manager with Pear Commercial Interiors. None of the file cabinets had keys and one needed the lock cylinder. I called Susan to purchase the keys and cylinder since Pear Commercial Interiors is the local distributor for the files. When I asked for the invoice, Susan indicated there would be no invoice since she was donating the keys and cylinder. If you see Marty or Susan thank them for their effort.

Does Your Place of Employment Have a Charitable Matching Fund? There are many companies which have a fund setup specifically for giving back to the community in which they are located. This may be in the form of matching gifts made by their employees to charitable organizations or merely funds for which employees and/or charitable organizations may apply to for donations (community grants).

We are a registered 501(c) (3) corporation eligible to receive such gifts. I will be happy to assist you if you have the opportunity to take advantage of one of these opportunities. In 2007 we had one member apply for and receive a matching donation of \$5,000 from a major corporation where they work and another applied to a major local retailer and received a \$1,000 donation to our mission program.

Don't Forget We Have Many Choices To Make Your Giving To SLUMC Easy And Convenient. We currently have over \$490,000 of our general fund and bold venture capital campaign fund donations coming from the electric funds transfer (eft) and online methods—over 100 transactions per month. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for 2008.

In addition to cash and checks, we offer credit card transactions (either in person or online), stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts for you to use in doing your transactions with St Luke's. The following is a general summary:

- **General Fund and Capital Campaign:** All methods. However, you need to call ahead to use your credit card in person here at the office to make sure I'm here to process the transaction.
- **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. i.e., *The Music Man* 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.

FROM REV. BRAD



Rev. Brad Laurvick
Associate Minister

St. Luke's has always had a heart for missions. Our missions have taken us all around the globe and connected us to our own neighborhood. I have a unique privilege of getting to be a part of one of the newest ways we are connecting to the Highlands Ranch and Lone Tree communities by serving on the Steering Committee for the American Cancer Society's 'Relay for Life'. Though this is my first year with the HR/LT Relay, it is my 8th year helping this amazing event happen in Colorado.

This grass-roots community-based event is all about community. Teams have at least one person walking the track throughout the Friday to Saturday event, and work to raise donations as a team. As part of my ministry here, I am helping the Highlands Ranch/ Lone Tree Relay for Life continue its amazing growth. Our Relay was the fastest growing Relay in the region in 2007, and we look forward to another great year.

That is where you come in.

Cancer has touched all of us in some way. We have many cancer survivors in our St. Luke's family. We have lost dear friends to cancer. I do not know a single person who has not known or loved someone who has faced cancer. That is why events like this are such a beautiful opportunity to, as the Relay Motto puts it: **Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.**

It's a time and place where people come to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those we've lost, and fight back against a disease that touches too many lives. Won't you join us this year and be a part of Relay? Our Relay is August 1 and 2.



It's not just an opportunity to celebrate, remember, and fight back – your involvement will help the American Cancer Society work toward a mission of eliminating cancer as major health issue and will support much-needed services in your community. Thanks in part to the donations from Relay For Life and other events, the Society is saving lives, helping those touched by cancer, and empowering people to

fight this disease all over the world.

We are looking for St. Luke's teams! Teams are best when they are 15-25 people, so we can have lots of our church family participate. I would love to see Sunday School classes, music ensembles, Disciple classes, any kind of group helping us reach out to our community and the world through Relay For Life 2008.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved – if you want to be a team captain, if you just want to walk, if you would like to help make the event happen.

Let's **Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.** together this summer! –Rev. Brad

OUR MISSIONS

Sehkar Family Update

We continue to work and wait for a date that the rest of our Liberian family will be given permission to come to the U.S. to reunite with Marie and Maima. After jumping through hoops, many faxes, emails and frustrations, we asked for help from Sen. Ken Salazar. As a result of his intervention and help, we are expecting to hear soon that they receive travel visas. KEEP TUNED!

When Kolegar and the children arrive, we will need help and support from members of St. Luke's in donations of \$\$ furniture, household items, coats and warm clothing. Watch for a complete list of items, coming soon.

Know of a rental condo, or house?? The Sehkar's will need a 3-4 bedroom house or condo with a basement. There will be 11 family members here, and the young boys can sleep in a basement. It would be best if housing were along the Broadway, Littleton corridor.

Questions about the Sehkar's or donations, contact: Jan Rufien, jc.rufien@comcast.net, 303-883-4893 or 303-979-3491.

LENT

Vesting for Worship

During the season of Lent, the altar at the front of the church is wearing a vestment of purple to signify the penitence of the season and the royalty of Jesus, who is both Lord and King. Your pastors, Janet, Brad, and Pam, will vest during the services of Holy Week, March 16-23.

The verb "to vest" comes from the Latin word vestire, which means to clothe for purpose of exhibiting authority. To vest a person means to give that person an article of clothing that designates certain responsibilities. To vest furnishings used for worship means to clothe them with material that signifies their holy function.

However, the clerical robes that your pastors wear have less to do with responsibilities and more to do with tradition. Most United Methodist ministers who wear vestments wear either an academic robe or an alb.

The academic robe (traditionally black but now sometimes white or some other color) developed from the academic dress of medieval universities as the uniform of scholars. This robe is commonly known as a "Wesley" robe. It became popular among Methodists because John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, was an academician at Oxford University in England. The Wesley robe can be worn with an academic hood or doctoral stripes on the sleeve to indicate the wearer's degree.

The alb is the oldest Christian vestment. In recent years it has become ecumenically the most widely accepted basic worship vestment. The name of the garment comes from its traditional color, alba, which means "white" in Latin. However, albs can be white, off-white, flaxen, ash-gray, or black. All participants in the service, lay or ordained, may wear the alb, since it does not signify either ordination or academic achievement but unites us with the everyday dress of the early Christians. It may be worn either with or without a belt, called a cincture, which is either a tassled rope or a cloth band.

The colorful stoles may be worn with either the Wesley robe or the alb. Signifying the season and the occasion of worship, the stole represents the yoke of ministry for the servant of Christ.

Your pastors make vestment choices based on our



congregation's Wesleyan tradition and on comfort, depending on the warmth of the season and whether celebrating a wedding, funeral, communion, or baptism.

MUSIC & DRAMA



James Ramsey
Dir. of Music
Ministry & the Arts



Kay Coryell
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Gretchen Martin
Assistant Director
of Music Ministry

Gretchen Martin joined the staff of St. Luke's this February as our new Assistant Director of Music Ministry. She is looking forward to working in an active music program that is blessed with such a high level and depth of talent.

If you heard Gretchen's rendition of "Go Tell It on the Mountain" this advent season you could not help but notice her passion and talent for playing the piano. She began playing piano at the age of six in her hometown of Hiawatha, Kansas, and began to play seriously upon entering college. Her college career began at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, where she received a Bachelor's of Music degree in piano performance. Gretchen continued her education at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, receiving a Master's of Music degree in piano performance. While at UNT she was awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship. Her college career also included scholarships to the Aspen Music Festival for two summers.

Gretchen has served on the faculties of North Central College and College of Dupage in the Chicago area where she lectured music history and music appreciation. While in Kansas City, she worked as the Education and Operations Director of The Friends of Chamber Music, a non-profit arts organization. Currently, outside of her work at St. Luke's UMC Gretchen is sought after as an accompanist and maintains an active private piano studio in her Highlands Ranch home.

Gretchen's husband, Paul, is a pilot for United Airlines. They have two children, Ryan and Lauren, and a Golden Retriever named Casey. Gretchen and Paul are planning to celebrate their tenth anniversary in 2009 with a European vacation. While time is difficult to find with two young children and an active career, Gretchen likes to spend her time away from the piano in the kitchen trying new recipes and baking. Her family also enjoys getting away to the mountains whenever possible.

We are excited that Gretchen has joined our St. Luke's staff. Please take a moment to welcome her.
—Amy Ash

Welcome to Gretchen and Ken

As many of you recall in December, Carrie Mallery stepped down as our Associate Director of Music and transitioned to her new role as a Fusion Worship Leader. After a two month search, on February 3rd the SPRC announced the addition of two new part time music team members to complete the Music Ministry and Arts Staff. Gretchen Martin serves as our new Assistant Director of Music Ministry leading the Sunrise Band as well as providing additional leadership with Women of Note, the Kidz Prayz program, and the Youth Choir. Ken Mervine serves as Organist and Accompanist for our Sunday morning worship and special services. You'll also see Ken accompanying the Chancel Choir and Grace Notes as well as jazzing up the gathering songs with the organ. We are very excited that both Ken and Gretchen are with the St. Luke's family and look forward to the gifts they bring to this community.

Concert to Celebrate 25 years

Saturday, March 8 at 7:00pm

Concert: Featuring the Mel Scott Group (jazz) with the Brass Ensemble and Wind Ensemble! A reception sponsored by the Music Ministry will follow the concert. Celebrate our journey by joining the Music Ministry to mark this important milestone in our history!!

Drama News

*One Act Comedies by Chekhov
April 4 and 5 at 7:00pm*

The Wesley Players will present *The Bear* and *The Proposal*. Both plays are very funny and family friendly. I invite you to mark your calendars for these short plays that the entire family will get a kick out of and enjoy. You won't stop laughing! The plays are free with no tickets, however, a free-will offering supporting our mission of the month will be taken at the conclusion of the evening.



Ken Mervine
Organist/
Accompanist

St. Luke's UMC recently welcomed Ken Mervine as our new organist and accompanist. Ken first became familiar with St. Luke's when our current sanctuary was built and he worked with the company that installed our organ. He feels blessed to be able to work with such a dynamic staff and the opportunity to explore a diverse range of music at St. Luke's.

Ken began playing the piano in high school in the Philadelphia area and found himself especially moved while attending a choir concert in which he heard an organist play the Bach Toccata. From there his focus became the organ. Ken began college at West Chester State University in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He continued his education at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, receiving both

a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in organ performance. He also studied voice and conducting and the harpsichord. Finally, Ken further developed his talent and education in a Doctoral/Post-graduate Music Study at Trenton State University in Trenton, New Jersey.

Ken has worked with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra since 1994. While with the CSO he has recorded Philadelphia Stories and performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Throughout his career Ken has made numerous other recordings and concert and convention appearances.

Ken's wife, Barbara, is a vocalist, conductor and teacher. They joke that neither could afford to hire the other as an accompanist or vocalist so they were forced to get married. The Mervine's moved to Colorado from the New Jersey area in 1992 after Ken came to perform in a concert and discovered the beautiful Colorado scenery.

Ken and Barbara have three children. Amanda lives in Fort Collins and works as a caseworker. Gabriel is currently enrolled at Metropolitan State College of Denver and works as a trumpeter at the restaurant Casa Bonita. Lark is studying psychology at Colorado State University and is involved in swing dancing and theater.

When Ken is not playing the organ he enjoys ballroom dancing classes with Barbara, as well as reading and attending movies. Someday Ken would love to explore his heritage in France and the British Isles.

Ken is a welcome addition to the St. Luke's staff. Please take a moment to greet him.
—Amy Ash



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

More from Les: Keep the Heat Coming but Don't Burn Down the Station!

I grew up living next door to our family business.

My grandfather, James, had purchased a gas station and auto repair business in Grand Junction, after selling his farm in eastern Kansas and moving to Colorado in 1946.

When I was about 13, I asked my father for some work around the garage that would hopefully bring me some handy cash. "Okay" he had said, "but it's your responsibility; so don't go asking me or your grandfather to do your work for you!"

My job was to keep the old – very old – coal furnace in the garage running in the wintertime. And, as the chilling winds of winter began blowing in, I learned that this was not a simple task!

First, I discovered that coal doesn't light up that easily!

Only a blazing hot fire can heat up the fresh coal sufficiently to get the fire started and keep it going. I had tried to use newspaper and wood chips to start the coal fire the first time but was unsuccessful. A big, hot wood fire had to be going steadily before putting any coal into the furnace.

Later, my grandfather showed me how to "bank" the fire in the evening so that there would be some hot coals to start with early the next morning.

Tending this old coal furnace taught me a lot. I learned that a fire that got too hot was dangerous, especially in a gas station!

And a fire that grew too weak didn't heat properly and wasted coal.

A fire needs a good air draft if it is to burn cleanly and intensely and keep the smoke down. Too thick a layer of ashes at the bottom will tend to prevent air from circulating properly and can cause the fire to falter and sometimes go out.

Over time, I learned that to properly heat the gas station and garage, I had to faithfully follow a specific daily routine. Every morning, I had to shake the grates until only the hot coals remained. Then, I had to carry out the ashes, store them safely away from the building, and then bring in fresh coal to add to the hot embers.

I had to maintain the right balance of coal and draft; the vitality of the fire required not only a steady supply of fuel but also fresh air and a regular discharge of the ashes. In the afternoon, after retuning from school I had to clean out the ashes and add fresh coal once again.

Operating that old coal furnace is a good metaphor for how we live our own lives as Christians. We are most successful when we set about the things we do with faith, moderation, patience, and dedication!

Our "fuel" is that sense of meaning, hope and usefulness that comes from doing the things we do each day. It's not what we do, but why and for whom we do it, that counts.

And we cannot live life to its fullest without this fuel.

God provides the spark to light a flame and initiate a beginning; however, keeping the fire going steadily takes patience and knowledge and commitment.

Too much, too quickly, can be dangerous, it may put too much physical and emotional strain on us and we risk burning out (or burning down the gas station!).

There is a need to keep a balance of fresh air, "renewal," and fuel, "energy," to keep our spiritual fire burning at healthy level. And there is an equally important need to get rid of the ashes, the things that tend to distract us and slow us down during our daily routines.

God Bless Us All, –Rev. Les

(By the way, I can happily tell you that the station never had a fire. One of the greatest days of my tenure as furnace tender came when my grandfather purchased a used automatic stoker furnace from a home being torn down. It had automatic coal feeding and ash removal system and a temperature controlling thermostat! My job became immensely simpler!)



What's it Worth?

Antique & Collectible Appraisals

"WHAT'S IT WORTH?" Boy do I get asked that question every day. Of course, in my case "What's It Worth" refers to antiques, collectibles, and all of Grandmother's stuff.

As we all age, the "floor" moves up. Property worth nothing a few years ago has often increased in value. "What's It Worth?" Certainly, there is renewed interest promoted by the English Antiques Road Show, and the American Antique Road Show.

St. Luke's is sponsoring it's first city wide annual "What's It Worth" Antiques and Collectibles Appraisal Day managed by us, St. Luke's members Dewey and Sharon Smith, of Antique Appraisals.

"What's It Worth" is more than a churchwide event and fundraiser, but a community and citywide outreach. So contact your family, friends and neighbors and ask them to show up with their treasures.

Dewey and Sharon are seeking VOLUNTEERS for all aspects of the "What's It Worth" Appraisal Day. Requesting a commitment to both time and energy.

The "What's It Worth" appraisal day is Saturday, May 3, 2008, 10:00am to 4:00pm, St. Luke's UMC.

Mark you calendars, clear out your closets, bottom drawers, and unopened boxes of keepsakes. Show up for general admission, or reserve your appraisal time at www.stlukeshr.com click on the "What's It Worth" icon.

Come and discuss your antiques and collectibles – **American Indian, Art, China, Dolls, Furniture, Glass, Jewelry, Pottery, Silver, Toys, etc...** (no weapons, blades, firearms) with our on-site experts: **Lewis Bobrick Antiques; John Haws Oriental Antiques; Dianne Hoffman, Turn of the Century Antiques; Eron Johnson Antiques; Steve Savageau Art; Janice Woods, Black Tulip Antiques... just to mention a few.**

Appraisal fees are \$15.00 for the 1st item and \$10.00 for the second item. All proceeds will support SLY, SLY Missions, and the Guatemala Medical Mission in August.

– Dewey W. Smith, ASA, Antique Appraisals.
www.frontrangeliving.com Click on Antiques.

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."



St. Luke's UMW Mission Team meets the 2nd Monday at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend. We currently have openings on the UMW board. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Janet Sackett or Fran West.

Current officers: Co-Presidents – Janet Sackett and Fran West, Secretary/Communications – Lori Lockrem, Treasurer – Amy Curtis, Spiritual Growth Coordinator – open, Secretary of Program Resources – open

Our February General Meeting, "Gifts of Love," was held on Saturday, February 16. Its focus was the third aspect of the UMW purpose: "...to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." Betsy Keyack gave a picture presentation of the Sager-Brown facility in Louisiana, where all the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) supplies are kept. She told of opportunities to go on a mission trip there to help with this mission. Attendees of the general meeting were able to put together quite a few health and sewing kits to be sent to the Sager-Brown facility.

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2008. We would like to form a planning committee to plan the event. The first meeting will be March 11th at 7:00pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LITTLE SCHOOL
News

Merriment in March

Little School will have a shorter month in March with our Spring break the week of March 16 to March 24, but we will be packing in lots of fun! We will be celebrating the Irish with mischievous leprechauns and everything green! So be sure to wear your color to avoid being pinched! Along with that our most important focus will be Easter, talking about new birth and celebrating Spring when we return from our break.

We will have a wonderful Scholastic Book Fair March 4 through March 7, with tons of wonderful reading items for all ages, including preschool, elementary, teens and adults! Because it is Dr. Seuss' birthday we will be trying to read as many books as we can! So stop down in Goliath during the week and buy some wonderful books or gifts for your Easter Baskets!

Career Days will be March 26 and 27 and the children will be hearing from many of our parents about the jobs that they do inside or outside of their homes. Many children do not understand what their parents do for a living and this is a great way to share with our students. It also gives them some ideas about what they can be when they grow up!

Chapel in March will be about our Children's 10 commandments and we are on #7 – "Treat other people's things as if they were your own!" Jacques our famous chef will no doubt be cookin' up a terrific message for all of the kids!

Little School mailed over 100 Valentines to our Veterans at the VA Hospital here in Denver and we received a terrific letter thanking us for thinking of them. The Veterans were very appreciative and it made for a special Valentine's day for all! Aren't our Little Schoolers terrific?

We can't believe that the school year is on the downhill slide and we will be looking forward to more outside time and continuing growth in our children; physically, academically, spiritually, emotionally and, of course, socially! They are amazing gifts from God.

May you all have a very Blessed Easter attending church with your family! –Ms. Kay & Staff:-)



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



The 2008 Spiritual Life Retreat is April 26-27 in Estes Park. It will be held at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies. This year's theme is "Forming Our Spirits: Life as Prayer." The leaders are Rev. Sharon McCormick and Rev. Brenda Lear. The deadline for registration is 3/17/08. There are also scholarships for first time attendees to offset the cost of the registration fee. Flyers are on the UMW bulletin board for more information.

The UMW 1st Annual Parking Lot Sale is set for July 14th. Individuals or groups will be able to rent a parking space in which to sell gently used items. Please watch for additional information.

Mark your calendars:

- March 10: Mission Team Meeting (7:00pm Conference Room)
- March 11: May General Meeting Planning Committee Meeting (7:00pm)
- April 26-27: Annual UMW Conference in Estes Park
- May 17: UMW General Meeting
- June 14: UMW Parking Lot Sale
- June 20: Luncheon for licensed pastors attending the Annual Conference

Subgroups of UMW at St. Luke's UMC:

- **Itch to Stitch:** Meets 2nd Wednesday 7:00pm (no longer the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays) For information please call Fran West at 303-797-7107.
- **Women's Night Out:** Meets 1st Monday 6:30pm
 - March 3 – Garcia's, 5050 S. Syracuse, Denver
 - April 7 – California Pizza Kitchen, 8343 Park Meadows Center Dr., Littleton
 - May 5 – Lansdowne Arms, 9352 Dorchester, Highlands Ranch
 For more information, please call Kathy Eccles at kateccles2@msn.com or Lori Lockrem at lockrem@q.com.
- **Book Group:** all women are invited to come to any or all of the meetings. Meets 4th Monday 7:00pm (except May, due to Memorial Day)
 - Mar. 24 – *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith
 - April 28 – *Stand Like Mountain, Flow Like Water* by Brian Luke Seaward, Ph.D.
 - May 19 (3rd Monday) – *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert
 - June 23 – *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon
 For more information please call Fran West at 303-797-7107 or Janet Sackett at 303-794-4303.