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<i>and much more!</i>	

Have You Had This Discussion?

Many people have not discussed their end of life wishes with loved ones. Maybe they think they are too young or maybe it is just a difficult topic to think about. As hospital chaplains we see people of all ages who are injured and unable to express their wishes. When this happens the family is forced at the worst possible time to make these decisions.

FREE workshop with Bev Goodier, Littleton Adventist Hospital Chaplain

Legal forms for your end of life wishes

Information and help to complete these forms

**Sunday, May 3
10:45am-12:00pm**

Room 213

St. Luke's UMC

Please email Bev with questions or to register:
Bev@LifeSupportSystem.com

St. Luke's Celebrates the 20th Anniversary of our Little School



Congratulations, St. Luke's Little School! This year, our preschool celebrates twenty years of service to St. Luke's and the community. On Sunday, April 19, we will honor our director, Kay Swanson, and teachers for their commitment and passion for the care and education of our youngest learners and leaders!

April 12-18 is The Week of the Young Child, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 80,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early

cont. on page 2

He Is Risen! A Joyous Easter at St. Luke's



From Palm Sunday and Easter Fun Day through Holy Week and Easter, our senses were in high gear. Palm waving, cross folding and parades filled Palm Sunday morning with celebration and anticipation of the week to come. Easter Fun Day, on a Sunday this year, brought the sounds of giggles as children held baby bunnies for the first time, licked cotton candy off their fingers and felt the dizzying abandon of jumping in the bouncy castle. What a wonderful day we had to kick off such a meaningful week. We felt the cool water as we humbly and lovingly washed each others hands on Maundy Thursday and tasted

the elements of communion in remembrance of the last supper. We soaked in the poignant sounds of Jesus' final moments through Rutter's *Requiem* on Good Friday and embraced the darkness as the candles were extinguished and the altar stripped. We heard the pounding of rocks as the cross was fitted in the ground and for a moment we were transported to Calvary. On Easter morning, the fragrance of lilies filled the air and our ears were delighted with the sounds of bells ringing out and voices singing the triumphant "How Great Thou Art", we felt the velvety down of newborn chicks, and we watched in awe the miracle of flowers blooming and heard the message of openness to new life. He is Risen! New life is all around us and it beckons us to live life to the fullest. **Indeed!**



Sunday Worship Services:

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am,
Contemplative Service
(Check website for dates & times)

Sunday School:

Adult, Youth & Children:
9:30am & 11:00am

Nursery available for:

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

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

Fax.....303-470-5615

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

Preschool Office.....303-791-1982

**Staff:**

Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes.....x13
Senior Minister Emergency: 303-241-9312

Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x32
Associate Minister Emergency: 303-475-0141

Rev. Ryan Canaday.....x12
Associate Minister Emergency: 303-944-5061

Rev. Pat Shaffer.....720-988-5430
Visitation Pastor

Rev. Sarah Merchant.....Pastoral Intern
Sharon Oliver.....x27
Director of Children's Ministry

Samantha Leahy.....x40
Director of Early Childhood Ministry

Stephanie Kirk.....x11
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Dave Laurvick.....x14
Director of Youth Ministry

Amy McMullen.....x19
Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

Kay Swanson.....303-791-1982
Director of Little School

Dr. James Ramsey.....x23
Director of Music & Arts Ministries

Kenrick Mervine.....x33
Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist

Jennifer Ferguson.....x37
Associate Director of Music Ministry

Kay Coryell.....x36
Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry

Brenda Schafer.....x10
Office Administrator

Sheri Henry.....x24
Director of Finance

Kristi Pawley.....x16
Accounting Clerk

Lynda Fickling.....x20
Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director

Barry Curtis.....x39
Facilities Manager

**All submissions for the
May 2015 issue
of The Chronicle are due May 1
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com**

The Chronicle is published 10 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. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

cont. from page 1 childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing. At St. Luke's, we recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibility. We commit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment—at home, at church, at child care, at school, and in the community—that will promote their early learning.

On Sunday, April 19, we invite all alums of Little School to join us for the celebration with recognition and ice cream! Revs. Sallie, Ryan, and Janet, along with Staff Parish Relations leader, Laura Fry, are thanking our Little School staff with a Cold Stone Creamery celebration ice cream mixing! Thank you, St. Luke's Little School! Winner for three years in a row of the Macaroni Kids BEST PRESCHOOL award! Thank you for the ways you care for all of us... but loving and leading our youngest.

Don't miss MEDIUM MADNESS, the creative St. Luke's Little School Art Show, on Thursday, April 23, from 5:00 to 7:30pm.

Blessings, Rev. Janet

Fearless Conversations

by Rev. Sarah Merchant

Conflict, debate, and disagreement throw many people into a tizzy out of fear or intense feelings. In most situations such reactions come from a simple fact- people have not practiced the skills necessary to engage in topics that hold a spectrum of opinions and wide range of emotions. However, practice and experience can give people confidence to engage with these subjects.

The hope of the Gospel goes beyond comfort in possible conflict and invites us to healthy dialog so we can and will continue to gather at the table of the resurrected Christ. Coming back to the table speaks to the possibility of disagreeing and still respecting. Returning to the table reminds us of our commonalities of hopes, fears, needs, and blessings. Engaging at the table creates a space of sharing at the deepest level through listening, affirming, and holding each other in the light.

Fearless conversations are crucial to the well being of any community for in our diversity we experience the Kingdom of God. The timing of fearless conversations also seems pertinent to current cultural situations and in light of the upcoming UM General Conference and presidential election of 2016. Church can be a safe place to model such conversations, to engage with tough issues, and to practice preparing and living into the sacred space of a shared table with friends and enemies.

Let's talk together beginning April 12 through St. Luke's worship series: Fearless Conversations.



The Common Table: Food for Thought on Fearless Conversations

In the weeks ahead, as we engage in our worship series on Fearless Conversations, we will also offer an informal opportunity for deeper dialogue with one another. All are welcome!

4/12: Gather together...

Let's talk about being a community

4/19: **Ask questions...** Let's talk about Judaism, Islam, and Christianity

4/26: Hear stories...

Let's talk about Immigration

5/3: **Find ourselves...** Let's talk about Sexual Orientation and Hospitality

5/10: Hold tension...

Let's talk about Science & Religion

5/17: Mirror back...

Let's talk about Capital Punishment

5/24: **Respond...** Let's talk about Ecology and the Earth



Rev. Ryan Canaday
Associate Minister

Going, Going, GONE!

As many of you know, I will be traveling with a team of people (some from St. Luke's, others scattered around the country) to Rusinga Island - Kenya,

Africa from May 21-30. This trip is organized through a non-profit organization, Project Humanity. Their mission is to identify and develop sustainable projects that emphasize women's empowerment, with a focus on health care, literacy, and micro-financing. You can check them out at projecthumanity.com. Darren Tipton is the Founder & CEO and he has become a good friend of mine. His work with PH is motivated by his deep Christian faith. His faith is inspiring! Hanging around this guy has caused me to be more aware of the ways in which God is moving ALL AROUND THE WORLD!

Darren heard about what we were doing with Storyline at St. Luke's, and he caught wind of our Fall worship series "Story: The Deepest Things We Know." He had a vision of a team of people sharing some of these concepts with the pastors and people of Rusinga Island, where they have established meaningful, long term relationships. So... we will be on an island of 20,000 impoverished people, working with local churches to share the Storyline concepts. As you may know, it is my deepest passion to join others in living better, more meaningful stories! My life theme is simple: **"To help others find God and beauty in their mess and brokenness."** In addition, we will be working in schools, furthering the work of women's empowerment & literacy programs, as well as helping to establish drug/alcohol abuse support groups. This is going to be intense... and beautiful! I'm even told that at any moment we could be called to the local clinic in Rusinga to help deliver a baby. Wow! Scary and sacred! I am expecting God to move in some incredible ways: in me, in the team, and in and through the people of Rusinga. To be honest, I'm a bit fearful about the unknown and I'm also really excited to be a part of this project. Fear and excitement so often walk side-by-side, don't they? I hope you will be praying for our team while we travel. May our eyes be opened, may we become more aware of the God of life who is moving and breathing all around us and ALL AROUND THE WORLD!

I want to invite you to a fundraiser that Tami and I will be hosting in our home, two weeks from today. "GOING, GOING, GONE" will be a service auction fundraiser with wine & dessert. April 24, Friday, 6:30-8:30pm. Some fun and great services will be auctioned off. I hope you can join us! Our address is: 10524 Hyacinth Pl, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129. If you would like to contribute financially, but are unable to make the fundraiser, you can mail a check to the address above made out to Project Humanity.

If you plan on coming to the fundraiser, please send me an email at ryan@stlukeshr.com to let me know. Thank you so much for being a part of this crazy, wild, meaningful, adventurous story!?

Grace & Peace, Rev. Ryan



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Associate Minister

Wholehearted Living

Over the past two years, I have continued to have a deep interest in the concept of wholehearted living as researched and described so beautifully by author Brené Brown in her book "The Gifts of Imperfection". I have been especially grateful in these past weeks to have many people join in the discussion that Julie Polikoff and I have been facilitating. Apparently the concept of wholehearted living resonates with others, too!

Our conversations have been transparent, honest and illuminating. Brown states that wholehearted living

"is about engaging in our lives from a place of worthiness. It means cultivating the courage, compassion and connection to wake up in the morning and think, no matter what gets done and how much is left undone, I am enough...yes, I am imperfect and vulnerable and sometimes afraid, but that doesn't change the truth that I am also brave and worthy of love and belonging" (Brown, 2010, p. 1).

In our culture of extremely high expectations for achievement and success, the idea of "being enough" feels like a breath of fresh air. To me, it feels like grace; the very core of faith and spirituality. The gift that God freely gives us.

Several of us who are engaged in conversation about wholehearted living have been fascinated by a profound question that Brown raises; "What's the greater risk? Letting go of what people think or letting go of how I feel, what I believe, and who I am?" (p. 125). The risk of losing ourselves is perhaps much more dangerous than the risk of letting people fully see who we are; our stories matter because we matter.

Together, we're learning that fully embracing wholehearted living and "being enough" is a process and a practice. And, it is nurtured in relationships of trust with people who have earned the right to hear our stories. Some of the practices of wholehearted living that we have been working to understand and hoping to put into practice are:

Authenticity – Letting go of what people think

Self-Compassion – Letting go of perfectionism

Resilient Spirit – Letting go of powerlessness

Gratitude and Joy – Letting go of scarcity and fear

Intuition and Trusting Faith – Letting go of the need for certainty

Creativity – Letting go of comparison

Play and Rest – Letting go of exhaustion as a status symbol and productivity as self-worth

Calm and Stillness – Letting go of anxiety as a lifestyle

Meaningful Work – Letting go of "self-doubt and supposed to"

Laughter, Song and Dance – Letting go of being cool and "always in control"

In the months ahead, we hope to facilitate many more conversations through the Center for Spiritual Engagement. We would love to have you join us!

Rev. Sallie Suby-Long



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry/
Spiritual Director

Get CONNECTED Where is God Calling Me?

Are you wondering... Where is God calling me? Where do I fit in? How

do I best use my time?

You will hear us talk a lot about serving and your own unique Spiritual



Gifts. As Christians, we are called people. God asks each one of us to continue the work that Jesus started and be his hands and feet in our world. We are co-creators and responsible to one another.

To begin, you might enjoy taking our Spiritual Gifts assessment at our site <http://stlukeshr.com/SpiritualGifts/>. This assessment will guide you to the places God has created you to be connected to. Then explore, experiment and never stop moving to deepen your spiritual journey through living the teachings of Jesus.

I'd love to chat with you about your gifts and help guide you along the way. And in the summer on Sunday mornings, Renae Parra and I will be offering an 8-week course "Servant by Design" that will affirm who you are, who you are created to be and how to best serve others with this discovery.

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

The Gathering April 19 at Rev. Sallie's

Whether you are new to St. Luke's or have been connected for a while now, we invite you to be our guest(s) on Sunday, April 19 from 12:30-2:30pm at the home of Rev. Sallie and Tom Suby-Long. We enjoy food and table conversation with new friends and leadership of St. Luke's. RSVP to Lynda Fickling Lynda@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659 x20! *Childcare will be provided with reservation to sam@stlukeshr.com 48 hrs in advance, please! All are Welcome! "They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together." Acts 2:42-47 (CEV)



Guatemala Musings from our Spring Mission Trip

by Rev. Sarah Merchant

The voices and faces of Guatemala hold fast in our memories as we return to everyday life in America. St. Luke's has been participating with Pura Vida in Guatemala since 2005 and this year's trip included the beginning construction efforts on two homes in Lemoa, visits with sponsor students, a fun-filled morning of VBS at the old "Cornstalk School," inspiring conversations with Sister Helen and Sister Connie who serve the community of Lemoa, shopping in the market, and daily devotions. While the group experiences most activities together, each person has a unique perspective so here are reflections from a few of the 23 travelers on the March Guatemala Mission.

Thoughts from Row Helman: Yesterday I met with my student as well as my friend's, Craig Bartel, student. Such a wonderful and enriching experience! Claudia brought her duck family, including Lucas (named after St. Luke's) and it was so entertaining! These are her pets, so not feasting on them! Claudia loves school, 7th grade, and wants to be a nurse someday. The family is so sweet-the time is way too short to catch up for her family.

Hope seen by Jeff Seefeldt: My third trip to Guatemala and I'm loving being here as part of the St Luke's family. My other trips were with Habitat and although we'll always be friends I'll likely never see any of them again. It's so rewarding to know these six loving and lovely children will have a safer and healthier home because of our efforts.

Encouragement shared by Cindy Robinson: It's great to be part of such a wonderful team. Everyone works together so well, helps each other and is a team. Everyone does the job they feel comfortable with and somehow it all comes together.

The children are the best!
Their enthusiasm is contagious!

Reflections from Edee Worth:
You'd think after seven years that everything would be old hat, but it isn't. New team members... new jobs... new attitudes make the old new again! I love you all and think the whole team is better because of you!

I loved the worksite up the hill and enjoyed the opening where Grandma Irma cried and we all comforted her. Her daughter Emma and granddaughter Irma were wonderful and so thankful for this gift of a house.

The highlight of this day and trip

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cont. from page 4

was seeing Yakeline (Jaqueline), my sponsored student and her brother Bryan (my daughter's family sponsored student). I love them both sooooo much and hope I can sponsor mine all the way through college. She is so "smart" and loving.

I love the connections with the community that our team makes... from our wonderful interpreters (Jose and Anna) to "Nacho" our amazing bus driver, and all the construction workers (Marco and Manuel, Elisio and Henderson, many who have been good friend for years! We are all so blessed for their patience and helpfulness!

Musings from Sarah Merchant:

We learned a lot from this trip: what it looks like to come back to a place we've seen over and over and intentionally reconnect with friends and recommit in solidarity; what the new challenges and encouragements are in a small community like Lemoa that only has school opportunities up to 6th grade but has enrolled a record number of three 1st classes this year; how commitment to sponsor students actually works and helps; how we can be pushed into new areas of risk for the benefit of growth and new discoveries; and how we share the joy of mission with friends. In many respects I saw the people of St. Luke's living from an attitude of mission that informs and transforms their lifestyles. This seems like the sweetest gift of any mission, local or global, and an enriching way to live the "everydays" no matter where.



Our Mission: To promote healing and wholeness by creating opportunities for authentic connection, and by providing experiences that inspire and transform.

Please visit our new website www.stlukesce.org to learn about upcoming opportunities and explore our photo gallery.

The Center for Spiritual Engagement would like to extend a heartfelt THANKYOU to the St. Luke's community for your support of, and presence at, the four *Les Mis* performances. It was such a remarkable and moving show! The Center for Spiritual Engagement is so honored and grateful to be recipients of proceeds from *Les Mis*! Our programs and ministry will flourish as a result of your financial support, and you can be assured we will uphold our values of Connection, Inspiration and Transformation, while being good stewards of this donation.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE MINISTRY:

- **March 21** was a beautiful, sunny early spring morning, and our planned snowshoeing adventure at Flying J Ranch turned into a hike in the warming weather. Our guide, Julie Polikoff, invited us to look for signs of the earth awakening to spring and to consider those same signs within ourselves. As we hiked, we found budding new life among the trees and streams bubbling free of crusty, crumbling ice. We smelled pine scent warmed by the sun and listened to returning birdsong. Over hot chocolate and muffins we talked about how a day in nature, like this one, encourages us to leave schedules behind, to connect with one another and with our world, and to be wholeheartedly ourselves.
- **Saturday, April 11** we hiked the **South Rim Trail** at Roxborough State Park, just 30 minutes from St. Luke's. On this beautiful spring day we hiked up through the rocky Dakota Hogback for views of the majestic Fountain and Lyons formations to the north. Warm spring weather had coaxed out many early wildflowers. We considered "connections"... with each other, with this beautiful place, and with our deeper spiritual selves.
- **Save these Dates** for future Outdoor Adventures!
More information to follow in the St. Luke's Bulletin and on our website:
 - May 30 - Birding at Aiken Canyon
 - June 20 - Native American archaeology hike at South Valley Park



CLASSES AND EXPERIENCES:

- Rev. Sallie Suby-Long and Julie Polikoff led a short-term book discussion (March-April) of Brené Brown's **The Gifts of Imperfection**. This excellent guide to a life journey of courage, compassion, and connection helped us to have deeper conversations about authenticity, worthiness, and the power of wholehearted living.
- **Coming Saturday, May 2, World Labyrinth Day.** Meet at 12:30pm at St. Luke's labyrinth. Learn more about the role of labyrinths in spiritual practice, and walk the labyrinth with us. Contact jenita@pcisys.net.

SPIRITUALITY AND WELLNESS SPEAKER SERIES:

- **Save the Date: Tuesday, September 15.** Engaging the Spirituality of Children and Teens: Perspectives from a Pastor and a Psychiatrist, facilitated by Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley, Founder of First Steps Spirituality and Dr. Fred Michel, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist.

FIRST STEPS SPIRITUALITY:

- We are delighted to announce that Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley will be returning for a full-day of **Holy Listening training on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.** (For more information, contact sam@stlukeshr.com. First Steps continues to offer Holy Listener support to children experiencing loss, grief, or difficult times during most Sunday School hours (9:30-10:30am). Contact sharonoliver@stlukeshr.com.



Woof! Woof! Meow! Jake, Max, and Shea here to bring you up to speed on what we are sniffing out for children at St. Luke's.

EASTER FUN DAY!!

Easter Fun Day was held on Palm Sunday for the first time and was a HUGE success. It was a beautiful weather day and families came out in droves! Kids played games, got tattoos and their fingernails painted, dyed Easter eggs, held baby bunnies, got a balloon animal made just for them, ate cotton candy and popcorn and hotdogs and bounced in the bouncy castle. They were able to make crafts, go on an Easter egg hunt, hug the Easter bunny and also get their face painted. It was a wonderful afternoon!



Serve in Sunday School—Check out our Online Servant Sign Up & Schedule!

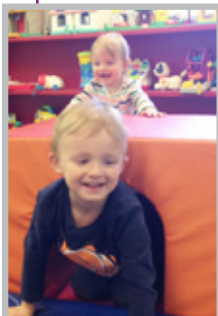
Thanks to all who have gone online www.stlukeshr.com/children to sign up. It's fast, easy and a great way to double check when you serve. Come serve with us - one Sunday or lots! **WE NEED YOU!** Come and share your gifts with our children. **Summer Schedule now available ONLINE!**

Mark your calendars:

Apr. 12 (SUN) - 9:30am **SUNDAY SCHOOL: PEAK (K-5th)** begins 5-week lesson: "Peacemakers"
 Apr. 12 (SUN) - 9:30am **SUNDAY SCHOOL: Joy Trek (PreK)** 3-wk lesson: "Queen Esther"
 Apr. 20 (MON) - noon **VBS Registration OPENS**
 May 1 (FRI) - 9:00am **PLAYGROUP**
 May 1 (FRI) - **CHILDREN'S DINNER THEATER**
 Dinner 6:00pm, Show 7:00pm
 May 3 (SUN) - 9:30am **SUNDAY SCHOOL: Joy Trek (PreK)** 3-wk lesson: "Lost Sheep/Lost Coin"
 May 3 (SUN) - 5:30-8:00pm **SLY, Jr.** - Progressive Dinner
 May 12 (TUES) - 6:30pm **Children's Ministry Team**
 May 15 (FRI) - 9:00am **PLAYGROUP**
 May 15 (FRI) - 6:45pm **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**
 May 17 (SUN) - 5:30-7:30pm **SLY, Jr.** - Year End Party!
 May 24 (SUN) - **No Sunday School**, Enjoy Family Worship, 6th grade moves up to SLY
 May 31 (SUN) - 9:30am **SUNDAY SCHOOL: Joy Trek (PreK) & PEAK** 5-wk VBS Lessons Begin Blessings to you!

Our Nursery

offers a nurturing environment for your child's social and spiritual development. On a Sunday morning children enjoy praise music, and experience images and colorful animation that actively engage their spirit and mind. Seeds of faith are often planted in the Church Nursery. We want the children in our care to learn of God's love while playing with other children and to

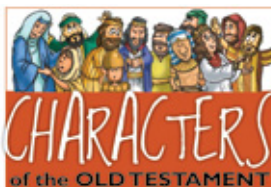


step. —Samantha Leahy

have their very own sacred space within St. Luke's.

Our Nursery staff provides a safe and caring place for your child's faith to grow where they will encounter praises and smiles at every sprouting

Wacky Wednesdays



Open to all children age 2 1/2 years through entering 3rd grade!
 (Must be potty-trained to attend.)

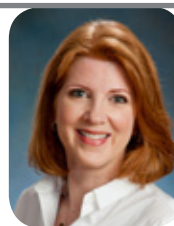
TIME: 9:30am-noon

WEDNESDAYS:

June 3, 10, 17, July 8, 15, 22

Registration is \$20 per day per child. If you have any questions regarding registration contact: Tami Clement at tami@stlukeshr.com

Registration forms available NOW on the website and at the church.



Sharon Oliver
 Director of
 Children's Ministry



Samantha Leahy
 Director of Early
 Childhood Ministry



Stephanie Kirk
 Children's Ministry
 Coordinator

St. Luke's Kids
 Growing with God



Vacation Bible School

VBS Morning session:

June 22-26
 9:15am-12:15pm

VBS Evening session:

July 7-9
 5:45-8:00pm

Online Registration begins April 20 at 12:00noon

www.stlukeshr.com

Sign up for either session.

\$40 per session.

For all kids age 3 (by 9/30/14) through entering 5th grade.

Adults: Volunteer to help all days of either session and get one free registration!

Lunch offered for all morning volunteers on the day they

Family Movie Night

Friday May 15 at 6:45pm

"Paddington"



Put on your pjs, bring pillows, and come see this fun film about a loveable bear looking for a home with your St. Luke's family. Popcorn provided! Rated PG.

Children's Dinner Theater

Friday May 1

Dinner 6:00pm, Show 7:00pm

St. Luke's Kids 1st-6th grade tell the musical tale of comic book villains and superheroes come to life and the one character who can save the day!

Enjoy food and fun! Free-will donation.

Proceeds benefit our Guatemala outreach.





Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

Amazing April

As we look at the calendar we are all in disbelief that it is April! It seems like we just had our Christmas program and celebrated the birth of baby Jesus. We have had a restful spring break and have experienced Holy Week and celebrated Easter with the children! Time certainly flies!

We had such fun in March with Rev. Janet joining us for chapel time and each class received seeds to plant in their classroom. We talked about new life and planting seeds and that God takes care of us all the time. This month Rev. Ryan will be joining us and we will be very excited to see what he pulls out of our story box.

Our fabulous **CREATIVE CRITTER'S ANNUAL ART SHOW** will celebrate its

20th year on April 23 from 5:00 to 7:30pm. This year's theme will be **MEDIUM MADNESS** and each room will showcase a different type of art medium. Clay, paper, bead, architecture, recycled art and much more! I hope that you will take

time out of your busy schedule to experience this AMAZING event! Please start at the north door of the church (lower level) and proceed through the show ending at the south side of the church. The children are so very proud of their creative artwork and we would love to share it with all of you!

Little School has once again been recognized as the BEST Preschool in Douglas County, for the third year in a row!

Macaroni Kid announced the 2015 winners and we are very honored to once again be given this award by our surrounding community. We are blessed to have the support of our wonderful church and our families. This indeed is a grand celebration for our 20th year of Little School.

Enrollment for Little School is limited, but we will be happy to talk with any prospective families. Please email Kay@stlukeshr.com or call 303-791-1982 for information.

Be sure to check out our website (stlukeslittleschool.org) or our Facebook page, for information concerning our summer fun! Always something happening at Little School.

Spring Blessings from Ms. Kay and Staff

"Children go where there is excitement and stay where there is love."



United Methodist Women



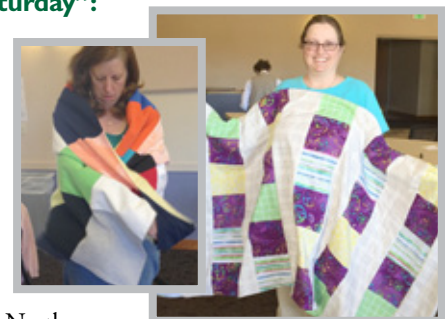
An ALOHA Greeting: A Taste of Hawaii

Songs from the Islands and Fashions with Island Flair. You are invited to our "Hawaiian Tea and Style Show", Sunday, April 19, 2:00-4:00pm Tickets on sale at the Get Connected Center - \$10 (Adults), \$5 (12 and under.) Our Mission: Denver Children's Home.

Thank You Rev. Sarah for a truly Blessed Spiritual Day Apart. "Blessings" were in abundance as Rev. Sarah Merchant spoke about "Blessings for the Cherished". She shared this through Music, Scripture, Art, Simple Drawings, Poetry, Writing Blessings, and a Nature stroll. **"You are Blessed to be a Blessing. You are enough from what you come with - and that is a Blessing"** - Genesis 12.

Itch to Stitch "Spiritual Sewing Saturday":

Itch to Stitch hosted a Sew Spiritual Saturday event in March. Our service project was quilted summer wrap/mats to give to the Monday in the Park homeless ministry. We shared breakfast and lunch with lots of fellowship and sewing in between. Please join us on Sat. May 9 or Sat. June 13 to continue this ministry. Pick up a "Quilt Top Kit" from the Itch to Stitch Care Basket in the Narthex. For more information call Fran West 303-797-7107.



Urban Peak Lunch: May 14, Mission to provide Lunch for 40 teens. UMW Book Club have volunteered to bring the food items requested by Urban Peak. However, we need your assistance also. To sign up and donate to this most needed mission, please contact renaeparra@aol.com

Interest Groups of United Methodist Women at St. Luke's:

Women are welcome to attend an Interest Group of UMW anytime during the year!

Women's Night Out - Food, Friendship, Fun. First Mondays, 6:30pm - Contact Elaine Carlstrom ecarlstrom@comcast.net or Jean Dunn jd-teacher@hotmail.com

• May 4 - Parry's Pizza (5970 S. Holly St., Greenwood Village) - last outing until Sept.

Common Thread - Friendship, Fellowship, Caring, Sharing. First Thursday of each month, 10:00am. Meets at the church. Contact: Caroline Butler carolinebutler@q.com or 303-797-3225

Women's Monday Night Bible Study - Will resume studies of the third series in September. Contact Sharon Smith sewssmith@aol.com

Itch to Stitch - Mission - Crochet, Knit, Sew. Meets in church basement. All skill levels welcome! Contact: Fran West 303-797-7107 or mfranwest@gmail.com

Book Group - Fiction/Non-fiction/Informative/Fun. Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm (6:15pm potluck) Renaeparra@aol.com for info.

• April 27 "The Traitor's Wife" by Allison Pataki
• May 18 (Note: 3rd Monday) "The Kitchen House" by Kathleen Grissom

Save the Dates:

• Sunday, April 19 ~ 2:00-4:00pm ~ UMW Spring Tea and Fashion Show
• April 24-25 ~ UMW District Spiritual Life Retreat, Estes Park, Co.
• May 14 ~ Lunch for Urban Peak - contact renaeparra@aol.com

For further info please contact: Sharon Smith - sewssmith@aol.com



"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Seasoned Voyagers Update



APRIL

Tree Planting

Voyage on April 23 A 55+ MINISTRY
at 1:00pm at Cougar Run Park in Highlands Ranch.

MAY

Red Rocks tour and lunch, then
Dinosaur Ridge tour and museum
May 14, 2015
9:45am-2:45pm

Email blasts to all Seasoned Voyagers with more details will be sent to all those subscribing to our email list.

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

Highlighting Mission Opportunities:

For more about missions supported by St. Luke's, contact
Scott Hetherington 484-883-0778 scott.g.hetherington@gmail.com



Are you interested in sponsoring a student to attend school in Guatemala?

Due to difficult financial situations, many children in rural Guatemala are not able to attend school beyond second grade because their families need them to begin working to help the family. Visit Pura Vida's website www.puravida.org

and see which children are still waiting to find a sponsor to help them continue their education. As part of the program, you can write letters to the student and even visit with them if you go on one of our mission trips!

Only a few spaces remain for the Guatemala English Camp

Trip dates are 6/20/15- 6/28/15. No teaching experience or Spanish language abilities required... just a love of kids and a desire to work with the Guatemalan people! Information and applications are available at www.puravida.org Registrations are due by 4/19. Contact Laura with any questions at laura@puravida.org

Trustees Corner: Spring has Sprung!

Our Trustees team hosted the 1st Service Saturday of 2015 on April 4th. We are so very thankful for all of the volunteers who came out to help us get ready for Easter services! Volunteers included members of the Trustees, Staff, Scouts (including their leader), the altar team, and our families. We completed typical spring cleaning – maintenance and cleaning of overhead light fixtures, wiping down extensive



woodwork and doors, and cleaning windows. We worked on organization and re-thinking storage in many key areas. Outside we cleaned up landscaping and mowed the front lawn.

But wait, there's more! **Our next Service Saturday is scheduled for Saturday, May 9 from 8:00am-12noon.** We'll be focused on refreshing our outdoor spaces, and can really use your help. Please mark your calendars now and bring friends and family to join us. We are pleased to sign student's community services forms, too! There's a Place for You All Here!

UMCOR Depot Mission Trip, Salt Lake City - July 19-25

We have a small number of openings left on our UMCOR Depot Mission Trip team going to Salt Lake City July 19-25 (first come first served). We will be processing relief supplies at one of the two major warehouses maintained by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. These relief supplies, which are shipped all over the world, include health kits, school kits, baby layettes, and clean birthing kits. This is a great opportunity to learn about the work of UMCOR. In addition, we will be learning a great deal about the Mormons: we will volunteer for 1/2 day at Mormon Welfare Square, visit Temple Square, hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearse and participate in the annual Pioneer Day State holiday. We will be staying at the Episcopal Center, a very comfortable and inexpensive place. For more information or to sign up, please contact Betsy Keyack, bkeyack@att.net, 303-346-7057.



Gratitude and Respect: Honoring the Flag of the United States

In its Open Forum back in October, the Executive Team of St. Luke's hosted conversations about the use and care of the flag of the United States in the community life of St. Luke's. The following policy was unanimously affirmed:

- The flag of the United States is displayed at all times in the central gathering space of St. Luke's, the Narthex. With a sense of deep gratitude, the flag is placed in our PUBLIC SPACE to make a PUBLIC STATEMENT that we are FREE TO WORSHIP in this holy place and ALL ARE WELCOME.
- The Flag will be displayed in the sanctuary on the Sundays closest to these national holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day.
- Our scouting groups may display the flag during their ceremonies.
- Everyone is invited to honor the flag in ways that are sensitive to the placement of competing symbols or displays near the standard.

Following that meeting, Rev. Janet Forbes visited with multiple persons who expressed some of the diverse perspectives on the appropriate display of the flag in a faith community. Everyone, without exception, wanted to display the flag in ways that are respectful and in harmony with flag etiquette.

More from *Les* by Rev. Les Ludlam: **Knowing When You're Forgiven**



As a sixteen year-old high school student, I probably had more enthusiasm than good sense. Dad had agreed to let me buy my own car with the money I made working at the family service station in Grand Junction. The loan, \$580.00, was payable at \$28 per month for 2 years from Mesa Federal Savings & Loan. The car was a 1950 Chevrolet Bel Air Hardtop Convertible. Wow!

I named the car "Betsy," and painted the name on the glove compartment door. I had promised upon promise to take good care of the car, not mess it up, drive carefully, etc... etc... But then, there was this one day...

It was time for the annual Colorado High School Band Tournament and Grand Junction was host city for the Western Slope competition. There would be lots of new girls in town so I decided one morning to drive a few classmates downtown before classes, to see who might be around.



Some time later I recall wondering why in the world I thought there would be any out-of-town high school students downtown that time of morning. But, such is the rationality, or lack of it, driven by raging hormones!

My friends and I didn't see any new girls but we were able to use up nearly all the time before our first hour class. Ron said, "Les, we'd better get back in a hurry, Chaves has that trig test waiting for us!" "Yeah," added Quincy, "we've gotta save some time!" "Take this alley, it's a short cut!" came from another voice. I responded, without thinking.

Who needs to think? Any teenager will tell you, "It's all in the reflexes!" Twisting the steering hard to the left, I turned Betsy toward the alley. But, my judgment of distance and turning radius must not have been quite right. Instead of going down the alley, I impaled an old cement trash incinerator at the side of the driveway!

Concrete flew everywhere, Betsy's hood buckled right in the middle, and we lurched to a stop!... Quincy's knee was scratched, Ron had bump on his head, Danny was mumbling, "I never should have," ... and I just sat there, staring at the crumpled hood!

Several of us missed Mr. Chavez' trigonometry test that morning!

The city police and my father and were called, in that order. My friends were driven to school while I sat and waited... When Dad arrived, the first thing he said was "You OK?" He didn't yell; he was frighteningly quiet. But I could tell he was angry! He was all business with the tow truck and the police.

But then, the policemen who had arrived started laughing! They thought the whole thing was funny!

The incinerator just happened to be in the back yard of the aunt of the Chief of Police! And they knew my father very well; a couple of them were his stock car racing buddies. And they began kidding him unmercifully! "Hey Vern, you teach your kid that trick? Never seen such a neat job of completely destroying that incinerator!" Dad grimaced and said nothing. "And look, he hit that dead center with his hood, right on the seam! That took some kind of talent!"

Dad didn't say much to me and the ride home was long and very quiet. I knew that I had disappointed my father, and I had been the cause of his humiliation! His only comment to me was made as we pushed Betsy into our auto shop. He looked directly at me and quietly stated, "You wrecked it; you fix it before you drive again." For the next six weeks, I was grounded. When I wasn't going to school or doing homework, I was busy repairing Betsy. Dad would come by occasionally, and just watch. He didn't say much.

Then one evening, as I was finishing up attaching the new hood panels, Dad came up, stood quietly beside me and said, matter-of-factly, "It's looking pretty good! You go ahead and sand the whole body all down and we'll give the whole car a new paint job." I could feel a two-ton weight being lifted from my shoulders! **I knew I was forgiven!** I wanted to say something really important, but all I could think to say was "O.K."

My father was never good at open, public expressions of affection, but I knew I was forgiven. He had conquered his injured pride from the teasing by the patrolmen. His anger with me was gone. The accident was not forgotten but it was no longer of any consequence; I had learned my lesson.

God bless us all. —*Les*



Sheri Henry
Director of Finance



Kristi Pawley
Accounting Clerk

Thanks for Your Financial Support!

Financial FUN FACT

Did You Know?... that St. Luke's made just over \$18,000 from our grocery card sales in 2014? That's an increase of approximately \$4,000 from 2013. It's such an easy way to help raise funds and we'd love to continue to see this grow. Stop by the Grocery Card table on Sunday morning if you're interested in getting involved.

We offer a variety of ways for you to make your contributions.

We invite you to select the method that is best for your particular need from the following methods:

- Cash, check or stock transfers
- Scheduled automatic withdrawals from your checking or credit card accounts.

You may enroll in either of these methods by going online at stlukeshr.com or contacting me directly.

- One-time online transaction. Go online at stlukeshr.com and do a one-time transaction from your checking or credit card accounts. This method is great for situations such as forgetting to leave your check in the offering plate on Sunday or if you're out of town.

Thanks to everyone who has returned your 2015 Commitment Cards. If you have not had an opportunity to return yours yet, you may mail them in or drop them off at the church at any time. We greatly appreciate your support!



Upcoming Events!

SLY (St. Luke's Youth) is an inclusive group for all 7th-12th graders that focuses on fellowship, fun, and finding out what this God thing is all about! As always, we have lots going on and are so excited to grow closer while having fun and being the hands and feet of Christ!



- ✦ **April 17-19: Youth Quest Retreat** for Jr. High!
- ✦ **April 26: Progressive Dinner**
- ✦ **May 10 - Mother's Day**
No SLY Activities
- ✦ **May 30-June 7: Guatemala Mission Trip**
- ✦ **June 13-21: Sr. High Mission Trip** to Rockford, IL
- ✦ **July 12-18: Jr. High Mission Trip** to Crownpoint, NM

Sign up to receive our emails and Check www.stlukeshr.com and click on "Youth" or "SLY" for up-to-date info on programs, activities, opportunities and more!

Sundays:

- **9:30-10:30am – SLY AM**
Exploring life issues and the bible
- **5:30-6:00pm – Community Dinner** - \$2 per person.
- **6:00-7:30pm – SLY PM**
All sorts of fellowship and fun activities are happening Sunday nights in the youth room!
Check out our website for details.

Wednesdays:

- **Homework/Tutoring Hour 5:30-6:30pm** – A chance to get your homework done and even get help if you need it!
- **Wed. SLY 6:30-8:00pm** – Youth directed fellowship activities. Coming up we have dinners, crafts, and a movie night!

ON THE SLY: Confirmation & More!

At the beginning of April, the SLY adults were proud to introduce 19 wonderful youth to the congregation as they completed confirmation. They've worked extremely hard over the past ten weeks to explore the bible, the Methodist church, and their own relationship with God. On April 12th they were introduced as full-fledged members of the church as they accepted their confirmation vows. We are so proud of each and every one of them!

Coming up April 17-19 is the annual Jr. High District Retreat known as Youth Quest. 7th and 8th graders from all over the Rocky Mountain Conference gather in beautiful Buena Vista for a weekend filled with fun, laughter, fellowship, and moving Godly moments. And of course, the basketball court sized hot spring is always a hit!

Speaking of Conference events, we are so proud to announce that SLY will be sending three youth to Annual Conference this year. Erin Meyers, Olivia Ary, and Dawn Lipfert are going to be representing not only St. Luke's, but all United Methodist youth at this event. It is obvious that there are big things in store for these three and we are honored and so proud that they are representing us at the conference level!

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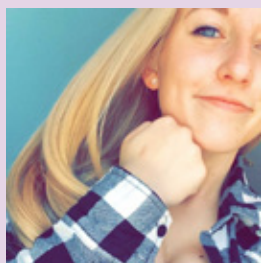
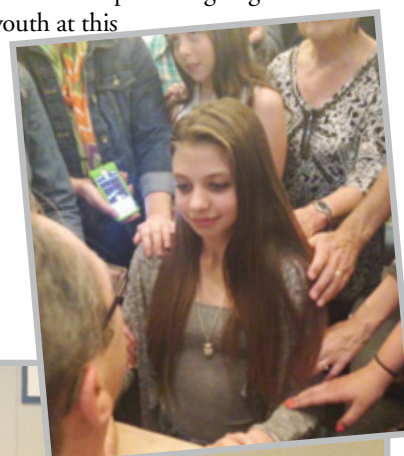
—Yours in Christ, Dave & Amy



Dave Laurvick
Director of Youth Ministry



Amy McMullen
Assistant Dir. of Youth Ministry

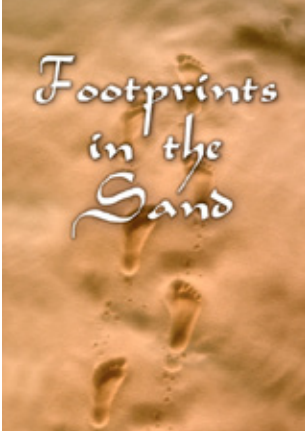


Meet A Youth!

Jenna Wesson is a 9th Grader at Valor Christian High School who has a passion for making films and really making people feel something with the stories she tells. In March, two of her films were chosen to be shown at the Kalos Film Festival which took place at the Alamo Draft House! We have a future star on our hands!!



Footprints in the Sand: A Southern Colorado Experience Near the Sangre de Cristos



Join us June 19-29, 2015 (primary weekend June 25-29) for a retreat and mission at Monarch Spur RV Park and Campground, Poncha Springs, CO. Enjoy the Sand Dunes, Gold Medal Water fishing, hiking the 14teeners, mountain biking or the premier birding trails. Visit historic Buena Vista or tour a goat dairy. Or, participate in mission and help Elsie

and Fred prepare the RV park for the coming season. Camping sites are free for those who join in the mission.

Make your own space for personal and spiritual time as the days are yours to plan. Enjoy community meals in the evening or one of the fine restaurants in Salida and Sunday brunch together. Gather for an evening campfire and experience the spirituality of the outdoors.

All ages are welcome. This is a small group event for building spiritual friendships in the beauty of Southern Colorado. Spaces are limited so please sign up early.

Don't have a tent or RV—no problem—cabins (3 sleep 4-6) comes fully furnished including linens. All you need to bring are your personal items and food. Or, stay at one of the motels in Salida or Poncha Springs—only 15 minutes away.

Tent sites are down along the creek in the cottonwoods. All RV sites have 20/30/50 amp, water and sewer. All sites are pull-through and fit big rigs. There is ample space for parking. Showers and laundry room are provided. There is no cellular service but WiFi is provided. Rates vary—weekly and monthly rates are available. Come early and stay late.

Memories from last year's retreat:

"Coming together in community is a joy shared. Small groups attended - one to complete missional assignments and the rest to enjoy what this area offers for community within the family unit. Campfires of the evening brought tales of the day from touring a goat dairy to catching one trout, to not wanting to get stuck on a muddy road. Joy was felt by all. There were no community meals but one day was designated "Girl's Day Out" and the two adult age females spent the afternoon with lunch and talking."

"Missionally, our hosts at Monarch Spur were thrilled with the quality of work completed staining cabin railings. They honored the St. Luke's family by treating two of us to a luncheon and book signing. They are grateful for St. Luke's being part of their community in saving costs and introducing new customers to Monarch Spur."

For info contact: Val Clark, 303-918-3193 or
inthesandretreat@gmail.com



James Ramsey
Director of Music
& Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry/
Organist



Jennifer Ferguson
Associate Director
of Music Ministry



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

Spring Concert

When: Sunday, May 3 at 3:00pm

Where: St. Luke's Sanctuary

Join us for our annual Spring Concert! The music ministers at St. Luke's play in church all year, but this is their chance to show off a bit outside of church service. This year's event will feature an **"Americana" showcase** by the St. Luke's Wind Ensemble, with works by John Williams, a piece featuring Aaron Copland, and tunes from **"Hello Dolly!"** The Ministers of Swing, led by Ken Mervine, will perform some toe-tapping standards. The MOS is a full compliment big band that rehearses jazz tunes throughout the year. Finally, the audience will be delighted and humored with Ken's **PDQ Bach** sketch from the organ. **A fun and FREE concert for all. See you there!**

Holy Week Music Gratitude

In the music ministry department at St. Luke's, we work hard to place the right music and sound and timbre with the event. Holy Week is always packed to the brim with music on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and, of course, Easter. We couldn't do this important work without the plethora of dedicated and talented musicians and

singers who commit so much time to these services. **Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.** We especially would like to thank the Chancel Choir, the

Brass Ensemble, the Orchestra, the Tinnabulators Bell Choir, the Soul Purpose Youth Choir, and Youth Bells. More than 100 of you participated in music for Holy Week.

Also, a VERY special thank you for our technical team who provide excellent lights and sound to all church services at St. Luke's. You make us all sound and look good, and your professional contributions and ministry are greatly appreciated.



Interested in music at St. Luke's?

We have music programs for all ages. We are always looking for singers, instrumentalists, and bell players. Contact Jennifer at jennifer@stlukeshr.com or Jim at jim@stlukeshr.com to find where you fit in!



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

*St. Luke's United Methodist Church welcomes you to our Christian family,
where we share life. Wherever you are in your faith journey,
you are accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually.*

*Join us in growing together toward full humanity through living
the teachings of Jesus: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.*

For the most up-to-date calendar of events check www.stlukeshr.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Brenda Schafer
Office Administrator

*Don't you be
afraid, for I
am with you.
Don't be
dismayed,
for I am
your God.*

*I will strengthen
you....* —Isaiah 41:10

PRAYER CONCERNS

Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or Brenda Schafer if you have any additions/removals. 303-791-0659 x32, leave a note on the front desk, or email sallie@stlukeshr.com or brenda@stlukeshr.com

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Joe Forbes – Rev. Janet's brother
Debi Sheppard
Jane Riegle
Lee Long – Annie Van Hoosen's sister
Lynn McNichols – Trudy Turner's friend
Bob Halderman
Jan Lindquist
Denise Anderson – Nancy Boyer's friend
Natalie Murrow
Donna Hochmuth
Miley Fisher – Dena Fischer's granddaughter
Casey Craine
Graydon Dowis

Amy Hertling-Johnson
Harold Johnson – Laurie Gilbert's father
Adam Hewko – friend of the McKinney family
Alisa Humphreys
Wendy Wessling – Ed & Eileen Law's friend
Juliana – Zara Vargues' friend
Thelma Hodge – Meryl Cupp's mother
Ronnie McGrew – Sandi Miyaki's friend
Joan Campbell – Patrice Goldman's mother
Barbara Bond – Sharon Oliver's aunt
Leslie Hamilton – Sheri Henry's friend
Joe DeGiorgio

Brian DeGiorgio
Sandy Lowe – Janice Ernster's mother
Nancy Obertier
Claudia Swanson
Art Schneider – Mindy Dunbar's brother
Carol Carnahan
Tim Johnson – Nancy Abbott's son-in-law
Alexander Murray
Baby Burdyck
Grant Larson
Patty Fouche – Fran West's sister-in-law
Nancy Springman
Matt – Kirk Hall's friend's son

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Paul & Stephanie Kirk on the birth of their daughter, Naomi Barbara Kirk, and big brother Isaiah and grandparents Alan & Linda Babcock too!

SYMPATHIES TO:

Susan Junge on the passing of her husband, Art Junge
Mike & Gwen Riggle on the passing of their family friend, Dwight Mullen
Kay Swanson on the passing of her father, Doug Bryden
Joan Leslie on the passing of her husband William Leslie
Dr. Eric, Nan & Owen Kortz on the passing of their son/brother, Jason Kortz