



Summer The Chronicle

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE/JULY 2021

Embracing our STRENGTH

ST. LUKE'S SUMMER 2021

Summer 2021 Sunday Sermon Series: "Embracing our Strength"

Deepening our inner strength, engaging in our community and securing our future, by building on the firm foundation of God.

Our summer begins celebrating the strength we have in God whose steady love guides us through all aspects of our lives.

June 6 - Strength in GOD

June 13 - Strength in CHRIST

June 20 - Strength in SCRIPTURE

June 27 - Strength in THE HOLY SPIRIT

July 4 - Strength in OUR CHURCH

July 11 - Strength in OUR FAITH

"The Three Essential Prayers" with Rev. Liza

July 18 - HELP

July 25 - THANKS

August 1 - WOW

Join us this Summer!
(attend in person or watch online)

Community Raisers Success - Just Getting Started!

We are raising our community! It is so obvious that our St. Luke's community is longing to be together. Our first Community Raiser events have been overwhelmingly successful in bringing people together by more than doubling the amount of people we anticipated... plus we have raised over \$33,000!

Our Community Raisers team kicked off spring with a large Mother's Day Plant Sale that brought color and community to the front portico of St. Luke's. Hundreds of plants were ordered and we were a few dollars shy of raising \$10,000! It was so fun to see everyone picking up their plants and enjoying conversation. THANK YOU to Jennifer Schmidt whose idea sparked the plans and for her leadership to make the plant sale such a success! Also thanks to Natalie Long and Marty Davidson for their assistance in helping Jen with details for the event. Many thanks to the numerous other volunteers who stepped forward to unload plants, sort plants, water plants, sell plants, carry plants, clean up, etc. We had a plant expert from Douglas County on site to give advice and our community that attended created lots of cards for the Re-entry initiative (a support to those transitioning from incarceration into our community). Thank you all for your enthusiasm and support for this event. It truly was a community event and the bonus of raising money for our church needs completed the bouquet.

We also had an enormously successful Music & Arts Telethon, Nonsense performance and Summer Concert Series in June (see more on page 10.) And had our first Smiles & Smocks painting class.



Mother's Day Plant Sale



Gabe Mervine & Friends - June 6



Smiles & Smocks - June 9



Wesley Players: Broadway Under the Stars - June 20



Kool Cats Rock Band - June 13



continued on page 5

Congratulations REVEREND Liza!

On Sunday June 6, we celebrated Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson's Commissioning toward Elder's Orders in the United Methodist Church!

On Friday June 4, at the Clergy Session of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference, Pastor Liza was officially approved for commissioning. We have seen these last 11 months how her leadership has strengthened our lives, and we look forward to continuing our work together with her as a community of faith. We also lit a candle in a special candle holder for her to keep, to represent the light of Christ she brings to our community and to recognize the glow of God's love through her that will continue to bless us in her ministry. And the best part...we can now officially call her REVEREND! She has earned it, and we celebrate that she now bears this title. **Rev. Liza Stoltz-Hanson, congratulations!**



Our church building is gradually re-opening. Check with the office for accessibility.

Sunday Worship services
9:00am live streamed and in person
10:30am in person
 Nursery Available with reservation

Sunday School
9:00am PreK-12th grade

Church Office.....303-791-0659
 Email.....office@stlukeshr.com
 Website.....www.stlukeshr.com
 Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com
 Little School Office.....303-791-1982



Staff

Rev. Michele Kaminsky.....x105
 Lead Minister

Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson.....x107
 Associate Minister

Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x132
 Minister of Healing & Wellbeing

Dr. James Ramsey.....x123
 Director of Music & Arts Ministries

Kenrick Mervine.....x133
 Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist

Kay Coryell.....x136
 Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry

Chris Rigolini.....x146
 Director of Instrumental Music

Kelly Amadeo.....x115
 Director of Little School

Samantha Leahy.....x140
 Director of Early Childhood Ministry

Sharon Oliver.....x127
 Director of Children's Ministry

Jake Smith.....x145
 Director of Youth Ministry

Renae Parra.....x117
 Director of Servant Ministry (thru June)

Stephanie Kirk.....x110
 Director of Communication & Office Administration

Taletha Pogge.....x124
 Interim Director of Finance

Jessica Shelton.....x116
 Financial Assistant

Barry Curtis.....x144
 Facilities Manager

Our next issue of **The Chronicle** will be the August/September issue.

Content due July 25

Please send inquiries and submissions to:

chronicle@stlukeshr.com

Editor: Sharon Oliver

The Chronicle is published about 6 times per year and is emailed to those on our email blast list, and it can be found on the church website. Printed copies are available at church entrances. To receive The Chronicle via US mail, please call or email the Church Office.



Rev. Michele Kaminsky
 Lead Minister

Watch What God is Growing

In late May, Steve and I picked up my mother and drove to Estes Park to sprinkle the ashes of my stepfather who passed last June. It was his wish for us to do this, and it was a bittersweet trip. We got a little teary, but it was absolutely beautiful. The weather was wonderful, the elk were everywhere, the mountains were singing and the air was pure. It was our first trip to Estes for the season, so we took our time driving home, and as we came through Boulder Canyon, I kept noticing all of the healthy evergreen trees growing out of the rocks on the sides of the canyon, and I thought, 'This seems illogical, and yet, they thrive.'

And so it is with us, because this is how God works!

With all the things we have been through during this pandemic, it seems illogical that we might be able to thrive, yet we are seeing how life can bloom even in difficult and uncharted territory.

What has been a blessing for you in the last 14 months?

What has helped you through each difficulty?

What has enabled you to find your way through all uncharted ground?

As we continue to emerge from this pandemic, and as we reflect back on how we survived it, one thing is clear to me: God has been our steady rock and our strength through it all. God takes our difficult times, plants seeds of love even in the most illogical of circumstances, and watches them grow.

• **What is God growing in you right now?**

• **What do you see God growing at St. Luke's?**

I see great excitement growing, seating numbers in worship growing, Community Raiser events growing (see pages 1 & 5 for more info on Community Raisers) and our love growing. It is a wonderful blessing, and as we continue to come back together, may your mind and heart find deep peace here at St. Luke's, and may we share all of the love and excitement we have with everyone we meet.

Reflecting the Love of God in the World with Each of You, Rev. Michele



Sunday Night Worship

A new worship opportunity has begun at St. Luke's UMC! On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, we invite you to join us in our beautiful backyard for Sunday Night Worship!

What To Expect: casual, family-friendly,

modern praise and worship music, experiential prayer time, communion, inspirational messages, no sign-up needed, come as you are, bring a lawn chair or blanket, park in north parking lot, wear sunscreen

Upcoming Schedule:

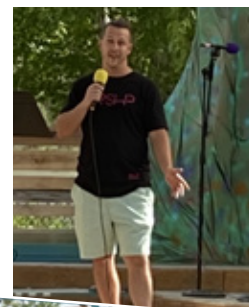
1st Sunday – July 4: No Worship

3rd Sunday – July 18: 5:00pm Worship

1st Sunday – August 1: 5:00pm Worship

3rd Sunday – August 15: 5:00pm Worship

5th Sunday – August 29: Outreach Project TBD



Looking to Help? Volunteers needed to design prayer stations, help with set-up team, or plan outreach nights – contact Liza or Jake



Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

Sacred Summer

These words from the gifted

saint, poet Mary Oliver, always jumpstart the summer season for me. I love the one day in May where all of a sudden the grass is bright green and lush enough for lounging, and I can't resist the risk of getting a little muddy and damp while spending a few moments looking up at the blue sky while the new grass cushions my head.

I inevitably stand up from the grass and go straight to my tattered copy of Mary Oliver's "New and Selected Poems" to read *The Summer Day* in its entirety.

"I don't know exactly what a prayer is," she confesses. "But I do know how to pay attention."

I hear these words as a sermon, preaching directly to me and my heart. It's time to pay attention. Especially this summer, when we all seem to be breathing a little easier as we tentatively relax into traveling and enjoying time together again, I pray that we all make lots of time to pay attention to the beauty, joy, and special blessings that surround us.

As a mom of two young girls who are growing so quickly, it is another reminder to make sure that I soak up these days when the kids are filled with wonder and contain so much pure, uncensored curiosity and joy.

Summer to me is the season of gardens growing, flowers blooming, long evenings outside, family road trips, and being immersed in God's creation in as many different places as possible. In Genesis, our creation narrative reminds us that at each point in the creative process, God paused to survey the emerging world. God paused to pay attention and then declares: "It is good." May you each find time to pray by pausing, paying attention, and fully enjoying each glorious, God-given day we have been given.

An invitation always stands for a walk, a cup of coffee, or a phone conversation. I would love to connect if we have not yet had an opportunity to do so, or to spend a little more time getting to know one another! Do not hesitate to reach out this summer - liza@stlukeshr.com

Peace to you, Rev. Liza

Excerpt from "The Summer Day" by Mary Oliver, 1992

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Minister of Healing & Wellbeing
Director - Center for Spiritual Engagement

Navigating the Re-engagement Process

We have certainly experienced a wide range of new experiences and emotions in the past year and I realize that is an understatement. Life has brought challenges, new discoveries, painful losses, change, unexpected joys, and new ways of being. We have all been called to draw more deeply on our faith and to practice resilience and adaptability. Throughout this year, your courage, creativity and compassion have inspired me

again and again. *Thank you.*

After months of social distancing and revised routines, we are now gradually emerging. We have experienced innovative ways to connect and realized more about what is possible. We know never to pass an opportunity for a moment of joy with our loved ones. We have learned more about ourselves and our relationships both in good ways and perhaps in challenging ways. There is increased awareness and urgency about healing racial injustice in our country. We have witnessed changes for the better in our environment due to treading a bit more lightly on the earth. We are re-emerging into a world that is different and perhaps we are different, too.

I'm excited about this re-engagement process, yet, I have some important questions that continue to linger and that invite me to deeper reflection.

- *I wonder how the experiences of the past year may have changed us and what we have each learned that we want to be sure to carry with us into the future.*
- *I wonder how we can honor this time of emerging for one another since it may be a different process for each of us.*
- *I wonder what pandemic patterns and ways of being I want to keep.*

Whatever the questions, I believe we grow through honest, self-compassionate reflection. Here are just a few questions to consider...

- *What is the most significant change I experienced and what did I learn from that change?*
- *What do I choose to leave behind from this past year and what do I choose to pick up again and carry forward?*
- *What adaptations did I make during the past year that I want to honor?*

If you'd welcome some time for intentional reflection on this past year, I'd like to invite you to a couple of opportunities. Over the summer, St. Luke's Center for Spiritual Engagement is offering small community gatherings for conversation together. The sessions are called Reflect - Reset - Reimagine. **They will be on Sunday June 13, July 11, and August 8 at 11:30am in the Chapel.** You can sign up and join us for one session, two, or for all three on the stlukeshr.com website. If you are more of a one-on-one person, I welcome the chance to meet with you individually to reflect on questions, concerns, and learning from this past year. Text, email or call and we'll set time for a conversation. I trust the process of reflection will bring enhanced perspective, healing, insights, and more meaningful paths forward for all of us.

Blessings to you, Rev. Sallie





We Belong @ St. Luke's

We are thrilled to welcome Todd, Sondra and Kaia Reinert and Lisa Kindleberger Hagan as our newest members at St. Luke's! They have each been part of our community for several years and we were grateful

for the opportunity to welcome them through our Celebration of Belonging in worship services this past month.

Our next We Belong @ St. Luke's membership gathering will be held Sunday, August 22 from noon-1:30pm. If you are interested in learning more about what belonging at St. Luke's means for you, please join us for this casual conversation. Contact Pastor Liza for more information.

Lisa Kindleberger Hagan

"I love the community, social justice and music ministry."

Todd, Sondra and Kaia Reinert

The Reinerts live in Highlands Ranch where Sondra is a Senior Graphic Designer with CBRE and Todd is a Property Adjuster for Farmers Insurance. Kaia (6-soon-to-be-7), will be entering 2nd grade at Cougar Run Elementary in August. They love to travel, especially to Hawaii. Sondra love photography, and Todd likes to play guitar. They love nature, taking hikes and watching hockey. Go Avalanche! They love St. Luke's because of the positive messages they receive. *"It always feels like the sermons are hitting home with what we have going on in our lives during that time. The music is wonderful, and we're always telling people about when Jim sings (especially "O Holy Night")."*



Celebrate Pride this year through daily devotions created by clergy and laity throughout the Mountain Sky Conference and beyond!

"Devoted with PRIDE" daily devotions will offer a rich diversity of perspectives for how our faith can call us into a better understanding of ourselves and into better allyship and relationship with 2SLGBTQ+ folks in our midst.



Renae Parra
Director of
Servant Ministry

Welcome Home!

Welcome Home St. Luke's! Oh, how we have enjoyed opening the doors to the building once again. Seeing smiling faces (we know you are smiling behind your masks!) has been so heart-warming. Thank you for your patience as we have tweaked our protocols and procedures a little bit each week. Special thanks to our Greeters and Ushers who have adapted their responsibilities

and are ready each Sunday to help everything flow smoothly.

We have new staff members who are trying hard to remember your names. Wearing your name tag can be a great help. If you don't have a name tag and would like one, let me know (renae@stlukeshr.com) and I will make one for you.



Summer is upon us and we know some of you come and go during the summer months. Please know that when you are not here, you are missed and you are loved. May your summer bring you joy, contentment and inspiration.

If you are looking to get more involved at St. Luke's this summer, don't hesitate. You will not regret engaging more with this fabulous community and sharing in a piece of our work in the world.

DONUTS SPONSORS NEEDED We celebrated the return of coffee and donuts on Graduation Sunday. YAY! It is important to know that our weekly donut donations do not cover our expenses for the coffee/donut ministry. If you would like to sponsor a week of donuts, please consider contributing \$100 as a one time donation to our Coffee/Donut ministry. Please include that verbiage on the memo line of your check or contact the Finance office to pay in another way.

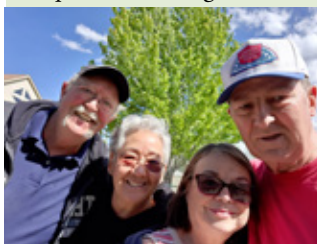


Grace and Blessings, Renae

Growing for the Food Bank

YEAH! Eileen and Vern Coy and Fran and Bob West have turned the dirt and planted our 2021 church garden!

Weekly Weeder Help Request: Our church garden is a big "dill"! "Sow" "lettuce" "turnip" to weed the garden and help "squash" out hunger. Volunteers just can't be "beet" when



they help our garden look "radishing". "Sow" if you "carrot" at all for our church garden mission, "peas" sign-up for this "corny" request!

Seriously, you can sign-up to weed for a day in one of the weeks of July and August. Just contact Fran at 303-797-7107 or franwest@gmail.com

FLOWERS!

The Altar Team invites you to help us decorate our altar each Sunday by Celebrating Your Life, Your Family and Your Friends. The two bouquets, designed by our floral designers, cost only \$40 for both. You may take the bouquets home after the last service. Vases may be returned later and placed at the sink area in the Narthex. Please contact Stephanie Kirk at stephanie@stlukeshr.com for more details.



Community Raisers *continued from page 1*

The Community Raiser team is working hard to provide opportunities for everyone to get out and enjoy being together again. Just look at the schedule below of events planned.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & WATCH FOR UPDATES:

- June 23** - Love's a Beach (painting class & couples night)
July 7 - 80's Night (painting class)
July 21 - Bee Mine Mason Jar (painting class)
July 31 - Community Shred Event
Early August - Palisade Peach Sale with Stephen Ministry
August 4 - Bohemian Elephant (painting class)
August 18 - Pour the Wine (painting class & couples night)
August 28 - Car & Motorcycle Show
September 11 - Golf Tournament at Red Hawk Ridge
September 12 - County Fair
September 17 - Backyard Move Night
November 5 - Wine, Music & Food Pairing Dinner
November 13 - Wesley Players Dinner & Show

Other events being planned include a fabulous bourbon tasting, a chili cook off, a beer tasting class and a wine tasting class...and more to come. We told you St. Luke's is dying to get back together so please join us in our re-engagement party!

-Marty Davidson



Quiet Disciple Award to Paul Peterman



For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Quiet Disciple Award, it is intended for the best of the unsung heroes of our church. A Quiet Disciple is one who goes about their business in ministry or service to one's church or community, without fanfare or filling a specific

position. This person is likely to be self-starting and self-directed in filling unmet needs, using his/her own time, talents and resources. Quiet Disciples are the foundation of laity in ministry. While people often get caught up in titles, training, formal recognition, and other forms of official doctrine. This Award is The United Methodist Church's annual opportunity to recognize those faithful servants who might otherwise be overlooked, or certainly, to recognize those who are the glue that hold churches together in service to one another.

Paul Peterman is this year's recipient. As stated in Paul's nomination for the award, he has a gift of being able to invite tweens and teens into comfortable conversations about difficult ideas. He allows them to express their joys and concerns, hopes, and doubts about their own faith. After having spent a few years under Paul's guidance, their faith is built on things that they have thought carefully about, not on things they were simply told to believe. He prepares them to live faithful lives in the face of all of life's issues.

For not only these specific contributions to our Youth but also the innumerable ways in which he has served St. Luke's, largely behind the scenes, it is our distinct honor to bestow upon Paul Peterman the Quiet Disciple Award.

Thank you for your continued service to St. Luke's and our community!

Dear St. Luke's Family and Friends, I have great news!

Due to decreasing COVID-19 cases in Douglas County and in Colorado, Sunday, June 13, we will no longer require masks for fully vaccinated people during worship in the sanctuary at the 9:00 or 10:30am service! Thanks to your responses to our survey, we know that over 90% of our worship community is fully vaccinated, and that means we can safely worship and sing together without masks, which is one major step toward returning to the St. Luke's we know and love. And as the spiritual leader of this church, it is very important to me that we focus on getting our worship experience back to a more normal feel, because that is truly our heart, and I love seeing everyone's beautiful smiles and faces! Following this announcement, please know I will continue to meet with staff and members of the Trustees to discuss continuing next steps in the coming weeks for Sunday School, other types of meetings, fellowship moments, and outside groups and events.

Now a few points to create a more detailed understanding around this first major step for our community.

First, while we are no longer requiring masks for fully vaccinated people in the Sanctuary during worship, at this time masks will still be required for worship in the Fellowship Hall and may be required in other parts of the building (such as for small group meetings), so for now please have your mask with you when you come to church until we can determine the next steps for the entire building.

Second, we know that not everyone may be ready or able for this next step due to a variety of reasons including: they may be immunocompromised, they may not be fully immunized yet or because they're just not fully comfortable going without a mask yet. Please know we respect this, we do not require vaccinations to worship at St. Luke's and no one will be made to feel awkward while wearing a mask. This is a place of acceptance, and there is no judgement, only love—St. Luke's love!

Third, in taking this step, we acknowledge there is a slight risk to unvaccinated or immunocompromised individuals, but because of the safety measures applied in the Sanctuary, that risk is less than 1%. So please decide for yourself what you are comfortable with.

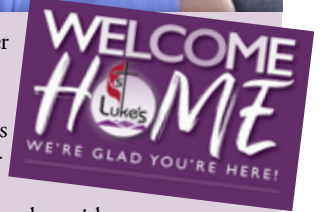
Fourth, we will continue to offer the opportunity for people to sit socially distanced or next to each other in rows while in the Sanctuary.

Fifth, we will continue to watch the number of cases in Douglas County closely, and if that number moves us out of the safe range, we may need to go back to wearing masks temporarily, so please be flexible with us and pray that we continue to move in the right direction and stay healthy.

And finally, starting Sunday, June 20, we will no longer require sign-ups to attend worship, and children can be dropped off for Sunday School from inside the building! We will also use the offering boxes and collection plates for our offerings, and we will resume taking attendance using the Friendship pads, all in a safe manner. Please note that we will continue to have hand sanitizer available in multiple locations throughout the church.

This is a major step forward for us and for our desire to reconnect with each other again during worship services, and it's also my goal to bring you more good news in the future, so grab your name tag on Sunday, and let's reunite! I look forward to seeing you!

—Rev. Michele Kaminsky



Sedalia Elementary Invites St. Luke's Back in the Fall!

Sedalia Elementary very much appreciates all the support St. Luke's has given them over the last 10 years. When I recently visited their office, the staff said they would like classroom volunteers to return in the Fall. They said "get the word out" and "sure hope we see you guys next year!!!" I work with the school to match volunteers' interests and skills with the teachers' needs. So stay tuned for further details!

In the meantime, Sedalia Elementary is very grateful for St. Luke's financial support in the form of gift cards for families in need and the generosity of Seasoned Voyagers donors. Through Seasoned Voyagers, Sedalia purchased books for each student at the Book Fairs in May of 2019 and 2021. The new incubator for the chicken coop has been amazingly successful. The first graders are now helping hatch some geese for a community member so kids can compare chickens to geese from egg to hatching. Donated funds are also being used for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) for the coming school year. For example, the school is excited to purchase "Bee-Bots," which will enable students to apply coding knowledge to programming robots.



These are expressions of appreciation to St. Luke's from Sedalia Elementary staff members:

"We are soooooo beyond Thankful for you guys. PTO has not been able to help much since Covid with hardly any fundraising opportunities."

"Thank you so much or the wonderful gift of books for our students...so many smiles, I wish you could have witnessed it! You do so much for us at Sedalia and we are so grateful!"

JOB Openings at the Mountain Sky Conference of The UMC:

MSC Event Manager & Executive Assistant for Leadership Development (full-time)
www.mtnskyumc.org/classifieddetail/15265342

Administrative Assistant to the Board of Ordained Ministry and Program Support for Laity Ministries (part-time)
www.mtnskyumc.org/classifieddetail/15265344

HAAT Force Helps People Experiencing Homelessness

HAAT Force recently completed its 10th season, providing severe weather motel shelter to families and people with disabilities experiencing homelessness. This season we also administered contracts with Arapahoe County and Colorado Access to provide continuous motel shelter for a limited number of guests to help keep them safe during the pandemic. The latter project was a large community-wide effort.

We are extremely grateful for all the support from St. Luke's. **We are planning a virtual Fall fundraiser, with a kick-off airing from St. Luke's on September 18, 2021.** You can read our end-of-season newsletter with stories, testimonials and details here. Shown is a photo of a HAAT volunteer issuing a motel voucher outside at Giving Heart. —Betsy Keyack





ORDER THRU JULY
STLUKESHR.COM OR IN PERSON ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

10 LB. BOX
\$22

DELIVERY DATE IS:
EARLY AUGUST

18 LB. BOX
\$32

PALISADE PEACHES

SUPPORTS ST. LUKE'S STEPHEN MINISTRY

STEPHEN MINISTRY INCLUDES:
 ONE-ON-ONE CARE
 MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID
 CARE NOTES
 EXTENDED COMMUNITY CARE
 GRIEF BOOKLETS

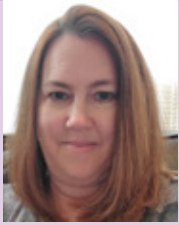
REACH OUT TO A **STEPHEN MINISTER**
 WHEN LIFE IS IN "THE PITS"
 CONTACT REV. LIZA STOLTZ-HANSON
LIZA@STLUKESHR.COM
 303-791-0669





At the Stephen Ministry Dinner Social Gathering on May 4 we drew our Light Sabers in the St. Luke's outdoor backyard to feel the "FORCE"! The "force" of God's love shown through the Stephen Ministers as they offer listening and support to those who are experiencing a challenging time. And the "force" of giving back. The Stephen Ministers collected LOTS of hygiene supplies for The Reentry Initiative (TRI). TRI provides reentry support to those transitioning from incarceration into our community. Currently, TRI is a myriad of support services to women in prison, in transition to release and 3 years post release. They are offering unique models of counseling/program support. We are grateful to support this positive program.

If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry at St. Luke's reach out to Rev. Liza at liza@stlukeshr.com.



Taletha Pogge
Interim Director of
Finance

Welcome Taletha!

We are so grateful to Taletha Pogge for acting as our Interim Finance Director. Here is a little bit about Taletha: She was born and raised in Washington state and graduated from Walla Walla University with a degree in accounting. As a dedicated and detail-oriented accounting professional, Taletha has been meeting the needs of businesses for the past seventeen years. Taletha's work experience has specialized in accounts payable, accounts receivable, and human resources with expertise in compliance and best practices. With her careful analytical mind as well as careful computational skills she is able to perform precise auditing tasks, ensuring financial transactions are accurately represented. She and her husband have lived in Colorado for 14 years now with their two wonderful and energetic boys. She currently serves as the financial and operations manager for Performing Arts Academy where she has been for the past six years. Taletha's hobbies include hiking in Colorado's great outdoors, sewing, knitting, and playing the piano. She enjoys being active, participating in the community, and looks forward to getting to know the St. Luke's family. In this time that has been very different for all of us, we continue to celebrate God's amazing love and we thank you for your kindness and your generosity. In these unique days we trust that God continues to care for us and is present with us. *Thank you, Taletha, for adding your talents to our staff team.*

Here are the different ways you can give to St. Luke's:

1. **Mail** your donation to: St. Luke's UMC, Attn: Finance, 8817 S Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
2. **Visit the church website** and click the 'donate' button, then click 'make online contributions.'
3. **Download the EasyTithe app** to your phone or mobile device and set up an account linked to 'St. Luke's UMC'.
4. **Add St. Luke's** to your list of monthly payments with your personal mobile banking procedures.
5. Visit the church website and click the 'donate' button, then click '**EFT form.**' Download this form, follow the instructions, and mail the completed form and voided check to St. Luke's.

Please contact Taletha (financedirector@stlukeshr.com) if you have any financial questions.

Thank You, Renae!

Big thanks to Renae Parra for 5 years of amazing service on staff as our Director of Servant Ministry. Renae will be retiring from her position at the end of June, however Renae and her husband Steve will continue to be an integral part of our St. Luke's community.

While Renae looks forward to more time for adventures with Steve, her family and grandchildren, she will continue to be engaged in leadership with the Center for Spiritual Engagement and other St. Luke's ministries.

Please join us on Sunday morning, June 27 to thank Renae for her outstanding service to St. Luke's! We will have a cake reception between worship services.

Renae has served all of us with outstanding integrity, passion and expertise ensuring the gracious welcome of everyone who is part of our community. Her ministry has helped countless people connect their spiritual gifts to opportunities for serving others and enriching our community. We are grateful for Renae's team spirit, can do attitude, and remarkable ability to see both the big picture and the intricate details of our St. Luke's ministries.

As Director of Servant Ministry, Renae has led our hospitality teams, Equipping Ministry teams, and has regularly taught classes, facilitated book groups, and led retreats on spiritual growth. She has also coordinated many small group experiences to help people connect more deeply to each other and to the community and was instrumental in supporting the many changes required during the past year due to the pandemic. We are thankful for Renae's dedication, her generous spirit of welcome to all, and her leadership that always makes good things happen!

Over the summer, the Director of Servant Ministry responsibilities will be filled in an interim capacity as the Staff Parrish Relations Team selects a new individual to serve St. Luke's in this position. We will share more information with you in the coming weeks.



UMW Update: Love In Action

"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."



UMW Interest Groups:

Book Club – Fourth Monday 7:00pm on Zoom

- June 28: *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore

For more information contact Teri Burget, teri0962@gmail.com

Itch to Stitch – Projects of crochet, knitting, sewing, quilting are all donated to charities. Individuals are working on projects at home. We are meeting outdoors June 19 (3rd Sat.) 11:00am to 12:00pm to make summer and fall plans. We want to put another "Quilt of Honor" together this year. (We'll discuss this at the June gathering.) For those that are interested in joining our mission service can contact Fran at 303-797-7107 or mfranwest@gmail.com.

UMW Ladies – A time to connect and chat - Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. For further information contact Fran West, mfranwest@gmail.com.



CSE Purpose:

To foster healing and wholeness of mind, body, heart, and spirit through experiences that inspire connection and wellbeing.

Take a look at our website:
stlukesCSE.org

CSE Outdoor Adventures:

Spring provided some great opportunities to connect with each other and our beautiful Colorado outdoor spaces. In April Outdoor Adventures celebrated Earth Day with a hike in a brand new Douglas County Open Space, Sandstone Ranch. Abundant spring rains created some muddy moments, but we shared a beautiful morning in community, in a beautiful place. For more information or to join in these hikes, contact Jane janestaller@gmail.com or Julie julie.polikoff@msn.com

- **May 5 we hiked the Gateway Mesa loop trail**, including its delightful new Legacy Trail, that features a fun "slot canyon."



- **May 19 we hiked part of the Belcher Trail in White Ranch Park** from the Eastern trailhead. We shared a quiet time of mindful, restorative reflection overlooking Denver to the east and converging canyons to the west.
- **June 17 we hiked the Beaver Brook Trail.** We followed the stream, looking for wildflowers, and crossing several bridges before turning around, near the connection with the Chavez trail.

Join us for more summer Outdoor Adventure experiences:

- **July 17 – Mayhem Gulch**
- **August 7 – Hiking with Sallie and Tom Suby-Long**
- **August 22 – Water Adventure at Chatfield with Suanne and Jared Ediger**

CSE Classes & Experiences:

REFLECT - RESET - REIMAGINE June 13, July 11, Aug. 8 from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Chapel (join us for a single session or for all three): Together, we'll create a welcoming space to name and honor some of the joys, sorrows, and learning we've experienced. See Rev. Sallie's article on page 3.

Thursday YOGA will meet again on Thursday July 15, Families 6:30-7:00pm, Adults 7:15-8:00pm. Join us at the Highlands Ranch Mansion on the beautiful front lawn for mindfulness and movement with Ms. Sharon (certified yoga instructor). Bring your yoga mat and water. All abilities welcome! Donations Appreciated. Contact Renae to RSVP and with any questions. Thirty people joined us for our first Yoga outside at the mansion on June 10 and had a wonderful experience.



WELLBEING Counseling & Consultation What a year of change, transitions, challenges, and new learning it has been for all of us. For your continued emotional, mental, physical and spiritual wellness, Dr. Sallie Suby-Long welcomes you to personalized wellness counseling for health, reflection, healing and growth. Sallie is honored to be present with you to identify creative strategies to be well and to thrive. She believes in the healing power of listening and connection and warmly welcomes a conversation with you. For more information contact sallie@stlukeshr.com.

Brave Spaces

- Anti-racism & Allyship Group

"Allyship is not a one-week performative act. It's a lifetime commitment to educating yourself, listening to constructive criticism, learning from

your mistakes, doing your research and staying aware." - Layla Saad

Our intention has been to create an opening to meet, learn and act as a community, to be effective allies in the fight to dismantle racism. As a result of our year-long journey, we've come to understand the importance of undertaking conscious action. Our search to participate in creating a racially-just world has opened up the following ways to be involved:

COVID VACCINATION

POD - On-going opportunities to volunteer at clinics for underserved populations. Brave Spaces groups have helped in and been a part of these important community events.

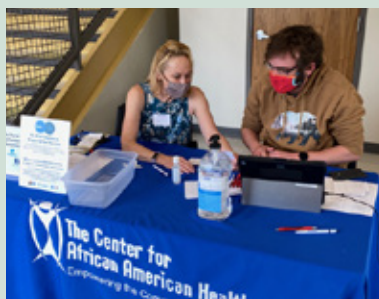
LEGISLATIVE ACTION

POD - Our team has been advocating with our respective Colorado Senators and Representatives to support three Criminal Justice Reform Bills and three Healthcare Bills that address key issues of racial inequity in Colorado. Although all six Bills have faced organized opposition, they are each moving forward, and we hope they will be sent to Governor Polis for signature at the conclusion of the 2021 Legislative session on June 12.

ANTI-RACISM 101 CLASS - Engagement in a self-study educational program offered by the United Methodist General Commission on Race and Religion. Watch for this class to be offered again in the fall.

BOOK STUDIES - Another fall offering will be a book study on "Me and White Supremacy" by Layla Saad. Dates and time TBA.

Our monthly gatherings will take a break for July but will resume in the fall. To learn more about Brave Spaces please contact Sallie@stlukeshr.com or visit our website: www.stlukeshr.com



CSE Nourish Experience: This spring, once again, Melinda Davidson has nourished our bodies and spirits with her 2-part class, Nourish. Individualized Reiki sessions, including a wellness session prior to the Reiki was an inspiring and awakening of our inner selves! The cooking class portion of the class left us all feeling so accomplished and well fed. Melinda's emphasis on reminding us where our food comes from and how it gets to our tables adds her signature element of gratitude to the class. One lesson we learned during our cooking together was to recognize our preferences in life just as we do in our cooking (a little spice or a lot of spice!)

THANK YOU Melinda for nourishing us so well!



St. Luke's Kids

grace courage wonder beyond

Welcome to St. Luke's Kids – our ministry to children birth through grade 6. In caring for the children of St. Luke's and their families, we seek to nurture and develop faithful loving lives, modeled after the Love, Acceptance, Justice, and Hope of Jesus, through relationship and learning. We strive to create sacred spaces and experiences for children to discover and share our principles of GRACE, COURAGE, WONDER & BEYOND inspired by God's love.



Sharon Oliver
Director of
Children's Ministry
sharon@stlukeshr.com



Samantha Leahy
Director of Early
Childhood Ministry
sam@stlukeshr.com



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

We Made It!

Not only were we in session all school-year, five days a week, but we did not have to quarantine a single class or staff member! Our staff and students socially distanced, wore masks, disinfected surfaces, and kept our children safe and happy all year. While it was no easy feat since we have 200 students and 30 staff, our efforts paid off!

We are gearing up for our next school year! We have a completely full enrollment for next year with a waitlist! All of our teachers are returning next year, as well. We even hired three new staff to join us. These are all blessings during a normal year, but coming off a world-wide pandemic makes these things all miracles. We have a wonderful and loving community at Little School.

We have loved the new relationships we have built with Youth Director Jake and our new pastors. We had an amazing Art Show on April 22 with the support of the church and the literature theme and the set up upstairs was a big hit this year.

This has been one of the most challenging years for everyone. They do not teach you how to run a preschool during a pandemic when you get your degrees. The support and flexibility of the wonderful staff at Little School made it possible. They worked harder than they ever have, and they did things they never had to do before. They did it with grace, compassion, and a desire to educate our young children in the middle of a pandemic. I want to personally thank the staff of St. Luke's Little School. The teachers allowed students to experience a bit of normalcy at Little School.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank my office staff. They are the people behind the scenes who keep our school running. Without them, Little School would not be as successful as it is. Tushka Breen, our assistant director, and Amanda Lewis, our office manager, are the biggest supporters at Little School. Their encouragement and flexibility was astounding this year.

As we prepare to close for the summer, the biggest blessing we are thankful for is graduation. Last year, I sat in an empty sanctuary with Amanda and Rev. Sallie as we conducted two graduation ceremonies via ZOOM. It was not at all how we wanted to send our children off, but at the time, it was our only option. This year we were thrilled to do graduation in the Sanctuary with our parents in attendance. Things we once took for granted like in-person graduation will never be taken for granted again.

I want to wish you all a happy and safe summer.

Grace and Love, Ms. Kelly

Sunday School

We are enjoying being back in the church building! It is so nice to be in person for Sunday School at 9:00am. And you no longer need to sign up or check in outside. Things are getting back to normal. Come join us on a Sunday morning for Bible stories, prayers, crafts, games and more! We have moved up our Promotion Sunday to August 15 this year to coincide more with the start of the school year. Watch for more info to come in our Sunday morning Children's Ministry emails. (If you are not receiving those emails and would like to, please let us know.)

SLY, Jr. Our 5th & 6th grade youth group finished out the year strong with fun events like learning to juggle and make balloon animals, decorating cookies and cupcakes and making flower arrangements for Mother's Day and playing Graduation Games. Congrats to all 6th graders who are now official members of SLY (St. Luke's Youth). SLY Jr. will start up again in the fall. Contact Ms. Sharon with any questions.

Children's Dinner Theater is regrouping for a potential show in late September! We would have rehearsals in August and September for kids in 1st grade and up. We are SO excited for this possibility. We missed doing our spring show in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic so we are working hard to make this happen. Watch for details to come in July!!

Vacation Bible School "Discovery on Adventure Island" is coming June 28-July 2 9:00am-noon! We are so excited to gather together in person and discover God's great light! We limited our numbers this year to comply with room occupancy levels with COVID, but we still have 150 kids coming! Still need a few volunteers, so, if you can help out - contact Ms. Sharon.

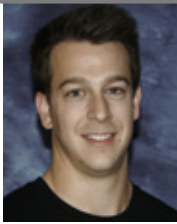


Summer Wacky Week

August 16-19, 2021 9:00am-12:00noon
"End of the Summer Adventure Camp" \$25/per day.
Sign up for 1 or more days. Children age 3-6 yrs.
Sign up at stlukeshr.com
Contact Ms. Sam with any questions



Summer Blessings! –Ms. Sharon & Ms. Sam



Jake Smith
Director of
Youth Ministry

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade Summer Fun!

Youth Group is BACK IN PERSON! Come join the crew during the week and let's have some fun!

Wednesday Nights: Bible Study & Fellowshiping & Food

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School during the 9:00am service

Sunday Nights: YOUTH GROUP

Sunday Night Worship: We are off to an exciting start at Sunday Night Worship. We have had a few of the youth performing worship and it has been a great time so far! Come check it out!

SNW is on the evenings of the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month starting at 5:00! ALL YOUTH AND FAMILIES INVITED!!!

Youth Funded Guatemala

House: SLY is raising money to build a home for Juana, a Guatemala woman. Since the group cannot go in person this year to do the work ourselves Pura Vida is allowing us to raise the money for the home and some necessities so that Juana can have a place to call home this summer. If you can donate please contact Jake for more info.

IT IS MISSION TRIP

SEASON!!! We went to OKC in June and will have lots of stories to share in the next issue!

Get in on the weekly TWIS Email to stay up to date with weekly emails about SLY events from Jake! Sign up on the St. Luke's website.

Yours in Christ, Jake

Youth Mission Trip Blessing at Sunday Night Worship



Church League Softball makes a return! If you are interested we have a team that plays Sunday Afternoons at Progress Park. Jake is the coach, contact him to sign up!



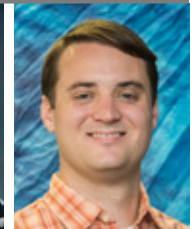
James Ramsey
Director of Music
& Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry/
Organist



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



Chris Rigolini
Director of
Instrumental Music



Music & Arts Telethon

Music is a connective tissue and a heartbeat that offers life at St. Luke's. We are richly blessed with talented leaders in our Music and Arts Ministries, passionate performers in our various groups, and active listeners in our community. Gathering together in person and online, the week of May 16th offered a distinct opportunity to enjoy an impressive concert presented by our Wind Ensemble as well as a finale concert that featured many of our musical groups. In addition to the talents and gifts shared by our music ministers, the finale concert was an evening that truly presented the power of music, story, and the family of St. Luke's. It is a joy to announce that we raised nearly \$20,000 during the single week event to support our Music and Arts Ministry and, by extension, all of St. Luke's. A heartfelt thank you and congratulations to ALL who participated in the concerts, made the events possible, and gave so generously. The Spirit is truly moving in us!

NUNSENSE: The Mega-Musical Recap

Bravo! The Wesley Players put on fun filled performances on April 30 and May 1st as part of the Community Raisers at St. Luke's. The 11-member Wesley Players cast along with the 7-member orchestra pit and the 5-member volunteer tech crew made us laugh and touched our hearts during those beautiful spring evenings. Nearly 300 were in attendance on the backyard stage. The proceeds from donations and ticket sales were a little over \$1,000. Thank you so much for supporting the Wesley Players and supporting St. Luke's!



COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT

Saturday, July 31
9:00am-12:00pm

\$7 per box (banker box size)
or 3 boxes for \$20

Community Raisers
Building the Foundation for Our Future

Congratulations to all of our Graduates!
Your St. Luke's family is so proud of you!



Quinten Alderson
 Arapahoe High School
 Arapahoe Community College



Clay Antinoro
 GED



Jack Ary
 Regis Jesuit High School
 California Polytechnic State University,
 San Luis Obispo CA

Elise Collins
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 MBA, MA, Theatre & Performance Studies



Jaden Davidson
 Colorado School of Mines
 MS, Applied Physics



Frankie Emig
 Heritage High School
 University of Hawaii, Hilo



Ben Fletcher
 Chatfield Senior High School
 United States Military Academy West Point

Jakob Fletcher
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 BS, Business Admin- Accounting & BA History



Sarah (Suby-Long) Kalantari
 Regis University
 MA, Marriage and Family Therapy



Chandler Kitson
 University of Colorado, Denver
 BS, Civil Engineering



Colton Koenig
 ThunderRidge High School
 Colorado School of Mines



Terra Leiber
 Rock Canyon High School
 Linfield University

Laurrie Lorenzo
 Regis University
 Doctor of Pharmacology



Alyssa Markham
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 Masters of Engineering, Engineering Management



Erica Money
 Colorado State University
 BS, Biological Sciences



Jenna Nolder
 University of Colorado, Boulder
 BS, Environmental Engineering



Matthew Peterman
 Golden High School
 College TBD

Hope Preble
 Northwestern Junior College
 AAS, Emergency Medical Services



Liam Roth
 Arapahoe High School
 Colorado State University



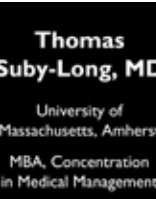
Juliana Speedy
 Mountain Vista High School
 Arizona State University, Tempe AZ



Ashley Stoughton
 Baker Early College Baker City OR
 University of Oregon



Abigail Strickland
 ThunderRidge High School
 Evergreen State College, Olympia WA



Thomas Suby-Long, MD
 University of Massachusetts, Amherst
 MBA, Concentration in Medical Management



Chris Swanson
 Rock Canyon High School
 Occidental College



Ethan Thevarajah
 ThunderRidge High School
 Colorado State University

Shanelle Thevarajah
 Regis University
 MSc, Environmental Biology



Tamara Thevarajah
 Kansas City University, Joplin
 Dr. of Medicine and Biosciences



Silas Walker
 Heritage High School
 Gap Year



Sydney Welch
 ThunderRidge High School
 Portland State University



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

*We exist to reflect God's love, deepen people's connection to Christ,
and show compassion to all in a way that changes lives.*



Stephanie Kirk
Director of
Communication &
Office Administration

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Contact Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson or the Office Administrator if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x107, or email liza@stlukeshr.com or office@stlukeshr.com



*Sherri Barrett,
Terri Christopherson,
Mark Dickerson,
Ted Dreyer,
Phil Goldsberry,
David Goodin,
Ron Hamilton,*

*George and June Hutchins,
Carleen Krening,
Dean Luallen,
Marilyn Miller,
Nancy Obertier,
Jolene Pace,
Shirley Peavy,*

*Nancy and Ron Springman,
Marilyn Ware,
Edith Walters,
Amy Weiske,
David Whitelaw,
Baby Zander*

WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER:

*The belonging of our
newest members:*

- *Sondra and Todd Reinert, and daughter Kaia,*
- *Lisa Hagan*

*The commissioning of
REVEREND Liza Stoltz
Hanson!*

*The graduation of our
numerous graduates*

*The birth of Grayson
Jordan Meier to proud
parents Jordan and
Allison Meier!*

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

Kate Gould and family on the passing of her mother, Fontaine Sullivan

Denise Anderson and family on the passing of her father, Cal Anderson

*Kam Boles and family on the passing of her mother, Jackie Phillips and her sister,
Kimberle Phillips*

Sam Leahy and family on the passing of her cousin, Michelle Eiffert

Natalie Long and family on the passing of her father, Jack Lowney

Gina Lowrey and family on the passing of her father, Michael Lepore

Les Ludlam and family on the passing of his cousin, Diane Mack

Michelle Sosa-Mallory and family on the passing of her uncle, Jose Hector Macias

Nancy Mussetter and family on the passing of her brother, Gary Brink

Nancy Obertier and family on the passing of her husband, Jordan Obertier

Sharon Oliver and family on the passing of her dear friend, Ruth Bolliger

Ann, Madison, Jake, and McKay Smith on the passing of Ann's father, Syl Gaisbauer

Donna Stork and family on the passing of her husband, Roger Stork



On your smart
phone, search
“My Church
App” in the
App store and
download.
Open it and
search for
“St Luke’s
United
Methodist
Church.” Click
on our logo.