



# The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

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## Christmas is Calling

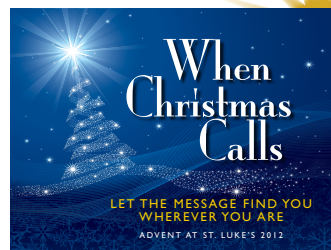


## Thank you, St. Luke's!

You have generously filled over 200 gift wishes from the Giving Tree, making Christmas brighter for needy men, women and children in our community. Gifts were distributed to Interfaith Community Services and Urban Peak.

## Join us for the celebration of CHRISTMAS EVE!

At 1:00 and 3:00pm, young children and their families are invited to sing favorite carols with the Cherubs, Kids Prayz, Joyful Noise Bells, and the Soul Purpose Youth Choir and welcome the Christ child as the puppets tell the Christmas story. At 5:00 and 7:00pm, the Lessons and Carols services will celebrate in proclamation and song with the Christmas Choir, brass, and hand bells. At 9:00pm, the Communion Christmas, a contemplative service by candlelight, will greet the Christmas morn. Candle lighting with the singing of *Silent Night* will conclude every Christmas Eve service.



*A little child,  
A shining star.  
A stable rude,  
The door ajar.  
Yet in that place,  
So crude, forlorn,  
The Hope of all  
the world was born.*

**Join us for the celebration  
of Advent and Christmas at St. Luke's!**  
**"When Christmas Calls:  
Let the Message Find You  
Wherever You Are!"**

The Advent and Christmas seasons are journeys of invitation and expectation! The door is ajar! The message of Christmas comes to us often when we least expect it. It comes in the midst of the rush, in the middle of everyday events, while we are simply going about our days and trying to keep everything and everyone moving in a generally positive direction. And, we don't have to DO anything for it to arrive... Christmas will call on each one of us. It has an amazing feeling of promise.

Watch for the element of surprise! We don't know just when Christmas may come calling to our hearts. It might be a specific moment, gifted while singing the Cantata, or dressing a child in their sheep costume, or holding a candle during *Silent Night*. Often, it is the whole experience, both the message and the mess, which fills our lives during this season of hope. So be playful, and daring! Something divine and miraculous is about to happen! Join us!

### December 23 ADVENT 4

WORSHIP SERVICE.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 6:30pm

SERVICE OF BAPTISM.....12:30pm

### December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

CHILDREN.....1:00 & 3:00pm

Puppets, Soul Purpose Youth Choir, Cherub's Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz, and Joyful Noise Youth Handbell Choir

TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm

Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulators Handbell Choir, Soloists, Brass and Organ

CONTEMPLATIVE COMMUNION.....9:00pm

Communion Service, Soloists and Organ

### December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK.....noon

(meet at the church at 11:00am or at 14th & Broadway at 11:45am)

### December 30

FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 6:30pm

No Sunday School

### January 6 EPIPHANY

SERVICE OF THE KINGS.....8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

**Sunday Worship Services:**

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

6:30pm: Revolution

Contemplative Services also offered  
(Check website for dates and times)**Sunday School:**

Adult, Youth &amp; Children:

9:30am &amp; 11:00am

**Nursery available for:**

8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00am services

**Church Office.....303-791-0659**

Fax.....303-470-5615

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

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Senior Minister      Emergency: 303-241-9312**Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x32**  
Associate Minister      Emergency: 303-475-0141**Rev. Ryan Canaday.....x12**  
Associate Minister      Emergency: 303-944-5061**Sharon Oliver.....x27**  
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Director of Little School**Dr. James Ramsey.....x23**  
Director of Music & Arts Ministries**Kenrick Mervine.....x33**  
Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist**Jennifer Ferguson.....x37**  
Associate Director of Music Ministry**Kay Coryell.....x36**  
Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry**Ernie Rodgers.....x44**  
Revolution Worship Leader**Carrie Mallery.....x35**  
Assistant Revolution Worship Leader**Jenna Wilcox.....x22**  
Director of Drama Ministry**Brenda Schafer.....x10**  
Office Administrator**Dave Cupp.....x24**  
Director of Finance**Lisé Takayama.....x16**  
Assistant Director of Finance**Lynda Fickling.....x20**  
Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director**Barry Curtis.....x39**  
Facilities Manager

All submissions for the  
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are due **January 20**  
Editor: Sharon Oliver  
**chronicle@stlukeshr.com**

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Church Office.



**Rev. Janet Forbes**  
Senior Pastor

# The Advent Adventure

*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:1-3)*

When Christmas calls, John the Baptist is one of the biblical voices that we hear! He stalks through the wilderness of his time on the trail of the messiah. He's the original hellfire-and-brimstone preacher, but he also offers hope to the community he rakes over the coals. A willingness to hope is a willingness to enter the wilderness, to seek the message in the midst of the mess. Hope is not a domesticated state of mind. It seems to camp out in odd places, crops up at the worst possible times. Just as we resign ourselves to the minimum wages of life with no benefits, hope whispers that we shouldn't settle for that bottom line. Hope thrives in the barren places of our lives.

As an Advent proponent, I love John the Baptist – at least from afar. (I'm not sure I would have been comfortable hanging out with a locust-eating, camel-hair-wearing prophet.) But John the Baptist's message to us during this frantic season of the year draws me in. I mean, here's this guy out in the wilderness proclaiming God's word, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Who wants to hear the word, repent? And who wants the extra work of making paths straight and all?

Yet we Advent journeyers also find ourselves in a sort of wilderness, a wilderness of excess, of noise and clutter and busyness, a wilderness of secular, consumer culture giving us the message that Christmas will be perfect if we buy the right presents – and do it now! We Advent people are crying out in this wilderness, trying to prepare the way in our own lives, trying to make a place, a holy space for the coming of the Christ child. We are called to prepare the way in the wilderness of pre-Christmas chaos, where rushed schedules and commercial chatter drown out silence and prayers.

And hope goes with us, is with us, in this wilderness of chaos. Hope becomes a critical part of our Advent survival kit, guiding us through the distractions, reminding us of our single task: to prepare the way, the let the message find use wherever we are!

God of hope, help me prepare the way for you in the wilderness of chaos. Give me strength, wisdom, and patience to clear a path for you through my cluttered heart and life. Amen.

Rev. Janet

## CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF BAPTISM Sunday, Dec. 23 at 12:30pm

Christmas Sunday is a traditional and joyous time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism, an experience of faith in Jesus Christ, the rite of initiation into the family of God, and an act of grace. Following the 11:00 service on Christmas Sunday, December 23 at 12:30pm in the Chapel, we will offer a special service of baptism for persons of all ages.

Please call Brenda in the Church Office 303-791-0659 to indicate your desire to visit with a pastor about this opportunity.

## Offer Assistance to Those Who Ask

On Sunday mornings, persons frequently come to the church seeking assistance: gasoline, food, lodging, bus fare. It is usually not timely for the pastors to speak with these persons until 12:00 noon, following the morning services of worship. Please invite those who make such requests to attend worship and fellowship. Be hospitable. If a pastor (or staff person) is not available, you may respond to the need on behalf of the congregation. During the season of Advent and Lent every year, we receive a special offering to assist persons in these ways. "The Benevolence Fund" is a source of support for you so that you may respond to the request for help. You may take persons to the grocery store and purchase a gift certificate for groceries. You can take the family to the gas station and fill their tank. You may offer to buy a meal. You may direct persons to Interfaith Community Services. You may assist with bus fare. You may pay a cab fare in advance, if necessary. THE BENEVOLENCE FUND CAN REIMBURSE YOU FOR ANY EXPENSES YOU MAY INCUR WHILE OFFERING ASSISTANCE. Please do not feel that you need to use your own resources. The congregation has planned well for the giving of this kind of assistance. However, we recommend that you do not give cash, unless there are no other alternatives for assistance. Thank you for your care of persons in need.





**Rev. Ryan Canaday**  
Associate Minister

## Don't forget the boring stuff at Christmas

The Christmas season was kicked off here at St. Luke's with the Lighting of the Trees the Sunday after Thanksgiving. What an awesome evening! Christmas songs, Christmas lights, Christmas stories, and lots and lots of Christmas cookies!

There is a lot happening at St. Luke's between now and Christmas Day. We will have five Christmas Eve worship services... yes, FIVE! I'm new to all this Christmas stuff at St. Luke's, but I'm really looking forward to the 1:00 & 3:00 services, which will be more geared towards families with children. What could possibly go wrong... puppets, candles, a dog, and a baby. It's gonna be a blast!

### What do we do when Christmas Calls? I don't know about you, but I don't wanna miss it.

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle, I don't want to miss the significance of Jesus coming into our world. God came to be in relationship with us... pretty awesome!



I'm reminded of the 2009 animated film, "Up." A grumpy elderly man, Carl Fredrickson, and Russell, a young Wilderness Explorer from Tribe 54 (an overeager 8-year-old looking for adventure), find themselves on a riveting journey to Paradise Falls. And quite a

journey it was! But in the middle of this wild and adventurous trek, Russell discovers one of life's truths. In a quiet moment, just after escaping a perilous situation, he explains to Carl how he and his dad used to get ice cream at Fenton's then sit on a curb while counting blue cars and red cars—"whoever gets the most wins," he explains. Russell then reflects: "I like that curb... it might sound boring, but I think the boring stuff is the stuff I remember the most."

Little, 8-year-old, Russell seemed to get something that so many of us miss. We set out on life's adventure getting lost in the chaos and looking only for the "big things," while missing what is most meaningful: the relationships; the simplicity.

Maybe life really is as simple as Fenton's ice cream while sitting on a curb counting blue cars and red cars. It might sound boring, but I think the boring stuff is the stuff I remember the most.

Shopping. More shopping. Long lines. Traffic jams. To-do lists. Credit cards. One more Christmas party. Running late... always running. How might we rediscover the "boring" in our lives during this crazy-busy Christmas season? Christmas is calling! How will we respond? I hope you join us at St. Luke's on Christmas Eve. We're gonna have a ball... and light more than a few candles.

### Merry Christmas!

Rev. Ryan



**Rev. Sallie Suby-Long**  
Associate Minister

## Care, Support, Counseling & Spirituality Ministries

St. Luke's offers many ministries to support your emotional, mental, and spiritual health. I believe we can become more aware of God's healing and transforming grace through

intentional connection with others through a variety of care and spiritual formation opportunities. I welcome your emails, calls, and conversations. Let me or any of our pastors and staff know about your interests or needs and we will do our best to connect you with one of the following ministries or with resources that may be helpful to you. Confidentiality is always respected. You may reach me at 303-475-0141 or [Sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:Sallie@stlukeshr.com).

**Pastoral Counseling and Care** – Rev. Sallie, Rev. Janet, and Rev. Ryan offer short-term, faith-based counseling, pastoral care, and referrals for individuals, couples, and families seeking support.

**Stephen Ministry** – provides confidential, one-on-one care to individuals in our congregation and community. Stephen Ministers are lay persons who have specialized training in listening and providing emotional and spiritual care.

**The Caring Connection** – provides support to members of St. Luke's and the community by making companion visits, taking meals to families in need, running errands or providing transportation. Contact Maryellen Davis if you have a need that the Caring Connection may provide.

**Care/Prayer Team** – gathers regularly to pray for concerns of individuals, the congregation, and the community. Requests for prayers may be sent through the website, written on a prayer request card or shared with a member of the pastoral and staff team.

**Support Groups and Classes** – St. Luke's offers support groups and classes focused on a variety of topics including 12-step programs, divorce recovery classes, grief support groups, and parenting classes. Information about current groups is available on St. Luke's website and in the Care Ministries brochures in the church entry.

**Spirituality and Wellness** – interactive workshops, retreats, and classes featuring excellent facilitators, outdoor experiences, discussions etc. engage participants in learning new skills and practices that contribute to health and wholeness. Check the Website and Week at a Glance for upcoming opportunities. See upcoming opportunities listed in this issue of The Chronicle!

**Spiritual Direction** – The process of spiritual direction honors each person's unique life journey and supports people in managing transitions, enhancing self-awareness, working through challenges, and growing in faith. Individual and/or Group Spiritual Direction are available at St. Luke's.

**Faithful Friends** – The Faithful Friends ministry has been created to offer care and friendship to individuals in care centers, those who may be dealing with long term illness and health challenges, and individuals who may have difficulty getting to St. Luke's on a regular basis. You may contact Nancy Abbott for more information.

**The Samaritan Fund** – provides financial support and assistance for those who are part of our St. Luke's family. If you or someone you love is in need of some extra financial support to make it through a difficult stretch, please contact one of the pastors.

**Benevolence Fund** – provides support for those in need who are not directly connected with the St. Luke's family.

If St. Luke's does not offer the type of support you need, the pastoral team will make every effort to connect you to additional resources, support networks, and care providers within our community.



**Lynda Fickling**  
Director of  
Servant Ministry/  
Spiritual Director



## Get Connected: New Direction

*Have you volunteered this year? Where to go next? What to do? Where is my niche?*

Give yourself a new direction this year! Seek out your Spiritual Gifts and take an intentional leap of faith into areas where God has planted the seeds for you to serve.

Visit [www.stlukeshr.com/SpiritualGifts](http://www.stlukeshr.com/SpiritualGifts) and work through a simple assessment. Follow-up with the resources provided and/or give me a call and we will explore options for your journey! Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director, [Lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:Lynda@stlukeshr.com) 303-791-0659 x20

## LOOK DEEPER: Sunday Jan. 20 8:30am - Ministry Fair: Missions & Support Teams

**Saturday, January 19, 8:30-11:00am**  
**St. Luke's Leadership Kick-Off 2013**



### Special Keynote Speaker: Michael Norton

We have an outstanding opportunity at this year's Leadership Kick-Off Event! You will want to attend! The day will begin with a light breakfast and then Michael Norton, a highly acclaimed motivational speaker and member of

St. Luke's, will be our Keynote. Michael will talk about how our self-image, attitude, and relationships all play an important role in our spiritual journey and in our ministries. He will guide us as we have fun working through a "Great Ideas" session where everyone will have an opportunity to share creative insights and ideas with the leadership team.

Michael is the Executive Vice President of Sandler Systems, Inc. and the former President of Zig Ziglar Corporation. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of CanDoGo and draws on more than 20 years of business experience. Michael's message is clear, his approach is direct and he loves engaging audiences with high energy, fun, and a focus on meaningful leadership. After Michael's presentation, you will have the opportunity to break out into your individual team meeting.

We invite you to make this an important day for your team, welcoming your newest members and planning out your year! We will have the food, space and atmosphere all ready for you.

**We hope you will make this a high priority and join us for this excellent opportunity.** This is an important beginning to our year as leaders of St. Luke's. If you are not able to attend, we encourage you to designate a co-leader and coordinate the morning work you have envisioned. We feel that all persons that call St. Luke's their home are leaders and welcome each one of you to this special event. Please RSVP to Lynda Fickling [Lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:Lynda@stlukeshr.com) 303-791-0659 x20!



**Brenda Schafer**  
Office Administrator

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please stop by the Information Center, by the front door, where you will find the complete and updated Prayer Concerns list or view the listing on our website. Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or Brenda Schafer if you have any additions/removals. 303-791-0659 x32, leave a note on the front desk, or email [sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sallie@stlukeshr.com) or [brenda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:brenda@stlukeshr.com)



### LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Bea Lasky - Charlie Ruffien's cousin  
Carroll Gabert  
Janet Johnston  
Jackie Durban  
Dan Keyack - Betsy Keyack's father  
Debi Sheppard  
Mercedes vonNormann  
Isaiah - Karin Wesson's niece's son  
Jill Wright  
Mary Jo Brezzel - Victoria Mason's friend  
Phyllis Dowell - Teri Burget's friend  
Suzi Jane Clarke  
Nancy Obertier  
Joshua Bohnen -  
Norm & Beckie Veach's family friend  
Glen Barta - Natalie Barnard & Michelle  
Tekolste's father  
Kay Gunkel - Amy Curtis' sister  
Patrick O'Malley - Little School parent  
Emily Owens  
Chloe Levine  
Peter Waldheim  
Wendy Wessling - Eileen Law's friend

Jon Sreaty  
Chris Murphy - Bertha Roth's grandson  
Jack Knight

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Blake & Jocelyn Suttie on the birth of their son,  
Duncan James Suttie

### SYMPATHIES TO:

Veronica Hunter & Kyle Hall on the passing of their infant daughter, Ari  
Ken Fong & Betsy Keyack on the passing of Betsy's brother, Jerry Keyack;  
Sylvia Brady & Andrea & Bruce Kirchhoff on the passing of daughter/sister-in-law, Beth Brady;  
Jeff & Cindy Barlow on the passing of Cindy's father, James Croke;  
Sam & Teri Burget on the passing of Teri's uncle, Jim Luedtke;  
Steve Nitschneider on the passing of his wife, Susan Nitschneider  
Harry & Nancy Cushing on the passing of Harry's mother, Marlene Cushing  
Susan Hubbard on the passing of her mother, Jean McCord Layton

## The Christmas Holidays Can Be Painful

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Nancy Abbott, Rev. Sallie Suby-Long, Bryan Hutchinson, Linda Osborn, Paul Kirk, Sherrie Miller, and Laura McCarthy. -Paul Kirk

## "Servant by Design" Class Starting Soon!



**Sundays, Feb. 10-April 7, 4:00-5:30pm** (taking March 24 off for Easter Sunday) **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?** 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). Cost \$14. Sign up online [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com) or at the Get Connected Center. Facilitator: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com)

## Join one of our Christmas Eve Teams!

**Come serve on Dec. 24 at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 or 9:00pm!**

Greeters: Welcome all to St. Luke's. Contact Lisa Phillips 303-346-0454 [lisaphill4@aol.com](mailto:lisaphill4@aol.com)

Ushers: Contact Jay Lee 303-717-7576 [jjlee1012@gmail.com](mailto:jjlee1012@gmail.com)

Parking Lot Attendants: Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com)





*Journey toward Wholeness*

## Spirituality and Wellness

*“Owning our story can be hard, but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love, and belonging, and joy” –Brené Brown*

**February 12, 2013, 6:30-8:30pm:** The Spirituality and Wellness

Team invites you to spend an evening with Rev. Ryan Canady and Rev. Jerry Herships.

Through laughter and stories, we will explore *Authenticity & Vulnerability: Becoming Your True Self*. Together, we will consider important questions:

- What would it look like if we really grasped the idea of living into our true self?
- What if we could take off the mask, stop comparing ourselves to others; stop trying to be someone who we weren't created to be?
- What if God really isn't interested in our best performance?
- What if we could do away with all the shame and guilt?

God has made each of us uniquely ourselves. What if we could discover this self, accept this self, and thrive in this self? We are ALL storytellers, and we all tell a unique story with our lives. Donald Miller, author of *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, put it this way: “A good storyteller speaks something into nothing. Where there is an absence of story, or perhaps a bad story, a good storyteller walks in and changes reality. He doesn't critique the existing story, or lament about his boredom... He just tells something different and invites other people into the new story he is telling.” What kind of story are you telling?

**Spiritual Direction:** Our Spiritual Direction ministry at St. Luke's has had a remarkable response! Many people say the best way to understand spiritual direction is to experience it. Those who have participated in this ministry know that Spiritual Direction (sometimes called Spiritual Companionship) can help people to understand their sacred stories, learn what matters most, and experience attentive support one-on-one or in a small group. Asking questions is the heart of Spiritual Direction: “Who am I?” “How does God speak to me?” “How can I live more authentically?” “What am I called to do and be?” These questions do not have easy answers. Spiritual Direction affirms the questions and honors the importance of exploring questions. Spiritual Directors are trained to listen, guide, and create a gracious space in which participants can explore their inner selves, tap into their personal wisdom, and find life-giving perspectives. If you would like to know more about spiritual direction opportunities at St. Luke's, contact Pastor Sallie at [sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sallie@stlukeshr.com).

**Mindful Presence:** This weekly contemplative experience continues to offer an opportunity to begin each new week through quiet focus on what really matters. (Every Monday at 9:15am in the St. Luke's Chapel; all are welcome.)

### Outdoor Adventures:

We enjoyed a magnificent November sunset at the Bluffs Regional Park. All are welcome to join future adventures.

### Weekend Getaway in Tabernash, CO (January 25-27, 2013):

Join us for fun and fellowship in this warm and beautiful winter home setting. (contact [janestaller@gmail.com](mailto:janestaller@gmail.com) for more information, )



**Engaging Spirituality:** Comment following a recent class, “Last night we went out into the world, looking for God's presence within the conscious, living experiences of others by observing people's feelings of loving, wondering, engaging actions. As I reflect on our evening, I realize that God's powerful presence was within US, most present in the two amazing women in my group. As we sat, engaged, wanting to connect [through others], God was connecting us.

**Coming in February, 2013,** Rev. Sallie Suby-Long will facilitate a class on Authenticity and Vulnerability, based on Brené Brown's book, *Daring Greatly*. All are welcome. (For more information, contact [sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sallie@stlukeshr.com))

—The Spirituality and Wellness Team

## Monty's Methodism Musings: Susanna Wesley

by Monty Hoffman

Susanna Wesley has the mother of John and Charles Wesley and a very strong influence on both of them. Understanding the roots of the Methodist movement requires understanding her influence on it.

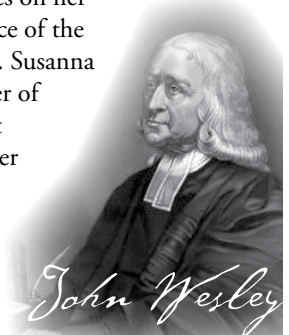
Susanna Annesley was born in 1669 as the 25th and last child of Dr. Samuel Annesley with his second wife. Her father was a prominent minister in the Dissenting (Puritan) movement and very involved in politics during Oliver Cromwell's rule. He was expelled from the Church of England in 1662. She decided on her own to return to the Church of England at the age of 13, displaying the independent spirit and strong sense of self that were evident throughout her life.

At the age of 19, she married Samuel Wesley. Nineteen children, ten of whom survived to adulthood, were born to this marriage. Despite difficult finances, she managed a household of ten children and educated her three boys and seven girls at the kitchen table. All three of her boys went to Oxford where John and Charles founded the Methodist movement.

During one of her husband's absences, the man appointed to preach at the parish was awful. Susanna started having afternoon services in the kitchen for her children. Some of the townspeople heard about it and asked to join. As time progressed, more asked and the kitchen quickly became too small so she moved the meeting to the front lawn. On Sunday mornings, the church was empty and on Sunday afternoons, 200 people attended Susanna's lawn meetings. I'm sure that this was a major reason why John licensed women lay preachers in the early Methodist movement.

Throughout their lives, John and Charles sought their mother's counsel and many of the letters survive. In addition to letters, she wrote meditations and scriptural commentaries. Her writings were published in the book “Susanna Wesley, Her Collected Writings”. She continued to advise them until her death in 1742.

When her life and writings are examined, we see many influences on her sons and their guidance of the Methodist movement. Susanna Wesley was the mother of John and Charles, but she was also the mother of the Methodist movement.





## Just the Facts with Jake & Max



**Sharon Oliver**  
Director of  
Children's Ministry



**Samantha Leahy**  
Director of Early  
Childhood Ministry

Woof! Woof! Jake, Ms. Sharon's dog here with Max, Ms. Sam's dog! We are loving this Advent season learning about **HOPE, PEACE, LOVE & JOY!**

We had an amazing **Tree Lighting Service** to kick things off in November, then a **Children's Holiday Shop**, the **Cantata**, (great job children's choirs!) some amazing **Family Advent Devotionals** on Wednesday nights, a **SLY, Jr. Christmas Party** and to top it off a huge **Christmas Pageant** full of children!! It was joyous! Thanks to everyone who helped with all of these amazing events. Our volunteers are the BEST!! We couldn't do it without you!! It sure put us in the Christmas Spirit. We hear Christmas Calling... or is that a dog whistle...?

**No, it's definitely, Christmas!!**

But the best part is... there's MORE!! On Dec. 24 at 1:00 & 3:00pm we have the **Children's Christmas Eve service** and it's going to be awesome. I hear that there will be another dog in the building! Woof! And that the puppets, children's choirs, youth

choirs and youth bells will all be performing. There will be a visit from the Holy Family and the Shepherds. We can't wait!!!

**Coming up in January:**

**New Sunday School lessons beginning Jan. 6 for Joy Trek, PEAK and Tweens and we'll go upstairs to see the KINGS on Jan. 6, 2013!! Don't miss it!**

**The P.R.A.Y. Program (formerly God & Country)!** Open to all children in Grades 1-5. Sign up by Dec. 31 - space is limited. For info or to sign up contact Sharon. Emblems will be presented on SCOUT SUNDAY February 10.

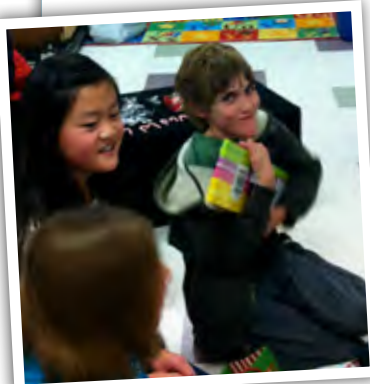
**SLY, JR. LOCK IN!** All 5th & 6th Graders welcome! Join us on Friday night January 18 at 5:30pm and we will take over the church until 8:00am the next morning! It's gonna be a blast! Be sure and bring a friend. RSVP to Ms. Sharon sharon@stlukeshr.com no later than Jan. 15. **Next:** Bowling on Jan. 27!

**Acolyte Training** for children 2nd-6th Grade on January 20 at 12:15pm

Don't forget we have a great website [www.stlukeshr.com/children](http://www.stlukeshr.com/children) with lots of important info on it. You can even check out the **Sunday School servant schedule** there! Oh, and don't forget to bring your **school photo** to Sunday School for the I Make a Difference board.

Please let Sharon & Sam know if you have any questions. This is Jake & Max, signing out until next month! Sending everyone big wet doggie kisses!

**Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & Doggie blessings!**



## St. Luke's Kids Growing with God

### What's in a Name? – St. Luke's Family Camp

Let's start with the core word – **Family**. When we hear this word, our individual family unit springs to mind, which comes in so many shapes and sizes. Single or a couple; with or without kids. Pets. Young families. Empty nesters. Grandchildren.

When you add the beginning – St. Luke's – now our definition changes. **St. Luke's Family**. Our community. An open invitation to fellowship, and friendship. "All are welcome here."

Something magical happens when you add the last piece – Camp. **St. Luke's Family Camp**. When you come to camp, you are attending with not one but three families – your individual family, the St. Luke's family, and the new family we all create while we're at camp together. Every day at camp our new family forms friendships and bonds through activities and community meals. There are so many things to do together – hiking, horseback riding, high & low ropes course, zip-lining, canoeing, a day at Winter Park – enjoying the beauty of our Colorado mountains, or roasting marshmallows by the campfire.

**Mark your calendars and have your family – whatever it's shape or size may be – become part of the St. Luke's Family Camp family. All are welcome! Join us at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby, CO from July 19-28, 2013. Stay a few nights or stay the whole week!**

## LEARNING

### Beth Moore Study

Beth Moore has believed in God all of her life. She has been dedicated to teaching others to believe in God as well. But as an adult she came face to face with the single most important question as she meditated on a passage from Isaiah: "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he." - Isaiah 43:10

What does it mean to believe God? Abraham and Moses believed God. This planted in them a seed of faith that grew into towering oaks of steadfast trust and belief. Hebrews 11 is full of other examples of bold belief. Beth Moore brings these characters to life in a way that will spring forth in you a fresh explosion of faith!

Join us for a Beth Moore Study called "Believe in God" on Thursday evenings beginning Feb. 21 through May 9, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Contact the facilitators with questions or to register: Kristin Foster at 303-346-2799 [kristinfoster13@gmail.com](mailto:kristinfoster13@gmail.com) or Lisa Hajek at 303-908-3191 [lahajek@1.com](mailto:lahajek@1.com). Room and additional registration information to come.





**Kay Swanson**  
Director of  
Little School



## Little School News: Advent Blessings!

FROM LITTLE SCHOOL

Everyone is "counting" the days until Baby Jesus' birthday and we know that it will be packed with learning, songs, fun and excitement!

In Chapel we will be talking about our special baby Jesus and why we celebrate Christmas! On those days we will all put out our shoes

for St. Nickolas Day and when chapel is over we usually find surprises in them! This tradition helps us find out how the idea of gift giving began and how we can be kind to others during this holiday season. Our busy days will be filled with Pajama days, pancake breakfast for the 4's and of course a visit from Santa! Our annual Christmas programs will be held on Wed. Dec. 19 and Thurs. Dec. 20 at 9:15 in the Sanctuary and are joyous events! The children charm us with Christmas songs and poems. Handbells ring and instruments clatter. It is always so delightful! Hope to see you there!

January will be a very busy time as well, as REGISTRATION for fall of 2013 will begin. Forms will be available on line and from the Little School office by Jan. 7, when we return from Christmas break. Current families, alumni and church members have priority so don't delay!

Visit our website for info: at [stlukeshr.com](http://stlukeshr.com) (click on preschool) or call 303-791-1982. Please tell your friends about us and encourage them to come for a tour! Tours are offered on Wed. or Thurs. mornings at 10:00am (no appointment necessary)

Little School will be on Christmas break from Dec. 21 to Jan. 6. We will be celebrating with our families and friends and we hope you will be doing the same!

*Christmas Blessings, Ms. Kay and Staff*

*"Kids go where there is excitement.  
They stay where there is love."*



*"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."*

## Candlelight Dinner & Mission Recognition Recipient:



Fellowship Hall was adorned in gold and black and the glow of candlelight to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with the Women's Candlelight Dinner. The UMW Mission Recognition Pin was awarded to a surprised Betsy Keyack honoring her for her incredible dedication to mission work and the call to justice. Betsy started the Sedalia Food For Families program last year and has been involved in dozens of local and global mission projects for many years. Also honored at the event was Betty Ludlam who has served as UMW President for several years

and brought UMW back to life at St. Luke's. The Women's Family Crisis Center in Douglas County was the mission focus for the evening. We collected numerous items including socks, underwear, towels and hygiene products and a \$500 cash donation was made to the crisis center on Colorado Gives Day which will doubled our donation! THANK YOU to the Women of Note for entertaining us and THANK YOU to FET for the delicious meal and all the servers and kitchen help. We could not put on this special event without all of you.

### Veterans Hospital Donation:

Over a dozen lap robes and quilts handmade by Itch to Stitch were on display in the front of the Sanctuary on Veteran's Day. They were blessed by Rev. Janet at the end of the service and were then donated to Veterans organizations. What a great mission project. Contact Fran West if you want to be involved in this ministry.

### Subgroups of United Methodist Women at St. Luke's UMC:

**Women's Night Out** - First Monday, 6:30pm

- Jan. 7 - Los Dos Potrillos 8251 S. Holly St.
- Feb. 4 - Del Vickio's Italian; 819 W. Littleton Blvd

Contact Elaine Carlstrom at [ecarlstrom@comcast.net](mailto:ecarlstrom@comcast.net) for more info.

**Simply Saturday** - First Saturday, 9:00am; Room 206

**Jan. 5 - UMCOR with Betsy Keyack.** We are collecting items for **UMCOR Health Care Kits** - A kit contains: 1 hand towel (15" x 25" to 17" x 27") kitchen, cleaning and microfiber towels not acceptable, 1 washcloth, 1 metal nail file or clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers), 1 bath size soap (3oz and larger), 1 toothbrush, 1 adhesive bandages (3/4" to 1"), 1 gallon plastic bag, \$1 to purchase toothpaste.

All items must be new; do not wash any of the items or they will be considered used.

**ALL items needed** (place in UMW UMCOR bin in Mission Closet.) Contact Janet Sackett at [jsackett@comcast.net](mailto:jsackett@comcast.net) for more info.

**Feb. 2, 9:00am - Valentines for Veterans Card Project** - all supplies will be provided; also make cards for your loved ones as well as a card for a veteran or missionary.

For information contact: Janet Sackett [jsackett@comcast.net](mailto:jsackett@comcast.net) or [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com), Quick links, Email Lists, to add your name to the email distribution list.

**Book Group** - Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm (Potluck Dinner 6:15)

Jan 28 - "The Greatest Generation" by Tom Brokaw

Feb 25 - "The Secret Daughter" by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

Contact RenaeParra@aol.com to for more info.

**Itch to Stitch** - Second Saturday 10:00-11:30am. Meet in Goliath area of church basement; Call Fran West 303-797-7107 for more info.



## Want to Know More About the United Methodist Church?

**What are our roots? What  
do we believe? Who was John**

**Wesley?** Join us two Sundays in January 20 & 27 11:00am-noon in Room 206, Monty Hoffman will answer these and any other questions that you have about the Methodist movement.

Childcare or Sunday School available for your children. **Questions? Contact Monty at** [msaffordexp@aol.com](mailto:msaffordexp@aol.com)

## DECEMBER: Homelessness

### MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

#### Highlighting Mission Opportunities: Our Focus for December is Homelessness:

**Christmas In the Park.** For more information about the following mission opportunities or any other missions supported

by St. Luke's, please contact Jerry Hertzler 720-480-0476, [jmhertzler@comcast.net](mailto:jmhertzler@comcast.net) or Mike Preble 303-997-7474, [mikepreble@yahoo.com](mailto:mikepreble@yahoo.com).

### Thanksgiving in the Park

by *Samantha Leahy*



On Thanksgiving our family joined 50 or more in Civic Center Park to distribute 25 pairs of long underwear, 30 plus winter hats and gloves collected from St. Luke's for

the homeless. In all over 300 items, cookies, Communion and a whole lot of love was shared with those who go without. Visible to us on this day was God's grace, presence and abundant love in the humble Sacrament of bread and water. We were reminded what matters most are the simple human connections and the hope on this day that all will be fed. Whether your Thanksgiving meal was in your home with a lively family gathering or on the ground under a large oak tree in the park, when we share a meal with one another we are filled. My family came to the realization that a true and meaningful thanksgiving lies within us and all we need to do is open our eyes to find it.

Please consider giving to those who go without this Christmas as our family once again makes our way on Christmas Day to Civic Center Park. The yellow collection bin labeled **Revolution ~ Christmas in the Park** is in the Narthex, let's fill it a few times! To attend the event meet at the church at 11:00am on Dec. 25 or meet at the park at 14th & Broadway at 11:45am.

### Burrito Breakfast January 6, 2013

**Proceeds go to Guatemalan Mission Trips**

THE BURRITOS ARE BACK! You can enjoy a hearty Burrito Breakfast January 6th, after our Epiphany Sunday service with the Three Kings. Burritos will be served from 8:30 -12:30 that morning. Not only do you get a hearty breakfast, but you are helping support St. Luke's Missions. The proceeds go to the projects for the March Adult and May Young Adult Guatemalan Mission Trips. Both groups will be working on additional school rooms for a school in Lemoa as well as two cement block homes for families in need.

Burritos are only \$5 each. These are going to be served HOT in the Narthex. If you want some to take home you can order them prior to Jan. 4th. Burritos TO GO are \$4 each ready for pick up on Sunday, January 6th. These are cold and packaged ready for take home. You may place your pre-orders at a table in the fellowship hall or by calling the church. Join us for breakfast and order your burritos to take home for a microwaveable breakfast to heat and eat later.

### Students in Guatemala

Students in rural Guatemala are only able to complete up to the 6th grade at the most, with many dropping out by the 3rd grade to help support their family, by going to work. When these students obtain a sponsor they are able to continue their education. Starting December 9th, there will be a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can learn more about the sponsorships and select a student to sponsor.

There will also be an opportunity for you to help out families in Lemoa, Guatemala, by giving \$12.50 to buy a can of enriched powered milk. These cans of milk can last up to 3 months. Tags will be available on the Giving Tree. This would be a wonderful gift for a needy family who is unable to afford this luxury.

Also, on the Giving Tree will be tags for you to donate construction supplies for the mission trips that the adults will take in March 2013 and SLY, in June 2013 to Guatemala. The mission teams will build cinderblock homes in the outskirts of Lemoa, Guatemala for two needy families who can't afford homes of their own. Each home costs \$5000 to build. Donors of \$250 or more will receive a picture of the family and may send a picture of their family to be given to the homeowner. They will also be building two additional classrooms to the current school in the village of Pacho. These classrooms would accommodate all the children who would like to attend school. All donations towards the school of \$2000 or more may have a honor/memorial name

inscribed on a plaque that will be placed on the school. When you can't come up with a gift for someone, this would be a wonderful alternative way to give.

A few members of St. Luke's mission's team recently traveled to Guatemala to select new students to be sponsored through the Pura Vida scholarship program. In Guatemala rural children are only able to complete up to 6th grade at the most, with many dropping out by 3rd grade to work for their families. A sponsorship allows these students to continue on in school and be supported in their education. Sponsorships cost \$450 a year and will cover all school expenses for a needy child. Sponsors will receive biannual



letters from their students. In addition, sponsors who travel on one of our Guatemala Mission Trips will be able to meet with their sponsor child while in Guatemala. Throughout December, there will be a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can learn more about the scholarships and select a student to sponsor.

### Homelessness Awareness Action Task Force and the Giving Tree

H.A.A.T. Force will have tags on the Giving Tree to purchase motel vouchers. We provide motel vouchers for homeless individuals on severe weather nights in the winter. Please help us to provide shelter to these people. Last year we provided well over 600 nights of shelter, more than doubling our total of 300 from the year before. Shelter costs have risen this year. It now costs \$40 for a single, \$45 for 2 people and \$52 for 3 or more. Please remember our homeless neighbors and give whatever you can to provide a warm room on a cold winter's night. 720-230-6982 or [info@haatforcesouthmetro.org](mailto:info@haatforcesouthmetro.org).



## Our Christmas Offerings to the Benevolence Fund

Through our Benevolence Fund, we have the opportunity to share with those less fortunate. Our Christmas offering will help bring the gift of this season to the St. Luke's benevolence funds that allow us to respond to the needs of the at-risk, the homeless, the transient, and the traveler for short-term lodging, food certificates, gas vouchers, prescriptions, and bus fares.

If there is a need, these funds support the ministry of our pastoral intern for the Iliff School of Theology, covering the expense of internship fees and books.

These funds also provide our partnership with Love In the Name of Christ, a coalition of 23 churches in the Littleton and Highlands Ranch area which connects neighbors in need with existing resources, mobilizes church volunteers when helping hands are needed, and brings groups together to create solutions. Be sure to connect with the Renewed Treasures Resale Shop, our gap ministry on behalf of the Love, INC partnership!

Together, our generosity will make a difference in the lives of many persons in 2013. Thanks be to God!



**James Ramsey**  
Director of Music  
& Arts Ministries



**Kenrick Mervine**  
Associate Dir. of  
Music Ministry/  
Organist



**Jennifer Ferguson**  
Associate Director  
of Music Ministry



**Kay Coryell**  
Dir. of Handbells  
& Children's Music  
Ministry



**Jenna Wilcox**  
Director of  
Drama Ministry

## Music Ministry at St. Luke's

Have you ever thought it might be fun to be singing with Jim and the Chancel Choir on Sundays? Or maybe the orchestra, the handbell choir, or the jazz band might be more in your comfort zone? St. Luke's has a vibrant music ministry program made up of several vocal and instrumental groups led by a very dedicated team of musicians. The ministry is fun and rewarding, and there is something for everyone! If you are interested in getting involved, contact Jim Ramsey at [jim@stlukeshr.com](mailto:jim@stlukeshr.com), or any other member of the music staff. See you at rehearsal!

**Wind Ensemble at St. Luke's!** Wind Ensemble is just a fancy word for concert band. The St. Luke's Wind Ensemble was founded for people who love concert band music and for families with young musicians of all ability levels. Would your family like to be a part of Wind Ensemble? Rehearsals will start in January, so contact Jennifer Ferguson at [jennifer@stlukeshr.com](mailto:jennifer@stlukeshr.com) for more information.



**Mark your calendar! St. Luke's Wesley Players presents "The King & I"** Fri., March 8 & Sat., March 9 - It's gonna be a great show!!!!

## Trustees Wrap Up

*Just in time for the Holidays!*

As we close out another year, we celebrate the service and dedication of 3 of our volunteers who have served St. Luke's with their time and talent – Dee Duncan, Bill Kemman, and Ken Decker. We are grateful for their gifts of time and talent.

Working to bring new members on board for 2013 brought curiosity from prospective recruits, "what does the Trustees Team do?" My answer: Using the resources we have available, the Trustees Team does our very best to keep our building and grounds in good order and help everyone feel welcome at St. Luke's. Whether for large crowds or smaller gatherings, we do our best to make sure that indoors and out, we offer a clean, safe, and comfortable experience for everyone.

As we move through the Christmas Celebrations, and into the New Year – be sure to pick up one of our Catalog of Ministries booklets at the Get Connected center at the entry, or visit our website: [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com) to learn more about the wide variety of classes, entertainment, worship, missions, and programs we offer as we support each other through local, national and global community efforts. There's a place for you here – and we'll continue doing our best to make sure you're well taken care of every time you visit!

## Common Table: Finding the Message in the Mess

Ah, Christmas! What does your middle-of-December evening look like?

- The lights are tastefully draped on the tree, your cherubic children are singing Christmas hymns, the dog is lying by the warmth of the fire, candlelight is reflecting off china and crystal at the dinner table.
- The tree is in the middle of ornament boxes, with tissue and broken ornaments in various locations, the children are arguing over who gets to update their Christmas list first, with the dog providing support through his barks and whines, to-go boxes are on the dinner table, because there's homework, and rehearsals, and the office party to get to.

During our Common Table discussion on November 11, we looked at how the Christmas message of hope, love, peace, and joy can enter into our lives even when we aren't "ready" or "in the right mood."

The former Archbishop of Canterbury notes that even the first Christmas was rather messy – an unplanned trip, an unplanned pregnancy, no hotel room for the night. So why are we so concerned about the "perfect" Christmas? Rev. Neal Nybo comments that "it's in the middle of mess where faith grows and hope blossoms."

Even when your Advent season is hectic, chaotic, and messy, the message of Christmas is there for you. May you find the message, and enjoy the mess!

The Common Table is a regular meeting for the whole congregation of St. Luke's to celebrate our blessings, share our burdens, and be in community with one another. All are welcome to drop in, share a meal, enjoy the discussion, and learn more about the community that is St. Luke's.

**Please join in the discussion at the next Common Table, February 10, 2013 at 12:15pm.** There will be a potluck meal, and childcare is available (contact Sam Leahy at [sam@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sam@stlukeshr.com) 48 hours in advance). If you have questions about the Common Table, or have suggestions for topics, please feel free to contact Susan McIntosh at [susanrmcintosh@yahoo.com](mailto:susanrmcintosh@yahoo.com).



## Upcoming Events!

- \* **January 6 – Karaoke at St. Andrew UMC:** We'll be meeting multiple churches at St. Andrew for a night of Karaoke fun!
- \* **January 20 – Dance Party at Littleton UMC:** We'll be dancing the night away with our new friends from other Methodist churches at Littleton UMC.
- \* **February 12 – Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner:** Each year the youth put on a pancake dinner fundraiser! We need help putting it on, and of course help eating all those pancakes!
- \* **As always, we have a lot going on! It's going to be an amazing holiday season and we can't wait to share it with all of you!**
- \* **Sign up to receive our emails and Check [www.sites.google.com/site/stlukesyouth2012](http://www.sites.google.com/site/stlukesyouth2012)** for up-to-date info on programs, activities, opportunities and more!

### SLYA: St. Luke's Young Adults

SLYA is a group for all high school graduates and beyond! The focus for this group is fun and fellowship. We meet Thursdays at 7:00pm, unless an activity warrants a change in time. So far we have gone to dinners, watched movies, held game nights, gone stargazing, ice cream, coffee, and on and on! We would love for you to join in the fun! The best way to get the down low on what's going on is to join the young adults email list on the St. Luke's website. We also have a facebook page, which is a great way to communicate information! Feel free to contact me (Amy McMullen) or Dave Laurvick with any questions! We look forward to seeing you there!

## ON THE SLY: A Blessed Holiday Season

The tree is up, the Youth Room is decorated, and the hot chocolate is ready to drink. It is definitely Christmas time at St. Luke's. We got ready for the season by having a November full of giving, growing with God, and of course fun. The first weekend in November was the Ignite Retreat, a senior high focused district retreat centered around the spark that is inside us. We could see the passion for God coming alive in the students as they learned new things and meet new people. The youth of St. Luke's felt so moved by the experience that they took the initiative to teach what they had learned to the other youth that did not attend in a beautiful Sunday morning lesson.

A few weeks later, 47 youth and adults went down to DenUM (Denver Urban Ministries) to put together turkey boxes. Each box contained everything a family would need to have their own Thanksgiving dinner. Our youth had been collecting supplies for these boxes for nearly two months prior and I am proud to say that they were able to provide over 70 families with complete thanksgiving meals! After packing the boxes they got to help hand them out to the families. Over 200 families were given a box that day. Although getting to help pack and hand the full boxes to grateful families was extremely rewarding in itself, I think the best part was that many parents were able to come and join their youth in helping out. There is nothing greater than celebrating Thanksgiving as a family by giving to those in need.

Strangers are not the only ones who could use a pick-me-up this time of year. Did you know we have over 65 college students at St. Luke's? And I don't care who you are or where you're going to school, everyone could use a pick-me-up at finals time! That is why our youth got together to send care packages full of cookies and other treats, along with a few notes of encouragement, to all these former youth. It is a tradition that the youth look forward to participating in each year, and the college students look forward to even more!

SLY (St. Luke's Youth) is an inclusive group for all 7th-12th graders that focuses on fellowship, fun, and finding out what this God thing is all about! We have lots going on this holiday season and are so excited to get to know everyone a little better while being the hands and feet of Christ out in the world together. Here is a snapshot of what we have going on this winter:

### Sundays:

- SLY AM (9:30-10:30am) – We're taking a deeper look into 'The Christmas Carol' and getting ready for the new year.
- Community Dinner (5:30-6:00pm) - \$2 per person. If you feel inclined to help feed our youth, please sign up on the St. Luke's website. These youth are HUNGRY!!
- SLY PM (6:00-7:30pm) – Winter is going to be fun with parties, Zoo Lights, a gift exchange, Karaoke night, and a dance! All sorts of fellowship and fun activities are happening Sunday nights in the Youth Room! Check out our website for details.

### Wednesdays:

- Homework/Tutoring Hour (5:30-6:30pm) – A chance to get your homework done and even get help if you need it!
- Wed. SLY (6:30-8:00pm) – Youth directed fellowship activities! Coming up we are going out to dinner, decorating Christmas cookies, watching movies, and playing games!

*Yours in Christ, Amy (& Dave!)*



**Dave Laurvick**  
Director of  
Youth Ministry



**Amy McMullen**  
Assistant Dir. of  
Youth Ministry

## Igniting the Spark - The High School Retreat



*For the first time in five years, high-schoolers from around the Rocky Mountain Conference decided that they wanted a district retreat for high-schoolers, and lead by high-schoolers. In early November, the car was loaded and three youth and two adults headed towards Canyon City for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and faith. Over ten churches from three different states were represented. Here is what Amanda Burget, a sophomore in high school, had to say about the weekend:*

"The Ignite Retreat was one of the best experiences of my life. Everything had a meaning, from the keynote speaker, Jerry Herships, to stations, to video clips, and church devotions. I also liked how only a small group from St. Luke went, there was Amy, Dave, Natalie Hoagland, Hannah Smith, and I. Jerry Herships taught me that God loves you no matter what, that even if you feel like a bad person, you are still loved. One of the biggest things I took away from one (of his three)

speeches was that God can't love you any more, or any less! Another thing I enjoyed was when we were rotating through stations, we got to make cross necklaces, walk a labyrinth, use flash paper to give God our problems so we could be a better person, and reflect on a passage in the bible, 2 Corinthians 4: 7-9. My two favorite stations were making the crosses and walking the labyrinth. I liked making my cross, because whenever I wear it, I think about the retreat, and what I got out of it. The labyrinth just made me think about everything I had taken in the night and morning before on the retreat. It also gave me a chance to pray about everybody I thought needed prayers. One of the most fun events of the weekend for me was getting to know more people. Hannah, Natalie, and I all became good friends with a guy from another church named Kevin, and it was fun just to hang out and talk. Free time was fun because I got to play Ultimate Frisbee with some of the guys, and it helped me meet a lot of new people. The biggest hit of the weekend was the Dance Party they put on Saturday night; we danced, did minute to win it games, (my team won!) and had a blast! I can truly say that on Sunday morning nobody wanted to go home, but at the same time, we all wanted to be back in our own beds. I will never forget this weekend, I learned so much, and became much closer to God."





**Dave Cupp**  
Director of Finance



**Lisé Takayama**  
Assistant Director  
of Finance

### Thank You For Your Continued Financial Support.

Our financial performance so far this year indicates we will finish another year where we have managed to keep our spending within limits of the funds we will collect.

### Changing Lives For GOOD Stewardship Campaign.

The response has been very strong. At this point, there are very strong indications that our total pledged amount for 2013 will be slightly more than for 2012. If you have not turned in your commitment card, we encourage you to do so immediately. We would even be happy to get it at [davecc@stlukeshr.com](mailto:davecc@stlukeshr.com) or receive a message of your intentions for 2013. It is so important for you to share with us your estimate of giving for 2013. Our biggest task in preparing a budget for 2013 is trying to figure out how much money we will have to work with next year as we put together a program that will allow St. Luke's to continue "Changing Lives for GOOD" and do so within a balanced budget. Please keep in mind that when you provide us with information about what your contribution plans are for next year you are not making a legal commitment and your plans may change. But, any information we can get about your plans is better than us guessing what everyone will do. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**You Still Have Time For Year-End Tax Planning.** To give you credit for your donations in 2012, we must receive them on or before Dec. 31 or must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31. Keep in mind that some of the methods you may choose to use for your donations may take a considerable amount of time for processing and getting them to the church before the Dec. 31 deadline. If you need assistance for getting your transaction processed, please give us a call. We will be glad to assist you.

### 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 eft from checking accounts.
- 3. Special Events:** Depending on the event, may include cash, check, PayPal and online credit card transactions.
- 4. Plus:** We'd consider any reasonable method you know about that we haven't adopted.

## Seasoned Voyagers News



Make reservations now for the first trip of the year 2013. We will travel by RTD bus, to see a film about steam trains in the Canadian Rockies at the IMAX Theater in the Denver Museum of Nature & Science on Wed., Jan. 9, 2013. Sign up at St. Luke's on Sundays. Cost is \$17. For more info call Joyce Rovetta at 303-470-5705. (Next trip is February 6, Wed, to Lone Tree Arts Center and Theater for the comedy **Noises Off**. \$23.50)

## More from Les: A Roadrunner's Story – part two

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

I had been the symbol of a bright new life of Chuck and Geri in 1969, then, years later I became a different symbol for my next owner, Jim.



With my performance at the local drag strip, I became a symbol of Jim's status among his high school peers. The photo on the left is of me and Jim at Bandimere Drag Strip.

Later, I would become a symbol of Jim's special bond with his grandfather, LaVerne.

Jim returned to school in 1986 and continued his work toward a degree in engineering from the University of Denver. Jim and his girlfriend were married and following his graduation from D.U. He was accepted into the MIT graduate school of engineering and so we all moved from Denver to Massachusetts. I shared an old carriage house with cats, mice and crickets for two more years. In the years following Jim's graduation, I traveled by auto carrier to Houston and then to Minneapolis.

There was a moment of panic when I disappeared for a day in Minneapolis. It happened right after I was delivered to Jim's new home. The mover had unloaded me, and Jim had left to have some lunch. Jim returned in 45 minutes and with shock realized I was gone! A panic call to the police didn't help much.

"You need to file a stolen car report, then we will we will advise you if we turn up anything." The next morning he received a return call from the police.

"Your vehicle was taken to our impound lot. It was found illegally unlicensed and parked on a public street. You must have it licensed legally in Minnesota and there will be towing and impound fees." Jim was both relieved and angry!

He learned later that the City of Minneapolis offers a bounty for reporting any unlicensed auto parked on a city street and will impound the vehicle. A worker for the mover had apparently taken advantage of this and called a friend in the towing business. Within minutes after my leaving the moving van and while Jim was gone to lunch, I was being towed to an impound lot for the bounty.

After three days, spending \$500 and buying a new Minnesota license plate, Jim paid another towing company to pull me back to his house and push me into his garage. *What an indignity for a car like me!*

A few years later, another job change came for Jim, this time to an engineering firm in the Denver Tech Center, and a move to Colorado. Once again I was transported by a moving van to a storage unit, this time on Mineral Avenue in Littleton, Colorado. It waited there for two more years.

Then came Jim's transfer to St. Louis and a divorce. Jim would no longer be afford to haul me from place to place. Les told Jim, "the Roadrunner has become an albatross; you must sell it." It was painful for Jim to even consider giving me up. I had become an integral part of Jim's life, he still hoped to fully restore me but I had also become the symbol of a time that time had gone forever.

Reluctantly, Jim sold me to Willie, a member of Les' church in Wheatland, WY. Les helped Willie remove me from the garage in Littleton and load me onto a flatbed trailer for the trip to my new home in Wyoming. Willie got me running again and once again I would become a symbol to someone else. A few years ago, Willie's son, T.J. fell in love with me. Now, T.J. is using me for his paper route.

But, I'm over 40 years old and have over 200,000 miles on my odometer, my wiring is deteriorating and my paint is faded. My time may be growing short!

Les wonders, "has this cycle started to repeat, or has it ended?"

### Symbols are powerful

- Symbols can sometimes be used to lead us to doing totally irrational things.
- Symbols can form and symbols can fade away; but a symbol can also become the object of an obsession.
- Symbols can become totally unrepresentative of the original idea or intent of the one who creates it.

God bless the Roadrunner, God bless Jim and God bless us all, Les



**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**  
8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
303-791-0659 • [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com)

*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.*

### St. Luke's: Your Spiritual Community

Our hearts lead the way when we join in a community.

We embrace new friendships, discover shared  
passions and connections, ask questions, and begin to  
understand who Jesus is for us, in our lives.

We invite you to experience community with St. Luke's.

To connect in a deeper way, please contact one of our  
Pastors or Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry  
[lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com) 303-791-0659 x20

*We look forward to sharing our journeys together.*

## DECEMBER 2012 / JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>23</b> Advent 4: JOY 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 11:00am: Advent Study (Sun.) 12:30pm: Service of Baptism 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Services: 1:00pm: Children's 3:00pm: Children's 5:00pm: Traditional 7:00pm: Traditional 9:00pm: Contemplative Communion	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! noon: Christmas in the Park (meet at church at 11:00am) Little School Closed Office Closed	<b>26</b> Little School Closed Office Closed NO SLY Homework Hour NO SLY Wednesday	<b>27</b> Little School Closed 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>28</b> Little School Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Enjoy Family Worship 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Ryan Canaday 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	<b>31</b> Little School Closed	<b>JAN 1</b> Happy New Year! Office Closed Little School Closed	<b>2</b> Little School Closed 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>3</b> Little School Closed 5:30pm: Church Conference 7:00pm: Young Adults	<b>4</b> Little School Closed 9:00am: Playgroup	<b>5</b> 9:00am: Simply Saturday
<b>6</b> Epiphany: KING'S SUNDAY 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 12:15pm: Seasoned Voyagers Core Team Mtg. 1:00pm: Confirmation starts 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	<b>7</b> 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	<b>8</b> 2:00pm: Conversations with Janet	<b>9</b> Seasoned Voyagers to IMAX 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>10</b> 10:00am: Common Thread 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	<b>11</b> 5:45pm: Parent's Night Out	<b>12</b> 10:00am: Itch to Stitch 10:00am: Genealogy 101 6:45pm: Bridge Group
<b>13</b> NEW WORSHIP SERIES: WHY? MAKING SENSE OF THE WILL OF GOD 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>17</b> 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	<b>18</b> 9:00am: Playgroup 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. LOCK IN	<b>19</b> 8:30am: Leadership Kick Off 10:00am: Wesley Writers
<b>20</b> 8:30am: Ministry Fair: Missions & Support Teams 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship 12:15pm: Acolyte Training 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>24</b> 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. Bowling 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	<b>28</b> 6:15pm: Women's Evening Book Club/ Potluck	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>31</b> 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	<b>FEB 1</b> 9:00am: Playgroup	<b>2</b> 9:00am: Simply Saturday