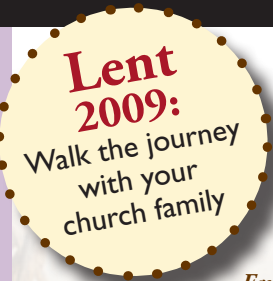




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Fat Tuesday "Mardi Gras" Pancake Flipping

February 24
5:30-7:00pm

It is hosted by the youth (SLY) and proceeds go to youth programs. We will have pancake flipping contests, mask making and crown decorating, and lots of yummy food to eat! Don't miss this opportunity to live it up on Fat Tuesday!

Lent 2009:

Walk the journey with your church family

Tuesday Feb. 24
Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30-7:00pm

Wed. Feb. 25
Ash Wednesday service 6:30pm

Friday Feb. 27
Family Movie Night 7:00pm

Friday & Saturday Feb. 27-28
St. Luke's Youth 30 Hour Famine

Saturday Feb. 28
United Methodist Women's Spiritual Retreat: Chocolate Boutique

Wednesdays March 4 - April 1
Lenten Soup Suppers 5:30-6:30pm

Sundays March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5
Lenten Class Series
Tune in to God 6:30-8:00pm

Saturday March 14
Dancing for DenUM with Ministers of Swing 7:00-9:30pm - Southridge Recreation Center

Friday March 20
St. Luke's Wind Ensemble Concert 7:00pm

Friday & Saturday April 3-4
Requiem for a Superstar 7:00pm

Saturday April 4
Easter Fun Day 10:00am

Sunday April 5
Requiem for a Superstar 2:00pm

Sunday April 5
Palm Sunday services 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Thursday April 9
Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm

Friday April 10
Good Friday service at 7:00pm

Sunday April 12

Easter

6:00am Sunrise service at Red Rocks with Women of Note and Band

6:30am Sunrise service at Shea Stadium with SLY

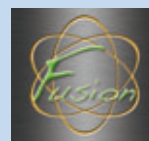
8:00am Worship service with Sonrise, Off-Notes Youth Choir and Bells

9:00, 10:00 & 11:00am Worship service with Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulators Bell Choir, Brass Ensemble and Organ



Fusion: Celebrating One Year of Digging Deeper

by Jen Utter



Have you ever been in a church service and seen someone text messaging in the middle of the sermon and think, "How rude?"

Now, have you ever been to a church service where not only does the pastor take out his cell phone to text message but encourages the members to do so as well?

If you have ever been to one of St. Luke's Fusion services led by Rev. Brad Laurvick, you know that text messaging during the sermon is just one of the many ways that he keeps true to the spirit of Fusion.

Having celebrated a year on January 25, 2009, Fusion is "the fusion of your everyday life and something deeper." The service speaks to real issues, is relevant to the lives of the members and completely driven by the wants and needs of the St. Luke's congregation.

"The idea of Fusion stemmed out of St. Luke's desire to meet people where they are and be creative while doing it," said Rev. Laurvick. "Every change made to Fusion has been participant driven."

Meeting every Sunday night at 7:34pm, it's obvious when walking into the sanctuary that Fusion isn't like most church services. The rows of chairs are transformed into clusters of tables that facilitate conversation and a sense of community among members. Fusion's own rock band made up of members of the congregation combine traditional church songs and hymns with brand new songs that are inspired by the members.

"Having an alternative worship setting allows us to respond to the spiritual needs of more people, especially younger post moderns for whom community and connection

continued on page 3

Sunday Worship Services:
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
7:34pm: Fusion

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

Staff:

Rev. Janet Forbes.....x13
Senior Minister
Emergency: 303-241-9312

Rev. Pam Rowley.....x32
Associate Minister
Emergency: 720-348-1528

Rev. Brad Laurvick.....x12
Associate Minister
Emergency: 720-296-1251

Laura Hehner.....x49
Pastoral Intern

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

Marcus Carlson.....x27
Minister to Children and their Families

Joely Maddux.....x11
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Kristina Linn.....x40
Director of Childcare

Lynda Fickling.....x20
Director of Servant Ministry

Bonnie Funk.....x10
Church Secretary

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
March issue of *The Chronicle*
are due **February 20**
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

Turn the Christian Year with the Imposition of Ashes

The Christian year tells the story of Jesus in two cycles of time. The year begins with the Christmas cycle of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany as we celebrate Jesus' birth. The story culminates in the Easter cycle of Lent, Easter, and Pentecost with the wonder of resurrection. The turning of the year from one cycle to the next is marked by the tension of two very different holidays... just 24 hours apart.

The Bible tells us that before Jesus began to teach the people he prepared himself by spending forty days praying in the wilderness. We call these forty days Lent, and Lent is the time when Christians prepare for the celebration of Easter. Some people still give up a favorite food during Lent, but in the Middle Ages, everyone had to go without eating meat or lard or eggs for the whole forty days.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, so on Tuesday everyone makes a good start by confessing their sins and having them shriven or shrove – in other words, forgiven. That is why the day is called Shrove Tuesday, February 24. After confession, they cook a meal of pancakes, using up all the eggs and lard in the house. Shrove Tuesday is still called, “mardi gras”, which means “greasy Tuesday”, when all the grease and fat in the house have to be used up. As the last party before the season of Lent, Christians share in the fun of masquerade and pancake races. Supper and festivities will begin at 5:30pm.

After your family feasts on pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, our church family will mark the first day of Lent with the observation of Ash Wednesday, February 25, at 6:30pm. All Shrovetide jollity is now over, and people show their sorrow for their past sins by putting ashes on their heads. We prepare ourselves to journey with Jesus through Holy Week to the crucifixion.

On the successive Wednesday evenings of Lent, St. Luke's will offer soup suppers at 5:30pm with classes to follow at 6:30pm. Our Lenten classes will focus on *The Last Week* by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus J. Borg, a day-by-day account of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem.

The Lenten season will draw toward the presentation of a passion drama concert, *Requiem for a Superstar* on April 3, 4 and 5.

Come and worship... observe the turning of the Christian year.

Janet

Monty's Methodism Musings by Monty Hoffman

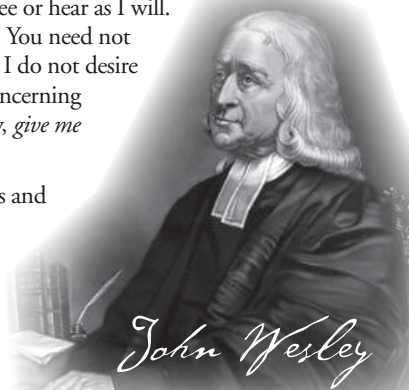
As I was reminded during this past election year, conflict is a part of life. Despite our best intentions, we will inevitably end up in disagreements with other people, even people we love. As a scientist, conflict is something that I look for in information. It is in conflict that new ideas that resolve the conflict are born. It is not the conflict itself that is destructive; it is how we resolve the conflict.

In many parts of our lives, the resolution of conflict is adversarial, I win and you lose. Because of the high profile of the adversarial process, we often think that it is the only way to resolve conflict. John Wesley's writings show us that there is another way, a creative way rather than a destructive way, to resolve conflict.

Listen to the words of John Wesley's 1749 sermon entitled “The catholic (universal) Spirit”. Wesley worked and quoted from a text from 2 Kings 10:15. Wesley says, “Is thine heart right as my heart is with thy heart? If it be, give me thy hand. I do not mean, *Be of my opinion*. You need not. I do not expect or desire it. Neither do I mean, *I will be of your opinion*. I cannot; it does not depend on my choice. I can no more think than I can see or hear as I will. Keep you your opinion; I, mine, and that as steadily as ever. You need not even endeavor to come over to me or bring me over to you. I do not desire you to dispute those points or to hear or speak one word concerning them. Let all opinions alone on one side and the other: only, *give me thine hand.*”

Wesley's point is that Grace can be a part of each of our lives and we can still disagree.

As Methodists, we believe that God's Grace is present in all of our lives. It is by joining together at the table of Grace that we will find a creative solution to conflict. It is not I win and you lose; it is we win.



Get The Chronicle via email!

Now you have a choice - you can receive our church newsletter through the mail OR strictly online.

If you'd like to receive *The Chronicle* in pdf format on your computer, send an email to Lynda at lynda@stlukeshr.com to remove you from the *The Chronicle* paper mailing list.

We'll stop sending you paper copies and save postage costs.

For those who would still like to have a paper version of *The Chronicle* mailed to your home, not a problem, that option will still be available for everyone who does not sign up for the electronic version.



new
class

Lent series: Tune in to God

beginning Sunday March 8,
6:30-8:00pm for 8 weeks

This class is an excellent introduction to the concepts of Discernment (the interior search for an answer) and Call and would be a great companion to the *Servant By Design* class.

Tune in to God class topics include:

- *What is Call?* • *Call to Ministry* • *What is Discernment?*
- *Conditions for Discernment* • *Is it God We are Hearing?*
- *The Importance of Christian Community* • *The Value of Discernment Groups*
- *Supporting the Ministry of Others* • *Accountability for Ministries*

Sign up in the Narthex today! Class size is limited. Or contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com or Betsy Brown 720-344-6020 devinandbetsy@comcast.net

MISSIONS

PLASMODIUM: It's not a TV, It's a Killer

It is the micro-organism that causes malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. The problem has an easy solution—nets. A \$10 donation to Nothing But Nets (NBN) goes directly toward the purchase, distribution and education about the use of insecticide-treated bed nets. The Gates Foundation will match every donation, net for net, dollar for dollar.

In February and March, we will be having activities and fundraisers to help raise much needed funds for these nets.

The United Methodist Church, the NBA, *Sports Illustrated* and the United Nations Foundation are major founding campaign partners.

Nothing But Nets is the Mission of the Month for February and March. Please watch for more information.

MALARIA KILLS. SEND A NET. SAVE A LIFE.

A new baby girl!

The Fahns, our Liberian family, are expecting a baby girl at the end of February. If you would like to donate clothing, blankets, diapers, misc., please contact Jan Rufien at jc.rufien@comcast.net or 303-979-3491

from page 1

and relevance are the highest values,” said Rev. Janet Forbes.

Just like Jesus used stories and metaphors to describe everyday happenings in order to connect people, the Fusion team finds ways to help make meaning out of relevant modern day issues.

“In order to make our worship more powerful for those who attend, Brad and I often discuss what’s going on in the lives of our congregational family and formulate our worship and sermon themes to specifically address common struggles or questions that we see in their lives,” said Josh Carr, Fusion Worship Leader. “If I can write a song that I know will help, I will most definitely do so.”

The last thing that Rev. Laurvick wants when members leave Fusion is hearing that they wanted something different out of the sermon. Text messaging during the sermon allows the members to dictate where the topic goes. Sometimes Rev. Laurvick can’t address everyone’s text message that comes through during the sermon but that doesn’t mean the service stops that night.

Rev. Laurvick said text messaging allows him to engage and interact with participants beyond the service into their everyday lives throughout the week.

At every service, members fill out orange cards to share about their weeks and what they would like to hear a sermon on. The information on the orange cards is used to create relevant future sermons, even sermon series. In the latest sermon series, each Sunday in January focused on a different reason why people used to go church but no longer did because it was a reoccurring theme among the congregation.

For Rev. Laurvick, the best part of Fusion is the mix of people who attend the service and how the issues brought up apply to everyone. Having someone talk behind your back or trying to make new friends can easily apply to both a 5-year-old and a 70-year-old, he said.

St. Luke’s and the people who make the service happen all have high hopes for Fusion’s future. The goal of Fusion, along with other ministries of St. Luke’s, is to engage the community further by finding an off-site location, reaching people who wouldn’t walk through a “traditional” church door.

“Rev. Laurvick and I dream about an off-site location where we can grow new ministries of spiritual direction, alternative worship, concerts and dramas, discussion groups, 12-step ministries, peer counseling for youth, a mission center... so many possibilities!”

To find out more about Fusion and what it can offer you, visit findsomethingdeeper.org.



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry

We are Called to Serve

Spiritual growth involves many things, including Bible study, prayer, spiritual disciplines, the sacraments, fellowship, and worship.

Yet, real spiritual growth is activated as we serve others.

Get Connected Ministry Team: Our "Get Connected" table is located in the

Narthex. It is our information stop for all members and guests. Our vision/mission is to help each person to connect to St. Luke's in any way that they need. To serve on this team, all you need is the ability to talk to everyone about everything!

Spiritual Gifts: Helps, Service, Hospitality

Meeting Time/Place: Open on Sunday mornings, serving 30 minutes before or after services, one Sunday a month.

Contact: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com

***Coming soon – our permanent Get Connected Center!**

Welcome Team: Looking for friendly, outgoing people to serve on this team whose mission is to welcome friends who have been visiting St. Luke's for a while. Drop off our welcome package and say hello! No experience necessary, you only need to be willing to serve!

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality

Contact: Wally Sackett 303-794-4303 or wsackett@comcast.net

Assembly Team: This team assists other teams in getting mailings prepared, pamphlets copied and folded, booklets bound and ready for distribution among other tasks. They have the skills to work office equipment and enjoy the fellowship of others while participating in this crucial part of the communications process.

Spiritual Gifts: Service, Helps

Meeting Time/Place: As needed

Team Leader: Bonnie Funk 303-791-0659x10 or bonnie@stlukeshr.com

Puppet Ministry: Did you enjoy the Puppet Ministry this past Christmas? Join us! This team conveys Biblical stories to a diverse community and audience. If you love participating in a highly unique way, then this is the ministry for you! All are invited.

Meeting Time/Place: Wednesdays at 6:30pm.

Puppet Ministry Team Leaders: Steve and
Cathy Collins 303-346-0275 or
sccollins@earthlink.net



Café St. Luke's:

Join us for Coffee & Conversation
about our community 9:30am the
2nd Sunday of the month. Meet
your Barista Lynda Fickling at the
coffee station located in the
Fellowship Hall.

Where will I serve?

As we focus on 2009, let's think about our spiritual journey and how we may take one more step to deepen our relationship with God.

We have over 100 small groups from Spiritual Formation, Serving and Fellowship for you to step into. For those of you who are already involved in your gifted ministry,

have you invited someone in to your group lately? Consider taking that first step, God will take it from there. Ask yourself this question...Where will I serve God in 2009? Visit www.stlukeshr.com, publications and download our Ministry Catalog today!

PRAYER CONCERNS



Week Ending January 23, 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 (Gail Abernathy's mother)
Jennie Keefer (Mike Hutchins' daughter)
Norma Harris
John Covey (friend of Ross Barnard)
Norm Keller (Candy Keller's father)
Pat Clem (neighbor of Doug Wagner)
Jim Bailey (Melissa Moberly's father)
Ronda Olson
Paula Strader (Sandi Miyaki's sister)
Judy Austin (Mary Jo Weber's sister)
Robert Abbott, Sr (Nancy Abbott's father-in-law)
Al Tulenko (Bobbi King's neighbor)
Matthew Peterman's cousin, Matthew
Julie Hayes (friend of Susan Werthington)
Susan Johnson
Stephanie Stanley (Jane Damsgard's aunt)
Sharon Liston (Cindy Raap's mother)
Beverly Dodds (Terri Korpas's mother)
Bob Ross (Edee Worth's brother)
Brent Webber (friend of Nancy Cushing)
Vicky Stone (LS teacher)
Paula Peterson (friend of Rachel Nolder)
Amy Spicher (Doug Spicher's mother)
Lori Lieberman (friend of Jane Damsgard)
Thelma Hodge (Meryl Cupp's mother)
Diane Wieland (friend of Bobbi King's)
Loraine Berg (friend of Bobbi King's)
Charlie Ruffen
Janusz Daszuta (pastor from Poland)
Andrew Jones (friend of Renee Sanek)
Rey Lucero (Gov. Lucero's father)
Dustin Baird (family friend of the Lucero's)
Helen Bartz (Bev Tripple's mother)
Janet Wilson (Betty McIntyre's sister)
Richard Beaman (friend of Jenny Stevenson)
Jordan Obertier
Shirley Quail (Kay Swanson's friend)
Marcia Enger
Charles Annett
(LS-Suzanne MacCorkell's grandfather)
Carol Burton (Melissa Hemphill's friend)
Dean Warkentin
(family friend of the Takayama's)
Jan Stanley (Joy Damsgard's sister)
Shirley Sutcliffe (Leigh Ramsey's mother)
Dolphia Dawson
(Melinda Dawson's sister)
Daniel Lund
(family friend of the Miyaki's)
Ryan Fielger (LS Karen Engler's nephew)
Makenzie Aiken (young relative of Kay Oscai)
Kajsa Gotlin (Susan Hooke's friend)
Jeremy Brady (Sylvia Brady's grandson)
Karen Edwards (friend of Eileen & Ed Law)
Na Xiuqin (Rake Jiang's mother)
Harry Cushing's mother
Duwain Barcellini (Mike Hutchins' uncle)
Ken Fong
Dwight Griggs (Susan Hooke's father)
Jim Von Norman (Rob Von Norman's son)
Kirk Watkins (Keith & Marilyn Ayers' son)
Cate Hootman (friend of Ed & Eileen Law)
Glenn Turner
Lucille Hollowell (friend of Nancy Abbott's)
Lauren Nelson
(family friend of the Weispenfennings)
Wally Berton
(Kam & Tim Bole's fr. Pastor)
Chrissy Booth (Kam & Tim Bole's friend)
Bruna Fritz (LS Diana Roppolo's mother)
Matthew Thompson

Joely Maddux
Bill Lee, Sr. (Bill Lee's father)
Robert Oliver II (Bob Oliver's father)
Wanda Lanier (Lynne Butler's mother-in-law)
Matthew Johnson (Sharon Schollé's friend)
Terry Cadwell – (Bonnie Funk's friend)
Velma Newby (Lee Newby's grandmother)
The Thompson family
Lily Dunlap
Shane Coleman (Sharon Schollé's nephew)
Ky Hehner (Laura Hehner's husband)
Suzie Burk (Melissa Ester's mother)
Linda Robbins (former member)
Darwin Walrath
Kay Conklin (friend of Peggy Olson)
Alan Godburn (friend of Peggy Olson)
Abby Carlson
Madeline Sharpe
Doug Johnson
Tim Dombrowski (Doug Johnson's uncle)
Debbie Davis (friend of Val Goodstein)

ARMED FORCES:

Josh Meissner
William Bader
Zac Henshaw
Denton & MaryBeth Dye
Joseph Plumb
Kenneth Berube
Erick Munoz
Joel Frits
Robert Radle
Brian Armstrong
Matthew Gurley
Jeffrey Ransick
James "Jim" Harding
Amber Marshall
Graham Thorne
Jerry Mendiaz
Mark Thompson
Sean M. Pippitt
Jeff Hamer
Josh Brady & Jeremy Brady

SYMPATHIES:

To Jim & Joy Damsgard on the passing of their friend, Jack Allison, Nov. 24
To Ralph Greer on the passing of his brother, Dale Greer, Dec. 15
To Erin & Cliff Brown and family on the passing of Erin's friend, Erica, Dec. 17
To Andrea Hamilton and Roberta Hamilton-Griggs and families on the passing of their grandmother, Imogene Elsie Doerr Robertson, Dec. 17
To Bill Kemman and family on the passing of his wife, Bette Kemman, Dec. 30
To John & Andrea Mezger and family on the passing of John's father, Bernard Mezger, Jan. 1
To Suzanne & Kenny Sharpe and family on the passing of their friend, Mark Frain, Jan. 11
To Gordon Johnson on the passing of his wife, Gretta Johnson, Jan. 14
To Dee & Jean Ann Duncan on the passing of Dee's brother, Lee, Jan. 10
To Ken & Linda Ready on the passing of Ken's mother, Thelma Ready, Jan. 11
To Joyce Eyer on the passing of her husband, Sam Eyer, Jan. 20
To Caroline Butler on the passing of her brother, Jan. 19
To Ron & Anne Latham and family on the passing of Ron's mother, Thelma Latham, Jan. 21
To Linda & Frank Harris on the passing of Linda's grandmother, Ester Baumgam, Jan. 23



Rev. Les Ludlam

St. Luke's Lay
Associate Pastor
1993-1997

More from Les: Baptizing Allan

Traditions are important to us, in our families, in our church life and in many of our day-to-day comings and goings. Traditions remind us about who we are and whose we are. They help us tell our children about our own Christian beliefs and values.

Traditions, by definition, don't change much. But some traditions can, at times, get in the way of our loving each other. Traditions can lull us into the false notion

that we know all there is to know about something. Traditions can trick us into thinking that what we do is more important than why we do it.

So, traditions must be handled with great care and compassion, for what may seem routine or perfunctory for one person, can be very precious and meaningful to another.

It was midsummer when I got the call. My co-worker and good friend, Allan, gave me his tragic news.

Allan was a lifelong health nut, non-smoker, regular exerciser and very conscientious about what he ate and drank, but Allan had just been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer.

Over the following months, I would visit his home each time I was in town. I was living in Alaska and his home was in Fullerton, about 30 miles from our company's offices in Long Beach, California.

Allan knew that I had started working as a part-time local pastor in Palmer, Alaska, and we would talk about this at length. How was it, he wanted to know, that this engineer and friend of his had chosen to pursue what seemed to him to be a very unusual career path?

My relationship with Alan evolved quickly from co-worker and friend into one of pastoral care for a terminal patient. His health grew steadily poorer and poorer. The cancer had advanced to the point that there was no chance of any benefit from surgery and the chemotherapy options were running out. He was placed under in-home Hospice care. But, Allan never lost his sense of humor. He would always have some wry comment for me every time I stopped by his home. His body may have been failing, but his spirit was still lively!

One day in November, I arrived at Alan's home and encountered the Hospice home care nurse as she was leaving. "Take a little extra time with him today," she said, "He doesn't have much longer before the pain medication begins to dull his sense of reality and he knows it." She paused for a moment and then came closer. "Allan seems to need closure on something," she said, "but I can't really put my finger on it. It might be particularly helpful if you could help him articulate what he feels he needs."

So Alan and I talked a little longer than usual that day. He reminisced about his childhood, about his college days at Stanford, about his days working on the construction of the Trans Alaska Pipeline. He talked about how much he would miss Christmases with his grandchildren. Then, as we were talking, Alan suddenly stopped. He looked at me with an almost stern face. "Les," he said, "What do you suppose will happen to me when I die?"

"What is he asking me?" I thought. "Where's Alan coming from?" I felt pretty inadequate; I did not have any idea of what he was looking for and responded with something fairly neutral about the human spirit, our soul, leaving the physical body at death. I said, "I believe in the immortality of the soul, but that is a matter of faith, not of scientific knowledge." Then, I remembered the words of the nurse, so I asked, "Alan, is there something on which you need closure?"

He smiled and turned in his wheelchair and looked at the ceiling. "Les, I grew up in the Reformed Church and I was pretty regular when I was

young. In my church baptism of a person doesn't come till they are of an age where they can understand the vows being taken. I sort of dropped out before I was baptized. Maybe I'm negotiating with God," he said, "I don't know, but the fact that I was never baptized has started to bother me. It's bothering me a lot!"

The sacrament of baptism signifies the love God has for all people. God's love for us is no different whether we have been baptized or not. But this was neither the time nor the place to discuss the theological subtleties of the sacrament of baptism with a dying friend. It was not the time to try to convince him that his not being baptized would have any effect on what might happen to him at death. My personal doctrine was not the issue here. It was about how Alan would spend his last living days. He didn't need to worry about something over which neither he nor I had any control.

"Allan, would you like to be baptized?" I asked. There were tears in his eyes. "Yes! Will you do it?" I swallowed hard and tears came to my eyes as well, "Of course!" I said, "I'm honored that you would ask me. Let me make some preparations and I'll be back tomorrow."

If I was going to baptize my good friend, I wanted to do it right!

So that afternoon, Betty and I went to a local Zondervan bookstore and purchased a Baptism Certificate. I pulled out the small United Methodist book of services that I had received at the Local Pastor's Licensing School a few weeks before and looked up the adult baptism rituals. Then, I picked the longest one I could find and read through it carefully to assure myself that it would be meaningful for Allan. Betty found a pretty bowl we could use for the water.

The next day, we went back to Allan's house and after visiting for a few minutes, I placed the bowl of water on a table next to his wheelchair and covered it with a white towel and then began the ceremony. The words were said, vows made, and the water sprinkled on

Allan's head in the name of the Father, of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There were tears and embraces. God's Holy Spirit was truly there with Allan and the rest of us.

Betty and I returned home feeling tired but particularly good. Even if my understanding of the tradition of baptism was not the same as Allan's, the act in itself had led to a true release of anxiety from my friend. What I believed about doctrinal matters was secondary to Allan's need for an act that affirmed for him that he was indeed loved by God and that he would be OK, even in death.

Two weeks following our return to Alaska, I received a call from Allan's wife, Dorothy. "He went last night Les," she said. "His last days were comfortable and confident. After the baptism, he seemed relaxed, happy and ready for whatever was to come next. He was even able to resolve a conflict with our Son. Thank you for what you did." And I thought to myself, "Thank God for the power and wisdom to offer to do it."

Dorothy went on. "Allan also asked that you perform the funeral service, so we're sending the plane tickets to you now."

I needn't tell you, the funeral was far from a dismal service. It was a true celebration of Allan's life.

I learned a lot about baptism, death and dying and funerals that month. I gained a powerful lesson on the importance of traditions, even they are not necessarily my own traditions. I also lost any doubts I had about taking the path toward ordained ministry.

And so it is with us, as we honor the traditions that are meaningful to us, whether is be putting up a Christmas tree or using an Advent calendar, dressing up for Easter, or participating in any of the special worship activities on Sunday, we are honoring who we are as Christians. We are setting examples, even in the smallest things we do, and others see in us just how important our faith in Christ is in our lives.

Traditions
can trick us
into thinking that
what we do is more
important than
why we do it.



Marcus Carlson
Minister to Children
& their Families

Children & Family Corner: On a Mission!

Over the holiday season our Children's Ministry Leadership Team worked hard via email to being the work of creating our mission statement and a name for the Children's Ministry at St. Luke's as we launch into a new season. Along with the staff we have also been taking ideas and suggestions along with other dreams and beginning to map out what the future may hold for this ministry. I am personally very excited for all of this work and all of the planning that has gone into it. By the time you receive this, our team will have reviewed some ideas and dreams for the next several years. We hope that you can be a part of all of this excitement and continue to share with us your ideas and dreams as we serve the children of this church community together. Here are some of the highlights:

- Our new name is St. Luke's Kids: Growing with God
- We have a new logo which you will be seeing around a lot (see below.)
- Our new mission statement is: St. Luke's Kids is a place where children know and experience the love of God through Christ.
- We have redesigned our website. The new site should be fully operational on or before February 15.
- We will be redesigning our leadership roles for St. Luke's Kids. Please watch for more information on how you can serve using your gifts.
- We will continue to work hard to enhance all of our programs while adding opportunities.

If you have any ideas, comments, questions, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us! —Marcus



Calendar:

Feb. 8	11:50am Acolyte Training 5:30-7:25pm SLY, Jr. - God in the Movies
Feb. 21	10:00am Discovery Club
Feb. 22	11:00am Tween Teachers Meeting
Feb. 24	6:30-8:00pm Children's Ministry Team Mtg.
Feb. 27	7:00pm Family Movie Night!
March 1	10:45am Auditions for Children's Dinner Theater
March 4	5:30-7:25pm SLY, Jr. - God in the Movies



This winter and spring in SLY, Jr. we will be doing a series called God in the Movies! One Sunday a month we will meet from 5:30-7:20pm and watch part or all of a movie and have a lesson on what it can teach us about God and our faith. Dinner will be served and we will play a game as well. SLY, Jr. is open to students in grade 5 & 6. Hope to see you soon at SLY, Jr.:
February 8—Horton Hears a Who, March 1—Transformers, April 5—Ratatouille, May 3—End of the year BBQ & Fun

News & Notes:

New Family & Servant

Newsletters are emailed weekly. The *Servant Newsletter* goes out to all servants that help out with Children's Ministry and they should get it automatically.

The *Family Newsletter* includes: family activities, devotions, information about upcoming events, and much more and you'll need to sign up to receive it. Sign up by subscribing to the Children's Ministry email list under e-ministry and email lists at stlukeshr.com Don't miss out on this great resource for families!



Joely Maddux
Assistant Director of
Children's Ministry



Kristina Linn
Director of
Childcare

Help Needed:

We have three areas where we are most in need of help right now:

1. We need parents or other adults to serve as assistants for our new Kids Own Worship at 11:00am. Assistants help with attendance, bathroom trips, and help kids navigate stations. We really need your help to make this program a huge success. Parents can give as little as a couple of weeks a year to help us out. Contact Marcus if you can help.
2. We still need folks to help with SLY, Jr. as assistants, teachers, and cooks. Please contact Marcus for more information
3. Data entry help needed! We have a new database system and need to get families entered. This system will save us time with attendance, nametags, and registration. It will also allow us to better communicate allergies and special needs to teachers. This can only be done at the church. We also need folks to do some data entry with MS Excel. This is simple entry of past attendance so we can make that electronic. This can be done from home. Please let Joely know if you are able to help with either of these tasks.

11:00am Kids Own Worship—Godly Play:

Our new program for children, Kids Own Worship, is off to a great start. Don't miss it! Contact Marcus for more information.

New Serving Opportunities!

Kids Own Worship—Godly Play Assistant: We need parents or other adults to serve as assistants for our new Kids Own Worship at 11:00am. Assistants help with attendance, bathroom trips, and help kids navigate stations. We really need your help to make this program a huge success.

Sunday School Greeter: Do you remember the first time you came to St. Luke's? I'm sure you were met by many friendly faces! To ensure our visitors have the same experience in Sunday School, we have a new greeter position. This person greets guests just outside the superintendent station and, once the visitor has their children checked in, the greeter directs the visitor to their child's appropriate classroom. This allows the superintendent to remain at their station and continue to check in families. The greeter is then welcome to return to service at approximate 9:40am.

Floating Assistant: Are you interested in serving in children's Sunday School but not sure where to start? Maybe you would like to teach more Sundays but are not sure of the time commitment needed to prepare a lesson? Maybe you're a teen or even a grandparent looking for a new way to serve at St. Luke's? Then this is the perfect serving opportunity for you! The floating assistant is someone to give a classroom an extra assistant on the mornings where we have a particularly big class! This is a fun way to see the diversity offered in our Sunday School programs, while getting know other teachers and our wonderful kids!

Please contact Joely or Marcus if you are interested in or have questions about any of these new programs.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School

Little School News: February Fun!

We have been super busy giving tours to perspective new families at Little School! Please remember that church members (of six months) should have ALREADY registered for fall of 2009. If you have not, please be in touch with Ms. Kay right away! (303-915-9688)

We LOVE February as it is a time to spread our happiness and hugs throughout the school. DAD's Saturday is always one our best school days as we really enjoy having the dads come and experience preschool for a day! They will be making special Valentine's with their kids for moms and wives! It is so fun to see the dads be so creative! We will also be making LOTS of Valentines to be mailed to our soldiers that reside at the Colorado Veteran's Hospital.

We would like to expand our 'props' boxes for dramatic play and we are looking for several items to enhance our learning centers. **We especially are in need of costumes (child-size)**, party dresses, sports jackets, dress-up shoes, purses, wallets, jewelry, baby dolls (soft bodies) and doll clothes, pirate outfits and crowns. We also need car-wash items, cowboy items for western week, cowboy hats, bandanas and plastic horses, uniforms, sports shirts, mitts and helmets, gardening items, plastic vegetables, child garden tools, safety goggles, small hammers, wrenches, sockets and non-electric drills. Dress-up clothes for fairy tales, *Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, stuffed forest animals for *The Mitten*: Mole, Hedgehog, Bunny, Fox, Badger, Bear and Mouse. IF IN DOUBT? Think? "MMMM could a child use his imagination in dramatic play with this item?" Thank you so much for your help! Items may be dropped off at the Little School office downstairs.

Have a wonderful February as we look for Mr. Groundhog's shadow! We wish you all HUGS, SPECIAL SWEETHEART DAYS AND HEARTS FULL OF LOVE! —Ms. Kay & Staff:-)

Upcoming Events:

Acolyte Training on Sunday February 8 after the 11:00am worship service. Children grades 3-6 can participate and a pizza lunch is provided. Contact Marcus if you are planning on attending.

Family Movie Night: Friday February 27 at 7:00pm. Come join us for Family Movie Night. We will be showing *Horton Hears a Who* at 7:00pm and will have popcorn and drinks. Bring your blankets, and pillows and wear your pj's. Contact Marcus with questions.

Attention 6th graders! You can participate in the upcoming **30 Hour Famine** with the youth. Registration ends soon so please contact Marcus, Chris, or Susan for more information!

Children's Dinner Theater Auditions for children grades 1-6 will be on Sunday March 1 at 10:45am in the church lower level at a location to be determined. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 5:30-6:30pm March 4-April 22 plus a couple of dress rehearsals the week of the show. The performance will be on May 1 with dinner at 6:00pm and the play at 7:00pm. Contact Lynne Butler at LLbutler1@msn.com or 303-435-1606 or Joely or Marcus.

More information coming soon about Easter Fun Day and VBS!

Group Spotlight: Caring Connection

by Jen Utter

Members of St. Luke's who have found themselves in need of a little extra TLC and support during a time of need have probably received a visit from the church's Caring Connection group. Caring Connection provides the church community with various services on an as-needed basis.

Caring Connection provides services to families who need a helping hand during surgeries, accidents, births, family deaths or other situations of need. Members of Caring Connection provide occasional meals, make companion visits, run errands and provide back-up or occasional transportation.

With a group of 20 active members and a "help if you can" approach, the group members find Caring Connection a great way to reach out to their fellow church members. It is a positive way to give back to the St. Luke's community.

"My most rewarding experience has been that I can tell in their voices that they are truly touched and humbled that others in the St. Luke's community are reaching out to them in their time of need," said member Nancy Jackson.

If you are interested in helping out fellow St. Luke's members during times of hardship, contact Nancy Jackson at ninjackson@comcast.net or at 303-798-2713.



Servant by Design

Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm beginning Feb. 5, 9 week course Cost \$21.00

Discover who you are... Why are YOU here? What do YOU do best? What are YOU passionate about? What do You value?

What are Your priorities?

Lifekeys will help you begin your journey to a God-centered life by

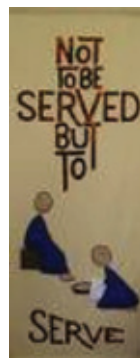
discovering how you are designed to serve. Discover your:

- ☛ Life gifts and spiritual gifts (What you do best!)
- ☛ Personality type and values (The places or atmospheres that give you the most energy)
- ☛ Passion (The purposes God placed in your heart)

"Faith does not need to push the river. The river is already flowing; and we are already in it." - Richard Rohr, OFM

Join us in re-discovering who you are and affirming the person God has made you to be!

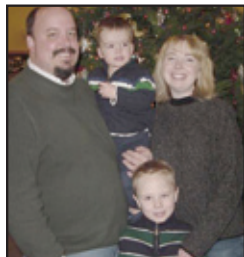
Class size is limited. Sign up today by contacting Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com or sign up on Sunday's at the "Get Connected" table.



Welcome

Barb Becker (no picture)

"I believe St. Luke's is a place that will support my ever-evolving relationship with God while simultaneously challenging me to contribute back to community in meaningful and purposeful ways."


Rodney & Kristi Fredericks

"We are joining St. Luke's so that we can continue to grow in our faith and to teach our children about God and service."


Truman & Bobbi King
Karl Krantz

"Looking for a high energy church where I can continue my spiritual journey."


Danielle Petersen

"Re-connection with God and His healing powers and wish to bring His love to my kids."


Tom & Shelley Reed

"Very welcoming, warm, comforting atmosphere. The musical ministry is amazing. A consistent and uplifting message is conveyed at each service."


Jeff & Marcy Sunkten

Servant Spotlight:

Tony and Bev Ashworth *by Jen Utter*

Tony and Bev Ashworth are no strangers to the United Methodist Church or being servants. Tony, now retired, spent 40 years as a United Methodist minister, serving appointments in Colorado, Wyoming and Alaska.

Tony was born in Wichita, Kansas and moved to Pueblo, Colorado after his sophomore year of high school. After

graduating from East Pueblo High School, Tony returned to Wichita to get a Bachelor's of Musical Education from Friends University. Tony moved back to Colorado and taught vocal music for a year in Castle Rock and then entered the Iliff Seminary. Tony spent his career in United Methodist ministry and since retiring, is waiting to see where God will lead him to serve.

Bev, born in Lincoln, Nebraska and raised in Colorado was the daughter of a United Methodist minister who served at First Methodist in Pueblo. Bev attended college in Pueblo and Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. She graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Denver. Bev taught in various public schools and owned her own Kindermusick business.

The couple met at the church where Bev's father's served. Bev was the 14-year-old organist at the time. Since marrying, they had two daughters and now have six grandchildren between the ages of 4-17, who all live in Colorado.

The couple joined St. Luke's in October of 2008. Since a bishop had always appointed the family to churches to serve at in the past, joining St. Luke's was the first time that the couple had a choice of spiritual homes. It only took one service before the couple was hooked. "We fell in love with all the music opportunities, the informality and the staff's congeniality," the Ashworth's said.

Since becoming members of St. Luke's, the couple has found many ways to serve their church and community. Bev has become a member of the bell choir, teaches Sunday School (helping to start the new 11:00am Sunday School program: Kid's Own Worship—Godly Play) and is preparing for the mission trip to Guatemala.

When Tony was accepting a position at a new church many years ago, Bev was asked if she would be a "real minister's wife." "With much ruffled feathers, I answered that my faith determined my decision for servant-hood not my marriage to a pastor. I still feel that way. God has called me to be a servant. When the match is right, I cannot say no," said Bev.

Tony feels that the importance of being a servant is modeling Jesus. "As a disciple of Jesus, I am to be a student and a follower, and that includes serving him by serving humanity. I can best serve as I become a part of a church community that daily demonstrates being a servant; for sure that is St. Luke's," said Tony.

6th Annual St. Luke's Golf Tournament

Mark Your Calendar

The tournament will be held at Highlands Ranch Golf Club on Saturday August 15, 2009—Shotgun start at 2:00pm. Dinner will be served after the golf and awards will be presented at that time.

NOTE: this is a different day than in the past (we've had it on Friday in prior years.) Watch for more information to come soon!

"A New Beginning"

12 week Divorce Recovery Workshop

Begins Mon., Feb. 23, 6:45-9:00pm

For those who are separated or divorced, this workshop brings healing from a Christian community where one can experience acceptance, care giving, and the love of God.

Cost is \$100—pick up a brochure at our "Get Connected" table or register by calling Larry Sears 720-524-0440. Scholarships are available.



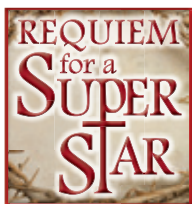
James Ramsey
Director of Music
Ministry & the Arts



Kay Coryell
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Ken Mervine
Organist/
Accompanist



Requiem for a Superstar

Show dates: April 3-5, 2009

Open auditions will be held February 7 at 9:00am and February 8 at 2:00pm. Pick one! All are welcome to audition. The music for *Requiem for a Superstar* is taken primarily from *Jesus Christ*

Superstar. However, there will be interludes, monologues by women of the Bible and a few other substantial "requiem-type" works performed by the chorus included to round out the Wesley Players version of a post-modern passion play concert. The semi-staged concert will feature many characters from JCS as well as women of the Bible.

The chorus can consist of 40-60 members in addition to the primary characters of Jesus, Judas, Pilate, Mary, Priests, Disciples and a few other minor roles. If you're auditioning for one of the named roles, the director will choose which song to hear. Come prepared to sing any of the selections sung by the character. Rehearsal schedules will be passed out at the audition.

The Wesley Players are proud to present so many quality shows that have helped make a difference in our community and internationally. This spring we will focus on a drama that enhances our worship experiences through the Lenten Journey. For more information, please contact James Ramsey at jim@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659x23.

St. Luke's Performing Arts Academy Summer Music Theater Intensives

The Performing Arts Summer Music Theater Intensive is, as the name implies, a two week INTENSE study of voice, acting and dance and production open to kids in the community who have a serious interest in musical theatre. The 2009 Intensive will run July 6-17, 9:00am-4:00pm. Performances include *Disney's Beauty and The Beast Jr.*, for grades 7-12* and *A Year with Frog and Toad Kids*, for grades 2-6*. Tuition for this training opportunity is \$275 for church members and \$350 for non-members. Sibling discounts of \$75 apply. Performances are Thursday and Friday evenings July 16-17. Registration details are on the St. Luke's website www.stlukeshr.com. Each two-week intensive has a capacity of 50 participants per show (a total of 100 registrations open). **Register now!**

St. Luke's Performing Arts Academy Jr. Players

St. Luke's Performing Arts Academy is proud to offer the Performing Arts Academy Jr. Players production of *100% Chance of Rain*. The Biblical story of Noah and the Ark comes alive with this adorable musical version. SLPAA Jr. Players is open to children in grades 1-6* (*as of the 2009-2010 school year.) Registration is currently underway and open until April 1. A tuition fee of \$25 for all participants includes sheet music, music CD, a Jr. Players t-shirt, snacks, and costumes. Afternoon rehearsals for the musical show will run June 8-12 from 4:00-6:00pm with a dress rehearsal on June 13 from 9:00am-noon. We will be performing the entire musical at each morning service Sunday June 14. Find registration and payment information at www.stlukeshr.com. Registration materials can be dropped off at the Music office.



"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."

Who can be a member of UMW? A member of United Methodist Women is anyone who commits herself to the above purpose and chooses to belong. UMW celebrates an inclusive membership and welcomes all women who want to become members. Being a member of The United Methodist Church is not required nor is there any minimum age requirement. Out of a commitment for mission locally and globally with women, children and youth, UMW members choose to participate in meetings, prayer, financial giving, study, action and service.

Why become a member of UMW? UMW is a national membership organization with nearly one-million members whose purpose is to foster spiritual growth, develop leaders and advocate for justice! Members raise approximately \$20 million a year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world! In the last two months, St. Luke's UMW has given money to Project Education Sudan, the Battered Women's Shelter, DenUM and The Gathering Place.

How do I become a member of St. Luke's UMW? It's simple. Fill out a pledge card and turn it in to any member of the UMW Mission Team. There is no set pledge amount.

Do I have to attend the UMW Mission Team meetings? Any UMW member may attend any of the meetings. It is not a requirement of membership. All we ask is that you support UMW and the many things we do, such as the Evening Book Club, Women's Night Out, etc. Consider attending our functions, such as the upcoming Chocolate Boutique.

Chocolate Boutique Women's Retreat: Women, are you ready for a spiritual retreat filled with fun and friends, as well as refreshment, relaxation, and chocolate? Yes, chocolate! Join us as we take a look at John 2:1-11. Our day will be broken into the following segments: Breakfast (provided), Session 1: *We Can Trust Jesus*, Session 2: *God's Grace Is Extravagant!*, Session 3: *Celebrate God's Grace*, Lunch (provided), A Closer Look at John 2, Chocolate Tasting Boutique, Chocolate Prayer Boutique. *Tickets are on sale Feb. 8, 15 & 22 from 9:00-9:30am and 10:30-11:00am.*

UMW Books: UMW recently purchased eight books from the 2009 Reading Program List. This is a national program which recommends books in the categories of Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. These new books are housed in the St. Luke's Library in the main office. Anyone is welcome to check out the books from our library. New titles purchased include: *Three Cups of Tea*, *Amish Grace*, *Confronting Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues*, and *The Greatest Gift: the Courageous Life of Sister Dorothy Stang*. If you would like to participate in the UMW Reading Program for 2009, contact Renae Parra at RenaeParra@aol.com for further information.

Subgroups of UMW at St. Luke's UMC:

Evening Book Group: Fourth Mon. of the month, 7:00pm, Conference Room. Contact Fran West 303-797-7107 or Renae Parra 303-683-0872.

Itch to Stitch: Second Wednesday of the month, 7:00-8:30pm, Mark Room. For more information, please call Fran West at 303-797-7107.

Scrapbooking Circle: Every other month, 7:00-10:00pm, Fellowship Hall. Contact Christy Wohlleber at 720-344-3516.

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



✧ **Youth Sunday School** will now meet in the new youth space beginning this month! If you get lost looking for it, go downstairs and head west down the hallway past the Little School Office. You'll see us there! Our theme for classes this month is Seeking Justice.

✧ **30-Hour Famine!** An overnight lock-in with great activities Feb. 27 and 28. Registrations available on the SLY website and at church. Open to all grades 6-12. \$15 fee will help with costs for activities! Register ASAP!!!

✧ **Ski Retreat:** Last minute skier? Email chris@stlukeshr.com ASAP and you can still come skiing Feb. 13-15 at Eldora. Lodging at a cabin at YMCA of the Rockies, \$150 cost covers all food, lodging, and a one-day lift ticket for Eldora.

✧ **Fat Tuesday** Pancake Supper & Games February 24. Flapjacks start flying at 5:30pm, so bring the family for food and games! Donations will support SLY.

✧ **Mission Trips:** Our dates and locations are set for the Summer Mission Trips!

» **Jr. High:** Cedar Rapids, IA June 28-July 3 (For incoming 7th graders through graduating 8th graders)

» **Sr. High:** Chicago, IL July 19-26 (For graduating 9th graders through graduated 12th graders)

✧ **SLAM** (St. Luke's At the Movies) is back on Wednesday nights. Come from 6:30-8:30 to enjoy a movie, popcorn, and some good conversation about film.

✧ **February SLY PM Schedule:**

- » Feb 8: *Seriously Deep Stuff*
- » Feb. 15: *Fun From Susan Johnson*
- » Feb. 22: *Lenten Preparations*
- » Mar. 1: *Hanging Out with Parker UMC*



Chris Wilterdink
Director of
Youth Ministry



Susan Johnson
Assistant Director
of Youth Ministry

CHRIS'S CORNER

Chock Full O'Thanks

What more appropriate topic could SLY have shared on Youth Sunday January 25 (photos below), than thankfulness at a time when we move into our newly finished, dedicated youth space? So, of course, here are more thanks to go around: Thank you to all youth who wrote and directed pieces of our worship. Thank you to Jenna Wilcox, Kay Coryell, Jane Damsgard, and Susan Johnson for bringing your talents to worship with us! Thank you to the family of St. Luke's whose Bold Venture is becoming realized. Thank you to God for all above and among us, thank you for being you, and thank you for letting me be a part of your life! The new youth space is indeed open, and we would love to have you come down and check it out!!! —Peace & Love, Chris





Securing St. Luke's

We're enhancing security at St. Luke's by updating our front door locking system. The entire church will now normally be locked except during Sunday services. Little School drop-off and pick-up routines remain unchanged. To gain entrance to the church during weekday business hours, there is a call box at our far right front door. Push the round button and it signals Bonnie, our church secretary. She has a video camera and an intercom at her desk, and she can release the door lock from her desk. If you get no response from Bonnie, push the doorbell; someone else in the office will let you in.

In addition, for those of you leading groups who regularly meet at St. Luke's, please see Bonnie to get a card key programmed specifically for your group. Feedback from our early users is very positive!

Second, Randy Larsen has been leading efforts to find ways to save on heating, cooling and lighting expenses. He's combining technology and experience to bring efficiencies to our systems – aligning our programmable thermostats to our meeting schedules, and procuring an energy management system which will reduce our peak electrical usage and electric bills. You can help us by not blocking open doors or leaving windows open during heating and cooling seasons. Thank you, Randy!

Many on our Trustees Team, Fellowship Events Team, and other volunteers have been working hard to complete refurbishment projects as a part of our Bold Venture projects. Our most sincere thanks to everyone who has made putting a sparkle on St. Luke's a priority – you've made such a wonderful difference!

We are always interested in adding to our Trustees Team! Contact Ken Fong if you'd like to join us: kfung@att.net or 720-253-6569.

WITY Fights to the Bitter End and Wins the Prize!

On January 17, SLIP (St. Luke's Improv Performers) and WITY (Wesley Improv Team for Youth) battled again in a heated competition of hilarity. Both teams worked hard and played short form improv games to the delight of the audience. Laughter abounded and while both teams fought with all they had, the audience voted and WITY won. Nothing But Nets also won as just over \$200 was raised to help end Malaria in Africa. Visit Chris Wilterdink's new office to view their prize – The Hedgehog of Hilarity – and keep your eyes and ears open for our next head-to-head match in late spring.



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Lisé Takayama
Assistant Director of Finance

Thank You!

It is time to celebrate. For the third consecutive year we

have met our financial goal of having a profitable year. In addition, for the first time in many years we have paid our tithe to the Rocky Mountain Conference in full. The 2008 tithe amount was 11% of our gross unrestricted income excluding our capital campaign income and capital improvement debt reduction expenses.

THIS IS GREAT NEWS!

These results were possible because of your faithfulness and generosity and the hard work and planning on the part of those responsible for spending our funds. It is something that seemed impossible earlier in the year. But, even in these adverse economic times, the last part of the year was better than the first part.

We are planning for the same results in 2009. Our pledges for 2009 are very strong with the total number of pledges and total dollars virtually equaling what we had at this time in 2008. You will be happy to know that the number of increased pledges far exceed those who had to do a small decrease.

We are truly just one great St Luke's family. When we all do what we can financially, the budget will take care of itself. Those who were able to increase their giving plans should be proud. Those who had to reduce their plans should know that the remainder of the family supports you and share with you and pray with you that things will get back to normal sooner rather than later.

Again, thank you for a great year.

Don't Forget We Have Many Choices To Make Your Giving To SLUMC Easy And Convenient.

We currently have around \$550,000 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. Plus, we sell about \$70,000 dollars of grocery cards each year through these methods. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions.

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.

TICKETS AVAILABLE BETWEEN SERVICES

St. Luke's Women's Retreat

CHOCOLATE BOUTIQUE

Where women taste and see that the Lord is good

Date: Saturday February 28

Time: 8:30am - 3:30pm

Food: We will provide Breakfast goodies, Snack, and Healthy Lunch (of course Chocolate!)

Cost: \$25.00



The CHRONICLE

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

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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.

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 9						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Laura Hehner 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's noon: UMW Mission Team Mtg. 2:00pm: Auditions for "Requiem for a Superstar" 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	9 7:00pm: Trustees	10	11 6:30pm: SLAM	12	13 SLY Ski Retreat	14 SLY Ski Retreat 7:30am: Men's Breakfast
15 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes SLY Ski Retreat 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	16 President's Day No Little School Church Office Closed	17	18 6:30pm: SLAM	19	20	21 8:00am: Stephen Ministry training retreat 10:00am: Discovery Club
22 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Pam Rowley 11:00am: Tween Teachers Mtg. 7:34pm: Fusion	23 6:45pm: Divorce Recovery Workshop 7:00pm: UMW Book Club	24  5:30pm: Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner 6:30pm: Live, Laugh, Love Club 6:30pm: CM Leadership Team Mtg.	25 Lent Begins 6:30pm: Ash Wednesday Service	26	27 SLY 30hr. Famine 7:00pm: Family Movie Night	28 SLY 30hr. Famine 8:30am: UMW Women's Retreat-Chocolate Boutique
MAR 1 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes 11:00am: Children's Dinner Theater Auditions 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	2 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	3	4 5:30pm: Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm: SLAM	5	6 SLY Confirmation Retreat	7 SLY Confirmation Retreat 8:00am: CPR/First Aid Training churchwide
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's noon: UMW Mission Team Mtg. 5:30pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Tune in to God - Lent class 7:34pm: Fusion	9 7:00: Trustees	10	11 5:30pm: Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm: SLAM	12	13	14 7:30am: Men's Breakfast 8:00am: Work Day 7:00pm: Dancing for DenUM-Minister's of Swing Dance