



The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2009

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and much more!

Not to Miss! Ellington Concert

What: *The Best of Sacred Concerts* by Duke Ellington

Where: St. Luke's

When: Sat., Nov. 14-7:00pm



In the last decade of his life, jazz legend Duke Ellington wrote three controversial

Sacred Concerts, a fusion of his jazz music with Christian liturgy. He has called these concerts, "*The most important thing I have ever done.*"

It is in the spirit of this great man that we will be presenting *The Best of Sacred Concerts* by Duke Ellington, a truly unique concert experience that welcomes everyone in the community. This concert will feature the Chancel Choir, Ministers of Swing Jazz Band, Tap Dancer Alexis Dear, and soloists Ed Law, Diana Wood, Lisé Takayama, and Elise Brassell.

Donations will benefit St. Luke's music program. Everyone in the community who enjoys jazz, unique compositions by a true genius, and the sounds of history in a piano ticklin', toe tappin', horn blowin' style are welcome.

For info, please contact James Ramsey at 303-791-0659 x23 or jim@stlukeshr.com



ADVENT 2009 at ST. LUKE'S

November 16 & 19

UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE CLASS.....6:30pm

November 28

HANGING OF THE GREENS.....8:00am-noon

November 29 **ADVENT 1**
TREE LIGHTING.....6:34pm

December 5-8

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOP

December 6 **ADVENT 2**

Chapel Communion.....8:00am
CANTATA.....9:30 & 11:00am

December 8

UMW CANDLELIGHT DINNER.....6:00pm

December 12

PUPPET SHOW.....6:30pm

December 13 **ADVENT 3**

December 16 & 17

LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 20 **ADVENT 4**

Candy Cane Sunday
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT.....3:00pm

December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

1:30 & 3:00pm.....Children
*Youth Choir, Cherub's Choir,
Primary and Junior Prayz, and
Youth Handbell Choir*

5:00 & 7:00pm.....Traditional
*Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulators
Handbell Choir, Soloists,
Brass and Organ*

10:00pm.....Contemplative
*Communion Service
with Soloists and Organ*

December 27

No Sunday School

January 3

EPIPHANY I

KING'S

SERVICE.....8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Miracles in Guatemala

by Gene & Dawn Branch

I believe in miracles. I think mission teams are miracle workers. Perhaps an inability to summon miracle power at will – and occasional modesty – prevents them from seeing it the same way, but that's just perspective. If you polled the Guatemalan patients St. Luke's missionary team treated during its recent trip this September, you'd undoubtedly find believers in miracles.



Imagine a 50ish woman, having birthed a dozen children, living with debilitating pain and misplaced body parts, blinking herself into unconsciousness as masked figures utter unintelligible sounds... "ten... nine... eight... zzzzzz." She then wakes to... fog... more pain... those people again, with their strange utterances. Finally, familiar words as a K'iche' speaker begins translating. "Drink this; take that. Lie back. You're fine. Everything went very well. You'll be able to get up soon. Don't worry. These people will take care of you." These... miracle workers. Then she

continued on page 5

Colorado congregation's food drive puts "Rethink church" into practice

by Susan Passi-Klaus, Public Relations Specialist/Writer - www.umcom.org



The folks at St. Luke's United Methodist Church had a great weekend. For three beautiful October days, they stood in the Colorado sunshine directing the coming of carloads and the going of truckloads filled with food for the local food bank. Associate Minister Brad Laurvick, organized this year's food-raising event called "The Feeding of 5,000... We Need U2!" On the Monday morning following the long weekend, he and others in the congregation were still reeling with the success of collecting more than 55,000 pounds of food for Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM). A food bank that originated out of the basements of local United Methodist churches, DenUM now serves more than 66,000 clients a year. Laurvick is on the board of directors. This is the third year the 2,000 St. Luke's members have been the doers behind the community-wide event event to gather food for Denver Urban Ministries.

"I'm still floating about three feet off the ground thinking about this past weekend," Laurvick said. "As a congregation and a community, we experienced some things that can only be accomplished when people come together."

continued on page 3

College Age Cookies?

Do you have a son or daughter who is college age? Would they like a batch of home baked cookies to arrive in their mailbox at school before finals week? Get their name, mailing address, and school to Chris at chris@stlukeshr.com by November 25!



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 Mallery.....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

Director 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
December 2009/January 2010

issue of *The Chronicle*are due **December 1**

Editor: Sharon Oliver

chronicle@stlukeshr.com



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

Giving Thanks from the Underside

Millions parents will pause this Thanksgiving to do what the day was originally created for—give thanks for the many blessings that exist in their lives. Turkey, pumpkin pie, and the presence of loved ones will receive their fair share of gratitude during this annual ritual of appreciation. The bounty of the table, opportunities for meaningful work, and the laughter of children will be acknowledged with gratitude by loving parents as they thank the Creator for their blessings. Indeed, this traditional day calls for a traditional thank-you.

But what if your appreciation this Thanksgiving took on a new look? What if the blessings you count this year included situations that aren't usually regarded as helpful, useful or valuable?

Why not be thankful that your child is two years behind grade level in his reading ability? This struggling reader is giving you the opportunity to read to him regularly at night. This evening ritual will help build connectedness between you and your child while at the same time modeling your love for the printed word. This opportunity is an incredible blessing. Appreciate it.

Why not be thankful that your daughter's soccer team lost their last game? It is important that your children have experiences of both winning and losing. By losing, children have the opportunity to learn to handle defeat and bounce back next time. With your help, they can learn that winning or losing is not the measure of who and what they are as human beings. Appreciate the opportunity the loss brings and be grateful for it.

Why not be thankful that your teenager received a speeding ticket for going 45 mph in a 25 mph speed zone? Getting a ticket is not a bad thing. Not if your teen learns from it and slows her driving for the next year. If she takes personal responsibility, pays the ticket, and is more cautious about her driving, the ticket may well save her life in the future. Bless the ticket and give thanks for its blessings.

Why not be thankful that your 8-year-old shoplifted in the grocery store? This is the perfect time to teach your child about shoplifting. Better now than when he helps himself to someone else's car when he is 18. Teach him how to make amends. Teach him what to say as he returns the candy bars to the storeowner. Help him learn to articulate what he learned and what he intends to do differently next time. Be grateful for the opportunity.

Why not be thankful that your youngsters track mud and snow into the garage and house? The next time you stand in the garage furiously sweeping snow and wishing that your children were better behaved, quietly remind yourself that one day you'll wish you had snow to sweep out of the garage. Love the mud. Love the slush. Be grateful for the signs of the presence of children in your life.

Why not be thankful for sibling rivalry? "He got more than I did" and "It isn't fair" are common childhood refrains. Bless these opportunities to help your children learn how to get along with each other. Sibling rivalry is a call for help, a signal that your children need lessons on how to interact positively with each other. Bless their unskillful way of asking for help. Be grateful that you recognize it and help them grow in working and playing cooperatively.

Why not be thankful that you got to stay home with a sick child last week? You didn't have to stay home. You got to stay home. You didn't have to take him to the doctor. You got to take him to the doctor. You got to show him you care enough to drive all over town to the doctors, the pharmacists and back home again. You got to be with your boy while he was sick. Chalk it up as a blessing. Celebrate it this Thanksgiving.

Why not give thanks that your child is spilling milk, talking with his mouth full, wiping cranberry sauce on his new pants, refusing to eat his vegetables, and interrupting his grandmother at the dinner table this day? It means you have more work to do as a parent. This is a blessing. You are still needed to help your child learn to pour milk more carefully, improve his table manners, learn to eat nutritiously, and show respect for elders. Give thanks for these opportunities.

This Thanksgiving remember that parenting is a sacred role that you are being called to perform. Give thanks that you have been called. Give thanks that you are willing to step forward and accept that call. Celebrate yourself and your contribution to healing the planet by helping your children evolve into the people they were meant to be.

You are a blessing to the world. Give thanks that you are up to the task. I certainly will!

Happy Thanksgiving,
Rev. Janet

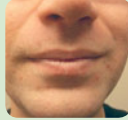
FROM REV. BRAD



Rev. Brad Laurvick
Associate Minister

I'm Brad, and this is my chin.

My
chin
hasn't
seen



the light of day in about 7 years. (There was a brief moment on the mission trip, but I'm not counting that... no one at home saw it) On October 31st, I did a full shave and I will be growing a very stylized moustache this month. There is an event called Mo-vement that is encouraging men to grow moustaches to raise awareness and money to fight Men's Cancers – specifically Testicular and Prostate. My dad and both my grandpa's are survivors of Men's Cancers, so this cause is especially close to my heart. Throughout the month I will take the opportunity to talk about testicular self-exams and prostate health with anyone who asks about my 'stache. There is also a site set up to donate money in the fight against these cancers.

This is not an official St. Luke's event – though I might have already talked a few into it. But I figure you all see me often enough, and since haven't seen my chin before, that it was worth letting you know what I'm up to.

Recognizing that cancers of all types have affected so many lives, if you have a story of a loved one or your own personal fight with cancer, I would enjoy talking and praying with you.

Be Blessed and Be a Blessing, –Rev. Brad

Rethink... continued from page 1

The Sunday before the food drive, the mission-minded congregation took home more than 2,000 brown collection bags. In all, volunteers distributed some 12,000 bags on doorsteps, to office buildings and from neighbor to neighbor in Highland's Ranch, a Denver suburb. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, St. Luke's "servants" not only sorted, boxed, loaded, palletized and delivered the fruits of their labor; they also stood outside the doors of local King Sooper's grocery stores personally meeting and greeting food donors who stopped by to pick up a brown bag.

Much to everyone's surprise, the store manager came outside to tell the group from St. Luke's that because of their efforts, the canned goods section of the grocery store had sold out and had to have out-of-stock labels posted.



Laurvick has no shortage of "God moments" that describe just how "The Feeding of 5,000" transformed participants. "We had a seven-year-old helper whose parents came to get her to go to a birthday party, but she didn't want to go," recounted Laurvick. "In tears, she told her mom and dad, 'I want to stay here and help.'"

Another of Laurvick's "God moments" occurred when a couple of teenagers showed up with their parents to donate food. They were not St. Luke's members, but asked if they could stay to help. The 12- and 17-year-olds helped and attended worship that evening.



"We had people at worship Sunday morning who told me, 'We got the bag and just wanted to come and see what kind of church does this,'" Laurvick said.

Another heartwarming moment occurred after a woman who had stopped by seeking assistance asked if she could stay and help. The woman, who had come to St. Luke's Church in need of rent and utilities assistance, collected and packaged food for more than 10 hours.

"I told her our ability to help her was not contingent on her working for it," Laurvick said. "But she wanted to be a part of what we were doing anyway."

Since September, St. Luke's has been on board with the "Rethink Church" movement gaining popularity throughout The United Methodist Church. Though his church has long been mission- and service-oriented, Laurvick said "Rethink Church" has given the congregation language to describe the church they already know and love.

"It gives us encouragement to live up to the question, 'What if we rethink church not in terms of what it is but what it could be—and what if we can convince the world to do the same?'" Laurvick said.

"The Feeding of 5,000 was 'Rethink Church' put into practice," Laurvick said. "In fact, 'Rethink Church' talks a lot about 'church' being a verb and not just a noun, so you can imagine how great it was when one of our volunteers came up to me at the food drive and said, 'You know how we're trying to make 'church' a verb? I've been churching all day!'"

Grief Support Group – Nov. 12, 19, Dec. 3, 10

Holidays lived in the absence of someone dear can be very difficult times. Customary routines are adjusted, some never to be repeated in quite the same way. Easy-going laughter, once so natural, may become awkward or even altogether missing. Gift-giving, once filled with fun, may seem empty and sad. Familiar songs, once so comforting, may bring tears to your eyes.

Significant loss, whether through death, divorce, or estrangement, brings about many changes in life and how we go about functioning during the holiday season. People who are grieving have many questions: How can I make it through all the events of the holidays while missing so desperately the one I love? Would I be better off to ignore the holidays this year? Should I act as if everything were normal? Should I make major changes in my holiday rituals?

If you are grieving a loss, this Grief Support Group is for you. If you have questions about how to go through the holiday season in the midst of grief, this group is for you. If you have experienced loss in the past, and have suggestions for others coping with holidays, this group is for you.

When: Thursdays from 5:00-6:15pm, November 12, 19, December 3 and 10

Where: Room 210

Facilitator: Sallie Suby-Long, please register with Sallie at 303-791-0659 x32 or by emailing Sallie at sallie@stlukeshr.com



Unplug the Christmas Machine

Attend Monday Nov. 16 or Thursday Nov. 19

The pastors of St. Luke's, Sallie Suby-Long, Brad Laurvick, and Janet Forbes, will be teaching a class for families on simplifying Christmas. Catch the class on Monday, Nov. 16 or Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6:30pm. Unplug the Christmas Machine is an invitation to combat the commercialism and fill the holidays with simple, spiritual celebrations that help families grow closer together. In this season of fiscal uncertainty, the pastors will answer the questions they have heard most often in the many years of talking with people about Christmas, such as: How can I reduce the stress of preparing for Christmas? How can I get my husband to be more enthusiastic about Christmas? How can I get my wife to relax and enjoy the celebration? How can I help my children see that Christmas is more than just presents?

The key to unplugging the Machine is knowing what it is that you really want. Families who take the time to identify their longings and are realistic about which of those longing can be satisfied by Christmas, can then go on to create a holiday that give them great joy and satisfaction.

NEW MEMBERS: OCTOBER

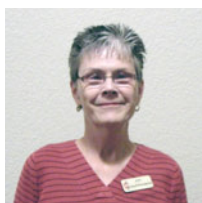
Welcome

To join, simply fill out the membership card located in the "Friendship Pad" and hand the card to one of our Pastors or staff members at any time.



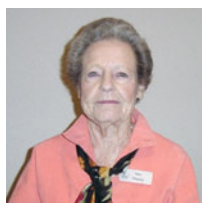
Loretta Chiofolo

"St. Luke's is more than a spiritually centered place for members, it also offers so many wonderful opportunities for active participation in our communities."



Jil Hoffman

"The messages from the pulpit are good and applicable to life now; the community of believers is friendly; and the church has an active missions' program."



Nan Woods

"Looking for a welcoming church as friendly as my church in La."



Ralph & Shirley Greer

"Since we have moved to Denver, we needed to find a new church home. We have regularly attended St. Luke's for some time and find that this church meets our needs spiritually."

PRAYER CONCERNS



Week Ending October 30, 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)	Randy Staton
John Covey (friend of Ross Barnard)	(friend of Dave & Bonnie Funk)
Paula Strader (Sandi Miyaki's sister)	Cindy Riley (friend of Paul/Susan Northrop)
Judy Austin (Mary Jo Weber's sister)	Jack Miller (friend of Paul/Susan Northrop)
Robert Abbott, Sr.	Nancy Melia (friend of Bonnie Funk)
(Nancy Abbott's father-in-law)	Mildred Johnson
Lori Lieberman (friend of Jane Damsgard)	(Connie Shoemaker's mother)
Diane Wieland (friend of Bobbi King's)	Connor Thorne
Carol Burton (Melissa Hemphill's friend)	Ray and Shirley Sutcliffe
Karen Edwards (friend of Eileen & Ed Law)	(Leigh Ramsey's parents)
Dwain Bartellina (Mike Hutchins' uncle)	Jerry Miyaki (Mike's uncle)
Lucille Hallowell (friend of Nancy Abbott's)	Jay Brown (Sue Brown is LS teacher)
Chrissy Booth (Kam & Tim Bole's friend)	Karmie Hilleary
Suzie Burk (Melissa Ester's mother)	Louise McGill (Sharon Oliver's mother)
Schelly Thompson	Amy McDowell (LS Mother)
(Sandy Thompson's sister-in-law)	Susan Hooke
Nancy Jackson	Jack Dahlberg (friend of Susy Halloran)
Jed Bennett (Fred & Jean Bennett's son)	Alexandra (friend's niece of Kris Reif)
Tammy Hess (Bonnie Funk's friend)	Peter & Alicia Waldheim
Kirk Watkins (Keith & Marilyn Ayers son)	Susan Elling (Audrey Elling's mother)
Jill (Jenny Hanna's friend)	Joe Forbes (Rev. Janet's brother)
Susie (Joy Damsgard's friend)	Candy Marsh (friend of Ruth Smith)
Daniel Gaul (Jennifer Richeson's brother)	Rosie Shaw (friend of Eric Ransick)
Andrew Kent	Norma Harris
(10. yr. old family friend of the Richeson's)	Taylor Easterly (friend of Sharon Scholle)
Mark Bartellina (Mike Hutchins' cousin)	Nan (friend of Joy Damsgard)
David Joseph	Jeremy Brown
(Friend of Bobbi King/Marie Blue)	Gavin Gallagher (friend of Mary Harper)
Beth Turner	Liam Crotty (friend of Joely Maddux)
John Larsh (friend of Rick & Louise Jasper)	Donita Fischer (friend of Laurie Gilbert)
Robert Miller	Kay Swanson
Karen Chaun (Linda Fligg's friend)	Mary Lucero (Gov Lucero's aunt)
Roberta Towell (Jon Streaty's sister)	Mary Kirkpatrick (Kerry Lucero's mother)
Joy (Susy Halloran's friend)	Norm Keller (Candy Keller's father)
Shaun VanDyke (Bobbi King's nephew)	
Marge Weegs (friend of the Halderman's)	
Mike Maciejewski	
(Jennifer Jiang's brother-in-law)	
Gordon Lewis (Ken Fong's friend)	
Daniel Winkle (friend of Gail Strawn)	
Darrell & Billie Aderman	
(friends of Rick & Louise Jasper)	
Ross Magaughy	
(friend of Rick & Louise Jasper)	

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

CONNECTING

Notes from the Common Table

The meeting of the Common Table (open to all at St. Luke's) was held Monday, October 19, and – despite the fall break and a Broncos game! – we had a very nice turnout for our potluck dinner and discussion. In addition to hearing updates from a variety of groups, our focus this time was the Wellness Initiative for 2010 and conversation around that issue: learning about it and what it means to our St. Luke's community, and providing a recommendation to move forward. The complete minutes are available for viewing on the website. **Next meeting of the Common Table: January 25, 2010 – please join us!**



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, Room 213

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



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry

We are Called to Serve

We invite you to stop at our Get Connected Center to discover more about our programs and ministries

Ushers: Our usher team is seeking those who would like to serve on a team focused on ensuring the needs of those who are

present in worship. We serve on a quarterly rotation one service a week. If you would enjoy serving our community on Sundays, please contact: Greg Nolder 303-915-9087 greg@nolders.com or Dick Frame 303-791-4251 rframe5492@aol.com

Get Connected Team: We are the information central for the St. Luke's community. Our vision/mission is to help each person find his or her connection at St. Luke's. To serve on this team, all you need is the ability to serve 30 minutes one Sunday a month and the passion for connecting folks to ministry. Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com

Caring Connection: This team provides support to members of St. Luke's and the surrounding community by making companion visits, taking meals to families in need, running errands or providing transportation. If you would like to serve on this team, please contact Nancy Jackson 303-798-2713 nlnjackson@comcast.net

"Rather than waiting around for God's special plan for your life, you should just go find where God is at work and join in." –Shane Claiborne

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...

Joann Brewer plants and maintains our flower pots outside the entryway?.

Thank you to our Quiet Servant.

Guatemala... continued from page 1



gets up and leaves the next day under her own power.

Our team consisted of 4 doctors (two surgeons and two anesthesiologists), 10 nurses, 11 non-medical assistants, and a team of local translators. Surgery, in the

best of conditions, is not easy. We, of course, had more than the basic challenges—small hot rooms, limited supplies and medicines, old equipment, and unfamiliar surroundings.

A basic obstacle was the language barrier. The clinic where we spent the week is located in the town of Camanchaj, about 3 hours north of Guatemala City in the country's "Highlands," significantly off the beaten path. Of course, none of the patients spoke English, but few even spoke Spanish. The women, who rarely attend past the second grade in the area, speak only a Mayan language called K'iche'. To give you an idea of how a simple conversation might go... *Saqarik (K'iche'). Buenos Dias (Spanish). Good morning. And back.*

Another challenge was accommodating all of the family that traveled with the patient. In the middle of the week, I observed a lady as she completed her pre-op paperwork. She sat at the center of about fifteen members of her family, husband, children, grandchildren. One of our nurses explained, in English, that her surgery would take about 2 hours and her gaze moved back and forth between the patient and one of the translators. Imagine the difficulty of explaining a medical procedure – in 3 languages and to 15 relatives!

There were heartbreaks that week... a lady with (the doctor guessed) stage-3 cancer, a pair of sisters (3½ and 4½) with hernias were told to come back in March, a boy with a bot-fly larvae in his arm had to be sent to a hospital 30 minutes away, and a lady, scheduled for a tubal ligation the final day was instead sent home with pregnancy vitamins when her test came back positive while completing her pre-op paperwork.

But also the miracles... 23 gynecological and hernia surgeries completed and about 35 additional patients were seen (many treated with much needed pain medication and antibiotics). On our last day at the clinic, one of the families (the lady with 15 relatives) gave everyone a hand-made coin purse in token of her gratitude.

For more information, you can visit puravida.org or saludypaz.org (the charity that runs the clinics in Guatemala).

Team & Leadership Openings! Our Lay Leadership team will be very busy this month, seeking to fill many vacancies on our teams. Karin Wesson is our team Leader of the Lay Leadership team. This team consists of Meg Henrickson, Jay Lee, Erin Wright, Alan Babcock, Jeff Bleye, Joanne Cleveland, John Harper, Renae Parra, and James Bacon. Feel free to contact them with questions or concerns about any of our teams. Karin will be at the Lay Leadership table in between services in the Fellowship Hall through-out the month of November. Drop by to sign-up for a team, nominate someone you feel would be a great asset for a team, or pick up a ministry description of the team you may wish to serve on.

We have teams that our built with nine members each, serving three year terms: SPRT (Staff/Parish Relations Team), Finance Team, Lay Leadership Team, Stewardship Team, Missions Team, Spiritual Formation/Adult Education Team, Long Range Planning Team, Trustees Team. We also have teams that are seeking leadership with two year terms but serving as long as you are enjoying the role! We also have openings for many of our teams that simply need members! As you can see, there is a variety of ways you can serve at St. Luke's. Follow your spiritual gifts (take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment at www.stlukeshr.com, quick links, spiritual gifts assessment) and passions to serve where God is leading you.

Our Ministry Catalog is available at our web site under publications or at the Get Connected Center. It contains descriptions of the many teams and ministries we have at St. Luke's. For more detailed ministry descriptions please contact Karin Wesson 303-683-0196 karin@thewessons.com or Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com

MAKE WISHES COME TRUE...

Share Christmas joy with children and families in need by taking wishes off the **Giving Tree**. The Tree will display approximately 120 wishes from children, teens and adults who would love to open a gift on Christmas morning. Simply take a gift tag off the tree (**make sure you detach and fill out the lower portion and leave it in the basket.**) Purchase your gift and return it to St. Luke's no later than Nov. 29. Your gift will mean the world to someone who otherwise may go without.



Greetings St. Luke's Families,

St. Luke's Kids are heading full steam ahead into the Holidays! Preparations are underway to celebrate our favorite St. Luke's traditions.

The fourth annual **Children's Christmas Pageant The Gift** will be held the afternoon of Sunday December 20. All children are welcome to participate; we practice the songs during music time at Sunday School and will have a dress rehearsal on the morning of Saturday Dec. 19. For questions, contact Linda Walker at lindawalker@comcast.net

Hanging of the Greens will be Saturday Nov. 28 8:00am-noon. We're looking forward to many families joining in the transformation of St. Luke's as we decorate together for the season. The nursery will be available to support families with little ones. In addition Children's Ministry will lead some special craft activities for those children 4 years old and up.

The St. Luke's **Tree Lighting service** will be held Sunday Nov. 29 at 6:34pm. Join us in this special Christmas season event and bring a plate of cookies to share afterwards!

Holiday Shop will be Saturday Dec. 5-Tuesday Dec. 8. This is an opportunity for children to independently shop for inexpensive gifts for their family and friends. Additionally proceeds from the shop support lunches for VBS teachers and VBS scholarships! As always, helpers are needed to set up the shop on Friday Dec. 4 as well as to pack away the shop the afternoon of Tuesday Dec. 8. During the shop hours helpers are needed at the gift wrapping

station, cashier table and to assist children with shopping. Contact Amy Antinoro at rkymtnrph@hotmail.com if you are interested or you may sign up directly at www.mysignup.com/joely@stlukeshr.com to serve in one of these much needed and fun areas!

News & Notes:

On October 18 St. Luke's 3rd graders received their Bibles.

A total of 48 Bibles were given this year to a very enthusiastic group. During Sunday School following the presentation, children unwrapped their Bibles, added their name plate, and explored the pages. They even used their Bible for that day's Sunday School lesson about Samuel. Chatting with 3rd graders the following week they were still eagerly exploring their Bible, some mentioned they really enjoyed the maps while others commented on the timeline of events noticing how very old some of these wonderful stories are! Congratulations 3rd graders—**Enjoy YOUR Bibles!**

Attention 5th & 6th graders and parents:

SLY, Jr. has met 3 times so far this year and is having a great time getting to know each other and we want you to join us! We usually start with the Community Meal at 5:30pm (bring \$2 to for the dinner donation) and then move to games and activities and finish up at 7:30pm. It's fun and fellowship and devotions on a Sunday night with our 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



Joely Maddux
Assistant Director of
Children's Ministry



Kristina Linn
Director of
Childcare

St. Luke's Kids
Growing with God



Upcoming Events Calendar:

Sunday Nov. 15.....5:30-7:30pm **SLY, Jr.**

Sundays Nov. 15, 22, 29, 6, 13, 20

.....10:30-11:00am **Goliath**
Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsals
(speaking parts and soloists)

Saturday Nov. 28.....8:00am-noon
Hanging of the Greens

Sunday Nov. 29..6:34pm **Tree Lighting Service**

Friday Dec. 4.....9:00am-1:00pm
Holiday Shop Set up

Saturday Dec. 5.....9:00am-2:00pm
Holiday Shop Open

Sunday Dec. 6.....9:00am-12:30pm
Holiday Shop Open

Monday Dec. 7.....11:30am-1:30pm
Holiday Shop Open

Tuesday Dec. 8.....noon-1:30pm
Holiday Shop Open

Sunday Dec. 6.....5:30-7:30pm **SLY, Jr.**

Saturday Dec. 19.....9:30-11:00am **Sanctuary**
Children's Christmas Pageant
Dress Rehearsal (all children)

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)

Fall Festival Fun



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School

Little School News: November, A Time to Remember

In November Little School will be focusing on our ancestry, where we came from, and for all the blessings that we have.



Our children will participate in our annual Thanksgiving feasts on the 18th and 19th and we will all be decked out in native American costumes and pilgrim attire!

We promise a feast including turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie!

Our chapel theme will be "God Takes Care of Us" helping us to understand all that God does for us and all that he provides. This important time of year is sometimes overlooked between the Halloween treats and the Christmas goodies and we want to make sure that our Children always take time to thank God!

St. Luke's Little School will be closed from Nov. 24-Nov. 29 for our extended fall break.

When we return we will be in full swing getting ready for Baby Jesus' birthday and our Christmas programs!

Thank you to everyone that donated costumes and leftover Halloween candy! We appreciate your support!

Have a very BLESSED Thanksgiving, with all the family and trimmings! Little School is extremely thankful to St. Luke's and our church family for all of your love and support!

GOBBLE! GOBBLE! –Ms. Kay and staff

Guatemala 2010

In the spring of 2010, St. Luke's will once again be taking a group of missionaries to Guatemala. Our trip dates are March 19-28. Our volunteer activities on this trip will include building adobe homes for needy families, constructing chicken coops for war widows, running bible camps for local children, delivering donated shoes, and working with the local orphanage. We will spend time with the families we are helping and get to know them. We also plan to visit the John Wesley School, in Santa Cruz del Quiche, and possibly help them with projects as well.

Currently we have 7 available spots open on our mission team. If you are interested in joining us on this trip, please contact Laura Richards (corichards@aol.com) for more information.

Missions Closet Collections for November

- 1) **Shoes** – new and gently used children's shoes to be donated to needy children in rural Guatemala.
- 2) **Hygiene items** (deodorant, toothbrushes-adult size, razors, shampoo, shaving cream, etc.) They would like either trial size or full size.
- 3) **Halloween Candy** – new or "leftover" Halloween candy to be donated to the Colorado AIDS Project

For the past seven years, Epworth United Methodist Church has been continuing the Daddy Bruce Randolph tradition by distributing Thanksgiving baskets to needy families in the Denver area. This year they will be delivering over 8,000 baskets. The baskets contain the food ingredients needed for a healthy Thanksgiving meal, including a turkey, cranberries, vegetables, etc. Since 2003, this program has distributed 36,600 baskets or, by conservative estimates, 292,800 meals!

If you would like to help Epworth UMC with this project, there are several ways for you to be involved.

- 1) Volunteer your time prior to the Distribution Day - Epworth UMC has asked for office volunteers to help with answering phones, stuffing envelopes and computer data entry. This volunteer work will be done at their church, Monday through Friday, during business hours. Contact Laura Richards at corichards@aol.com if you are able to volunteer your time.
- 2) Volunteer time on Distribution Day (11/21/09) - 1000 volunteers will be needed to help with the actual basket assembly and delivery process. In order to assure that all volunteers are used efficiently, sign up online at www.DenverFeedaFamily.org. Volunteers are asked to sign up for a three hour block of time.
- 3) Send a monetary donation to help purchase supplies for the baskets – Each basket costs \$29 to assemble. ***We have already raised enough for several baskets through Children's Ministry Sunday School offerings!*** Donations can be sent through the website, www.DenverFeedaFamily.org or mailed directly to the church – 1865 Bruce Randolph Avenue, Denver, CO 80205.

If you have any questions, please visit the event website or contact Laura Richards at corichards@aol.com

33 Cambodian Students receive Scholarships:

This year we tried something new... Dalay Lawrence and Laurie Gilbert created a new website to highlight students who receive and are in need of academic scholarships of \$100. Student's pictures, short bio's and letters are posted for sponsors to view at their convenience. The original letter is then mailed to the sponsor's home. We are pleased to share that 22 sponsors filled a great need and have sponsored a total of 33 students! The 33 students now will be able to have continued education in the afternoon program, that otherwise would not be affordable for them. Dalay and I would like to say a huge Thank You to all the sponsors! Something else new we are trying this year is to hire a person in Cambodia to help us retrieve pictures and letters. Dalay is working on selecting the right person for the job, our hopes is to improve our communications and to get two updated photos and letters to each sponsor each year. If you haven't had a chance to check out the website please go to www.helpcambodianstudents.com

Help us "Pass on the Gift" by supporting **Heifer International** this Christmas. See the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Lucero at 303-471-2240 or kerry9800@msn.com.



Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. Since it began in 1944, Heifer has helped 9.2 million families move toward greater self-reliance through livestock, training and "passing on the gift." Every family that receives an animal agrees to "pass on the gift" of one or more of its animal's offspring to another family in need. The gift of a living animal is truly the gift that keeps on giving!



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.

See back cover for info on our annual Candlelight Dinner.

Subgroups of UMW at St. Luke's UMC:

Evening Book Group Fourth Monday of the month, 7:00pm Conference Room. For information, please call Renae Parra at 303-683-0872. To be added to the email mailing list, send a request to RenaeParra@aol.com. We are also planning a charity book drive for Warren Village; I am not sure if we will collect the books at our December meeting or if we want to collect them in November to get delivered before Christmas. Keep your eyes open for nice new or gently used books you would like to donate, especially: children's story books; parenting books; self-help books; Devotionals and spiritual guidance books.

Itch to Stitch First and Third Wednesdays of the month, 7:00-8:30pm downstairs near the Children's Library. For information, call Fran West at 303-797-7107. We are making items for needy infants, Senior centers, Veterans Hospital, and for our Youths Fall Craft Sale. 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 303-791-0659 x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com or Renae Parra at 303-683-0872 or renaeparra@aol.com.

Mark your calendars:

Sunday, Nov. 8: UMW Mission Team Meeting

Monday, Nov. 23: *The Yada Yada Prayer Group* by Neta Jackson

Tuesday, Dec. 8 6:00pm: Annual Women's Candlelight Dinner

Sunday, Dec. 13: UMW Mission Team Meeting

Monday, Dec. 21: *Dewey: the small-town library cat who touched the world* by Vicki Myron

Saturday, Feb. 20: Women's Winter Retreat: Sweet Life Café



October found a great group of ladies meeting for devotions and breakfast prior to participating in the Feeding of the 5,000. What an amazing time of fellowship and service!

We encourage you to come and join us over the next few months as we plan for the holidays, enjoy decorating the church, assist with the Children's Holiday Shop and 're-center' our busy lives in the New Year.

Women ages 18 and up are invited to join us as we meet monthly to participate in mission work, a time for faith, food, devotions, and building relationships.

Upcoming Events:

Sat. Nov. 7 8:30-11:00am: "Financial Planning for the Holidays" What's important, what's not—you decide, but here is some help and guidance. In the Youth Room. *Mission Focus – Bring boxes of new Christmas Cards for Warren Village*

Sat. Nov. 28: Hanging of the Greens, 8:00am-noon in the Fellowship Hall. *Mission Focus – Bring gift wrapping paper for the Holiday Shop*

Sat. Dec. 5: Children's Holiday Shop, 8:30-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall

Sat. Jan. 16: Re-Centering for the New Year 8:30-11:00am in the Youth Room. *Mission Focus – TBD*

Bring your favorite breakfast goodies to share with the group and we hope to see you at one or all of our upcoming events.

Childcare is available with reservations. Please call 303-791-0659 x47.

Visit <http://stlukeshr.com> and follow the Quick Links to add your name to the email distribution list. Contact Elena Lynch (elenalynch@gmail.com) or Lynda Fickling (Lynda@stlukeshr.com) for more information.

NEW - COLLABORATIVE WELLNESS INITIATIVE

St. Luke's has an excellent opportunity to partner with CENTUS Counseling, Consulting, and Education in the new Asset-Based Healthy Family Initiative. The initiative is supported by a planning grant from the Colorado Governor's Commission on Community Service and will involve 15 congregations from the Denver Metro area. The Commission serves as a catalyst for the expansion of community service as an effective way to improve the overall well-being of communities throughout the state.

In this collaboration, St. Luke's will develop a customized plan for wellness based upon our existing resources and programs. The plan will emphasize the enhancement and development of these resources and programs to meet the specific needs of our congregation.

The asset-based initiative will focus on six distinct populations:

- 1) Parents of children 0-3
- 2) Elementary school children and parents
- 3) Middle school and high school youth and parents
- 4) Young adults and parents
- 5) Adults managing life-transitions
- 6) Clergy and staff

Central questions in the assessment and planning process will include: How do we nurture body, mind, and spirit within the programs that are in place at St. Luke's? What can be done to enhance these programs and to further promote health, wholeness, and well-being within our community?

In mid-November, everyone will be invited to engage in online surveys to help determine our highest priority needs. We will then work in collaboration with CENTUS to develop our specialized wellness plan to meet the identified needs and desired outcomes of our congregation. We are enthusiastic about this opportunity and look forward to the development and implementation of a uniquely designed wellness plan that further promotes social, emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical health and wholeness.

Sallie Suby-Long, Associate Minister

The St. Luke's Young Adult group

will be forming Dinner for 6 or 8 groups this fall. The dinners will start in January. Please look for the signup sheet starting in October. These dinners will be for individuals and couples age 18-30's. Groups will be broken down accordingly by age. Contact Kate Crespo at kater3322@me.com if you are interested or have suggestions.



James Ramsey
Director of Music
Ministry & the Arts



Kay Coryell
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Ken Mervine
Organist/
Accompanist

Epiphany King's Service – Update!

For the Epiphany service on January 3 this next year, we are redesigning and re-imagining the use of puppets during the service. After almost 25 years of service, we've retired the original 15 foot puppets. They were un-repairable and continued to crack and break little by little over the last several years. We finally needed to say goodbye and find another alternative puppet form to meet the needs of the worship experience. With help from members of the Puppet and Drama ministries, we are currently exploring many options. The Epiphany worship service with the three Kings and their entourage is one of the few long-standing traditions at St. Luke's. We're looking forward to continuing that tradition! If you would like to be part of the Epiphany Service team or help in any way, please contact James Ramsey at jim@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x23.

St. Luke's Christmas Cantata



On Dec. 6, the Music Ministry at St. Luke's will be ushering in the Advent and Christmas Season with our 10th annual Christmas

Cantata. Featuring nearly 150 performers of various ages, it is the musical highlight of the season! You won't want to miss hearing the wonderful sounds of Christmas performed by the Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulators Handbell Choir, Youth Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz Children's Choirs, Orchestra and Band. You'll enjoy listening to and singing your favorite Christmas songs performed by our incredibly gifted and talented music ensembles at St. Luke's.

I'm also happy to share that you'll have the opportunity to purchase a live performance Christmas Cantata CD. Over the last several years, many people have requested recordings of our Christmas Cantata. Rejoice! This is the year – with the help of members of our congregation – we expect the CDs to be available on Dec. 13 and 20.

The St. Luke's Christmas Cantata is during Sunday worship at 9:30 and 11:00am on December 6. Invite friends and come early!

Little Women Auditions - Sunday Nov. 15 at 1:00pm and Monday Nov. 16 and Tuesday Nov. 17 at 7:00pm. Audition material will be available outside the music office. The performance dates are February 12 and 13, 2010. All are encouraged to audition and be part of 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.

Below is a list of auditioned roles. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact James Ramsey, Jenna Wilcox or Roberta Hamilton-Griggs.

Character list with voice classification:

character	voice type	age	description
Jo	mezzo+	19ish	An impassioned and spirited girl
Prof Bhaer	baritone	30's	German professor
Marmee March	mezzo	40's	Mother with strength and spirit
Amy March	young soprano	13ish	The youngest sister
Meg March	soprano	20's	The oldest sister
Beth March	young soprano	15ish	The second youngest sister
Mr. Laurence	baritone or bass	70's	Grandfather
Laurie	tenor	18ish	Grandson of Mr. Laurence
Aunt March	mezzo	50's	Over-bearing matron, deep voice
Clarissa	soprano or mezzo		"The heroine"
Braxton	baritone+		"The villain"
Rodrigo	baritone+/tenor		"The hero"
Mrs Kirk	mezzo		Middle-aged irish woman
Mr. Brooke	baritone+	20-30's	Laurie's Tutor
Chorus			includes minor characters/dancers



Our Town Success!

Over the weekend of Oct. 16 and 17, the Wesley Players presented Thornton Wilder's play, *Our Town*. The production was simply staged as originally intended by the author with a black background and minimal set pieces. Almost all of the props in the show were pantomimed by the actors, allowing

the audience to create their own imagined Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. While the staging was simple, the acting was moving and powerful. The cast brought this simple town to life and created characters that were relatable and teachable. Their performances made you believe that there were props in their hands and that created before you were full sets.

Karin Wesson, in her directorial debut at St. Luke's, was instrumental in her attention to detail and her tireless efforts. She focused the actors on only what was needed, allowing the text and relationships to speak loudly. The spirit of the play was continued at intermission where patrons were able to partake of fun food of the time, including Cracker Jacks and rootbeer floats. The Wesley Players was proud to have Pam Nowak join the team as assistant director. While new to St. Luke's, Pam jumped in with both feet and provided wonderful support.

The totals are not yet in, however The Wesley Players raised money that will go to the Interfaith Food Bank and the Guatemala Mission to build adobe homes and chicken coops, in addition to supporting the Drama Ministry at St. Luke's. Thank you to all who came and supported the work of the cast and crew of *Our Town*. You are making a difference in our community!



- ✧ **SLY PM Dinner every Sunday night at 5:30pm, \$2**
- ✧ **Nov 8 – SLY PM: SLIP vs WITY Improv Comedy Show!** The adults and youth will play each other in *Whose Line is it Anyway* style competition! No cost, but concessions available for 50 cents.
- ✧ **Nov 15 – Worship with Fusion,** unplugging the Christmas machine and finding meaning in a simple silent night.
- ✧ **Nov 22 – DenUM Food For All.** Interested in packing Thanksgiving meal kits for Denver's hungry? Meet at church at 1:00pm, we'll drive downtown and help DenUM provide holiday meals for hungry families!
- ✧ **Nov 22 – SLY PM: Christmas Decorating.** We've never really had a youth space to decorate before, so come and help us dress our rooms for the Advent Season!
- ✧ **Nov 29 – SLY PM: Annual Tree Lighting and College Cookie Care Packs.** We'll enjoy lighting St. Luke's Christmas Tree with music, message, and fun, then pack up finals care packages for our college age youth. Come for a fun night!
- ✧ **Dec 6 – SLY PM: Christmas Video Scavenger Hunt!** Bring a carload of friends for this year's video hunt! If you've never done one of these before, you want to put this on your calendar!

Special Events:

- ✧ **Pumpkin Patch** – Thank you to everyone who helped make the pumpkin patch a success again this year! We are still totaling up the amount we raised for youth missions, so keep your ears open! Everyone who worked so hard and everyone who bought pumpkins ~**THANKYOU!!!**
- ✧ **Confirmation class will begin in February 2010.** Information for youth (and their parents) in 8th grade and up who wish to be a part of Confirmation will become available in December. Confirmation classes run from February to April on Sunday mornings at 11:00am.
- ✧ **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

CHRIS'S CORNER Keepin' It Simple

Ever started something thinking it would be an easy and simple project, only to watch it spiral out of control and get uber complicated? I had one of those this last month, when I decided to paint all of the trim on my house... My house has aluminum siding, and white aluminum trim that had started to yellow and look kind of gross, so we picked out a paint color and set to work. I assumed it would only take a day or two max, oh silly Chris...

Three weeks later I almost had it finished. Not only did I paint the trim around every window and door (no idea I had that many!), I also ended up painting the foundation all the way around my house, my back porch, my front and back door, and my beagle a little bit! (The beagle was on accident, I swear!) A simple idea to liven up my house turned into a confusing and complicated marathon! Sometimes the simplest of things can become overly complex because we lose track of the big picture. I was so focused on new paint and the next section of house to be done, that I ended up with a project much larger than I thought. Had I seen the bigger picture of the house earlier, maybe I could have saved myself some stress...

This time of year can be like that for all of us. Fall projects and tests, Thanksgiving celebrations, looking ahead to Christmas and more. We can get so focused on detail, we lose sight of the important big picture: this season is made for us to give thanks for God's role in our lives, and the blessings of good family and friends. We'll keep exploring how to keep things simple as Christmas approaches, but this month try this exercise: The simplest way to show someone you care is to smile, acknowledge them, and ask how they're doing. Smile and simply connect better with someone you don't usually talk to and those you're very close with. Discover what a simple change can do for yourself and for others! *—Peace & Love, Chris*

College Age Cookies?

Do you have a son or daughter who is college age? Would they like a batch of home baked cookies to arrive in their mailbox at school before finals week? Get their name, mailing address, and school to Chris at chris@stlukeshr.com by November 25!



2010 Youth Ski Retreat!!!

Registrations available at the end of this month! Retreat will be to Winter Park, lodging at YMCA of the Rockies. Retreat open to all 7-12 graders, you can ski one or two days. We'll be up with Parker UMC as well, so you can get to meet some great new friends! Registration forms will also be available at www.stlukeshr.com/sly by Thanksgiving.

Zimbabwe Although it's been 12 years since we went to Zimbabwe, the people (especially the orphans), the sights, the sounds, the singing, and even the scent remains deep in my heart and soul. I've had the privilege of reading two very special books in the past couple of months. One was written by a very dear friend and our former Missionary in Residence, Dr. Rev. Tapiwa Mucherera. It's titled, *"Meet Me at the Palaver"*. His book is written probably more for Pastors, but I found it took me out of my comfort zone frequently and made me stretch my way of thinking. I could see old and present issues in new light with hope and possibilities for the future. In Dr. Mucherera's words, he discusses, "the destructive impact of colonial Christianity on indigenous African communities."

I also read a beautiful, yet sad and heartbreaking book by Janine Roberts, titled, *"Dare to Love Completely"*. Janine and I have never met face to face. We've only talked online, for about 5 years now. Janine is a former student of Asbury Theological Seminary; this is where she met Dr. Mucherera. Janine not only went on a mission trip to Zimbabwe, she came home and made the decision to return and live in the Fairfield Orphanage in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. Her book brought back memories so vivid for me that I had a hard time sleeping for a few nights. Old Mutare is one of the places St. Luke's visited; this is the place my life changed forever.

You can purchase both of these books on Amazon.com, or if you'd like to borrow mine, just give me a call!

Blessings, Laurie Gilbert





Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Lisé Takayama
Assistant Director
of Finance

Thank You For Your Continued Support

I can't say "thank you" enough for the way you support the financial needs of St Luke's. Always remember, if you have

any questions about our finances, I'm always ready and anxious to share with you our processes or other concerns you may have regarding our program. Contact me at 303-791-0659 x24 or davecupp@stlukeshr.com.

With Less Than 60 Days Remaining in 2009, It's Not Too Early To Begin 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 to 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.

How to be invitational and keep the flu away

Last month we shared our initial plans to make sure we're doing all we can at St. Luke's to help you and your family and friends to stay healthy this cold and flu season. By now most of you have probably noticed extra hand sanitizer dispensers throughout our classrooms and hallways, along with signs reminding us to cough or sneeze into our elbows to help to prevent virus spread. In her Sunday morning messages, Rev. Janet has shared ideas on various greetings – from thumbs up and winks to elbow taps. From silly to serious, we welcome your ideas as well and truly appreciate your helping with reminders to each other, our youth, and children on the importance of hand washing. If you have other ideas we should implement, please contact one of the trustees or get a note to Bonnie and we'll be in touch. Thank you all!



HEARTS FOR MINISTRY

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.
—Matthew 6:21

"Hearts for Ministry" is the theme of our yearly conversation to encourage us to be faithful in ministries envisioned for 2010. Stewardship always asks the question: What do I really care about? In what will I invest my life and my resources? I would like for more and more families to enter into the joy of investing in St. Luke's and spiritual formation. Our Hearts for Ministry Team is asking each of us to consider disciplined, proportional giving. The tithe represents 10% of the bounty with which God blesses us. It is also the symbol that Paul uses when he writes to the young churches of the first century. He calls for "PROPORTIONAL GIVING". We are to give in proportion to what we have earned, in proportion to what we have accumulated, in proportion to what we possess. A **TITHE** represents what you plan to give to the ministry and mission of the church. It is your plan – freely decided upon and cheerfully given. The tithe is the amount we bring weekly or monthly as an act of worship.

Next we are enjoined to bring our **OFFERINGS**. The Bible knows at least two kinds of offerings which have connection with our lives today. First, there are the "votive offerings". Votive offerings are part of a vow or promise, or they represent a specific act of thanksgiving to God, or a personal act of devotion. Seasonal offerings, missional giving, bequests, and memorials are in the category of votive offerings.

The biblical witness also speaks of **FREE-WILL OFFERINGS**. It is an unplanned, unstructured, unexpected out-of-pocket offering on the spur of the moment. The free-will offering is giving out of a sudden impulse of love, out of a felt need. It is the envelope in your worship bulletin when you arrive on a Sunday morning that invites a response for a special cause. It is the call for a special disaster relief offering due to flood, or hurricane. It is the spontaneous gift to the pastor's relief fund for homeless persons.

Bring your tithes and your votive offerings and your free-will offerings to the house of worship. The text is an amazing ancient writing with a high level of contemporary relevance. It all adds up to a single central truth: As we give of any monetary amount, we are primarily receivers and transmitters of the love of God in the world. Ultimately, that's what any giving is all about.

Re-loadable King Soopers Cards a big success!

Look at the King Soopers profits from the last 3 months:

- July \$555
- August \$872
- September \$1,052

By December we should be making... well, a lot!

Use your King Soopers and Safeway cards to purchase groceries, prescriptions, stamps and gas (at some locations). We sell \$50 KS, Safeway and Tony cards every week between services. The \$50 King Sooper cards are re-usable/re-loadable. **In time for the holidays!**

We will sell \$5 King Sooper cards from 11/22-12/21. You can choose to load them with any dollar amount at the store. **Great stocking stuffers!**



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.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



All women are invited to join us for the Annual Women's Candlelight Dinner

Tuesday, December 8

Just like last year, we will have men of the church serving the meal and waiting on the tables. Our own Reverend Janet Forbes will be the evening's speaker. St. Luke's Women of Note will provide our entertainment for the evening. The mission for the evening will be Warren Village, about which Beth Rumbel will talk. The evening of the Candlelight Dinner the UMW will be collecting diapers, wipes, and canned food for Warren Village. Tickets will go on sale for \$15 in November.

A FEW GOOD MEN NEEDED to help. Please
 contact Lori Smith if you are able - lorismith2008@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes SLY returns from Fall Retreat 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 6:30pm: SLY PM: Improv Show 6:34pm: Fusion	9	10	11 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	12 9:30am: Advent Study: The First Christmas 5:00pm: Grief Support Group	13	14 7:30am: Men's Breakfast 7:00pm: Duke Ellington Sacred Concert
15 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes 8:15am: Contemplative Worship Service 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's 1:00pm: Auditions for Little Women 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 6:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	16 6:30pm: Women's Night IN 6:30pm: Unplug the Christmas Machine class 7:00pm: Auditions for Little Women	17 7:00pm: Auditions for Little Women	18 Little School Thanksgiving Feasts 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	19 Little School Thanksgiving Feasts 9:30am: Advent Study: The First Christmas 5:00pm: Grief Support Group 6:30pm: Unplug the Christmas Machine class	20	21
22 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes 12:30pm: SLY Food for All 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 6:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	23	24 Little School closed 6:30pm: Christ Lutheran/St. Luke's Thanksgiving Service	25 Little School closed	26 Thanksgiving Day Little School closed Church office closed	27 Little School closed Church office closed	28 Hanging of the Greens 8:00am: Hanging of the Greens and Work Day
29 Tree Lighting Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Rev. Janet Forbes 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 6:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Tree Lighting Service/Fusion	30	DEC 1	2 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	3 9:30am: Advent Study: The First Christmas 5:00pm: Grief Support Group	4 7:30pm: Highlands Ranch Community Chorus	5 9:00am-2:00pm: Holiday Shop 7:30pm: Highlands Ranch Community Chorus
6 Cantata Sunday 8:00am: Worship Service in the Chapel 9:00am-12:30pm: Holiday Shop 9:30 & 11:00am: Cantata 5:30pm: Community Meal (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 6:30pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	7 11:30am-1:30pm: Holiday Shop	8 noon-1:30pm: Holiday Shop 6:00pm: UMW Candlelight Dinner	9 6:30pm: Wed. SLY	10 9:30am: Advent Study: The First Christmas 5:00pm: Grief Support Group	11	12 7:30am: Men's Breakfast 6:30pm: Puppet Show