



The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010

Inside This Issue:

From Rev. Brad.....	3
Homeless Experience.....	3
Called to Serve.....	5
Children's Ministry.....	6
Servant Spotlight.....	7
Joining St. Luke's.....	9
SLY.....	10
Trustees Corner.....	11
<i>and much more!</i>	

Common Table: Jan. 25

The next meeting of the Common Table will be held on Monday, January 25, focusing on Leadership and The Net.

The Common Table is an open invitation to all people associated with St. Luke's to join together for food, conversation, and discernment of our purpose and direction.

Whether you're a long-time member, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we invite you to come for a lively discussion where all input is welcome. Each one of us represents an important part of The Net (think Fishing, not Cyberspace!) that keeps us connected and growing. As a dynamic community of faith, where are we going, and how do we get there? Let's talk!

Come and enjoy a potluck dinner at 6:00pm; the meeting runs from 6:30-8:00pm, with an informal question-and-answer time afterward. Past meetings of the Common Table have allowed us to look at the potential redesign of the King's Service, and at the Wellness Initiative. Call x47 for childcare.



Advent 2009 at St. Luke's: Our music ministers dazzled us with a fantastic Christmas Cantata on Dec. 6. Sunday School children enjoy weekly Advent activities and our Tree Lighting Service was a great blend of family fun and spiritual reflection. Join us for more!

Epiphany Worship Series: "Spiritual Journeys" *by Rev. Janet Forbes*

There is a spiritual hunger abroad in our time, haunting us. Like an empty stomach aching beneath the sleek coat of the well-fed, it reveals that something is missing. The diet of secular culture does not satisfy. A hunger for spiritual food is gaining momentum.

During the season of Epiphany, I am inviting us to share a spiritual journey. We want to name our spiritual yearnings, so we can set the table with food for the soul. We are going to explore the nature of spirituality as it is practiced within this community of faith.

What is spirituality? I prefer to use a more biblical phrase, "the spiritual journey." According to scripture, the spiritual life is simply the increasing vitality of God's Spirit in us. It is the choreography of the Holy Spirit in the human spirit, moving us toward communion with both Creator and creation. It has to do with God's way of relating to us, and our way of responding to God.

Using the Spirituality Wheel, we will assess our spiritual type: **head, heart, mystic, and kingdom.** This simple approach delineates differences among us and answers two questions:

- **Who am I as a spiritual person?**
- **What is the best way for me to grow in my spiritual life?**

Knowing how we are spiritually different from or the same as other people can help us understand where our strengths are and possibly acknowledge the strengths of others. Such knowledge may suggest new ways in which we can grow so that spiritual experience becomes richer.

After the holidays, the Spirituality Wheel will be available on the website so that we can each plot our spiritual style. Our worship planning team will be designing experiences (January 10-February 14) that will reflect the nature of each form of spirituality. Plan to enjoy the experience of both immersing and stretching ourselves in spirituality.



sat. December 12
PUPPET SHOW.....6:30pm
St. Luke's puppet team presents "The Littlest Gifts" - a wonderful holiday show for all ages. Free and all are invited.

sund. December 13
WORSHIP.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
"What Do We Do Now??" - Rev. Brad Laurvick

wed. & thurs. December 16 & 17
LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.....9:30 & 10:45am

saturday December 19
HOLIDAY HAVEN.....1:00-4:00pm
Let us watch your children.
Visit www.stlukeshr.com to sign up.

sunday December 20
CANDY CANE SUNDAY
CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP.....8:15am
WORSHIP.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
"Peace Be With You" - Dr. Janet Forbes
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.....3:00pm
Sunday School children age 2-grade 6 present "The Gift". All are welcome!

thursday December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Simply a Silent Night: Come and experience one of our Services of Carols and Candles

CHILDREN.....1:30 & 3:00pm
"Simply a Silent Night" - Chris Wilterdink featuring the Cherub's Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz, Off-Notes Youth Choir, Youth Handbell Choir and the Puppet Ministry

TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm
"O Holy Night" - Dr. Janet Forbes
Carols service featuring the Chancel Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, and Tintinnabulators Handbell Ensemble

CONTEMPLATIVE.....10:00pm
"Simply a Silent Night" - Dr. Janet Forbes
Contemplative Communion service featuring Soloist and Organ

sunday Dec. 27 (no Sunday School)
WORSHIP.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
"Simple Beginnings..." - Rev. Brad Laurvick

sunday January 3
EPIPHANY SUNDAY & KING'S SERVICE.....8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
"Simple Gifts" - Dr. Janet Forbes
Our 13-15 ft. tall Magi and their entourage present their gifts to the Christ child in a family worship experience featuring our Primary and Junior Prayz ensembles. *(Burrito breakfast between services to benefit Guatemala missions.)*

Sunday Worship Services:

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

6:34pm: Fusion

Contemplative Services also offered.

(Check website for dates and times.)

Sunday School:

Adult, Youth & Children:

9:30am & 11:00am

Nursery available for

9:30am & 11:00am services

Church Office: 303-791-0659

Fax: 303-470-5615

St. Luke's Youth.....x45

Childcare Reservations.....x47

Email: office@stlukeshr.com

Website: www.stlukeshr.com

Preschool Office: 303-791-1982**Staff:**

Rev. Janet Forbes.....x13

Senior Minister

Emergency: 303-241-9312

Rev. Brad Laurvick.....x12

Associate Minister

Emergency: 720-296-1251

Rev. Sallie Suby-Long.....x32

Associate Minister

Emergency: 303-475-0141

James Ramsey.....x23

Director of Music Ministry & the Arts

Kay Coryell.....x36

Associate Director of Music Ministry

Ken Mervine.....x42

Organist/Accompanist

Josh Carr.....x44

Fusion Worship Leader

Carrie Mallory.....x35

Assistant Fusion Worship Leader

Chris Wilterdink.....x14

Director of Youth Ministry

Susan Johnson.....x19

Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

Joely Maddux.....x11

Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Sharon Oliver.....x27

Assistant to Children's Ministry

Kristina Linn.....x40

Linn of Childcare

Lynda Fickling.....x20

Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director

Bonnie Funk.....x10

Church Secretary/Office Manager

Dave Cupp.....x24

Director of Finance

Lisé Takayama.....x16

Assistant Director of Finance

Barry Curtis.....x39

Facilities Manager

Kay Swanson.....303-791-1982

Director of Little School

All articles, photos and
announcements for the
February 2010
issue of *The Chronicle*
are due **January 20**
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

The Journey to Ordination in the United Methodist Church

In the life of a congregation, there are persons who experience a call from God to explore a vocation in the ordained ministry of The United Methodist Church, as a licensed local pastor, deacon or elder. The 2008 Book of Discipline outlines the steps that congregations follow to support these persons.

Persons inquire about candidacy with their pastor, or another ordained minister, or Rev. Olon Lindemood, District Superintendent of the Mile High/Piles Peak District. The inquiring candidate will be asked to read *The Christian as Minister*, which outlines the varieties of vocational options: missionary, chaplain, community organizer, pastor, educator, musician, administrator, counselor, teacher. As pastor of St. Luke's, I usually meet with our inquiring candidates over a period of months.

To start the candidacy process, the inquiring candidate writes to the district superintendent requesting admission into the candidacy process. They always include a statement of their call. Rev. Olon listens for how God has been working in their lives and community to compel them to pursue this vocation.

If the candidate has been a member of the United Methodist Church for at least one year, they register with the denomination (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry – www.gbhem.org) and receive a mentor and candidacy guidelines. The candidacy mentor helps the candidate examine the call of God in light of the scripture, the role and function of United Methodist clergy, personal gifts and grace, and evidence of leadership.

If encouraged to move forward, the candidate consults with me and the chairperson of our Staff Parish Relations Team to request a meeting to declare their intent and seek a recommendation. The SPRT interviews the candidate and makes a recommendation to a Church Conference. At the Church Conference, members of St. Luke's must confirm the recommendation by a two-thirds majority vote. Stephen Collins recently joined Laura Hehner as declared candidates from St. Luke's.

Usually, declared candidates are already in seminary. A declaration of candidacy does not mean that St. Luke's pays the tuition for a graduate degree. All educational requirements are at the expense of the candidate, though there are scholarships and loans available through the United Methodist Church. I would love to see a scholarship program established at St. Luke's to help our candidates.

In order to be certified, the candidate meets with the district committee for an interview and approval as a certified candidate. The following must be completed prior to certification: a written response to questions regarding God's call and the role of the church in the call, formative Christian experiences, beliefs as a Christian, gifts for ministry and present understanding of the call to ministry as deacon, elder, or licensed ministry; required psychological reports, credit checks, criminal background check. A certified candidate may apply for license as a local pastor. Rev. Dave Money is a certified candidate from St. Luke's who has been licensed for pastoral ministry.

Following the completion of seminary and one year of certification, the candidate is commissioned and appointed to serve in a congregation or ministry as a provisional clergy for several years. Rev. Sallie Suby-Long is a provisional deacon serving as Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Counseling at St. Luke's.

Ordination is only one of the ways that persons are exploring vocational options in ministry. We have members who are exploring seminary classes as well as certification in missions, evangelism, spiritual direction, and Christian education. God continues to speak to us in ways that are life transforming and vocationally enriching. My ears and heart are always open to explore the ways that God might be calling you!

Grace,

Rev. Janet

Annual Church Conference – Jan. 7

The Annual Church Conference will be Thursday evening, Jan. 7 at 6:30pm in the Chapel. Rev. Jerry Herships will serve as presiding elder. The agenda for the meeting will include a time of memorials, a celebration of the historical rolls, welcoming new members, the year-end reports of the pastors, lay leaders, and administrative officers, planning for the year 2010, embracing our wider mission giving to the United Methodist Church, and affirming our leadership: 2010 officers, lay speakers, candidates for ministry, pastoral salaries, and retired pastors. All members of the church may vote in a church conference. Then, on Sunday, Jan. 10, we will recognize all leaders who have completed their servant responsibilities with a service of thanksgiving.



Rev. Brad Laurvick
Associate Minister

There is a whole New Year right before us.



The other day, I heard a "Retrospective on the Decade". I

couldn't believe it. I know 2009 is almost over as a year, but I hadn't considered that the decade as well. I sat today thinking about all the things I might decide to do as a part of my "New Year's Resolutions", and as I was thinking about working out, eating better, doing more work around the house, and writing my newsletter articles on time... I thought to myself- why am I waiting for January?

I could start these things today. I could start these things any day. I couldn't think of any reason to put them off until January 1st.

One of the gifts Christ gives us is the grace and love to consider each day, each moment in fact, to be a new beginning. I don't need to tear the last page off my old calendar and see a new number at the top to start living my life in a new way. All I need is a desire to try. Christ invites all of us to celebrate, not a new year, but a re-newed sense of who we are every time we remember our relationship with God.

So this is my new beginning. Right now. And if I screw it up, I will start anew in a few seconds and try again. So Happy New Year Now!!!

Be Blessed and Be a Blessing. —Rev. Brad

p.s. this article was submitted an entire day before the deadline... I'm off to a good start on that one.

Out On the Streets and Homeless

Our own Rev. Doug McKinney, who facilitates the St. Luke's Just Faith Class, spent Friday evening, December 4, out on the streets in order to raise awareness of the needs of the homeless in Denver.

Rev. Doug is the Executive Director of Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) of Littleton, Colorado. Love INC makes regular referrals to twenty-two shelters in the Denver area where people in a variety of life situations may stay. However, there are many homeless that don't meet the stipulations set by many shelters. It is a disturbing statistic that 45% of the homeless in Denver are women and children. None of them want to be living on the streets, especially in the cold. Each day, the homeless have to look for meals, carrying everything they own and find a place to stay until a shelter opens. Without shelter, they are vulnerable and fear for their safety. When shelters are full at night, they must find a location to stay, coats and blankets to stay warm, and still they will fear that they may be robbed or beaten.

Friday night, December 4th, was cold – 12 degrees. The experience began with a worship service and a time of learning as several homeless people shared what it was like to be on the streets. In the midst of the sparkle of the Parade of Lights, Doug's eyes were attuned to the invisible population that faced a night of uncertainty.

About midnight, with others who were joining in the immersion learning, Doug crawled into the refrigerator box that would be his shelter for the night. Even with three layers of clothing, a mummy sleeping bag, and two blankets, he was quite cold. He closed up his box and slept, knowing that others were staying awake throughout the night to ensure a safe environment. The box was frosted over at 6:00am when Doug awoke. The organizers had prepared coffee and the group was debriefed until 7:30am when they tore up their boxes and headed home.

The homeless people who shared the experience were grateful for the good night of sleep as they knew the police wouldn't be coming by and asking them to move one, nor did they have to worry about people robbing them. The homeless shared how invisible they feel. People who walk down the street typically don't acknowledge them by looking the other way. As Doug walked to the parade, he spoke with several people who were walking the street and all of them lit up as he made eye contact.

Doug reflects on the learning: *The theme for the gathering centered around how much we have to learn from the poor, how much Jesus valued the poor, and how vacant and shallow we are when we ignore the poor. In just twelve hours, it became evident to me. I wondered what I'd do if I had a cold – where I'd go and how I'd get well.*

The experience reminded me of the passion with which I entered the ministry and my care and concern for victims, and the systems that perpetuate poverty. I recalled times when I had been an advocate, times at the three downtown churches I've served where I met face to face more often with the down and out and homeless, and how I saw Christ in them. I also reflected on recent years in ministry where I've been insulated from these realities and the effect that has had on me. I felt revived and renewed in my work with Love INC and in St. Luke's with the Just Faith Class. I was reminded that we need each other – the haves and the have-nots, the rich and the poor, the independent and the dependant. I was wonderfully encouraged by the interest and participation of young people in their twenties and thirties.

Get Connected Jan. 10 at our Mini Ministry Fair

Come to Fellowship Hall between and after services on January 10 to celebrate Missions and Support Teams as they share their ministry to St. Luke's! There will be booths sponsored by the following teams: Missions, Care Team, Caring Connection, Prayer Chain, Stephens Ministry, Cancer Support, AA, Alanon, Narcotics Anonymous, Discovery Club, and Mom's Club of HR East. This is a great way to meet the people who serve on these teams, find information about service and support and to see how our congregation ministers to our community and to our world.

For more information on how St. Luke's serves, check out our Ministry Catalog at the website under publications or at the Get Connected Center at church.

Questions? Contact Karin Wesson 303-683-0196 karin@thewessons.com or Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com.

The Guatemala Mission Team will be holding an **Epiphany Burrito Breakfast** between services on

January 3 (King's Sunday.) All funds raised from this breakfast will be used to purchase the supplies needed to build an adobe home for a needy Guatemalan family. This is a chance to have a great breakfast, visit with friends and support a wonderful cause... all at the same time! Also, make sure to check the St. Luke's website in March of 2010 to see pictures of the adobe home being built by members of St. Luke's.

Divine Love: The Heart of the Christian Spiritual Journey with Thomas Keating (*A DVD series*)

Our journey on the discovery of Centering Prayer, will continue with this 4wk course, beginning Jan. 14, Thursdays 6:30-8:45pm in the Chapel. Cost will be \$10. This will include a period of Centering Prayer, a viewing of the DVD and an open discussion. Those new to Centering Prayer are welcome; an introduction to Centering Prayer will be offered at the beginning of the first class. Again, we welcome and thank the Contemplative Outreach of Colorado, for sending their facilitators to walk us through this journey. Sign up at the Get Connected Center, or at www.stlukeshr.com or contact Lynda Fickling lynda@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659x20. If you missed the Centering Prayer Workshop we held here back in September, you are able to take this at the Center for Contemplative Living at 3650 Yates St., Denver 80212 on January 16, 2010. Time is from 9:00am-1:00pm and cost is \$25. Please contact the center for registration 303-698-7729.

New classes for spring! Living the Questions, our Thursday morning DVD-based study series will begin new consecutive classes starting January 7. Class meets each week from 9:30-11:30am and lasts from four-eight weeks and cost \$10-\$20 for materials. Class breaks over the summer and continues in the fall. Please see below for more information:

Victory and Peace or Justice and Peace by John Dominic Crossan: Explore the juxtaposition of Roman Imperial Theology and the Kingdom of God. Topics include Justice & the World: What is the Character of Your God? History & Jesus: What is the Content of Your Faith? Worship & Violence: What is the Purpose of Your Prayer? Resurrection & Community: What is the Function of Your Church?

The Asphalt Gospel: a film by Scott Griessel, produced by Crosswalk America. It tells the story of six ordinary people determined to spread a message of compassion and inclusion in the midst of the intolerance of the Christian Right.

Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today by Walter Brueggemann: A challenging interpretation of Exodus 1-15, placing it directly in the context of current cultural and political realities.

Café St. Luke's:

We invite you to explore the community of St. Luke's. Join me for coffee and conversation about the history of St. Luke's, the United Methodist Church, our ministries, programs and serving opportunities. Whether you have been here for one week or many years, we offer this relaxing opportunity for you to connect with this community. All are welcome!

9:30am, 2nd Sunday of the month, Rm 213

Can't make the 2nd Sunday?

Contact Lynda and we'll find a time that works!

Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director
303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com



Week Ending December 5, 2009

Please stop by the Information Center, by the front door, where you will find the updated Prayer Concerns List (on yellow paper) and the Armed Forces Prayer List (on blue paper). Look it over and Bonnie know if you have any additions/removals from either list. 303-791-0659 x10, leave a note on the front desk, or email at bonnie@stlukeshr.com

Gerry Wright (<i>Gail Abernathy's mother</i>)	Norma Harris
Paula Strader (<i>Sandi Miyaki's sister</i>)	Taylor Easterly (<i>friend of Sharon Scholle</i>)
Judy Austin (<i>Mary Jo Weber's sister</i>)	Nan (<i>friend of Joy Damsgard</i>)
Lori Lieberman (<i>friend of Jane Damsgard</i>)	Gavin Gallagher (<i>friend of Mary Harper</i>)
Karen Edwards (<i>friend of Eileen & Ed Law</i>)	Liam Crotty (<i>friend of Joely Maddux</i>)
Dwain Bartellina (<i>Mike Hutchins' uncle</i>)	Donita Fischer (<i>friend of Laurie Gilbert</i>)
Lucille Hallowell (<i>friend of Nancy Abbott's</i>)	Norm Keller (<i>Candy Keller's father</i>)
Chrissy Booth (<i>Kam & Tim Bole's friend</i>)	Ryan Monroe (<i>friend of Laurie Gilbert</i>)
Suzie Burk (<i>Melissa Ester's mother</i>)	Bobette Stephens (<i>Mike Stephens' mother</i>)
Schelly Thompson	Cathryn Swier (<i>Kathy Swier's mother-in-law</i>)
(<i>Sandy Thompson's sister-in-law</i>)	Katy Drake (<i>Caroline Butler's granddaughter</i>)
Nancy Jackson	Chelsea White (<i>Kathy Enloe-Miller's friend's granddaughter</i>)
Jed Bennett (<i>Fred & Jean Bennett's son</i>)	Lolitha Fernandes (<i>friend of Joely Maddux</i>)
Tammy Hess (<i>Bonnie Funk's friend</i>)	The Lancaster Family (<i>co-worker of Steve Maddux</i>)
Kirk Watkins (<i>Keith & Marilyn Ayers son</i>)	Olga Faye Petersen (<i>Loretta Chiofolo's mother</i>)
Jill (<i>Jenny Hanna's friend</i>)	Jann McBride (<i>Bob McBride's daughter</i>)
Susie (<i>Joy Damsgard's friend</i>)	Ralph Mather (<i>Jackie Hutzell's grandfather</i>)
Daniel Gaul (<i>Jennifer Richeson's brother</i>)	Maire Callen (<i>Lynda Fickling's friend</i>)
Andrew Kent	Mike Stevenson
(<i>10. yr. old family friend of the Richeson's</i>)	Jan Ruften
Mark Bartellina (<i>Mike Hutchins' cousin</i>)	Zach Bingham (<i>nephew of Ashlee Favilene</i>)
David Joseph	Jim White (<i>friend of Ron & Suzanne Humphreys</i>)
(<i>Friend of Bobbi King/Marie Blue</i>)	
Beth Turner	
John Larsh (<i>friend of Rick & Louise Jasper</i>)	
Karen Chaux (<i>Linda Fligg's friend</i>)	
Roberta Towell (<i>Jon Streaty's sister</i>)	
Joy (<i>Susy Halloran's friend</i>)	
Shaun VanDyke (<i>Bobbi King's nephew</i>)	
Marge Weegs (<i>friend of the Halderman's</i>)	
Mike Maciejewski	
(<i>Jennifer Jiang's brother-in-law</i>)	
Daniel Winkle (<i>friend of Gail Strawn</i>)	
Darrell & Billie Aderman	
(<i>friends of Rick & Louise Jasper</i>)	
Ross Magaughy	
(<i>friend of Rick & Louise Jasper</i>)	
Randy Staton	
(<i>friend of Dave & Bonnie Funk</i>)	
Cindy Riley (<i>friend of Paul/Susan Northrop</i>)	
Jack Miller (<i>friend of Paul/Susan Northrop</i>)	
Nancy Melia (<i>friend of Bonnie Funk</i>)	
Mildred Johnson	
(<i>Connie Shoemaker's mother</i>)	
Connor Thorne	
Ray and Shirley Sutcliffe	
(<i>Leigh Ramsey's parents</i>)	
Jerry Miyaki (<i>Mike's uncle</i>)	
Jay Brown (<i>Sue Brown is LS teacher</i>)	
Karmie Hilleary	
Louise McGill (<i>Sharon Oliver's mother</i>)	
Amy McDowell (<i>LS Mother</i>)	
Susan Hooke	
Jack Dahlberg (<i>friend of Susy Halloran</i>)	
Alexandra (<i>friend's niece of Kris Reif</i>)	
Susan Elling (<i>Audrey Elling's mother</i>)	
Joe Forbes (<i>Rev. Janet's brother</i>)	
Candy Marsh (<i>friend of Ruth Smith</i>)	
Rosie Shaw (<i>friend of Eric Ransick</i>)	

SYMPATHIES:

To Ed & Eileen Law on the passing of their friend, Mike Ladd, Nov. 27;
to Karen Albrow & family on the passing of her aunt, Betty Sarvis, Nov. 24;
to Carson & Michelle Mallory and family on the passing of Carson's mother, Frances Eliza Mallory, Dec. 1;
to Nancy Abbott and Angela & Adam Alderson and family on the passing of their father-in-law/grandfather, Robert Abbott Sr., Dec. 2.,
and to Dave & Marie Fornof on the passing of Dave's mother, Margaret Fornof, Dec. 5.

NEW BABY:

Congratulations to Sean & Heather Saunders on the birth of a son, Jackson Saunders, born Nov. 24.

ARMED FORCES:

Corporal James "Jim" Harding
(*Bonnie Funk's nephew*)
Ed Herring (*Les Ludlam's nephew*)
Josh Brady (*Sylvia Brady's grandson*)
Jeremy Brady (*Sylvia Brady's grandson*)
Colin Gabriel (*son of Val Gabriel*)
Dustin Ellington (*Jayne Dunham's nephew*)
Justin Boggy
Lt. Jeff Harner
Christopher Gardner



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry

We are Called to Serve

Join one of our Christmas Teams!

Come serve on Dec. 24 for one of our services: 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm or 10:00pm

Ushers: Assist in welcoming and assisting with various duties during the service. We have many people that day and need many extra hands! Contact Greg Nolder 720-344-0566 greg@nolders.com or Dick Frame 303-791-4251 rframe5492@aol.com

Greeters: We are the hosts and our mission is to make our guests (and members) feel at home on Christmas Eve. Contact Karmie Hilleary 303-683-4696 karmie@comcast.net or Valerie Goodstein 303-799-0907 valgoodstein@hotmail.com

Refreshments: Help serve and maintain our Hot Cider and Cookies table! Needed after our 1:30pm (includes set-up), 3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:00pm (includes clean-up) services. Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com

Parking Lot Attendants: Help direct traffic in our parking lot for each service. Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com

If you are searching for a place to connect at St. Luke's, please contact Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com or Karin Wesson, Team Leader for Lay Leadership, 303-683-0196 karin@thewessons.com

Did you know...

Marge Harper sewed 48 new children's activity bags for our children who attend worship services? *Thank you to our Quiet Servant.*



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

More from Les: The Christmas Bells

If you are a long-time member of St. Luke's, you may recall seeing the lighted bells that adorned the chimney on the south-east corner of the original church building in the early to mid-1990's. During the Advent season one could see an image of bells outlined in red lights switching back and forth as if they were ringing out a message of joy!

Church member Ralph Roth, a retired jewelry store owner and clockmaker, had made the lighted bells in the late 1980's and he had given them to the church. Both he and his wife Bertha were in their eighties. Bertha had helped in the business when they were younger but now spent a lot of her time caring for two young grandchildren.

Ralph had had a stroke a few years before and his mobility was limited. But he loved to tinker; building gadgets from discarded motors, electrical switches and miscellaneous mechanical devices.

For several years, at the beginning of each advent season, the bells had been put up with the rest of the church decorations. Ralph would supervise the installation of his lights and since he lived close by, would come down to make any repairs or adjustments. There always seemed to be a switch that would stick or a timer that would stop or a electrical connection that loosened. He would drive by the church each evening and if he saw something that was not right, Ralph would insist that he go immediately to the church to fix the problem.

But by 1993 Ralph was experiencing more physical limitation. During the previous advent season, he had been upset when he couldn't get to the church to fix the Christmas lights when they stopped working properly. Bertha was concerned about his well-being and didn't want him climbing on ladders and working so high above the ground.

So, when he saw a problem, he would call our senior minister, Rev. Bill Selby, at the church.

One day in mid-November, Bill called me into his office. "Les," he said, "I would like you to start visiting one of our home-bound members, Ralph Roth and his wife, Bertha. Get to know them and hear their story."

I drove over to their home the next day. When I arrived, Bertha was watching her two young grandsons, so Ralph took the time to show me some of his creations. The clocks were beautiful! His collection of small electric motors, relays, switches and other mechanical parts was amazing! His clock-making hobby was truly an expression of who he was. As we talked, it became more and more obvious to me that the bells he had made for the church were something more than just a decoration he had created. They were a physical manifestation of the joy to be experienced at Christmas; they were a statement of his personal faith in the Savior who was born in a stable. It was his means of expressing the joy that comes when remembering that holy event.

Ralph's gift to the church was a part of him, an expression of who he was and what he believed in. I thought, "How can the church honor and affirm Ralph's statement of faith in these lights and keep them going; without placing him in jeopardy of physical injury?"

I discussed this with St. Luke's staff and decided to ask Steve, a member of the Trustees committee, to see what could be done.

"I know a thing or two about electronic circuits," said Steve, "And we can assemble an electronic system to operate the lights with much more reliability." Then he added, "The new switching system is so small, it can't be easily seen from a distance. It'll work better, but no one will know the old switches and relays are not doing the work."

Steve made the changes and the lights worked well for the rest of the season. Bertha would bring Ralph by to see them and he was happy that they continued to work as intended. The tradition was maintained. But, I confess, I didn't tell Ralph about the circuitry change.

There are lessons from this.

1. Never take any gift lightly. Carefully think through what the presentation of that gift means to the contributor. Consider the giver's view of themselves and what the gift means within the context of the giver's relationship with God and the church. Then treat that gift with the same care as you would the giver.
2. Value and honor our traditions. Traditions are valuable when they help us celebrate and remember the things that shape the good in our lives. Regardless of how they start or what they become over time, our traditions represent the efforts and creativity of individuals who helped shape who we have become as a community.

God bless us all,
Les



*Contemplative
Worship*

St. Luke's Chapel
Dec. 20, 8:15-9:00am

The Spirituality of Winter

Come celebrate the wonder and mystery of the winter solstice in this season of advent. Let your spirit rest in the sacredness of entering the heart of winter. May the winter season strengthen courage, bring beauty and offer silent, deep hope and peacefulness.

Greetings St. Luke's Families,



Wow what a fun and busy fall St. Luke's Kids have had this year! In Sunday School our **Joy Trek** preschoolers heard the stories of the Bible Patriarchs ending with Moses' Journey, while **PEAK** rotation workshops explored Noah,

Samuel and are in the midst of discovering The Manger.

Tweens R.O.C.K. grew to know various Old Testament personalities from Adam and Eve all the way to King David, and **Godly Play** explored Bible Epics, Old Testament history, and prophets! Highlights from the fall include having Rev. Brad in Sunday School getting to know our St. Luke's Kids and answering their insightful questions, as he looks forward to an more active and intentional area of service with our children. Mission project focus helped our children learn more about DenUM and its service to our community, and the children also made a donation to Denver – Feed a Family providing FIVE Thanksgiving baskets for Denver families in need!

We are now in the midst of our Advent lessons as we prepare once again to celebrate Jesus' Birthday! During Advent, a portion of the Children's Ministry offering will go towards a very special gift to the church. The gift will be revealed on January 3 during our special King's Celebration Sunday during the 9:30am Sunday School hour! Each week the children have heard a new hint as to what the gift may be. The hints are:

- 1) Mark 4:8 *Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.*
- 2) Mark 8:1 *In those days, when there was a very great multitude, and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to himself, and said to them*
- 3) Mark 8:6 *He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground, and he took the seven loaves. Having given thanks, he broke them, and gave them to his disciples to serve, and they served the multitude*
- 4) 2 Corinthians 6:13 *And in just requital--I speak as to my children--let your hearts expand also*
- 5) 2 Corinthians 7:4 *I have great confidence in you: very loudly do I boast of you. I am filled with comfort: my heart overflows with joy amid all our affliction*

Do you have an idea? Join us January 3 and find what the special gift to the church is!

We look forward to spending Advent with you and your family. Join us: December 12, 6:30pm - our St. Luke's Puppet Team will perform a special puppet show "The Littlest Gifts" where we learn the most amazing gift of all is actually very simple! The following weekend on December 20, the **Children's Christmas Pageant "The Gift"** will be performed at 3:00pm. Many hours have been spent by the children and parents putting together this very special program. The **Christmas Eve Children's Worship services** will be at 1:30 and 3:00pm and will feature a living nativity, puppets, and a dog! **Merry Christmas!**

News & Notes:

Becoming a Love & Logic Parent

is coming to St. Luke's January 2010: America's most practical and entertaining parent training. Would you like to feel more confident as a parent? Would you like to have more fun parenting? Would you like to feel more relaxed at the end of the day? Join us for this fun and entertaining practical course in parenting.

The nationally known class by Jim Fay and Foster Cline will be held at St. Luke's over four Mondays beginning January 11: 6:00-8:00pm. Cost is \$69 per person/\$130 per couple. For registration information please contact facilitator Suzanne Crawford at 303-883-8800, or coloradocrawfords@comcast.net. Childcare is available, contact kristina@stlukeshr.com. For other questions, please contact Joely.



Joely Maddux
Assistant Director of
Children's Ministry



Kristina Linn
Director of
Childcare

St. Luke's Kids
Growing with God



Hanging of the Greens

was a blast! The children made Christmas ornaments, decorated Christmas trees and Christmas cookies, played outside and had an impromptu dance session to "Jingle Bell Rock!" We enjoyed sharing this time with your children while you busily and beautifully decorated the church!

SLY, Jr. had a great time filming a ministry moment for the Christmas Pageant and decorating their own tween Christmas tree on Dec. 6. Our next gathering is Dec. 20 at 3:00pm. We'll attend the Christmas Pageant and then meet after for a quick gift exchange. Our next gathering will be Jan. 17 at 5:30pm. It's fun and fellowship and devotions on a Sunday night with our 5th & 6th grade peers. This year we are learning more about prayer and the many ways we pray. We are also providing the desserts for the Community Meals on the nights that we meet so please

contact Sharon if you can help
sharon@stlukeshr.com

Upcoming Events Calendar:

Saturday Dec. 12.....6:30pm

Puppet Show

Saturday Dec. 19.....9:30-11:00am Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Pageant

Dress Rehearsal (all children)

Saturday Dec. 19.....1:00pm

Holiday Haven

Sunday Dec. 20.....Candy Cane Sunday

Sunday Dec. 20.....3:00pm

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday Dec. 20.....3:00-5:00pm

SLY, Jr. (Attend Christmas Pageant, then meet for Gift Exchange)

Thursday Dec. 24.....1:30 & 3:00pm

Children's Christmas Eve Service

Sunday Jan. 10.....12:15pm

Acolyte Information Meeting

Mondays Jan. 11, 18, 25 & Feb. 1.....6:00pm

Becoming a Love & Logic Parent

Sunday Jan. 17.....5:30-7:30pm

SLY, Jr.

Tuesday Jan. 19.....6:30pm

Children's Ministry Leadership Team



Candy Cane Sunday in Children's School Come to Sunday School on December 20 and learn how the Candy Cane represents the Christmas Story. Every child will receive a candy cane to take home.



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School

Little School News: Christmas Greetings and Happy New Year!

We can hardly believe that we are preparing for Baby Jesus' birthday as it seems like just yesterday our



children were brand new to the school! But now they are all nicely snuggled into the routine of preschool and brighten our days with smiles and laughter. No doubt the volume will increase with the merriment of the month as the anticipation of the Christ Child is upon us! Lots of fun activities will increase our learning and our social skills with St. Nicholas Day, Pajama Day, Pancake breakfast, a visit from Santa (shhhhhh) and our wonderful Christmas programs on the 16th and 17th at 9:30 and 10:45am. Our Christmas break will be from December 18 until January 3, 2010. We return on the 4th of January ready to learn!!

January will be another busy month with our emphasis on "WESTERN DAYS" celebrating our Denver tradition of the Western Stock Show. Lots of little cowpokes will be seen around the school and we will top it all off on the 26th with our BIG Spaghetti Western Night! To add to that excitement we will be taking a look at winter and our theme for the month will be "SAFE AND SOUND" as we learn how God takes care of us in the storms of our lives!

REGISTRATION FOR FALL OF 2010 WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 10 FOR CURRENT FAMILIES, CHURCH MEMBERS AND ALUMNI. FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE CHURCH (Sunday the 10th) AND AT THE LITTLE SCHOOL OFFICE (downstairs). REGISTRATION AND A \$70.00 REGISTRATION FEE (per family) IS DUE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 20. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE AS WE FILL UP QUICKLY!

NEW FAMILIES MAY PICK UP REGISTRATION FORMS STARTING ON JANUARY 19 AND THEY ARE DUE FEBRUARY 5.

TOURS OF LITTLE SCHOOL ARE ON WED. AND THURS. AT 10:00am, NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY AND YOUR CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME!

Questions??? Email Ms. Kay at: kay@stlukeshr.com or call 303-791-1982.

We hope that this finds all of you filled to the brim with the joy of Christmas and over flowing with the Blessings of a wonderful New Year!

Ms. Kay and Staff :-)

Servant Spotlight: Linda Walker



Several years ago something was tugging at Linda Walker's heart. She realized she missed hearing the Christmas story from a child's perspective. Thus began her journey of bringing the Children's Christmas Pageant to St. Luke's.

Linda grew up in Haxton UMC, where her parents were very involved in teaching

Sunday School. Her mother began directing the Christmas pageant there before Linda was born. The Haxton church continued the tradition of the Children's Christmas Pageant and it began a tradition for Linda and her family each year as a child. As with many children, the story of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus was always a favorite of Linda's. Linda remembers being too shy to be a speaker (that has since changed) but cherishes the memory of when she got to be a silent Mary! As a maturing high school student Linda then began singing solos pieces during the Christmas program. These were definitely a highlight of Linda's childhood and she felt compelled to bring those same memories and traditions to the children at St. Luke's!

Linda and Jed Walker began attending St. Luke's when they first moved to Highlands Ranch. It was Cantata Sunday 1996. She began participating in various Children's Ministry activities and now involves her children Brooklyn, Isabel and Silas. In early 2006 she knew it was time to act upon her calling and met with then Director of Children's Ministry Jenita Rhodes. Jenita was very supportive and with additional support from Linda's mother, the Children's Christmas Pageant was brought to life December 2006. New ideas come to Linda each year which brings us to this year, Linda's fourth pageant at St. Luke's "The Gift". In addition to Linda's vision and direction, the Christmas pageant would not be possible without the huge support of parents each year from gathering costumes and props, to tech help, to providing refreshments! Each year we delight in hearing the story from our children, and the children are able to intimately learn the story and build memories that will last a life time. Jennifer Smith, mother of 8 year old twins Stephen and Mathew adds "*The Christmas Pageant has really helped Matthew and Stephen with learning the meaning of Christmas.*" I think that can be said for all of us. *Thank you Linda for sharing your gift with the St. Luke's family once again!*

MISSIONS

Christmas Milk Program for Guatemala



Want to make difference with your Christmas giving this year? Give an alternative gift, one that can change lives in rural Guatemala. Give milk for Christmas. For the past several years, St. Luke's has played a major role in supporting the annual Christmas Milk Program in Guatemala. With your support, we can once again help brighten the holidays for a poor family in Guatemala! 100% of the donations are used to provide milk to the

rural village of Lemoa, Guatemala. A 2.5-kg canister of premium dehydrated whole milk can be purchased and delivered for only \$12.50. That will make five gallons of 4% milk, which will provide months of vital nutrition to chronically malnourished children.

If you would like to support the milk program this year, please make checks payable to St. Luke's with Guatemala Milk Program on the memo line. There is a donation container in the narthex along with tags on the Giving Tree, which can be used as an alternative Christmas gift card. You can also make a donation in the form of an alternative Christmas gift to a friend or family member by visiting www.puravida.org.

Thanks to everyone that has supported this program over the past several years. I hope YOU will be able to join us in providing milk to needy children in Guatemala this holiday season. Members from St. Luke's will be in Guatemala in early January to help distribute the milk. *The children of Lemoa thank you!*



St. Luke's 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 Sunday of each month, following the 11:00am service. Everyone is invited to attend.

Our slate of officers are: President – Betty Ludlam, Vice President – Sylvia Brady, Treasurer – Renae Parra, Secretary & Communications – Lori Smith, Secretary of Program Resources – Renae Parra, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth – Sharon Smith, Mission Coordinator for Social Action – Fran West, Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach – Elena Lynch, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation – open, Chairperson Committee on Nominations – Fran West, Conference Liaison – open, Staff representative/ Associate Pastor – Rev. Sallie Suby-Long, Senior Pastor – Rev. Janet Forbes, Associate Pastor – Rev. Brad Laurvick



Sweet Life Café If you liked the Chocolate Boutique, then you won't want to miss Sweet Life Café! In response to the overwhelming positive feedback from last year's all day Spiritual Retreat Day, the UMW is going to give you more of what you want. Mark your calendars for a full day retreat to be held at St. Luke's on Saturday, Feb. 20! Fellowship, Fun, Food and Spiritual Growth will be on the agenda for the day. Tickets will go on sale the end of January. Contact Renae Parra at renaeparra@aol.com if

you have questions or would like to help with the event.

Simply Saturday The next meeting will be held on January 16. The topic will be "Re-Centering for the New Year."



Subgroups of UMW at St. Luke's UMC:

Simply Saturday: One Saturday per month, 8:30-10:00am. For more information, please contact Elena Lynch at elenalynch@gmail.com or Lynda Fickling at lynda@stlukeshr.com. Women ages 18 and up are invited to join us in mission work, time for faith, devotions and building relationships. Childcare is available with 24-hour notice – 303-791-0659 x47.

UMW Monday Evening Book Group: Fourth Monday of the month, 7:00pm Conference Room. For more information, please call Renae Parra at 303-683-0872. To be added to the email mailing list, send a request to renaeparra@aol.com

Itch to Stitch: First and Third Wednesdays of the month, 7:00-8:30pm downstairs near the Children's Library. For more information, please call Fran West at 303-797-7107. Beginners and all skill levels plus all ages are welcome. We have free yarn and cloth.

Women's Night Out: First Monday of the month, 6:30pm various locations. For more information, please contact Lynda Fickling Lynda at 303-791-0659 x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com or Renae Parra at 303-683-0872 or renaeparra@aol.com.

Mark your calendars:

- Monday, January 4: Women's Night Out: Shanghai Garden
- Sunday, January 10: UMW Mission Team Meeting
- Saturday, January 16: Simply Saturday: Re-Centering for the New Year
- Monday, January 18: UMW Book Group: *Wesley the Owl*
- Tuesday, January 26: Family Night at Warren Village
- Monday, February 1: Women's Night Out: California Pizza Kitchen
- Sunday, February 14: UMW Mission Team Meeting
- Saturday, February 20: Women's Winter Retreat: Sweet Life Café
- Monday, February 22: UMW Book Group: *The Zookeeper's Wife*

Looking ahead:

Upcoming National UMW Events

2010 Quadrennial Assembly: Faith, Hope, Love in Action
April 30-May 2, St. Louis, MO

ST. LUKE'S WELLNESS ASSESSMENT! YOUR PERSPECTIVE IS NEEDED AS WE PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE!

Why is our congregation doing this?

The purpose of this Wellness Survey is to begin to assess the overall wellness of our congregation; survey results will be used to aid future efforts to enhance the wellness of our members as well as the larger community in which we serve. The questions center on how we can nurture mind, body, and spirit and how we can effectively promote health, wholeness, and well-being within our community.

How long is it going to take?

It's quick and easy. You can sail right through in about 10 minutes, or if you linger to comment and ponder it might take more like 15.

How do I do it?

You can go to the St. Luke's website, www.stlukeshr.com and click on the "Wellness Survey" link. Just click and you're on your way! All responses are anonymous.

How soon do I need to do this?

It's quick and simple, so the easiest thing is just do it now! But if you don't have time right this minute, please give it a try this week—we hope you'll find it fun and intriguing!

How will I find out about results?

Look for communication coming early in the New Year about our congregation's results and where we think it may be calling us!

Who do I contact if I have questions?

You may contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long with questions or comments about the wellness survey. sallie@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x32



Mary Smothers, her son Joshua, and Debbie Miller delivered 75 10lb bags of potatoes to the Denver Inner City Parish. They were astonished and so grateful. Thank you, St. Luke's, for all of the potato donations!!!

MUSIC & DRAMA



James Ramsey
Director of Music
Ministry & the Arts



Kay Coryell
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Ken Mervine
Organist/
Accompanist



**Mark your
calendars!
Little Women
Feb. 12 & 13!**

Come see this literary classic set for the Broadway stage. The show is in two acts and is considered to have a rating of G. The version we are performing stems from the 1st National Tour and is slightly different from the Broadway production.

Brief synopsis: Based on Louisa May Alcott's own family experiences (and novel), *LITTLE WOMEN*, follows the adventures of Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March as they grow up in Civil War America. The beloved story of the March sisters is timeless and deals with issues as relevant today as when they were written. Now, this wonderful narrative has been brought to life as an exhilarating new musical filled with glorious music, dancing and heart. *LITTLE WOMEN* embodies the complete theatrical experience, guaranteeing a night filled with laughter, tears, and a lifting of the spirit. This powerful score soars with the sounds of personal discovery, heartache and hope – the sounds of a young America finding its voice.



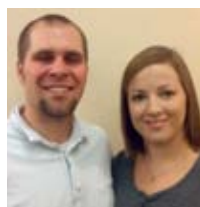
**St. Luke's
Christmas
Cantata CD's
available now!
Special 'til
Dec. 20! BOGO**

**free – \$20. (\$15 donation to
the music and arts program.)**

NEW MEMBERS: NOVEMBER



Kirk & Linda Hall
"We enjoyed our previous membership with the United Methodist Church in Monument; previous visits to St. Luke's-enjoy the sense of community, music, wide range of activities and opportunities to share our faith."

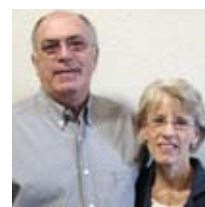


Patrick & Kelly Curnalia
"We were looking for a church, and enjoyed the church services we attended, in particular the Fusion service."



Jena Kelii

Melanie Kirkpatrick
*no picture available



Roger & Nancy Mussetter
"We moved to the Denver area a year ago and we have been 'church shopping' ever since. St. Luke's seems to be a good fit with its motivational Sunday services, local mission projects, community outreach programs and various connection opportunities."

Welcome

JOINING



We are an inclusive community of faith, seeking to meet people where they are in their spiritual journey. We want to celebrate your life stories, your passions, and your gifts for making the world a grace place! We are committed to growing together toward full humanity through living the teachings of Jesus. This is an exciting lifestyle that can transform your spiritual quest, your family, and your vocation. Every Sunday, we extend this invitation for you to join our community of St. Luke's. Here is some helpful information on how to take the next steps:

1. Persons may join the church any Sunday by transfer of their membership or by profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We recognize the Sacrament of Baptism from all Christian churches. Any person who has received Christian baptism does not need to be baptized again. Baptism is a covenant between an individual and God. If you have not been baptized, please contact one of our Pastors or Lynda Fickling, our Director of Servant Ministry.
3. Fill out the membership card located in the Friendship Pad or at the Get Connected Center. Simply hand the membership card to one of our Pastors or staff members at any time.
4. Persons joining are asked to meet with our Director of Servant Ministry, to give and receive additional information and have a picture made.
5. Although not required, we encourage you to attend "Cafe St. Luke's" held monthly to explore St. Luke's programs, ministry and missions.
6. You will be invited to attend a New Member brunch! We will welcome you with food and fellowship and introduce you to our staff.

The Commitment

- To worship regularly.
- To grow in faith by participating in a small group.
- To participate in hands-on mission to the congregation, the community, and the world.
- To reach out in care and hospitality.
- To grow in generosity through giving to our shared life.

Complete Church Calendar on our website: Common Table Request Fulfilled!

After an unbelievable amount of work, Ken Fong and Bonnie Funk announce that the detailed calendar for all church functions is available on the church website for your use in planning. This was a request from the first Common Table gathering on April 13. Thank you, Ken and Bonnie, for all of the work. Go to the website, click on Events (detailed) on the home page or Calendars pages. You can only look for the event bookings. Times reflect when the room is booked, not necessarily the exact start and end time of the event. We're working on incorporating more detailed information. You must still contact Bonnie Funk in the church off to schedule a room or an event. **Next meeting of the Common Table: January 25, 2010 – please join us!**

Don't miss

- * **SLY PM Dinner every Sunday night at 5:30pm, \$2**
- * **Dec 13 – ZooLights Night!** Buy your tickets online from the Denver Zoo or bring \$8 to buy a ticket at the door. Dinner at 5:30, we'll drive down, but not be back until later than usual. Back to St. Luke's by 9pm.
- * **Dec 20 – White Elephant Gift Exchange.** Everyone who comes should bring a wrapped present that costs less than \$5! You will leave with a present, but not the one you brought! Dinner at 5:30, finished by 7:30.
- * **Dec 24 – Children's Christmas Eve Services at 1:30 & 3pm.** Puppets, carols, and candles.
- * **Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services 5, 7, 10pm.** Carols, Candles, and communion at 10.
- * **Dec 27 – No SLY activities in the morning or evening!!!**
- * **Jan 3 – New Year of Sunday School begins!**
- * **Jan 3 – SLY PM Karaoke at LIFEspot.** LIFEspot is located at 7562 South University (University and Dry Creek) Unit K. Meet there at 6:30, bring a couple of bucks for pizza and smoothies if you like!
- * **Jan 10, 17, 24 & 31** – Regularly scheduled SLY PM activities from 5:30-7:30 every Sunday night.
- * **Special Events/Info:**
- * **Youth Email Lists** – Looking for weekly info and updates from SLY? Well, you can sign up for an email list and get tons of important information straight to your inbox! Simply go to www.stlukeshr.com, click on the 'Eministry' button at the top of the page, then select 'Email Lists'. Parents should sign up a valid email address for the 'SLY Parents' list and youth should sign up for the 'St. Luke's Youth' List. Make sure we have a good email address for you!
- * **Youth Sunday** – On January 31, SLY takes over Sunday morning worship! We'll run worship at all three morning services, and maybe even do a little something special for Fusion in the evening. If you are interested in helping plan this amazing worship, get in touch with Chris ASAP!
- * **Check out** www.stlukeshr.com/sly for up-to-date info on programs, activities, ministry opportunities and more!



Chris Wilterdink
Director of
Youth Ministry



Susan Johnson
Assistant Director
of Youth Ministry

during the annual Christmas pageant. The Nativity above looks a little crowded, and it is! Every child had to have a part in the Christmas play, and one of my favorite character's cousins got cast as first lobster! Here's the conversation from the movie: *Mom: So what's the big news then? Daughter: We've been given our parts in the nativity play, and I'm the lobster! Mom: The lobster? Daughter: Yeah! Mom: In the nativity play? Daughter: Yeah, *first* lobster! Mom: There was more than one lobster present at the birth of Jesus? Daughter: Duh.*

The truth is, there was no lobster at the first Christmas... but really, it's been so long now that none of us were physically there. Don't we all wish for the excitement that this first lobster has? See, the nativity is more about where we all wish we could be (standing close to God, to Jesus, to Immanuel) than it is about where we are now. It's about the limitless possibilities that happen when heaven and earth meet...

Be the first lobster this Christmas – whether everyone else says you belong or not, you get as close as you can to God during this season, and see if that light doesn't inspire you to better things all year round! –Merry Christmas– –Peace & Love, Chris

CHRIS'S CORNER 1st Lobster

In 2003, a movie entitled *Love Actually* came out, tracing 8 different love stories that all take place during the Christmas Holiday. My personal favorite story has to do with an elementary-age boy and his plans to reveal his love for a girl classmate



SLY PM needs your help with meals! This past Fall, SLY, SLY Jr, and Fusion joined forces to begin offering a community meal before all of the Sunday Night activities that take place at St. Luke's. Our meal coordinator Nancy Jackson has done an amazing job of putting together meals and people to prepare food to feed over 75 people every Sunday night since September! **Thank you Nancy!**

This vital ministry opportunity provides a meal for anyone at St. Luke's on Sunday evenings, allowing many youth and adults the opportunity to eat amidst busy weekend schedules. If you have already helped us prepare a Sunday night meal thank you! If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this important ministry, I encourage you to contact me (chris@stlukeshr.com or 303-260-8221) or our meal coordinator Nancy (nlnjackson@comcast.net) to find out how easy it is to partner up and provide a Sunday night meal! We have the need for help on most Sunday nights in the upcoming spring.



2010 Youth Ski Retreat!!!

January 15-17 for all grades (6th through graduating 12). This year we're heading to Winter Park and lodging with YMCA of the Rockies Snow Mountain Ranch. A nice cabin with bunks and a big kitchen for us to cook our own food! Base cost is \$125 for food and lodging. You can ski up to two days at \$24 per day for lift tickets, or go tubing at Snow Mountain Ranch. You can also order a trip hoodie for only \$10! Registration forms are on www.stlukeshr.com/sly or in the youth room at church. Registrations are due by January 3.

2010 Confirmation Info Meeting Sunday, January 10 at noon in the youth room. Parents of youth 8th grade and up are invited to attend and get details about the upcoming 2010 Confirmation Class. Classes will begin on Sunday February 7. There will be a \$125 cost for the class, which help cover curriculum materials and a weekend retreat with a ropes course. Classes will meet Sunday mornings from 11am to Noon and are open to all youth (and their families) 8th grade and up. Registrations forms are available at www.stlukeshr.com/sly or at the 'Get Connected Table' upstairs. The Confirmation Retreat will be from the evening of March 5 through the early afternoon of March 7. Confirmation Sunday will take place April 25.



The Pumpkin Patch raised just over \$8500 for youth missions this year, so thank you to everyone who supported SLY's largest single fundraiser of the year! If you are still looking for opportunities to earn hours for next summer's trips, contact Chris or look for announcements around church!



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Lisé Takayama
Assistant Director
of Finance

Thank You For Your Continued Support

As always—I can't say "thank you" enough for the way you support the financial needs of St Luke's.

With Less Than 30 Days Remaining in 2009, The Time Is Here For Year-End Tax Planning.

For the church to give you credit for your donations in 2009, we must receive your donation on or before December 31 or it must be postmarked on or before December 31. Some of the methods you may choose to use for your donation take a considerable amount of time for processing and need to be at the church before the December 31 deadline.

If you need assistance in getting your transaction processed, please give Lisé or me a call. We will be glad to assist you.

Special IRA Charitable Rollover Program

Extended For 2009 Taxes. The Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008 extended the provision for those who are over 70 ½ to make a donation to their church to be included on their 2009 tax returns. This provision allows eligible taxpayers to donate up to \$100,000 without it being taxable income and at the same time the donation will apply to your required IRA minimum distribution. Keep in mind that the distribution must come direct to the church from the institution holding your IRA funds. It cannot be a personal check from your checking account.

If you are interested in using this program for your donation, you should check with your tax adviser to review the process and make sure that your timing is correct for it to reach the church on or before December 31 or at least get postmarked on or before December 31.

Pick and Choose Your Method Of Giving to SLUMC.

We have many ways for you to make your giving to SLUMC easy and convenient. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions.

In addition to cash and checks, we offer online credit card transactions, stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts. The following is a general summary:

- 1. General Fund and Capital Campaign:** All methods.
- 2. Grocery Cards:** Cash, check, scheduled automatic withdrawal from checking accounts.
- 3. Special Events:** Depending on the type of event may include cash, check, PayPal and online credit card 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.
- 4. Plus:** We're anxious to consider any reasonable method you know about that we haven't adopted.

Holiday Transformations

We'd like to thank the members of the Altar Team, Trustees, and many many volunteers who gave the gift of their time and talent to get St. Luke's ready to celebrate our Christmas festivities. Sharon Smith did an amazing job of leading the design efforts along with the Alter team. They simplified the design this year, consistent with our "Simply a Silent Night" Advent theme, and worked around our new acoustic wall panels, giving us a beautiful worship facility. With many hours spent in advance preparation, and Christmas music getting everyone in the spirit, the volunteers successfully got everything in place by 1:00pm on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

After the 11:00 Epiphany Service on January 3, 2010, with the help of as many volunteers who will stay for a bit, we'll reverse the process and get everything accounted for, carefully packed, and moved back into the storage loft. If you and your family can spare a little time to help us get this done quickly, we'd really appreciate it.

As we look back on the progress we've made since this time last year, we also want to offer our thanks to all of you who have helped us to complete the longer term transformation of our worship, gathering, and classroom spaces. Because of you, St. Luke's will never be the same! Merry Christmas—we are truly blessed!



Interested in welcoming newcomers to St. Luke's?

Remember when you were new to your church community? Who made a first impression on you? What made you feel welcome?

Our Welcome Team drops off canvas bags with information about St. Luke's to guests who have been attending St. Luke's two-three times. The visit takes only a few minutes but the impression is lasting. In a recent survey done by our Welcome Team, guests that had a canvas bag left at their door were so pleased that our church took the time to say hello and made them feel welcomed.

Please help us to continue this ministry by offering your time to visit our new guests a few times in a month. If you feel a nudging towards this ministry but are hesitant, please contact members of this team for their own experiences: Peter Waldheim 303-953-0252, Martha Boon 303-694-3604, Connie & Floyd Shoemaker 303-795-5164, and Bill & Joan Goddard 303-972-9540. Staff support: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20. Help celebrate our community in welcoming all to join us!

New Ministry Team: Have you ever walked in to the office, on a Sunday, with a question and no one was there to help you? If so, you aren't alone. Many people come in each week and don't get the help they need, so St. Luke's would like to make our office more inviting, especially those visiting for the first time, who want to know more. Shifts would be one Sunday a month, from 8:30am to 12:15pm or split into two shifts: 8:30-10:30am and 10:30am-12:15pm. Training will be provided. If you would like to be a part of this new ministry, please contact Lynne Butler at llbutler1@msn.com or 303-470-9083.



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

NON-PROFIT
ORG
**U S POSTAGE
PAID**
PERMIT #7
LITTLETON, CO

*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.*

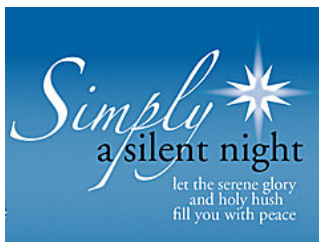
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Holiday
Haven**

Saturday, December 19
1-4pm

~The gift of time alone for parents~

Let us simplify an afternoon for you!
Available for nursery-grade school children



Online Registration

Go to www.stlukeshr.com
and click on 'Holiday
Haven' to sign up

Activities

Craft, snacks, games,
story-time, and movies.
Also, a quiet room will be
available for nap-time

Cost

Donation of \$6 per child
with a \$12 per family max

DECEMBER 2009/JANUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Brad Laurvick 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM-Zoo Lights 6:34pm: Fusion	14 7:00pm: Trustees	15	16 9:30 & 10:45am: Little School Christmas Program 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	17 9:30 & 10:45am: Little School Christmas Program 9:30am: Advent Study	18 Little School closed through Jan. 3	19 9:30am: Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant 10:00am: Story Tellers and Writer's Workshop 1:00pm: Holiday Haven
20 Candy Cane Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes 8:15am: Contemplative Worship Service 3:00pm: Children's Christmas Pageant 3:00pm: SLY, Jr.-attend Pageant 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	21 6:30pm: UMW Book Group	22	23	24 Simply a silent night 1:30 & 3:00pm: Children's Christmas Eve Service 5:00 & 7:00pm: Traditional Christmas Eve Service 10:00pm: Contemplative Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office closed	26
27 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Brad Laurvick NO Sunday School 6:34pm: Fusion	28 Church Office closed	29	30	31	JAN 1 Happy New Year!	2
3 Epiphany/King's Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes Burrito Breakfast 6:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	4 Little School reopens 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	5	6 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	7 6:45am: Donut Whole	8	9 8:00am: Chancel Choir retreat
10 8:00am: Mini Ministry Fair 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's 12:15pm: Acolyte Info. Meeting 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	11 6:00pm: Love & Logic 7:00pm: Trustees	12	13 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	14 6:45am: Donut Whole	15 SLY Ski Weekend	16 SLY Ski Weekend 8:30am: Simply Saturday 10:00am: Story Tellers and Writer's Workshop
17 SLY Ski Weekend 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes 8:15am: Contemplative Worship Service 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	18 Martin Luther King Day Church Office and Little School closed 6:00pm: Women's Night IN 6:00pm: Love & Logic 7:00pm: UMW Book Group	19 6:30pm: Children's Ministry Leadership Team	20 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	21 6:45am: Donut Whole	22	23
24 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	25 6:00pm: Common Table 6:00pm: Love & Logic	26 5:30pm: Little School Spaghetti Western Dinner	27 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	28 6:45am: Donut Whole	29	30 Jan. 31 Youth Sunday!