



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024



Sunday December 10: ADVENT 2: JOY CHRISTMAS CANTATA.....9:30 & 11:15am
Tuesday December 12: BELIEVE: Reflections, Music & Prayers.....5:30pm
Saturday December 16: CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOP...9:00am-12:00pm
Sunday December 17: ADVENT 3: HOPE CANDY CANE SUNDAY.....9:30 & 11:00am



Welcome Advent!

Celebrate the season of peace, joy, hope and love with us as we explore ways to come back to our peace and find the calm within us. We kicked off Advent with our annual Hanging of the Greens, followed by an Advent

Preparation Devotional event, *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, our Tree Lighting service with an impromptu Children's Christmas Pageant and our Blue Christmas service. Check out the upcoming events listed and join us in community as we experience this meaningful time of birth, reflection and the bright promise of hope together.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday December 24: ADVENT 4: LOVE (Services live streamed at stlukeshr.com)
WORSHIP.....9:30am ONLY (Family Worship - No Sunday School) (Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson) "Love Actually Is All Around" Luke 1:39-55
CHILDREN'S.....1:00 & 3:00pm (Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson) "Wondrous Star, Lend Your Light!" - A family worship experience featuring our Puppet Ministry, Kidz Prayz, Soul Purpose Youth Choir and Joyful Noise Youth Handbells
TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm (Rev. Michele Kaminsky) "All Is Calm, All Is Bright" - Traditional carols and candles service featuring the Chancel Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, and Tintinnabulators Handbell Ensemble
COMMUNION.....9:00pm (Rev. Michele Kaminsky) Communion service featuring Soloists and Organ

Futures Task Force Moving Forward



**BE THE CHURCH
BE ST. LUKE'S**

★ Help Shape Our Future ★
*Shoot for the moon,
land among the stars!*

We want to provide a big "thank you" to the more than 130 people who have shared their hopes and dreams with the Futures Task Force to date! We've heard about how you value our welcoming and pressure-free environment, our missions and opportunities to serve both within and beyond the St Luke's community. And we've heard your dreams about what else St Luke's can do to bolster what we offer and connect with our neighbors to serve our community further.

In the Spring, we will first take what we've heard and we'll honor our current environment: where we are, who we are, and how God is present within our community. Second, we'll look into the future by bridging the best of what "is", with the

best of what "can be". This will involve taking the hopes and dreams you've shared, and sharing these future aspirations with the clergy, staff, church committees, and - most importantly - with you, the congregation. And third, this will provide direction to our future actions so that they align with what we're hearing from you.

The key in all of this is your voice, and if you haven't yet attended a Listening Session - it's not too late! We'll be scheduling the final few sessions in mid-January, and you'll be able to sign-up for a session on-line starting in late December. These sessions last about an hour, are low-key, require no prep-work, and cover just a few topics. If you have any questions, please chat with a member of our team, the staff or clergy. Remember: It's up to each of us to Be The Church, Be St Luke's, and Help Shape our Future! *Thanks, Chris Sheridan*

Monday December 25: CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK..... 10:30am-1:30pm
Sunday December 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP.....9:30 & 11:00am (Family Worship - No Sunday School)
Sunday January 7, 2024: EPIPHANY CELEBRATION OF KINGS.....9:30 & 11:00am

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00am-1:00pm M-F

WORSHIP SERVICES:
9:30am large traditional worship
(live streamed and in person)
11:00am small gathering/large spirit
(in person)

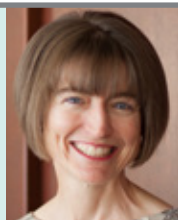
SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:30am PreK-12th grade
Nursery available with reservation
Church Office.....303-791-0659
Email.....office@stlukeshr.com
Website.....www.stlukeshr.com
Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com
Little School Office.....303-791-1982

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 Ministries
Chris Rigolini.....x146	Director of Instrumental Music Ministry
Angela Alderson.....x136	Director of Children's & Youth Music Ministries
Kelly Amadeo.....x115	Director of Little School
Samantha Leahy.....x140	Dir. of Community & Early Childhood Ministry
Sharon Oliver.....x127	Dir. of Children's Ministry & Comm. Creative Dir.
Josey SeEVERS.....x128	Director of Youth Ministry
Anna Fisher.....x129	Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Cassy Meier.....x110	Communications & Office Administrator
Taletha Pogge.....x124	Director of Finance
Jessica Shelton.....x116	Financial Assistant
Barry Curtis.....x144	Facilities Manager

Our next issue of **The Chronicle** will be the Spring/Lent issue.
Content due February 20, 2024
Please send inquiries and submissions to:
chronicle@stlukeshr.com
Editor: Sharon Oliver

The Chronicle is published quarterly and is emailed to those on our email general information list, and it can be found on the church website. Printed copies are available at church entrances. To receive a printed copy of The Chronicle via US mail, please call or email the Church Office.



Rev. Michele Kaminsky
Lead Minister

A Calm & Bright Christmas Season

Dear St. Luke's,

Who's ready for a season of peace and calm? With all we have going on – *with all our world has going on* – I invite you to come back to your inner peace this Advent and Christmas with our new worship series Calm and Bright.

Now before you think this is a simple and pleasant invitation, I believe it is actually a challenge for a lot of us.

Many of us have gotten used to not having peace and calm on a daily basis. In fact, living with a certain amount of anxiety, anger or fear is almost a norm in our society. And even if we aren't living with a certain level of tension, we might worry that if we do go inward to find our peace, we're not sure what else we might find lurking in our souls. Perhaps grief or pain is buried in there that we'd really rather not deal with.

Another reason we may avoid the soothing feeling of our inner peace is because we feel guilty that so many other people don't have calm or peace because of their circumstances. We have wars, hunger, injustice, violence and hardship, so how can we justify soothing ourselves when so many people are hurting?

And sometimes we don't stay attuned to our divine peace simply because we are so distracted by the busy-ness of life and work. And life is definitely busy, especially at this time of year. But if we allow ourselves to stay distracted by everything that is going on outside of us, we can effectively avoid going inside of ourselves where the peace of God resides.

But this Advent, we are going to set aside all of our reasons, worries and distractions so we can truly come into all the peace, hope, love and joy that came down on Christmas just for us. Yes, for us – and for all. No one exempt. And we need some Calm and Bright right about now. The world needs some Calm and Bright right now. So let's reclaim it and share it so our calm can brighten up the world. Because that's what happens when we invoke our Calm and Bright. God takes it, multiplies it and imparts it to those who need it the most. And as John Dear, in *Living Peace: A Spirituality of Contemplation and Action*, says:

To live a life of peace, we must practice peace with all we meet, indeed, with the whole world....

Once we make that choice, a whole new journey begins....and we can change the world....

Whether we radiate quiet peace like a Buddhist monk or capture the world's imagination like Mahatma Gandhi, a life of peace bears fruit for humanity.

St. Luke's, I invite you to radiate a deep sense of Calm and Bright for the world this Advent.

Who among us are willing?

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



All are welcome - Annual Charge Conference - Sunday January 7 at 1:00pm in the Chapel. The Charge Conference reviews the previous year and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, among other business items. Before the Conference, stay after worship to Take Down the Greens and enjoy a pizza lunch.



Pondering How to Be Present, Mindful & Thriving

We are on the cusp of a seasonal shift as we celebrate Advent and Christmas, wrap up 2023 and begin to think about what opportunities 2024 will bring.

It can be hard to catch our breath when it feels like we are constantly being propelled forward and onto the next thing.

Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

Our incredible St. Luke's staff has been so mindful about offering events and opportunities that will provide time to be present in the moment so that we can truly enjoy all that this season has to offer. I invite you to look at St. Luke's offerings in the next few weeks, especially our Cantata (December 10) and CSE's Believe: Reflection, Music, and Prayers (December 12).

I am particularly attuned to how I want to be present and mindful in this season after finishing a seven-week book study on the topic of thriving. Fourteen brilliant and devoted women came together on Wednesday nights this fall to discuss *Thrivers: Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine* by Dr. Michelle Borba. We appreciated the insights the author shared and offered our own critical reflections on how we personally experience the challenges of shepherding young people in the world today.

The resounding theme from the book and our group is that kids are busy, they enjoy their extracurricular pursuits, they thrive when they face challenges and experience growth but they increasingly don't know how to relax or enjoy free time. I know that I found myself fitting into this category as well. Especially when we ask ourselves how often is that free time spent with a screen? And the book was clear in its challenge to parents and care-givers: we must be the ones to model the values, behaviors, and qualities we hope to see in the next generations.

The study and the conversation has continued to circulate in my mind, especially as I ponder the ways St. Luke's, as a community of faith, can lead the way for opportunities for belonging, mindfulness, and thriving for all ages. I am excited to see where this conversation leads us!

Prayers and Blessings for a meaningful Advent season for you and your loved ones!

Peace and Grace, Rev. Liza

Fall Sermon Series Recap *A Place at the Table* Hospitality, Abundance & Grace

In this sermon series, we find Jesus at the table. Jesus clearly loves the gathering at the table, when all kinds of different folks are gathered around as they talk, laugh, and share stories. This is well documented in the Gospel of Luke, where there are more references to eating, banquets, feasting, and tables than in any of the other Gospels. But it is here, at the table, where we really get real with Jesus – a rabbi, a teacher, and a friend who has much to teach us about Hospitality, Abundance, and Grace, when we sit down, break bread, and go deep.

Part I - Hospitality: Key Take-Away - Jesus teaches that life is richer, and more full when our tables are filled. **Sermon Quotes** - *"We are so good at hospitality. But radical hospitality asks more of us, and this is the brand of welcome that Jesus is all about."* *"The Radical hospitality of Christ pushes us to think how more people can find themselves seated at the table, present and welcomed in spaces that practice unbelievable acts of radical hospitality."*

Part II - Abundance: Key Take-Away - When we sit down at a meal table, it is different than sitting down at any other table. A meal table is different. We pay attention differently. All our senses are engaged. We might be prepared to feast, or simply to have our most basic of needs met - to satisfy a hunger that might be in our belly, or it might be in our soul. **Sermon Quote** - *"The economics at the table of God, work like this: There is always more. There is always room. There is always enough. Abundant forgiveness for others, does not mean less forgiveness for you."*

Part III - Grace: Key Take-Away - Jesus prioritizes where the need is, where the hurt is, where healing is needed and where it will be received with deep gratitude and thanksgiving. **Sermon Quote** - *"Again and again, Jesus makes it plain. He is all about what happens around a table. When hungry people come together, so much else fades away. When we accept the invitation - when we accept the welcome, we realize how hungry we are for what will nourish and sustain us, and ready to receive grace as it is shared with us."*



Winter Blessings

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

I love winter. Many find this surprising but there is so much to embrace in this season.

I love the stunning contrast of bright snow and a deep blue sky, the magical lights and music, taking a few ski runs on my favorite mountain, and the peacefulness and promise of stars on an infinite backdrop. I welcome celebrating the meaning of Advent and the beauty of Christmas. I look forward to the early weeks in the new year that invite reflection, listening, and a little different pace. A snowy night with a journal and a cup of mint tea is my idea of a valued experience. Yes, I know, it sounds pretty exciting. Yet, sometimes this is just what we need to restore our peace, to nurture healing, and to imagine new possibilities.

On behalf of our Center for Spiritual Engagement team, I invite you to be part of some winter opportunities created to embrace this time of year in intentional and meaningful ways.



December 12, 5:30pm: BELIEVE - Reflections, Music & Prayers in the Chapel - An evening to illuminate

what you believe, cherish, and hope for in the December season. You're invited to center yourself in the candlelight and simple beauty of the Chapel. Come breathe in the sacredness of advent and be uplifted by readings, prayers, and the piano music of Sandy Larson.

January 4, 5:15-6:30pm: Yoga/ Reiki Experience in the Chapel -

Enjoy a combined reiki and yoga session presented by Melinda Davidson and Sharon Oliver. Bring your yoga mat and some water for an evening of healing with meditation, reiki, and gentle yoga. Email Sharon for more information or to reserve your spot. \$20/per person suggested donation.

I'm also excited to offer a **Winter Wellbeing Series** that will begin early in the new year. You can visit our website stlukesce.org in the weeks ahead for many upcoming CSE opportunities.

As we walk into these winter days, may you experience the blessings this season holds.

Warmly, Dr. Sallie



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community
& Early Childhood
Ministry

Connect at St. Luke's

The Holidays can bring about good cheer, positive memories, and conviviality. We can smell them,

feel them and hear them in our physical and human surroundings. It's a time when people send cards, good wishes, gifts, and food to each other to maintain relationships with relatives, members of a faith community, neighbors, and associates.

It's a time of sincere outreach to others, not just jingles, shopping, and holiday humbuggery. The thought is what counts, is an old saying, and all the more weathered and correct. Thinking of loved ones, past and present, makes us strong, and helps us remember who we are, and who we were. It gives us the inspiration to go forward.

This year, strip away the commercialism that often invaded our holiday space. What matters, what really matters: each other and our time here together. This year I encourage you to take time to focus on sincere human connection. There are so many ways to connect at St. Luke's; Christmas in the Park on Dec 25, give of your time on a new team in 2024, Friday Bible Study, deliver food to the veterans on a Monday, volunteer in Sunday School with our children, connect with our youth on a Sunday evening, join the usher team or simply enjoy a fresh hot cup of coffee in fellowship hall on a Sunday between services engaging others.

People want to feel part of a community. It makes them feel valued, especially when they are forgotten. Hearing words like you're my neighbor, we go to the same church reinforce the feeling of belonging to a community of other human beings. And being part of a group makes for psychological wellbeing as well as feeling cared for. Extend yourself and you will uplift the other person, yourself, and the community you belong to.

St. Luke's lets move into our future creating connection and community through acts of thoughtfulness and communication and bond together to figure out how to reach across the divide and open doors that simply say All Are Welcome Here!

UWF Honors Veterans & More

The United Women of Faith each year recognizes one of our congregation with a **Quilt of Valor**. This year we recognized Steve Blue for serving his country in the U.S. Army. He graduated from Carnegie Tech, attended Army Engineer School, Airborne School, and Ranger Training. His first assignment was in Germany, he was then transferred to Fort Irwin California where he set up the 36th Engineer Battalion to go to Vietnam. On the day he arrived in Vietnam, he was notified by the Red Cross that his first daughter was born. While in Vietnam he was the Commander of B Company that built and maintained roads, airstrips and bridges and helped 350 local families with better housing. At St. Luke's Steve helps with the Blue Bins that helps collect food for our local Veterans.

Lap Robes for Veterans: The Itch to Stitchers have been busy all year making lap robes for veterans who are wheelchair bound. These beautiful handmade lap robes provide blessings, comfort and warmth for our veterans who served our country and sacrificed their time, comfort, strength, health and prosperity for our peace, safety, and freedom.

Transforming Communities with Gifts of Gratitude:

We continue to care about our community and world and participate during the month of December by giving to the UWF "World Thank Offering." In the past we have collected our extra change to donate, any amount is greatly appreciated. The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Some women give thanks for their daily blessings, while others give thanks for special occasions in their lives. Through the World Thank Offering, the mission carried on through United Women in Faith's is carried out in the United States and around the world. To make a contribution donate online at <https://uwfaith.org/?form=worldthank>.

Thank you to all of you who supported the UWF

Fall Bake Sale. The proceeds and your donations support the mission of women, children, and youth both here at St. Luke's by supporting the Youth Mission Trip and the world by supporting Guatemala programs and UWF World Missions.

The St. Luke's UWF is planning a special gathering early in the new year, so mark your calendars for the weekend of February 3, 2024.

God Bless all of you with a joyous Christmas and happy new year. If you have questions contact Betty Ludlam at betty.ludlam1718@gmail.com or Cathy Collins at scecollins@q.com

COMMON THREAD: We have started and are gathering on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am in the Conference Room! Our beloved Caroline Butler started the Common Thread Group years ago. It is not a sewing group but a gathering for retired, senior women who want fellowship with others for conversation, devotions and yummy refreshments. We take turns with devotions and refreshments. If you are interested in learning more or being a part of Common Thread **please contact Betty Ludlam.**

ITCH TO STITCH: Gathers every 3rd Saturday at 10:30am in the youth room to work on various projects. In November we presented the Quilt of Valor and finalized the Christmas Stockings for kids at Warren Village. **More information about Itch to Stitch contact Victoria Mason or Fran West.**

MONDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB Hybrid gathering (in person and Zoom) at 7:00pm on the 4th Monday. Join in the discussion of any or all the books planned. **More information contact Teri Burget.**
January 22 - Second Place by Rachel Cusk, **February 26 - Yellow Bird** by Sierra Crane Murdoch, **March 26 - Miss Benson's Beetle** by Rachel Joyce, **April 22 - Lessons in Chemistry** by Bonnie Garmus



United
Women
in Faith

We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done. And we invite you to join us.



Seasoned Voyagers

2023 was an exciting and active year for the Seasoned Voyagers. We enjoyed a cookie exchange, Mingo, viewed Denver Art Museum special exhibits, enjoyed a tour of the new Sand Creek exhibit at the Colorado History Center, marveled on a personalized guided tour of the Highlands Ranch Mansion, were thrilled on the tour of Forney Transportation Museum as well as other adventures. We also learned about weather forecasting at NOAA in Boulder, visiting the room where our local forecast is created and saw live pictures of our sun from space. We hosted a Scam Awareness session lead by the Douglas County. Our annual Leaf Peeping adventure was fun. Most of these activities included bus transportation (thanks Vern!) and lunches. Sounds like fun? Absolutely! Watch this space for more engaging events in 2024.



A 55+ MINISTRY

For information
contact
Pam Burke
burkefami@aol.com

Successful Auction!

The fall silent auction was a great success and due to the generosity of St Luke's and the community over \$9000 was raised for St Luke's operating budget!

Thank you!

And here's a couple of reminders:

- Check out the new ways to give page on the website:** Click the DONATE button on the home page and find 4 options to explore - now including Venmo and a link to our latest financial information.
- We are still taking in pledge cards for 2024** and it's easy online at stlukeshr.com It is appreciated!

THANK YOU!!

Contact Taletha Pogge at financedirector@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x124 if you ever have questions regarding St Luke's finances.



Taletha Pogge
Director of Finance



this is the
start of
something
new

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!
- Isaiah 43:19

Sharing Your Gifts on a Team

January is the time for all new teams to start with fresh new team members. If you have already been outreached from the Equipping Ministries team and responded YES, thank you so much for sharing your gifts with St. Luke's. Our ministry teams are vital, and we could not thrive without you. To all who have served in the past or currently will serve, we appreciate you SO MUCH!

If you are not currently on a team and feel a calling to join one, we would love to speak with you! Please speak with me or any one on the Equipping Ministries team. You can also ask Sam Leahy or anyone on the church staff to direct you to one of us. Peace and blessings to all of you, and please know that any gifts you share with St. Luke's will always be appreciated.

Joely Maddux & Teri Burget, Equipping Ministries Team Co-Chairs

With Gratitude...

We are so excited to have all of our leadership teams start with new incoming members in January. And we also wanted to express our utmost gratitude to the existing team members, but especially those who are completing their 3 year terms and rolling off the teams at the end of 2023. Some of these folks have even served multiple terms or additional years. Your service and commitment to St. Luke's is SO appreciated.

Lay Leaders: Paul Kirk, John Church, Eileen Law

Finance: Elizabeth Bauer, Chris Brendlinger, Scott Meade, Steve Stine

Trustees: Matt Gross, Michelle Welch

Staff Parish Relations: Terri Ary, Ryan Rairigh, Jacob Wesson

Equipping Ministries: Joely Maddux, Teri Burget

Missions: Bruce Kirchoff, Debra Newby, John Mezger, AJ Preble

Family Ministry: Sarah Barnes, Kaitlyn Haupert, Kris Long

Altar: Linda Malone

Sermon Series Recap Spirituality for Everyday People



For seven weeks this autumn, we illuminated the timeless wisdom that lies within the scripture stories of the book of Genesis. And there were some crazy stories that made us wonder what wisdom we could possibly sift out from all of the dysfunction.

But that is what is so beautiful about our sacred text. It does not shy away from the realities of human dysfunction, violence and drama, yet it still departs divine wisdom to us. And that wisdom can be applied to our lives today because God's wisdom endures through all generations, regardless of how our dysfunction and drama show up.

So the next time you read a scripture passage, see if you can find the timeless wisdom within it, so its spiritual relevance can be applied to your everyday life.

Executive Team Affirms Significance of Fundraising to St. Luke's

At its November 12, 2023 meeting, the Exec Team approved the following Statement of Guiding Philosophy on Fundraising

The St. Luke's Executive Team recognizes that fundraising is vital to the life of our church. These opportunities not only raise revenues toward the church's budget and its programs, but also foster community spirit.

It has been the intent of St. Luke's for several years to actively transition to year-round fundraising and to provide events and activities to support the ministries and operations of St. Luke's. Multiple fundraisers will be held throughout the year, both to supplement the congregation's planned regular giving as well as to continue engaging the church and the broader community.

For the church's fundraising events conducted each year, it is essential that St. Luke's ensures that it will continue to meet budget goals and prevent any compromise of its 501(c) status. All fundraisers should support a specific mission. After operating expenses are allocated from each fundraising event, the net amount remaining will go to the specific fundraising purpose, or to the general fund, as appropriate.

Opportunities will arise where outside organizations wish to sponsor fundraising events that benefit St. Luke's ministries. The St. Luke's Board of Trustees will approve these activities to ensure they are compatible with St. Luke's mission, values and ministries.

The Executive Team is grateful to the congregation for its spirit of giving and its ongoing support of fundraising events and activities during the program year. The planning for and participation in these activities must continue to be a priority for the various program teams and the St. Luke's community. We support the efforts of the various operational and program teams; specifically, Stewardship, Finance, and Missions as they work to increase transparency and accountability to fundraising and the budget process, working in conjunction with the Director of Finance at St. Luke's.

Trustees Corner

NEW ROOF! Have you heard lots of banging above your head at church? And seen strange objects around the outside of the church building? We're getting a new roof. The tornado that hit Highlands Ranch on June 22 damaged our roof enough that we needed to replace it. Roofing material is in short supply, so it's taken a while for our contractor to start the project. But they're working at a record pace and should have our new roof completed in record time!

Giving Tree



It's the most wonderful time of the year, Giving Tree time! For the first phase of the Giving Tree, St. Luke's partnered with Florence Crittenton Services. Serving Denver since 1893,

Florence Crittenton is a Denver non-profit that educates, prepares, and empowers teen moms and their children through education, health and wellness, post-secondary preparedness, and basic/emergency needs support. Fifty ornaments were hung on the tree and St. Luke's stepped up once again and snatched up all 50 the first day they were available. One could choose to purchase gifts for a teen mom or a child, whose ages ranged from newborn through 6 years. The ask for a mom was a gift card to a store of their choice. There were three items to buy for each child, a requested toy, an item of clothing, and underwear or diapers.

After the tree was picked bare during phase one of the Giving Tree, it was replenished with tags for various mission projects to support. In lieu of a gift for a loved one, church members can select one of the tags from the tree to donate to one of these worthy projects. Supported missions include Giving Heart, Pura Vida Construction Projects, Guatemala Milk Program, Christmas in the Park, HAAT Force, Honduras Abundant Life Christian School, Warren Village, and Field Elementary. Come stop by the Giving Tree to pick up your tag to provide assistance for your favorite project. You can also donate to the projects online.

Itch to Stitch Spreads Christmas Joy

Thanks to 10 wonderful stitchers, and spearheaded by Victoria Mason, the St. Luke's Itch to Stitch Guild made over 250 stockings for the children of Warren Village! Over 500 hours spent to create magical stockings that will hold lots of love and holiday



memories to come! Stockings are a great symbol of joy, love, hope and peace! Thank you ladies! *Pictured: Sharon Oliver, Mike & Laura Richards packed up the stockings and delivered to Warren Village for their Holiday Shop Event.*

Supporting Guatemala

Here are three great opportunities to be in relationship with the people of Guatemala through Pura Vida!

1. Student Scholarship Program - The mission of Pura Vida is to facilitate the sharing of resources with communities in Guatemala in a meaningful, respectful and long term way. Its primary focus is on providing educational opportunities for children in rural villages. Sponsoring a student is an extremely rewarding relational experience! If you would like to consider sponsoring a student, you can contact Laura Richards, laura@puravida.org and/or go to www.puravida.org. If you would like to financially support Pura Vida's mission, you can write a check to St. Luke's UMC with "Pura Vida" on the memo line.

2. Help Build Homes in Guatemala - a team from St. Luke's will be traveling to Guatemala in February 2024 through Pura Vida to help build homes for two families in great need of safe and healthy shelter. It will truly be a relational experience, working alongside the Guatemalan construction team and the recipient families. This is a project for the entire congregation! The Sunday School students will again be raising funds for healthy stoves - yeah! **The team will be selling homemade burritos again this year to help provide funds for the construction materials and Guatemalan labor! We will take orders Dec. 3 and 17 or you can order online. Burritos will be available for pick-up on Jan. 7, Three Kings Sunday.** In addition, you are invited to be part of the "Virtual" part of the team; this means you can receive emails including photos and video from the home groundbreaking through move-in ceremony. You can contact Laura Richards, laura@puravida.org to get connected. If you would like to donate to the construction materials and labor, write a check to St. Luke's UMC with "Guatemala Construction" on the memo line.

3. Christmas Milk Program - Donations are used to provide powdered milk to the rural village of Lemoa, Guatemala. You can help Pura Vida provide months of vital nutrition for chronically malnourished children. Ordinary milk is not commonly available in the area, due to the lack of refrigeration and poor health of the local cattle. If you would like to contribute, you can write a check to St. Luke's UMC with "Guatemala Milk" on the memo line. Our February 2024 team will be helping to distribute the milk to families!



Introducing Giving Heart!

Giving Heart is a drop in resource center for people experiencing homelessness. This 501c3 nonprofit is located at 4358 S. Broadway in Englewood and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 3pm. It meets basic needs by providing breakfast, a hot lunch, laundry service, showers, clothing, hygiene items, blankets and sleeping bags. By being a hub in a

community-wide network, Giving Heart also connects its guests to a variety of resources, such as HAAT Force and Arapahoe County Housing Navigators, to help meet greater needs. Giving Heart's focus is to be a relational ministry. I volunteer at Giving Heart and I am blessed by the warm interactions I have with our guests and joy of being helpful!

There are three ways you can help Giving Heart and its guests:

- 1. Volunteer.** We need people who would be willing to fill in on a Tuesday or Thursday as needed, at your convenience. The first step would be to drop by for a tour.
- 2. Provide a lunch meal on a Thursday.** You can drop off the food in the morning with the option to be there to serve from 11:30am-12:30pm. To sign up, go to www.givingheartenglewood.com
- 3. Donate items** - the most pressing needs now are blankets and a variety of hygiene items.

Giving Heart will be on the St. Luke's December Giving Tree and will be St. Luke's Mission of the Month for January. To support, we are recruiting a small group to provide the lunch meal on Thursday January 18. Here is a link to a 4-minute video about Giving Heart: <https://youtu.be/kmFo43qNu2s> Contacts are: Betsy Keyack, bkeyack@att.net (St. Luke's) and Donna Zimmerman, Executive Director, givingheartenglewood@gmail.com. Drop by to see us!

Thank You from HAAT Force!

HAAT Force (Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force South Metro) thanks everyone from St. Luke's who supported its Fall Fundraising and Silent Auction! With your support, HAAT will continue to provide severe weather motel vouchers and resources to people experiencing homelessness. HAAT Force now has a new office and voucher location at 3190 S. Grant St., Englewood, CO 80113. See www.haatforce.org or contact info@haatforce.org.

Will the St. Luke's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land be Canceled or Delayed?

A bucket list item for many travelers around the world is to pay a visit to the religious sites in Israel and Palestine, otherwise known as the Holy Land. But since the war between Israel and Hamas started on Oct. 7, it's fair to wonder how those who have planned tours in the region will be affected.

St. Luke's is currently preparing for a pilgrimage, "A Holy Land, A Holy People," next October 2024, with leaders, Rev. Janet Forbes and Bob Davis. The schedule is for travel in Israel and Palestine, October 1-11, 2024 with the choice of an extension, The Wonders of Petra, in Jordan, October 11-15, 2024.

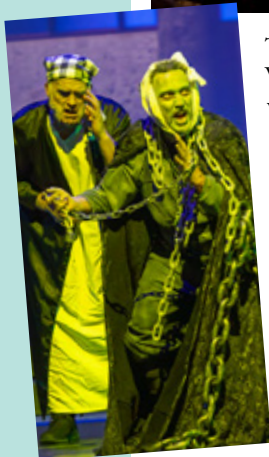
Various tour companies have either canceled or delayed tours for the remainder of 2023, with further assessment taking place for tours scheduled in early 2024. In a conversation with Rev. Peter Miano, United Methodist minister and Executive Director of The Society for Biblical Studies (who will be the tour operator for St. Luke's), Rev. Janet has learned that Rev. Peter is currently planning to resume travel to the Holy Land in March 2024. His company has multiple groups scheduled through the spring and early summer. St. Luke's will continue to monitor the situation and stay in conversation with local clergy who are still planning their 2024 travel.



The Church of the Nativity: The Traditional Site of Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem

Lenten Study:

In order to deepen understanding of "the holy people" of the Holy Land, the St. Luke's community is invited to a learning opportunity. **Rev. Janet Forbes will be leading a Lenten study, "The 5th Gospel: The Land of Jesus, Now and Then," on Wednesday evenings, February 21 through March 20, 6:30-8:00pm, focusing on the current and historic dynamics within this land of three faiths.**



James Ramsey
Director of Music & Arts Ministries
jim@stlukeshr.com

Chancel Choir,
Worship Band,
Soul Purpose Youth Choir,
Wesley Players
Theatre Company,
Puppets



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of Music Ministry/
Organist
kenm@stlukeshr.com

Grace Notes,
Men's Chorus,
Sisters of Soul



Kay Coryell
Dir. of Handbells & Children's Music Ministries
kayc@stlukeshr.com

Tinnabulators,
Joyful Noise,
Tone Chimes,
Kidz Prayz,
Flute Ensemble



Chris Rigolini
Director of Instrumental Music Ministry
chris@stlukeshr.com

Brass Ensemble,
Wind Ensemble,
Ministers of Swing,
Orchestra



Angela Alderson
Dir. of Children's & Youth Music Ministries
allegroa@hotmail.com

Kidz Prayz,
Tone Chimes,
Soul Purpose Youth Choir



Join our Music Ministry Groups!

Have you been inspired by the various music ministries at St. Luke's? Have you considered joining one of these groups? Now is the perfect time to give us a try! **Our Tinnabulators Hand Bells Choir rehearses Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm; our Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, our KidzPrayz Children's Choir (1st-6th graders) and Soul Purpose Youth Choir (7th-12th grade) rehearse most Sunday mornings at 10:45am,** and a complete calendar of our Music Ministry rehearsals including our **instrumental ensembles** can be found online or feel free to reach out to Dr. Jim or Kay Coryell at any point to ask questions and get involved!

A Musical Miracle



With over 80 cast, crew and orchestra members, *A Christmas Carol, The Musical* was a sparkling hit! (In fact, you will probably continue to see glitter in the pews for some time to come!)

I believe we only had a total of 20 unsold seats for the run of 4 shows!!

Thank you, St. Luke's, for your support and attendance! I am always amazed how The Wesley Players can transform the space of a sanctuary into a semi-professional theatre while maintaining the reverence of this sacred space, producing really top quality shows again and again:

- We do this because of our amazing volunteers and staff who dedicate hundreds of hours toward fulfilling our purpose of inclusion and excellence.
- We do this because the spirit of the Lord blesses us time and time again— when we doubt our abilities, we are reminded that our talents were given to us to share.
- We do this because we love theatre and music and each other!

We closed *A Christmas Carol* on Dec. 2 and the next day we began planning for *Beauty and the Beast...* Auditions are Dec. 11-13! We hope you will join us for our 55th WPTC production! Shows are Feb. 29-March 3, 2024! (Notes: *The rights to Beauty and the Beast will be suspended soon after our production— a real incentive for you to be a part of the cast, crew or audience! Applications for volunteer positions are*

ongoing!)—Roberta Hamilton Griggs, WPTC Artistic Director, Roberta@wesleyplayers.org

Visit wesleyplayers.org for info & to sign up!





Center for
**Spiritual
Engagement**
inspiring connection & wellbeing

CSE Purpose:

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

stlukesCSE.org

BELIEVE: Reflections, Music, and Prayers

Tuesday, Dec. 12
5:30pm
in the Chapel



The Center for Spiritual Engagement is hosting an evening of reflections, music, and prayers to illuminate what you believe, cherish, and hope for in the December season. You're invited to center yourself in the candlelight and simple beauty of the Chapel. Come breathe in the sacredness of advent and be uplifted by readings, prayers, and the lovely music of Sandy Larson on piano. We warmly welcome you to some moments of peacefulness to honor what you believe and to embrace this holy season of light. Please rsvp to renaeparra@aol.com to reserve your spot.

Get **CENTERED** at St. Luke's this Winter!

CLASSES & EXPERIENCES:



Brave Spaces **Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade** (*march/parade*):

On Monday, Jan. 15 join us to celebrate **Dr. Martin Luther King** and his legacy as we walk with our brothers and sisters

from City Park to Civic Center Park, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles. We'll meet at St. Luke's to carpool around 9:30am, and travel together to City Park. We'll provide more details soon. We hope you'll join us for this uniquely Denver celebration. For more information, contact julie.polikoff@msn.com

Brave Spaces **Racial Justice Legislative Advocacy**:

Brave Spaces invites you to join us in January to learn about how to influence laws and policies that create greater racial equity in Colorado. We'll learn about the legislative process and how bills become law in Colorado. We'll identify important bills that address disparities in climate justice, housing, healthcare, immigration, and policing. We'll learn who our representatives and senators are and how to communicate effectively with them. We'll also discuss how our efforts in the past have created meaningful change. No experience is necessary. Contact janestaller@gmail.com

Brave Spaces **Racial Justice Class: Christian Response to**



Gun Violence Sundays (10:45am - noon) three weeks, starting January 21 Gun Violence is a complex issue, especially here in Colorado. Where do we find hope? As a people of faith, how do we respond? Join us for a three-part discussion to look at/examine

the data and the issues and to explore potential paths forward to mitigate this kind of violence, while respecting our rights under the 2nd Amendment. As a community of faith, we can have a positive impact on the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. We'll meet three Sundays in the St. Luke's Chapel: Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4 (10:45am-12noon). Contact julie.polikoff@msn.com to register.

Winter Wellbeing Series with Dr. Sallie Suby-Long, begins in late January 2024

Would you love to connect with a small group of people and add some new wellbeing practices to your life? We'll explore topics with a holistic lens honoring intellectual, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. To register, contact me via email sallie@stlukeshr.com and I will add you to our Winter Wellbeing list. Topics, dates and details available early in 2024!

Counseling, Coaching & Consultation with Dr. Sallie Suby-Long –

Sallie welcomes you to care for your health, healing and wellness. Sallie, a Licensed Professional Counselor, is honored to be present with you as, together, you identify creative strategies for enhanced emotional, mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing. For more information contact sallie@stlukeshr.com

Men in Community with Bryan Hutchinson (1st Monday of the month at 5:00pm at the church and occasional 3rd Monday dinner out)

– Engage in informal conversations about relevant topics and connect with other men in our community regarding everyday aspects of life... family, work, faith, challenges, transitions, goals and hopes. Join in anytime! Contact bryanhutch@aol.com



Vision Boards with Diane Lindsay Saturday, January 20 (10:00am-noon)

\$20 fee Using a fun and artsy process, you can create a visual tool to help you reach goals, manifest dreams or increase clarity of what you want from life. Diane Lindsay has experience leading participants in creating personalized vision boards to inspire or motivate YOU. The beginning of the year is a great time to go through this process to see what you discover about yourself. Contact renaeparra@aol.com to register or for more info

Yoga & Reiki Experience in the Chapel with Sharon Oliver and Melinda Davidson Thursday, January 4 (5:15-6:45pm)

Come to the St. Luke's Chapel to enjoy a combined reiki and yoga session presented by Melinda Davidson and Sharon Oliver. Bring your yoga mat and some water for an evening of healing with meditation, reiki, and gentle yoga. For more information or to reserve your spot, email sharon@stlukeshr.com. \$20/per person suggested donation.

Brave Spaces **Environmental Stewardship**

CSE is starting a Green Team! Watch for more opportunities in 2024.

CSE's Bountiful Fall

Our *Fall Wellbeing Series* introduced participants to practical, well researched resources for everyday people. We explored topics with a holistic lens honoring intellectual, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. In October, we had a lively discussion on setting boundaries called **Clear is Kind: Create Healthy Boundaries, Find Peace**. We focused on how to live compassionately, respectfully, and kindly in our relationships. Together, we explored simple and powerful ways to practice healthy boundaries that honor ourselves and others and contribute to trustworthy relationships in all aspects of our lives. In November, 15 people engaged in another energized conversation about **Atomic Habits - Tiny Changes, Meaningful Results** - based on James Clear's popular book. When we know the kind of person we choose to be, we can connect small habits to that bigger intention rather than just to a goal. We thoughtfully considered the people we each wish to

be and the value of tiny changes that lead us in that direction.

We have had a full Fall of *Outdoor Adventures*. In September we hiked a variation of the **Rawhide Trail** (5 miles) on the western edge of Jefferson County's White Ranch Open Space. It was a beautiful fall morning, and we were delighted (and surprised) by the variety and abundance of



wild flowers that continue to add beautiful color along this lovely trail. The creative observation talents of our hiking group kept us all laughing about the animal and human shapes we spotted among the rocks and trees along the way. We enjoyed additional time in community over our tailgate picnic. In October we visited the recently discovered (by us) **Lincoln Mountain Open Space** in Southeastern Douglas County. The views of Pikes Peak and the front range from the top of the Lincoln Mesa were breathtaking. We had a gentle breeze which felt fabulous on a hot day, and the gambol oaks were displaying lush fall colors. The morning was exceptional for dreamers, believers and hikers. We were joined by our youngest hiker ever, 3 week old Wesley Spangler, whose parents, Liz and Cody have hiked with us many times. Little Wesley was dressed in a onesie that read,



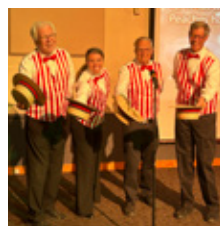
"The Mountains are calling, and I must go!" Welcome to our Colorado world, little Wesley! In November we re-visited another Douglas County Open Space favorite, **Sandstone Ranch** in Larkspur. We explored a different trail this time, the Sandstone Ranch Loop with Ranch Overlook. It was a brisk morning and we had the park almost to ourselves. A small winter storm moved in just as we were finishing; perfect timing. We will be taking a break over the winter from our hikes. Look for more Outdoor Adventures starting in March or April.

Cultural Adventures explored a wide variety of places this fall. In September we had lunch at the highly regarded **Mango House** in Aurora. This is a food-hall style restaurant with chefs cooking their country's signature dishes. Our participants explored several of the food stalls and would love a return visit. In October we attended a musical experience performed by

the **Baroque Chamber Orchestra**. Their Vivaldi Extravaganza was a musical delight! It exceeded all expectations. They are returning to St. Luke's on May 17 for a Bach concert and we will plan to attend again. In November we dined at **Surena Persian** restaurant on a recommendation from a congregation member (we love your suggestions!) We appreciate all the participation in our 2023 adventures and look forward to more experiences with you in 2024.



Brave Spaces continues our work for greater racial and social justice as we follow Dr. Jemar Tisby's model of the ARC of Racial Justice: Awareness, Relationships, and Commitment (to action). During October and November Brave Spaces offered a six-week video study "**How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice**" by Jemar Tisby. We gathered to continue our journey for racial justice and work toward our goals to be part of the solution. This experience was designed to offer practical ways to answer the question, "What do we do?" – as a church, as a community, as an individual. As we became deeply engaged in this conversation and experienced a greater sense of awareness and understanding, we left with many specific actions to take and goals to reach in our commitment to racial justice. On October 6, St. Luke's joined the screening of the documentary, **This Is [Not] Who We Are**, sponsored by the UMC Mountain Sky Conference's Racial Justice Movement and Ministries. The documentary was filmed in Boulder, "overwhelmingly white, wealthy, and conflicted about issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity." We observed powerful scenes in which students and residents of color are challenged, without cause, by armed white police officers. A 12-year-old girl spoke tearfully of her fear of police, based on what she sees/hears happening to people of color in the community. Following the movie, the Director/Producer Videographer, Katrina Miller, joined the virtual gathering for a Q&A about issues of racial equity and strategies for change.



Thank you for supporting our third annual *CSE Movie Night* Fundraiser. This event raises money to support the St. Luke's budget. Every year the theme, decorations and hospitality amaze our guests! This year's preshow entertainment included our very own barbershop quartet! And we enjoyed "A League of Their Own" and a baseball-themed evening, complete with ballpark franks and popcorn. Thank you to Sharon Oliver, Jennifer Smith and Michelle Lamoreaux for planning and organizing. We raised \$1,500 for St. Luke's.

More from Les: A Holiday Memory

Five foot-two inches tall, blue eyes, wavy red hair that over the years turned to auburn and then gray, Gladys was the "heartthrob" of many of the young men of this part of the county. And she liked to have fun.



Les Ludlam
Retired Clergy

But she had her eye out for just one young man living on a farm five miles to the west. To discourage other potential suitors in town, she could be a little intimidating with those who aspired to catch her fancy! The apple of her eye was James; but she hadn't told anyone just yet. Young James had been a classmate of hers and he too, had fancied her for some time but said nothing. But he had not risked expressing these feelings to her; for he knew conversation with Gladys could be a little overwhelming! He was afraid of being rejected. But little did he know that Gladys had an eye for him as well.

There was a Christmas dance coming up at the local grange hall and James decided that this was the time to ask Gladys to go with him. He was ready to start courting and Gladys was the "apple of his eye!" So, he decided to take that risk and ask Gladys to the dance. So one chilly afternoon, he summoned his courage, put on some clean clothes and saddled up the family Morgan mare, and rode the ten miles to Gladys' place.

Gladys' father, Clement, was tall and square jawed; he had a magnificent handlebar mustache and a great sense of humor. He knew this young man, James, and liked his manner. As the young neighbor rode up, Clement walked out on to the front porch to greet him. Gladys had seen James coming but strategically stayed in the kitchen at the back of the house until she knew for certain just what James' unexpected visit was about.

"Hello, James," said Clement, "what brings you over here today?" "Just came to visit," replied James as he dismounted and tied up the horse, "I'm of a mind to ask your daughter, Gladys, to the Christmas dance at the Grange." "No sense in askin' me!" snorted Clement, "You'd better be askin' Gladys herself if you are serious about comin' courtin'!"

And at that moment, right on cue, as if she had been listening all the time, Gladys burst upon the porch. "Oh, hello James, nice to see you; what are you here for?"

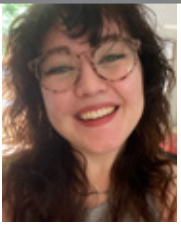
James, flustered a bit at her sudden entrance, stammered, "I, I... would like to ask you... to... ah..." Gladys finished his sentence, "Oh, I would be delighted to go with you to the Christmas dance!"

"Now, James, you will be driving your father's new buggy, won't you?" James swallowed hard and nodded without really realizing how quickly things were happening. His Father, Thomas, had just purchased a new buggy with side shades and steel mud fenders. But he had no idea if his father would let him borrow it; he hadn't even thought about the fact that Gladys might not want to ride her own horse to the dance.

It's amazing how powerful words can be! *Especially when used by Gladys!*

The new buggy was taken to the grange, the dance and holiday decorations were wonderful! The courtship blossomed and my grandparents-to-be, James and Gladys, were married in 1919. The story has been repeated at many family holiday celebrations for generations.

God bless us all, Les



Josey SeEVERS
Director of Youth Ministry
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Anna Fisher
Associate Director of Youth Ministry
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ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade Thankful!



We've had a ton to be thankful for this fall in youth ministry here at St. Luke's. I have felt so incredibly welcomed and supported in my first couple of months. I can't describe how grateful and impressed I am with how folks stepped up to make the pumpkin patch happen! THANK YOU to all who helped with shifts, unloading, making random sales when people showed up, dragging tarps around and more. We made our sales goal despite a snowy, yucky final weekend. Our youth also went to Chatfield Farms to conquer the corn maze with our SLY, Jr. friends and enjoyed outdoor spooky movie nights throughout October.



As we head into the holiday season, there will be lots of celebration. This next year we would love for your youth to join in on the fun. There is always youth gatherings on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm - Sundays are our more planned activities and Wednesdays are Homework & Hangs, where youth can do homework or play games or we may watch movies sometimes. There is also Sunday School at 9:30am on Sundays - though this may change at some point.



Check the website or bulletin board for up to date information. You can join our mailing list on the church website, and join us in the Band app (see QR code at right).

I am hoping for 2024 to get all the youth in our church family connected through the app so everyone is up-to-date. Another place to get updates is our instagram: @st.lukes.youth



Additional opportunities to look out for - Confirmation and Mission Trips! Look for information on confirmation at the new year and join us for our 2024 mission trips. High School will be going to Albuquerque NM with Be the Neighbor June 23-29 and we are planning our own local mission trip for middle schoolers in July (current 6th-7th graders).



Here for you, Josey

CSE: CREATION CARE CORNER



A More Sustainable Holiday

This is a seasonally-specific column based on actions everyday people can take to care for God's creation

by Nichole Rairigh Every Thanksgiving my mother invited over people from church or the neighborhood that didn't have anywhere else to celebrate. She listened to Jesus' call to invite people outside her inner circle. The leftovers were divvied up between all the guests. We ate Thanksgiving for at least another dinner and a lunch. There was no waste. My grandmother saved the ends of loaves of bread to let them go stale and made dressing.

Here are a few more ways to have a more sustainable holiday feast:

- Use your best dishes and fancy cloth napkins instead of paper products.
- Consider going meatless or incorporate only vegetarian or vegan sides.
- Shop your pantry first.
- Leave off dishes that no one eats anymore (*jello with cottage cheese, I am looking at you!*)
- Freeze vegetable scraps to make a stock later.
- Recycle glass and cans.

I challenge you to take one of these ideas or come up with your own to try this Holiday Season. Merry Christmas!

ST. LUKE'S LITTLE SCHOOL Happy Fall & Winter!



Kelly Amadeo
Director of Little School

Little School is in full swing, and we are excited to celebrate the harvest season and the season of lights! We focused on celebrating the English Settlers and Native Americans of the first Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month in November, and we have some great lessons and activities that our Little Schoolers participated in. Project Archaeology, The Smithsonian, and PBS, have some excellent resources to help teach children about the first Thanksgiving if you are looking for fun activities for the children in your own lives.

One of our favorite events each year is the Little School Halloween parade. The children paraded around the church and collected Halloween treats from the church staff. We followed that up with Halloween parties in each classroom.



We are pleased to offer many services to our students here at Little School. This fall we had speech and hearing screens provided by Suanne Ediger, Speech Pathologist. We had Lions Club Littleton doing vision screenings, and we have dental screenings coming up his year. We believe that early childhood education encompasses the whole child, and it is our job to help foster healthy children in all areas of child development.

We look forward to the Advent season and preparing for Christ's birth. Children will learn about the story of St. Nicholas and Jesus' birth during chapel time in November and December. Our students will participate in pancake breakfasts, made by Barry Curtis our facilities manager here at the church. They will get a special visit from Santa, they will put their shoes under the trees to see if St. Nicholas leaves them treats for St. Nicholas Day, they will shop for loved ones at the annual holiday shop Dec. 13-15 run by Ms. Sam from the church, and of course they will practice and perform during our most popular event of the year, our Christmas singing concert! We have almost 800 people come see our Christmas Program!

We cannot wait for all of these joyous events. Our children here at Little School bring us great happiness especially during the holiday season. No matter what holidays you observe during this season of light, we want to wish you a merry season.

If you know a child looking for preschool for the 2024-2025 school year, we open registration to current families on January 9th and new families on January 16th. Check out our website in mid-December for more info.

Grace and Love, Kelly



St. Luke's Feeding of the 5000 Community Food Drive was in Full Swing again this Year - Oct. 6-8

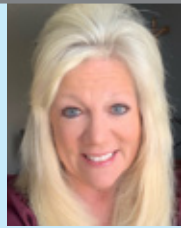
With seven King Soopers stores participating on Friday and Saturday, and drop-offs continuing at St. Luke's on Sunday, our community exceeded last year's mark, donating nearly 12,222 pounds of food valued at over \$24,000 dollars, as well as cash donations of about \$8,340. The Feeding of the 5K race raised an additional \$1,619 totaling an incredible total of almost \$10,000 dollars for the Food Exchange Resource Network (FERN)! FERN is a food resource collaborative that serves an estimated 1000 families each week. Feeding of the 5000 has a long history at St. Luke's, and is a premier food drive in the South Metro area. Each year sees dozens of committed volunteers working hard all weekend to alleviate food insecurity. We are grateful to everyone from St. Luke's who donated their time to volunteer at store fronts, drive the pick-up vehicles, sort, and pack the donations at St. Luke's, and deliver them to FERN. And of course, we're grateful to everyone who contributed food and cash! This year a very special thank you goes out to the Merchant and Antinoro families for offering our walkers and runners a delicious pancake breakfast after the 5K race. Caroline worked incredibly hard to make breakfast a zero waste event and we are truly grateful for all her hard work. AND big thanks to Mike and AJ Preble and team for organizing the whole event!



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
Dir. of Children's Ministry & Comm. Creative Director
sharon@stlukeshr.com



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community & Early Childhood Ministry
samm@stlukeshr.com

Children's Ministry: Discovering Wonder this FALL!

We kicked the year off with an awesome **Church Picnic** with fun, games and food! **Sunday School** is going great on Sunday mornings as we continue to dive into Bible stories, sharing our joys and concerns, praying together and finding God's love and presence in our own lives. We are discovering the wonder in every story and ways to share God's love with others. In early September we presented **gift Bibles** to 14 3rd graders. We followed that up with a 3-week **Bible Study** and had so much fun learning about this amazing book. Fall discoveries are what **Wacky Fall Break Days** were all about! Whether meeting new friends or uncovering a hidden talent, this program gives our preschool children special aha moments that prove the power of learning. Special thanks to Ms. Nancy and Mr. Brock for supporting this educational program to keep the children's skills sharp, friendships strong, and bodies moving. We did not let cold and snowy weather deter our annual **Fall Festival** at the end of October. We brought the event INSIDE and had so much fun with our first ever reptile room and 'trick or treat' tables contest and had over 250 people attend and enjoy the festivities. Thanks to all who helped with crafts, games, balloon animals, food, and more! We moved into Advent with an **Advent Devotion Night** and a joyful **Recital & Tree Lighting Service and Christmas Pageant** with our special star wands (see photos on page 1). **Welcome Advent!**



Watch for our annual Holiday Shop Dec. 16 9:00am-Noon and Candy Cane Sunday on Dec. 17!



SLY, Jr.! Our 5th & 6th grade group has been busy! First we played games and made lunches for those in need and then helped with Feeding of the 5000 and spent an afternoon helping the Pumpkin Patch. We went to the Corn Maze at Chatfield and then spent an afternoon making Thanksgiving Meal boxes for Food For All and had a fun 'Friends'giving meal with SLY. Thanks to St. Luke's and Little School for all of the food donations of corn, jello and gravy and grocery gift cards for the meal boxes! We are looking forward to a fun Christmas Party and then meaningful opportunities to create community in 2024. Our schedule is on the St. Luke's website. Contact Ms. Sharon with any questions.





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.*



Cassy Meier
 Communications and
 Office Administrator
office@stlukeshr.com

Flowers are Celebrations of Life!

The Altar Team invites you to help decorate our altar each Sunday by Celebrating Your Life, Your Family, and Your Friends. The two bouquets, \$40 for both, may be taken home after the last service. Vases may be returned later and placed at the sink area of the Narthex. Contact the office to place an order or answer any questions. There are open Sundays in the new year. The 2024 calendar is now available online!



CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS: Latest Entries

Contact Rev. Liza if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x107, email Liza@stlukeshr.com, or leave a note at the front desk.

<i>Linda Anderson,</i>	<i>Sophia Jimenez,</i>	<i>Jeanne Ransick,</i>
<i>Elizabeth Bauer,</i>	<i>Ann Kershner,</i>	<i>Bodie Shoffeitt,</i>
<i>Shyane Bell,</i>	<i>Mary Keyack,</i>	<i>Nancy Springman,</i>
<i>Dale Chavers,</i>	<i>Lennon Krantz,</i>	<i>Diana Stephens,</i>
<i>Dick Dunham,</i>	<i>Betty Lubben,</i>	<i>Amy Weiske</i>
<i>Bev Furns,</i>	<i>Bob Miller,</i>	



WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER & OFFER

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Parents Kim and Kyle Vines on the birth of baby boy Koda
Parents Sarah and Sean Kauffmann and grandparents Martha and Rich Boon on the birth of baby Gracelyn
Liz and Cody Spangler on the birth of their baby boy, Wesley River

Grandparents James and Marilyn Bacon and parents Matthew Bacon and Kelsy Wheeler on the birth of baby girl Bacon

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

Connie Shoemaker and family on the passing of Floyd Shoemaker
Brian and Terri Ary on the passing of Brian's sister, Shonda Ursua
Tom Weddel's son the passing of his stepmother, Evie Weddel
Michelle Garrison and family on the passing of Michelle's Grandmother, Velma Garrison
Linda Walker and family on the passing of her father, Wayne "Jack" Falk



Poinsettias \$25

Please help us decorate the Altar for the Christmas season. Poinsettias may be ordered online, by contacting Cassy in the office, and by ordering at a table in the Narthex on either December 3 or December 10. The poinsettias can be In Honor Of, In Memory Of, or In Celebration Of. Names will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 17. You may take your poinsettia home after the last service on Christmas Eve. Or you may donate your poinsettia where it will be taken to a hospice center and nursing home for others to enjoy.