



The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2012

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and much more!

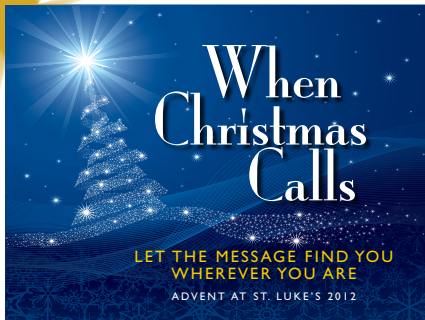
Hanging of the Greens

Calling all Elves!

Please plan to join us for our annual Hanging of the Greens on **Saturday, Nov. 24 from 8:00am-noon.**

It's a lot of fun for all ages. We play favorite Christmas music (silly and serious), munch on breakfast treats and go to town on the lights, garland, and ornaments! There's something for everyone here! Bring your family, and friends, and join us for this amazing transformation – all ages are welcome! Childcare is provided for our tiny ones – please make your reservations by calling Sam 303-791-0659 x40.

We need Work Day help, too! Something for Everyone! Hope to see you there!



*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!
Our theme this year is...

"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.

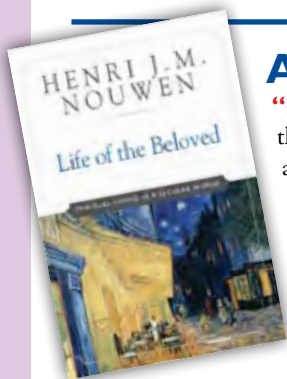
Watch for the element of surprise! We don't know just when Christmas may come calling to our hearts. It might be a specific moment, gifted while singing the Cantata, or dressing a child in their sheep costume, or holding a candle during *Silent Night*.

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!

November 24	
HANGING OF THE GREENS.....	8:00am-noon
November 25	
TREE LIGHTING.....	6:30pm
November 28, December 5, 12 & 19	
ADVENT FAMILY DEVOTIONALS.....	6:00pm
December 2 ADVENT 1	
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION.....	8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 6:30pm
December 4	
CANDLELIGHT DINNER.....	6:00pm
hosted by UNITED METHODIST WOMEN	
December 8-11	
HOLIDAY SHOP FOR CHILDREN.....	9:00am
December 9 ADVENT 2	
CHAPEL SERVICE.....	8:00am
CHRISTMAS CANTATA.....	9:30 & 11:00am
December 16 ADVENT 3 CANDY CANE SUNDAY	
WORSHIP SERVICE.....	8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 6:30pm
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.....	3:00pm

December 19-20	
LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM	
December 23 ADVENT 4	
WORSHIP SERVICE.....	8:00, 9:30, 11:00am, 6:30pm
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
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



Advent Study: This year's Advent study is based on Henri Nouwen's book, **"Life of the Beloved"**. This book has become Nouwen's greatest legacy to Christians around the world. It is a sincere testimony of the power and invitation of Christ, showing us that all people are unconditionally beloved by God. Come join us as we delve into God's unconditional love! Our study will be accompanied by "Devotions in Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Henri J. Nouwen". Facilitated by Betsy Keyack and Michael Streevy. Please visit the Learning with St. Luke's website, or visit us by the Get Connected table on Sunday morning to register.

When: Sunday mornings at 11:00am Dec. 2-23 (Conference Room) or Thursday afternoons at noon Nov. 29-Dec. 20 (Room 213)

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 & Children:

9:30am & 11:00am

Nursery available for:

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

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Director of Youth Ministry**Amy McMullen.....x14**
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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**
Fusion Worship Leader**Carrie Mallory.....x35**
Assistant Fusion 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**
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All submissions for the
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chronicle@stlukeshr.com

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mail, please call or email the Church Office.



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

Thanksgiving and Legal Pad Blessings

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Proverbs 3:3

Maya Angelou, the famed author and poet, reflected in a recent magazine article:

There was a time when I was in a state of utter despair, immersed in guilt over promises made on which I had not delivered. I went to my vocal coach, Fred Wilkerson, weeping copiously. He wanted to know what was happening with me. I responded, "I'm going crazy. I am almost at the brink of giving up!" He offered me a legal-size, lined yellow pad and a pen. He said, "Write down your blessings!"

Furious that he didn't understand my condition, I shouted, "Don't talk nonsense, I'm telling you that I am going crazy." He said, "Write down that you could hear me say 'write down,' and then think of the millions who cannot hear the cries of their babies, or the sweet words of their beloved, or the alarm that could help them seek safety. Write down that you can see this yellow pad and think of the millions on this planet who cannot see the smiles of their growing children or the delight in the faces of their beloveds, or the colors of the sunrise and the softness of the twilight. Write down that you know how to write. Write down that you know how to read."

Angelou said, "Wilkie, as he was known, gave me that lesson in 1955. Fifty-seven years later, I have written thirty-one books, essays, plays, and lyrics for songs—all on yellow pads. I remain in an attitude of gratitude."

Perspective is a great blessing. It doesn't mean trivializing our problems or trying to feel better about ourselves because we've got it better than someone else. Perspective is a blessing, because we realize we do actually have a reason to feel blessed. Blessings are like an investment. God invests in us so that we can be of blessing to others. To say, "I am blessed," is to say God has a future for me. Our ability to breathe, write, read, speak, listen, teach are the very avenues God can use to give us a future.

When we believe that our setbacks won't define us. Our setbacks will be defined by our confidence in the future God has for us.

So it begins with simple questions: What do I have? What can I do? Write them down. Who knows where it might lead.

A Prayer for Thanksgiving:

Lord, remind me of the reasons I have to call this a HAPPY Thanksgiving. Fill me with a sense of being blessed. Forgive me when I have made my faith dependent on you giving me what I want. Help me to know with greater understanding how much you love me and care about me. I pray this in the name of the one who is my greatest blessing, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Rev. Janet

Planning for Severe Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the pastors and staff of St. Luke's have adopted these procedures:

During the week:

- When North Douglas County cancels school, St. Luke's will close the Church Office and cancel daytime classes, meetings, and events in the building. All childcare for the day will be cancelled.
- Group leaders will determine by 3:00pm if evening classes, meetings, and events will be held beginning at 6:00pm. There will be no childcare provided.
- When North Douglas County schools announce an early dismissal, St. Luke's will close the office at noon and cancel all afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events.
- When North Douglas County delays the start of the school day, the morning classes, meetings, and events will be cancelled. The Church Office will open at noon and the afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events will continue, weather permitting.

On weekends and holidays:

- The church staff and group leaders will determine whether classes, meetings, and events will be held.

These closures will be posted on the St. Luke's website (www.stlukeshr.com) as soon as a decision is made. The closure of the St. Luke's Little School will also be given to local television and radio stations.





Rev. Ryan Canaday
Associate Minister

Feeding of 5,000 Thanks & Tree Lighting Details

A couple of things:

First, feels like I've said it a 100 times but it's worth saying again, "THANKYOU!" Many thanks to all of you who helped [in any way, shape, or form] with the Feeding of the 5,000. It was an amazing weekend! I saw community happen. You all gave up your time, your energy, your weekend...to make this thing a huge success. Awesome! In so many ways you all showed the best side of Christianity... what following Jesus is all about. So what are the results?

76,000 pounds of food!

Another perspective: that's 76,000 meals that will feed hungry people right here in Denver. One semi-truck trailer was filled, the other was nearly filled. As one of my friends commented on my FaceBook page, "I saw that Kingdom of Heaven and it looked like a trailer! Way to go St. Luke's." Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on EARTH...



Second, Christmas is coming...

soon! I know, right, where does the time go? I love Christmas! In fact, it's one of my favorite times of the year. But it can also be a messy time of year: a culture of consumerism runs wild, loved ones are remembered & deeply missed, families gather and sometimes conflicts arise, that perfect Christmas dinner doesn't turn out to be all that perfect. How do we make sense of the messiness? Well, we do it together. In

community, we wrestle with our own stories; we wrestle with the Christmas story. And let's be honest, the story of Jesus coming into our world, as told in the Gospels, is not exactly a pretty one—it's quite a mess. But there's hope in it. There's grace in it. A message of new life is to be found in it.

Speaking of new life, that's what the Christmas tree is all about: green even amidst the cold of winter. We want to celebrate this...life in the midst chaos, peace in the midst of the mess. I hope you'll join me at one of St. Luke's coolest traditions, the "Tree Lighting" service!

When: Sunday, November 25, 6:30pm.

Where: In the Sanctuary at St. Luke's.

What: Christmas music... lots of it, storytelling, the lighting of the trees, and cookies/cocoa/cider. Please bring a plate of cookies to share.

This is a great way to gather as a community and kick off the Christmas season the right way! All are welcome. Hope to see you there!



Rev. Sallie Suby-Long
Associate Minister

Courageous Conversations

I had the privilege of attending the Women's Vision Foundation Leadership event in late October and I found the keynote speaker, Brené Brown, to be especially engaging.

Actually, her comments were compelling. Do you ever have times when someone says out loud the things that you have been thinking or feeling? Well that was my experience as I listened to her. She spoke honestly and without pretense. She was humorous and transparent. She named the hope that I believe many of us have; the desire to experience real connection. Dr. Brown suggested that practicing vulnerability (something that our culture does not always honor) is essential for connection and authentic relationships.

The message was simple yet powerful and it resonated for me (and I believe for the other 2,000 people in the room!) As I listened, I was, of course, thinking about our St. Luke's community. I wondered, how can we create welcoming places where we can be vulnerable, where we can share our sacred stories, where we can experience greater purpose and meaning? To continue growing toward the wholeness that God desires for us, we need people to witness our lives and to hear our stories. Our real stories. We need opportunities to raise questions, to reflect on our experiences and to claim our voices. We need to let ourselves be seen as we are – even though it's scary for some of us. This authentic connection within ourselves and with each other is the very place where we gather courage, where we heal, where we learn to live our faith, and where we experience deep joy and transformation.

In a culture that seems to have extremely high expectations, we can all benefit from gracious space that welcomes us as we are. Some of the ministries that I hope offer these opportunities at St. Luke's are spiritual direction, spirituality and wellness events, Learning with St. Luke's classes, mission experiences, Revolution, children and youth ministries, small groups, etc. Let's also stretch ourselves to think about new ways to connect and to practice vulnerability, compassion, and courage. I have some ideas and I bet you do, too!

You may want to check out Dr. Brown's YouTube talk at www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCvmsMzIF7o

If this topic is of interest to you, several of us will be facilitating conversations about vulnerability and authenticity early in the year, so stay tuned! – *Pastor Sallie*



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 Pastoral staff or Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry - lynda@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659 x20

We look forward to sharing our journeys together.



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry/
Spiritual Director

Get Connected: Servanthood & Rest

As we head into the holidays and you are busy with your tasks, volunteering and living life... I encourage you to take some time for yourself. Often our busiest volunteers are the ones that forget to take care of themselves!

My passion is to "Equip the Saints".

That means helping folks discover their spiritual gifts, passions and where to serve. But it is also to encourage care of their spiritual beings. Take some quiet time to reflect on your day, give a blessing of thanks and to hold the gift of silent space in order to hear God's call and to let God re-create your spiritual being.

Intentionally build that quiet time into your holidays. There is nothing wrong with you marking a certain time daily for you and only you.

So, as much as I pray that you find your call, volunteer to serve at St. Luke's and in our community, I pray as much that you take some quiet time alone... just you and God. Use this time to open your heart long enough to hear God's still small voice and build that relationship he yearns with us... and we with him.

Blessings & Love, Lynda

Phil, 4:6, 4:7, 1 Peter 5:7, Matt. 11:28-30

Get **CONNECTED**



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 or brenda@stlukeshr.com

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Pat Wallace – Nikki Walker's mother

Chris Murphy

Rev. Janet Forbes

Carolyn McIntosh

Linda Young

Patrick O'Malley – Little School parent

Kellan Wheeler

Eddy Occieent – Steve & Martha Riley's friend

Nancy Obertier

Val & Felix Clark

Richard Swier – Kathy Swier's father-in-law

Jackie Durban

Michelle Lips – Martha Boon's friend

Olivia Murrow

Deola Luallen

Baby Calen – Dave & Elizabeth Laurvick's friend

Austin Raap

Kelly Rose Oram

Trudy Turner

Jeff Hall – Lee & Debbie Newby's nephew

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Marty Stark on the birth of her granddaughter,

Blake Noelle Morley

Mike Stevenson & Gail Abernathy on the birth of their grandson, Nathaniel Jeffrey Matthews

Kelsey Wesson & Patrick Collier on the birth of their son, Aaron Scott Collier, proud grandparents Scott & Karin Wesson

Kay Swanson on the birth of her granddaughter, Mia Joy Swanson

Norm & Beckie on the birth of their grandson, Randal Joseph Waltz, Jr.

SYMPATHIES TO:

Tony & Kelly Amadeo on the passing of their friend, Kallan Stithern

Don & Karmie Hilleary on the passing of Karmie's father, Lyle Wood

Susan, Brad & Susan, Kiana, Jim and Jack Warren on the passing of Helen Warren mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother

Lynne & Courtney Sorsby on the passing of son and brother, Ryan Sorsby

Dan & Kathy Swier on the passing of Dan's brother, Bill Swier

Jon & Lisè Takayama on the passing of Lisè's cousin's brother-in-law, John Brown

Joseph & Salome Thevarajah on the passing of Joseph's father, Thomas Thevarajah

Common Table, Past and Future: Outliers? Really?!

by Susan McIntosh Most of you reading this newsletter know enough about St. Luke's to know why you keep coming back. Some of you may be newer to the community. All of us would probably be intrigued when we hear that St. Luke's is... well, different. In fact, our community of faith has even been termed an "outlier" among vital congregations of the United Methodist Church. Because we live within the St. Luke's community, it may be tough for many of us to understand why this is the case.

On September 23, the SLUMC Common Table hosted Rev. Tom Barlow. Tom and others across the US have been gathering information to understand what vital churches look like. St. Luke's was identified as one of those vital churches, and Rev. Janet, Rev. Sallie, Rev. Ryan, Monty Hoffman, Mark Speedy and Lynda Fickling sat down with Tom to discuss what church vitality looks like at St. Luke's. Here are some highlights:

- We experience fewer peaks and valleys, even in the face of adversity, than many other congregations. Perhaps because, while we value and seek out strong pastoral leadership, their leadership doesn't overshadow the leadership of the laity within the congregation.
- We pray. In meetings, as groups. This prayer guides us as we make decisions as a community.
- We understand that words can hurt. We are intentional with language that may have baggage for, or cause pain to, newcomers.
- We are an inductive church, learning through experience. While many congregations expect people to follow a structured path leading to membership in the church, we are open to a variety of paths leading to membership.
- Process of becoming a member of faith different (member first, baptism optional)
- We exemplify the concept of mission-focused ministry. When Tom works with struggling congregations, he often recommends "Stop writing checks – go somewhere" – we do that already.
- Not only does St. Luke's have a mission-focused ministry, but that focus seeks out ways to support the local community, not just distant sites. Programs such as the Performing Arts Academy, Vacation Bible School, Feeding of the 5000, and school adoptions are examples of this. Have you ever looked in the fridge and NOT seen packages of food marked for Warren Village or Urban Peak? We are touching the lives of those in our church family and our wider family from Denver to Haiti, Guatemala, and Sudan.

It's good to be an outlier! Join us at the next Common Table!



*Journey toward
Wholeness*

Spirituality and Wellness

“Blessed are you autumn, you draw us away from summer’s intense warmth. As the air becomes cool you lead us to inner reflections.” (From *An Autumn Blessing* by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Weiderkehr)

The Spirituality and Wellness team invites you to join us in a variety of activities and adventures as we seek to deepen our experience of God present in our lives.

Mindful Presence (*Mondays at 9:15am*) It can be challenging to find quiet spaces in our lives; this is why we’ve invited you in to our quiet sacred space. Mindful meditation in our Chapel on Monday mornings is simple, feasible and a great calming way to restore quiet to the mind as your week begins. A short 15 minutes in the Chapel leads us to discover that harmony is a natural aspect of the mind. The more we practice and develop this state the more freely we experience contentment in a daily lives. “Mindful Presence is an intentional way to start my week. The video collages have been gorgeous and remind us of God’s presence everywhere.” Take time from your day to day worries and open your hearts to the abundance that surrounds us. Join Sam Leahy and others each Monday at 9:15am.

Invitation to the Soul (*October 2*) introduced us to new paths for connecting with and nurturing the spiritual aspects of our lives. “The contemplative activities at the Invitation to your Soul workshop were so simple and fun and yet so meaningful. The evening was so relaxing and peaceful. I hope you do something similar again; we all need this respite and time for reflection.”



Outdoor Adventures

St. Luke’s bikers toured the Cherry Creek bike trail (October 20) from the Broncos Parkway trailhead to Chandler Recreation Center, experiencing a landscape in transition and sharing time for fellowship and reflection. This is a particularly lovely, pastoral section of the 40-mile Cherry Creek trail; it offers tranquil places to sit quietly in Nature: benches set in private spaces, woodland stumps, and streamside rocks. “Everybody

needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where Nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.” (John Muir, *The Yosemite*, 1912)

Exploring new ways and places to experience God and to “be” quietly with our deepest selves continues to guide the planning of our Spirituality and Wellness activities, as we move forward through the seasons and pursue our diverse journeys toward wholeness. We hope you will join us.

Save the Dates:

- **November 17, 2012** – Hike to watch the sun set from the panoramic Overlook at Bluffs Regional Park in Lone Tree, followed by fellowship and a Soup Supper
- **January 25-26, 2013** – Winter Weekend Getaway in Tabernash, CO.
- **February 5, 2013** – An Evening Focused on the Authentic Self
- **April 16, 2013** – Evening Event; more details to follow

–The Spirituality and Wellness Team

Monty’s Methodism Musings: On Being a Methodist

by Monty Hoffman

As a lay leader, Lynda often asks me to speak with or email people who have questions about the Methodist Church. This spring, a young man asked about Methodism. He was new to the Christian experience and was trying to determine the differences between denominations and asked me what defined us as Methodists. With his permission, I’d like to share my answer with you.

Many of the churches that you visit will be able to hand you a list of beliefs or doctrines and tell you that if you want to join that church, this is what you need to believe. As a Methodist, I can’t do that because we are a non-creedal church.

Rather than being told what to believe, within a broad range of Christian thought, you are free to determine what you believe. We feel that we are all different people with different relationships with God and that relationship is important in determining what each of us believes. As Methodists, we are called to use this experience of God in our lives along with scripture, reason, and the traditions of all the Christians that have come before us to build a belief system that is true to our relationship with God.

Despite that lack to creedal certainty, there are three affirmations that almost all Methodists agree on:

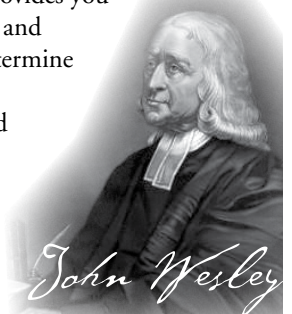
1. God loves all people unconditionally.
2. God’s Grace (forgiveness and interaction with us) is a part of all people’s lives from the moment of our birth, even if we are not aware of it.
3. We have the freedom to accept or reject that Love and Grace and to determine how we live our lives.

Also, despite our differences, we are called to live together in Christian community and work together to make the World a better place for all of God’s children.

Obviously this is just a short summary of the Methodist tradition and I would be glad to spend as much time as you would like discussing it with you and how it differs from other denominations.

If you are looking for a faith tradition that will tell you what to believe then the Methodist church is probably not the place for you. If you are looking for a faith tradition that provides you resources, encouragement, and relationships while you determine what you believe, then the Methodist church is a good place for you.

God bless you on your faith journey.





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 my new friend Max, Ms. Sam's dog! We have decided to write the Children's Ministry column together to keep you up to date on what we are sniffing out at the church. So let's get right to the facts!

YEA!!! A tree in the middle of the church - for us dogs - there's nothing better! The St. Luke's **Tree Lighting Service** will be held Sunday Nov. 25 at 6:30pm. Join us in this special Christmas season event and **bring a plate of cookies** to share afterwards! This is the best way to kick off the season!!! And we'll clean up the crumbs! yum!



The Annual Children's Holiday Shop will be Saturday Dec. 8-Tues. Dec. 11. This is an opportunity for children to independently shop for inexpensive gifts for their family and friends... *and pets, we hope... maybe not...* Additionally proceeds from the shop support lunches for VBS teachers! Helpers are needed for set up, at the gift wrapping stations, cashier table and to assist children with shopping.

Sign up online www.stlukeshr.com or contact Vicki Lauer at vickilauer@comcast.net, 303-916-0278 if you are interested in serving in one of these much needed and fun areas!

Mid-Week Spiritual Fill Up! Bring the family and join us for **Advent Family Devotionals** on Wednesday nights Nov. 28-Dec. 19 - 6:00-6:30pm. Let's share this special season together and stay focused on what Christmas is truly about.

Children's Christmas Pageant! All children age 2 through 6th grade can sign up to participate in this very special annual event where our children tell the Christmas story. Sign up on Sundays or online www.stlukeshr.com. This year's Pageant is called "The Message" and offers character roles, small group singing and large ensemble parts. We will have a special PEAK Sunday School on Nov. 18 to learn about the Pageant and talk with our director Linda Walker about specific parts. The children will practice for the Pageant each Sunday during our music time at 9:30am Sunday School. The actual Pageant and pre-show recital will be held on Dec. 16 at 3:00pm. (Dress/staging rehearsal - our only one - is Saturday Dec. 15 at 9:00am.) This is an awesome show! Sign up!

The P.R.A.Y. Program (formerly God & Country) is coming to St. Luke's in JANUARY 2013! Join us for God & Me for 1st-3rd grade (4 Sundays beginning Jan. 13) and God & Family for 4th & 5th grade (5 Sundays beginning Jan. 6). 11:00am-noon. Open to all children in Grades 1-5. Sign up now - space is limited. We need adult helpers. For info or to sign up contact Sharon. Emblems will be presented on SCOUT SUNDAY February 10.

Don't forget we have a great website 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!

Happy Thanksgiving & Doggie blessings!



St. Luke's Kids Growing with God Welcome, Ms. Sam!

We are so pleased to announce that Samantha Leahy, "Ms. Sam" formerly our Director of Childcare, has accepted an expanded role with Children's Ministry, from 20 to 30 hours, and will assume the new title of Director of Early Childhood Ministry. Sam will keep her current responsibilities while assuming the leadership of several of our children's programs, including our Sunday School for preschoolers, and will be working in partnership with our Director of Children's Ministry, Sharon Oliver. Sam is already engaged throughout the Children's Ministry age continuum, with her responsibilities for the Nursery, Acolytes, and Godly Play. We have the opportunity with this organizational adjustment to strengthen the continuity of spiritual care and formation for our children, all the way from infancy through tweens.

We are also creating a new position, the Children's Ministry Coordinator. The job description is under development, and we plan to post this new position by the end of November.

Did You Know? A Few Facts about Sam:

- Sam and her family, husband Tim and daughters Keara 17 and Ryann 16, have been attending St. Luke's for 12 years. Sam has been on staff for 10. "We were actually going to attend another church that day and got the time wrong (their service was at 9:00am) and we drove past St. Luke's and saw the service time for 9:30 and pulled in the parking lot and have been here ever since. It was truly spirit led for us." (yea for St. Luke's!)
- She has a dog, Max and cat, Mia.
- She was born and raised in Iowa.
- She feels that working with the children of St. Luke's is a privilege. "I am blessed to share in the beginning of their spiritual development. Our children are the future and nothing is more rewarding than helping to build the kingdom of God through the lives of our children and families."
- Sam leads our quarterly Respite Afternoons for families with children with special needs. Our next one is Sat., Dec. 1. Contact Sam to save your spot.
- Sam is on the Spirituality and Wellness team and leads a devotional and meditation time "Mindful Presence" in our Chapel on Monday mornings.
- She takes the sack lunches that are made at the Revolution service Sunday evenings down to the homeless on Mondays afternoons.

Welcome Sam! We are blessed to have you on staff at St. Luke's. You Make a Difference!

St. Luke's Family Camp 2013: Save the Date!

St. Luke's 14th annual Family Camp will be held from July 19-28, 2013. It will be another great week at Snow Mountain Ranch!



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



Little School News: **We Give Thanks to God**

Little School will spend the month of November celebrating all the gifts that God has blessed us with. We will be talking about our heritage and learning all about the first feast and the pilgrims. Our annual Thanksgiving Feast will be held in Fellowship Hall on November

14 and 15 with turkey and all the traditional foods. This is always such a special event as we enjoy being together and thanking God for all he does. Rev. Ryan will join us for Chapel and I am sure he will have an excellent story for us!

Little School is participating in a grant called "Healthy Beginnings" through Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health. We will begin providing health screenings this month that will include, vision, speech, dental and hearing. This is an excellent opportunity for our children to have free services. Along with these services we are blessed to have Jennifer Kniffen-Turner, a mental health specialist, with us a couple times a week to work with our teachers and their families.

Little School will be closed for their fall break November 17-25 for Thanksgiving. This allows our families to celebrate the season.

Remember you are always welcome at Little School to visit, read to the kids or help in the classroom!

Blessings, Ms. Kay and Staff

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

NOV.:
Homelessness

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

Highlighting Mission Opportunities

Our Focus for November is Homelessness: **Giving Tree, H.A.A.T. Force, St. Paul's Meal Ministry.** 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 or Mike Preble 303-997-7474, mikepreble@yahoo.com.

The Giving Tree

The St. Luke's Giving Tree offers hope and Christmas joy to needy families from Interfaith Community Services as well as youth from Urban Peak. Every November, the Giving Tree goes up in the Fellowship Hall all lighted and tagged with the names and wishes of men, women and children who, without our generous support, may not have a gift to open on Christmas morning. Members of St. Luke's have donated thousands of Christmas gifts through this project over the years. It's a testament to the generous spirit of the St. Luke's community. Look for the Giving Tree again on Nov. 11. In addition, the Giving Tree will also offer opportunities to support our missions in Guatemala (milk program and construction supplies) and H.A.A.T. Force during the Holiday season.

St. Paul's UMC Meal Ministry

St. Paul's United Methodist Church at 1615 Ogden Street in Denver provides a hot meal to those in need on Sunday mornings. St. Luke's helps to serve the meal on the third Sunday each month. To get involved in this ministry, sign up at the Missions Closet located in the foyer. For more information, contact Pam Wiethoff 303-204-0252 pwiethoff@msn.com



Homelessness Awareness Action Task Force

H.A.A.T. Force is an organization that provides motel vouchers to homeless individuals on severe weather nights in the winter. We are starting our third season this year. Last year we doubled our donations to \$30,000 and more than doubled our nights of shelter provided to over 600.

The need remains great and unfortunately if the weather turns out as predicted we expect even a busier season than last year. We depend primarily on churches and civic organizations for our funding. We are totally a volunteer organization with no paid staff. We hope to be a recipient of the Giving Tree this year as we have been for the past two years. \$35 pays for a room for a single individual for one night and \$45 provides a room for a family for one night. If you can support us and help out our homeless neighbors it would be greatly appreciated. For information about HAAT Force, contact Peter Reif info@haatforcesouthmetro.org

Love INC's Empty Bowls were filled with good things!

Love INC is grateful to the 340+ guests, volunteers, and generous donors who supported the 2012 Empty Bowl fundraising event. This annual event took place on Thursday, October 4, at the beautiful Pinehurst Country Club. Guests selected a pottery or wood bowl from a huge assortment to take home with them. Talented local artists who value the work of Love INC of Littleton donated the bowls. Guests were able to watch Sally O'Brien Burns at her potter's wheel demonstrate the throwing process. Prior to the meal, guests were encouraged to browse through the large number of donated silent auction items and place bids on anything that caught their fancy! Dinner included a variety of delicious gourmet soups and breads. There was lovely piano entertainment during the event. After dinner, guests watched a video in which Love INC clients and volunteers shared what the organization has meant to, and done for, them. St. Luke's Nita Dunn and Jerry Hertzler were honored for their hard work and dedication to see Renewed Treasures Thrift Shoppe open in August. Following the program, a live auction lead by 9News Sports anchor, Susie Wargin, took place. Exciting excursions, such as a fly-fishing day trip and an Italian condo getaway were a couple of the enticing auction items. More than \$30,000 was raised.

The revenue raised at the Empty Bowl Event will be directed to vital services that provide underprivileged people with transportation, personal hygiene items, food, clothing, furniture and financial counseling. Love INC of Littleton mobilizes volunteers and resources from 40 community churches to furnish year round services to families in need.



"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."

through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Women's Annual Candlelight Dinner:



Tuesday,
Dec. 4
6:00-8:00pm

Tickets on sale
between services
starting Nov. 11.
Mission focus -
Douglas County

Women's Crisis Center. Special Entertainment by Women of Note. We need male servers for the dinner; contact Betty Ludlam to help. Childcare Available with reservation.

UMW Slate of Officers for 2013

President - Janet Sackett
Education Interpretation - Fran West
Vice President - Sharon Smith
Social Action - Linda Young
Secretary - Nancy Mussetter
Communications - Renae Parra
Treasurer - Trudi Mathews
Program Resources - Grace George
Spiritual Growth - Sharon Smith
Membership, Nurture, and Outreach - Lisa Phillips
Representative to Christian Women United - Sylvia Brady

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

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

Nov. 5 - Pei Wei Asian Diner; 9532 S. Colorado Blvd.
TUES. Dec. 4 - join us at Candlelight Dinner at St. Luke's
Jan. 7 - Los Dos Potrillos 8251 S. Holly St. Centennial
(by McDonalds)

Pick up a copy of the full 2012-13 list at the Get Connected Table. Contact Elaine at ecarlstrom@comcast.net for info.

Simply Saturday -

First Saturday of the month 9:00am; Room 206

Dec. 1, 9:00-10:00am Conversation with Rev. Sallie - discussing her faith journey. Childcare available with 48 hour reservation. For more information contact: Lynda Fickling lynda@stlukeshr.com. Visit www.stlukeshr.com, Quick links, Email Lists, to add your name to the email distribution list.

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

November 26 - *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo
December 17- *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham (3rd Monday) 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.

Feeding of the 5000... My Experience *by Jim Wolff*

My first exposure to what became my concept of hunger and poverty was not in my own family or our neighborhood, but in locations outside of my daily life. After all, what we personally experience as children seems normal: my family and most of our neighbors wore clothes until the holes were not repairable and no smaller sibling or neighbor would get good use from it. Everyone had a garden and canned beans, pickles and tomatoes for winter use. Consequently, my perspective was that almost everyone just "got by." I was blessed and happy with my life. When I was about seven years old, my Dad started taking me with him to work on most Saturdays. He and his father ran a sheep ranch with summer and winter ranges. The winter range was on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. (Many of our youth has been there on mission trips.) I will never forget that first fall trip past a one room house in the middle of nowhere, five miles off the nearest paved road. A Lakota family lived here with a horse and a couple of cows, a muddy yard, no heat and no electricity. The road past their home to our ranch was a dirt track. This was poverty. They had no means to get to school or work or stores. Family members who had a vehicle would drive in from Wounded Knee periodically to take them "to town" to get their monthly food assistance. Was it the family's choice to live like this or was it the culmination of generations of life on the reservation, lack of opportunity, and distrust of the dominate society?

In Nogales, Mexico, on the border of Arizona, Cheryl and I had the opportunity to meet and interact with Mexicans who knew that they did not want the subsistence life of their parents in the interior of Mexico. They sought out educational and work opportunities on the border, hoping to get that break that would enable them to be welcomed in the US or at least be able to support a family in Mexico. Many of these people lived in tin sheds or rented abandoned railroad boxcars. An enterprising truck owner would fill large barrels and drive through these barrios selling water. Food was plentiful, but was mostly on the semis hauling it across the border to US stores. Thankfully, the US companies operating on the border provided breakfast and lunch for their workforce. till, hunger and filth were commonplace. Thankfully, economic development and education were slowly improving the lives of the poor and hungry.

It is easy to think that hunger, isolation and poverty are somewhere else. They are also right here, down the street or next door. I know someone who wonders where the next meal will come from and I am sure you do, too. I know someone who is close to giving up because of the stress of fighting for his or her very existence. I am sure you do, too. Most of the local hunger and desperation is hidden from our eyes. There is a shame in not being able to care for ourselves. We do not live in a dependant society. No one chooses to be hungry and poor. No one chooses to spend the winter without heat because there is no money for the utility bill. No one enjoys sending their children to school hungry or ill clothed. The vast majority of the hungry in our community have the desire to take care of themselves. What they need is opportunity. The opportunity to eat, sleep and stay warm until they are in a position to attain these basics on their own. That means new training or economic opportunity. It may mean access to day care or elder care. It may mean having someone fix the broken vehicle or provide bus passes for a short period to allow the person to get to work. The hungry and isolated in our community do not want a hand out, they want a hand up. They need someone's help to fill in the gaps.

Cheryl and I collected food contributions at the Safeway store in Lone Tree during the Feeding of the 5,000. We are amazed, again, by the generosity of our neighbors. We, all of us, get to be the hands and feet of God: Jesus still walks among us. I am grateful for the community of St. Luke's. You are a powerful presence in the larger community. Thank you for the example you set for the world.



St. Luke's Wesley Players: "The King & I" Auditions



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

Who: ages 8 - 80+ There are a lot of roles available for all ages and both genders. Please see the character list for more details. If you have a preference for character, you will be able to note that on your audition form.

When: Saturday, Dec. 1 at 9:00am OR 1:00pm (Pick either time that works for you) *Callbacks:* Monday, Dec. 3 at 7:00pm

Show Dates:

Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9

Rehearsal Times: Begin in January and are on Wednesdays 6:00-9:00pm, Saturdays 9:00am-noon and Sundays 1:00-4:00pm

Please see the rehearsal schedule for specific dates and times each character/group will be called. While we hope not to, this schedule may need to be changed. We will contact everyone in the show with changes.

Dress Rehearsal Week:

Saturday March 2- Thursday, March 7

AUDITION

Music: Sheet music is available outside the music office and in digital form. If you would like to be considered for a solo role in the show, you will be asked to sing a larger portion. If you would like to be considered for chorus only, you will sing a designated passage with a couple of other folks. Please use the short recordings to help you prepare if you would like. If you are called back, you may be asked to prepare an additional song. You will be notified via email if that is needed.

Dance: You will learn and perform a short dance audition with an assigned group.

Reading: If you would like to be considered for a named role, you will be asked to read from the script. Scripts will be provided at the auditions.

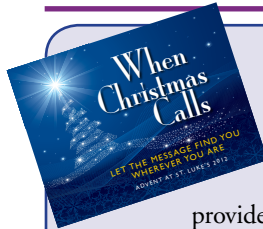
PRODUCTION TEAM

Anna Kilbon - Director
Jenna Wilcox - Assistant/Technical Director
Jessica Hindsley - Choreographer
James Ramsey - Music Director

Production fee: \$30 will be collected per participant in January (family cap of \$90). The fee includes the show shirt.

Please sign up for the drama list if you would like all the details to arrive in your in box. http://stlukeshr.com/p_emaillists.asp

Questions: Contact Jenna Wilcox, Director of Drama Ministry, at jenna@stlukeshr.com or James Ramsey, Director of Music & Arts Ministries at jim@stlukeshr.com



Christmas Cantata Dec. 9!

Are you in the mood for the Christmas Season yet? Come join us for this very special St. Luke's tradition. You can sing-a-long with some of your Christmas favorites, and be inspired by music provided by our Chancel Choir, St. Luke's Orchestra, Soul Purpose Youth Choir, Kidz Prayz Choirs, and Bells! Christmas Cantata this year is during the 9:30 and 11:00am services on Sunday, December 9.



Much Ado About Nothing - Recap

The Wesley Players production of *Much Ado* was a great success! The cast and crew of nearly 30 performed for over 350 people during

the first weekend of November. It was a witty and wonderful show with many deserved kudos to Melanie Kirkpatrick for her vision of the Shakespeare classic and to Jenna Wilcox for her prowess in managing all the parts to ensure its success! The final donation figures put us close to our goal of achieving more storage space for the ever growing Drama Ministry! If you would like to donate additional contributions, please contact James Ramsey at atjim@stlukeshr.com. Many thanks to all the volunteers and able leadership who continue to create such amazing events at St. Luke's for our community!

Genealogy 101

Bette Kot, a master genealogist and leader of genealogy groups and classes, including one at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), has agreed to lead Genealogy 101 at St. Luke's UMC.

Genealogy 101 meets the second Saturday of each month. Beginning in November, Bette will be available from 9:00am to 10:00am for individual help. So use this time to bring your problems for personal attention. General genealogy will be discussed from 10:00am to noon, as has been our practice. It doesn't matter where you are in your search. Some of us are beginners, some somewhat knowledgeable, and others quite advanced. There is a place for each of us. All that is required is an interest in genealogy.

Mark your calendar, now, and plan to join us, Saturday, November 10, 2012.

Guatemala Crafts Sales!



We can't wait for all of you to see the amazing Guatemalan items that were brought back for our craft sales!

Perfect for holiday gifts or special occasions.

More information forthcoming in the weekly bulletins for sale dates in late November.

All profits support the Bible Camp Program. Thank YOU!



Upcoming Events!

- ✦ **November 18 – 2nd Turkey Boxes for DenUM (Leave the church at noon)** SLY's goal this year is to make Thanksgiving meal boxes for 70 families! We have been collecting thanksgiving food such as stuffing and sweet potatoes to help us reach our goal. Then on the 18th we get to go put the Thanksgiving boxes together and give them to the families in need!
- ✦ **November 24 – SLY Hanging of the Greens (9:00am)** It's not just the upstairs that is going to be festive this year! We need lots of help to get our youth area all ready for the season!
- ✦ **November 25 – Putting together Cookie Boxes for our College Friends (6:00-7:30pm)**
A favorite SLY tradition! Every year, before all those daunting college finals come around, the youth send out a box of cookies and treats to all of our previous SLY members who have graduated and are now in college! That means we need A LOT of cookies!!
- ✦ **November 28 – Improv Night** We have decided to host an Improv Night full of games and fun with our Wesley Improv Team for Youth (WITY). No experience necessary, just be ready to have a good time!!
- ✦ **December 9 – Zoo Lights (5:30-8:30pm)** We will be leaving right at 5:30 to go see the spectacular display they put on each year at the Denver Zoo. This means that we will not be serving dinner so pack a dinner to eat on the way or bring money to eat there. Oh, and dress warm!!!
- ✦ **Sign up to receive our emails and Check www.sites.google.com/site/stlukeshyouth2012** for up-to-date info on programs, activities, opportunities and more!

ON THE SLY: On to November...

Outreach October is over? When did that happen? Well time sure does fly when you're having fun! We started October off with our big, last minute Fall Festival/Haunted House. Boy, when these kids put their mind to something, they sure make it happen! They pulled off turning the Youth Room into a festival full of games, the David area into a very scary 'haunted hospital', and decided to make it a canned food drive/costume drive, all in under two weeks! I must admit, weather was not on our side that night, but we sure had fun, and those who visited it seemed to enjoy themselves quite a bit! We'd definitely call this event a success! Can't wait until next year! This may have to become a new SLY tradition!



Dave Laurvick
Director of
Youth Ministry



Amy McMullen
Assistant Dir. of
Youth Ministry

Halloween has passed but we are still seeing orange!!! What an amazing Pumpkin Patch we had this year! We had a truck load of pumpkins come at the beginning of the month, and another in the middle! If you don't know, the Pumpkin Patch is the youth's biggest fundraiser for their mission trips. Without all of you helping to buy and sell pumpkins, our mission trips, and all the good that comes from them, would not happen!! From all the youth... THANK YOU!!!

Also in October the youth traveled down to Warren Village to put on a Halloween party and haunted house for underprivileged families, helped with the Feeding of the 5000, and raised over \$9,000 for the Walk for Sudan. We have found that community outreach truly is one of the best ways to connect with others and show the love of Christ. We plan on continuing this spirit of service throughout the holiday season. Here are some of the things we have coming up this month:

Sundays:

- SLY AM (9:30-10:30am) – We'll be looking at all aspects of our life this month and how we can become better disciples of Jesus and his teachings.
- 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) – Our momentum doesn't slow down as we rocket into November. We will be having a Cheesy Game Night (who remembers heads up 7up!), going to Jump Street, and sending out cookie boxes to all our friends in college!! 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! This month we are having a 'what would you do for a Klondike bar?' night, a silly, crazy Thanksgiving meal, and planning a fun and exciting night of Improv with our WITY kids
- of course we could not end October without a good Halloween movie!! All sorts of fellowship and fun activities are happening Sunday nights in the youth room! Check out our website for details.

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

A 'Spooky' Good Time at Warren Village!



On the Saturday before Halloween, 18 youth filled the bus with pumpkins and decorations and headed

downtown. Every year, the St. Luke's Youth take time out of their weekend to be with the kids of Warren Village and throw a Halloween Bash! They set up some games for the kids to play including Pin the Mouth on the Pumpkin, Bean Bag Toss, and Pumpkin Bowling. They even found some pumpkins with good stems and used them in a Ring Toss game. "I played the ring toss so many times that I'm the best ever now" said one particularly talkative four year old dressed as a superhero. The craft table was also a very popular place to be. Each kid got their own mini pumpkin to decorate with markers and sticker and take home. Of

course, markers are not quite messy enough for kids, so a tub of shaving cream to play with was a must! An important part of the Warren Village Halloween party is that the youth are able to give away costumes for the kids to keep. St. Luke's Little School had a costume drive. With their help, the youth were able to give a costume to every kid at Warren Village who wanted one. The parents were all very grateful for the costumes. "I have four kids and there is no way that I could afford to get costumes for all of them," said one mom as her kids picked out their costumes. Nothing is better than seeing these kids with huge smiles on their faces as they show off their new costume. The families also got to enjoy a free dinner and, of course, a lot of candy! You could feel the happiness in the room as these families got to simply enjoy the evening and forget about everything else. "These kids just want to be kids," said Connor, an 11th grader in SLY, "they just want the chance to dress up and go trick-or-treating like everyone else, and we can give them that!" As a Youth Leader, I am never more proud of the youth as when I see them helping and caring for others. At the end of the night, a staff person at Warren Village came to tell me how impressed she was that the youth acted like these people were friends, not people who 'needed help'. The Warren Village Halloween Party was a huge success and we can't wait to start planning for next year! —Amy McMullen

More from Les: A Roadrunner's Story – part one

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



I'm a Plymouth Roadrunner; I was born in 1969.

My manufacturer, Chrysler Corporation had decided to market a Plymouth Satellite fitted with a very large engine to compete in the growing "muscle

car" market of the late 1960's. They used Warner Brothers' popular cartoon character, Wiley Coyote's nemesis, the Roadrunner, for my name. As an extra marketing gimmick, my horn would go, "beep-beep," mimicking the call emitted by the cartoon-character bird as it would take off to escape the coyote.

This is my life's story, so far, and a story about symbols I became in the lives of those who have owned me.

It was early in 1970 and Chuck and Jeri were in love! They were looking forward to a weekend of skiing at Aspen. Chuck got off work and packed Geri's Plymouth. They made sure the house was locked and they left for Aspen in mid-afternoon. But then it happened.

Just outside Grand Valley on the two-lane highway, an oncoming pickup began passing a truck. As Chuck and Geri broke over a small hill, they suddenly saw the pickup coming straight at them! Chuck jammed on the brakes, started to steer toward the shoulder when, WHAM! The pickup hit them head on.

After several days in the hospital with broken limbs and internal injuries, Chuck and Geri talked quietly about how close they had come to death. Friends stopped by, offering encouragement and awkward attempts at humor. "Well, I guess you won't need a wedding gown for a while!" "I suppose having a plastic surgeon fix your nose would have been even more expensive!"

Chuck and Geri had survived the accident and endured the well-meaning words of friends and vowed to get on with their lives and wedding plans. They were in love and that was all that mattered! After leaving the hospital, they decided to replace Geri's Plymouth that had been totaled in the accident.

This is where I, a 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner, enter this story about symbols.

I was probably designed for young, male, hormone-rich drivers, but I was being sold to a mature couple planning for a long future together. I became a symbol of their new marriage. My bright color seemed to reflect an image of their growing and glowing relationship. I felt pretty good about that!

Chuck and Geri kept me for 12 years. I provided reliable transportation, no more and no less. Later, when their daughter, Denise needed a car for driving to school, her parents suggested she use me, but she turned down the offer; "Too bright and noisy," she said. Can't say I was disappointed, she just didn't understand me!

Chuck's friend Les had helped Chuck with a couple of minor repairs on me and I came to realize Les had a "crush" on me. I heard him say that he had "always admired this muscle car." Les' son, Jim had just turned 16 and Chuck wanted to know if Les might be interested in buying me for Jim to drive.

Common sense says that a parent should not buy such a flashy and powerful car for a first-time driver. But that common sense was overcome by Les' fascination with big engines in small cars and so, in 1981, Les bought me from Chuck, against all practical reasoning against it, partially for Jim, but also a little for himself.

Jim loved me! I liked him. Here was someone who really understood what Chrysler had in mind when I was built. Since I had almost 100,000 miles on my odometer, Jim spent a significant amount of time rebuilding and upgrading my engine. With some reluctance Jim's parents' agreed to let him compete in the "High School Drags" at Bandimere Speedway in Morrison. I proudly turned a respectable "under-15-second" quarter mile at almost 100 mph top speed and I became a symbol of Jim's status among his peers.

Seasoned Voyagers News



This past month Seasoned Voyagers held a cultural celebration event with a sampling of German cuisine. 34 voyagers attended and we enjoyed food prepared by Betty Ludlam, Caroline Butler and Mildred Moody. Then we were treated to a video presentation touring Germany organized by Les

Ludlam and Ben Daly. Thanks to all for a great afternoon.

Make a note that **Seasoned Voyagers Christmas Party** pot luck and white elephant exchange luncheon will take place Friday 30 November this year from 11:30 until 2:00pm. Please bring a pot luck dish to share if you are able and also a wrapped white elephant gift if you'd like to join in our fun gift exchange. There will be some extra gifts available for you to use and Jim Ramsay will again lead a Christmas sing-along. Contact: Jon Streaty 303-840-0222 jastreaty@gmail.com

Please note: SV team is still seeking a volunteer to coordinate transportation to this and similar events for seasoned voyagers. If you are able to do this task, please contact Jon Streaty per info right above.

A reminder that next **Bridge Club** will meet Nov 10 at 6:45pm in Youth Room. Bring your favorite snack/desert and an appetite for competition. Contacts: Chip & Joyce Rovetta rovetta@juno.com

Then Jim started college in the fall of 1983. He would live off campus because of he school's limited housing space and rules that students whose parents lived close by could not use student housing. So Jim lived in a small condo not far from campus. His roommates were not fellow students and school was tough, especially after his parents moved away. When things were getting a little difficult to deal with, we'd go out driving for a while. I soon became a symbol of escape for Jim.

One night Jim made a bad decision, he was challenged to a drag race he and I knew he could easily win, so we took off. I easily beat the Chevelle! The local police radio, however, was even faster.

Things became a blur; roadblock, arrest and an "eluding arrest" citation, impounding the car, a night in jail, and then a call to his parents who now lived in California, came very quickly. "He's OK, we've taken care of the bail, he'll stay with us for a while." said the father of Jim's girlfriend, as he called Jim's parents the next day.

I was put up on blocks at the home of Jim's grandfather, LaVerne, for a year.

Jim would spend several weeks the following summer with his grandfather, working on me. They reupholstered my seats, did some extra small repair and fix-up. Grandfather and grandson became very close. My symbolism for Jim took on a new dimension.

I would eventually come down off the blocks, to a wiser and more mature owner.

LaVerne died a year later and Jim insisted on driving me in his grandfather's funeral procession to the cemetery. His unspoken message: "Goodbye, Granddad, I love you! I'll keep the Roadrunner and really restore it one day." I had become the symbol of Jim's loving relationship with his grandfather.

Next month the Roadrunner will continue it's life story for us.

God bless us all! Rev. Les



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

A Christmas Service of Baptism - Dec. 23

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, Dec. 23 at 12:30pm, 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.

NOVEMBER 2012

Changing Lives
for **GOOD**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Commitment Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 12:15pm: Seasoned Voyagers Core Team Mtg. 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	5 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	6 2:00pm: Conversations with Janet	7 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday 6:30pm: Parents of Teens/Young Adults with Depression/Bipolar	8 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	9 5:45pm: Parent's Night Out	10 10:00am: Itch to Stitch 10:00am: Genealogy 101 6:45pm: Bridge Club
11 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's noon: UMW Mtg. 12:15pm: Common Table 1:00pm: Grief Support 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 5:30pm - SLY, Jr. - Jump Street 6:00pm: SLY PM - Jump Street 6:30pm: Revolution 7:30pm: Jazz Concert	12 7:00pm: Trustees Meeting	13 6:30pm: Lay Leadership Team 6:30pm: Spirituality & Wellness Team 6:30pm: Men's Spirituality Group 6:30pm: Finance Team 7:00pm: Missions Team	14 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	15 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	16 9:00am: Playgroup 6:45pm: Family Movie Night	17 10:00am: Wesley Writers 3:30pm: Sunset Hike to Bluffs Overlook
18 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 8:15am: Contemplative Taize Service 11:00am: SLY - DenUM Turkey Boxes 12:15pm: Learning with St. Luke's Team 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	19	20 7:30pm: Planned Giving	21 NO SLY Homework Hour NO SLY Wednesday	22  Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	23 Office Closed	24  8:00am: Hanging of the Greens/Work Day
25  8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Ryan Canaday 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution/Tree Lighting	26 7:00pm: Women's Evening Book Club	27 7:00am: Men's Group © Egg & I 6:30pm: Men's Spirituality Group 7:00pm: Staff Parish Relations Team	28 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:00pm: Family Advent Devotionals 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	29 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	30 11:00am: Seasoned Voyagers Christmas Party	DEC 1 9:00am & 1:00pm: "The King & I" Auditions 9:00am: Simply Saturday 1:00pm: Respite Day-Out
2 Advent I 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship –Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 12:15pm: Seasoned Voyagers Core Team Mtg. 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Revolution	3	4 2:00pm: Conversations with Janet 6:00pm: UMW Candlelight Dinner	5 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:00pm: Family Advent Devotionals 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday 6:30pm: Parents of Teens/Young Adults with Depression/Bipolar	6 10:00am: Common Thread 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults	7 9:00am: Playgroup	8  9:00am: Holiday Shop 10:00am: Itch to Stitch 10:00am: Genealogy 101 6:45pm: Bridge Club