



Spring The Chronicle

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL/MAY 2021

ST. LUKE'S

Mother's Day PLANT SALE

Order your Spring Plants from
St. Luke's this Year!

Cyndys
Food-Lish-
Us food truck
from 11:00am-
1:00pm

We have a wide variety of flowers –
petunias, pansies, daisies and more!

Pre-order on stlukeshr.com by April 25

Pick up event on **Saturday May 8**
9:00am-2:00pm (extra flowers for purchase)

Thank you for supporting St. Luke's!

For info
contact:
Jennifer at
[schmidt.family.
denver@gmail.
com](mailto:schmidt.family.denver@gmail.com)

Gardening
gurus will be on
hand for some
planting tips
and tricks!

Community
Rangers
Building the Foundation for Our Future



Take Action! Eastertide 2021 Worship Series

Jesus died so we could LOVE.
Being faithful means taking our faith
and making it real in our lives.
How does our faith play out?
How is the resurrection alive in us?

Join us! In-person worship at
9:00 & 10:30am with reservation.

We will continue to live stream the 9:00am
service. Go to stlukeshr.com to RSVP to
attend in person and to watch our services.

April 11 – SERVE:

Rev. Michele preaching

April 18 – WONDER:

Pastor Liza preaching

April 25 – LOVE:

Rev. Michele preaching

May 2 – SEE:

Rev. Michele preaching

May 9 – HOPE: MOTHER'S DAY

Rev. Michele preaching

May 16 – ANCHOR:

Rev. Michele preaching

May 23 – SPEAK: PENTECOST

Pastor Liza preaching

**May 30 – PICTURE: MEMORIAL
DAY WEEKEND**

Rev. Michele preaching



**WELCOME
HOME**
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Worship In Person!

We have officially opened back up for in-person worship on
Sunday mornings at 9:00am and 10:30am in our building!
Seating looks a little different, as groupings are spaced 6 feet

apart and **we require masks and reservations.** The response has been so heart

warming. Getting to see each other, even from a distance, has brought tears of joy. Sunday School for
children PreK through 6th grade and Youth 7th-12th grade are also back in person at 9:00am with a
reservation and if you need the Nursery please email sam@stlukeshr.com to save your spot. Because we
have limited room for people due to COVID restrictions, we ask that you go to our website and click
on the RSVP link to sign up each week or watch your email for the link. Sign ups are generally available
on Mondays for the upcoming Sunday. If you sign up then find you are unable to attend, please cancel
your reservation as soon as you can so it opens a spot for someone else to sign up. You will see empty
seats in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall because we also have more chairs than needed to allow for
moving seats around for larger groups. We are following strict quality guidelines to strive for the safest
environment and limited occupancy in each area reflects that. Watch for information coming soon on
the availability to come back to the building during the week or in small groups. **Welcome Home!**

Our building is currently closed to non-essential persons.

Sunday Worship services
(with reservation):

9:00am live streamed and in person

10:30am in person

Nursery Available with reservation

Sunday School

(with reservation):

9:00am PreK-12th grade

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

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com

Little School Office.....303-791-1982



Staff

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

Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson.....x107
Associate Minister

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Renae Parra.....x117
Director of Servant Ministry

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

Rex Gradeless.....x124
Director of Finance

Jessica Shelton.....x116
Financial Assistant

Barry Curtis.....x144
Facilities Manager

Our next issue of **The Chronicle**
will be the June/July issue.

Content due May 25

Please send inquiries
and submissions to:

chronicle@stlukeshr.com

Editor: Sharon Oliver

The Chronicle is published about 6 times per year
and is emailed to those on our email blast list,
and it can be found on the church website.

Printed copies are available at church entrances.

To receive The Chronicle via US mail,
please call or email the Church Office.



Rev. Michele Kaminsky
Lead Minister

Re-engaging this Spring to Reflect God's Love

Dear St. Luke's,

A lot of things are happening right now. The earth is

coming alive with plants, animals and beautiful colors. The days are getting longer and the temperature is getting warmer. Nature is busy, and so is St. Luke's!

We are springing into action once again with the reopening of indoor worship, Children's Sunday School, Youth Group, the Performing Arts Academy, Wesley Players and the Center for Spiritual Engagement.

And we will continue to roll out more and more indoor meetings as time goes on, for we are alive and well, and we have so much going for us.

So welcome to the Re-engagement party!

It's been a long time coming, and this party is going to last all spring, summer and fall. So find where you want to re-engage, because this issue of *The Chronicle* tells about the many opportunities we have to re-connect and recharge. For that is what St. Luke's is all about.

We literally exist to reflect God's love, deepen people's connection to Christ, and show compassion to all in a way that changes lives. That is our mission statement and everything we do here is our mission statement in action!

So how will St. Luke's change our lives this spring? How will St. Luke's deepen our connection to Christ and to one another? And how will we take all of this love and excitement and reflect it in our world?

Because this party with God isn't just for us. It's for everyone. So take in all the love, bask in the immense glory, then share it with everyone you meet and keep the divine celebration going!

In the Love and Joy of the Risen Christ,
Rev. Michele





Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

A Time to Take Action

Dear St. Luke's Family, I am so inspired by the theme of our post-Easter sermon series: **Take Action!** It feels like a perfect complement to both what the disciples were faced with following the tremendous event of Jesus's resurrection and what we as a community of faith are preparing for in the season

in-front of us at St. Luke's. The disciples were confused and unsure, but they knew that their faith required them to take action and so they jumped in and began to tell the story and teachings of Jesus.

Likewise, we now have the opportunity to put our faith in action – something we have been forced to re-imagine and re-invent during our long months of pandemic isolation. Yet, even during that time, we have been faithful in the ways we have been able to serve, wonder, love, see, hope, anchor, speak, and picture our lives of discipleship in connection to God and our neighbors. I am excited for the ways we will get to engage in these **Take Action** verbs during the coming weeks in worship!

The truth is that as I have come to know St. Luke's over the last nine months, I know you are a **Take Action** community of faith!



- *Is there a need for diapers for Love INC and liquid laundry soap for Bayaud Enterprises' mobile laundry truck? Then you will fill our narthex with boxes of diapers and bottles of laundry soap!*
- *Do we need to find a way to continue to build homes in Guatemala whether we are there or not? You will make it happen with you support and prayers!*
- *Do we need to commit to rehearsals and run-throughs for four different Holy Week worship services? You will be there with smiles under masks and a willingness to pitch in for the sake of a meaningful, spiritually inspiring gift for our community.*
- *Do we need:*
 - » *parking lot ushers to stand in the cold?*
 - » *folks to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on Monday mornings?*
 - » *people to call through our entire directory (twice!)?*
 - » *candy donations or someone to wear a bunny suit for Easter Fun Morning?*

You are a **Take Action** community who makes it all happen and I am so proud to serve St. Luke's as one of your pastors!

The following prayer is by Jack Levinson and one that I need to pray for myself often as I have a tendency to float away into a heady, theoretical spirituality. I am grateful for the way this prayer reminds to me to stay grounded and connected and the ways our lives of faith are full of meaning here and now, as we **Take Action** as people of faith in our community and world.

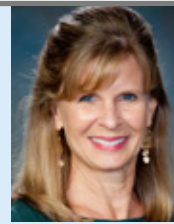
Holy Spirit,
I am tempted to adore spirituality in the abstract
To lift my eyes to heaven
To worship an ethereal God

Pull me back to earth, Holy Spirit
To a world of widows
To charts and tables and food scraps

Inspire me here, Holy Spirit, not there
Fill me on earth, Holy Spirit, not in heaven

Breathe integrity into my chores
Vitality into my errands
Wisdom into my drudgery
Amen

I look forward to taking action with you, Pastor Liza



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

Called to Actions of Anti-Racism and Allyship



Since July, the Center for Spiritual Engagement has invited our community to come together and engage in crucial self-reflection, education, and action to support and to stand in solidarity with those experiencing racism. CSE Brave Spaces, an anti-racism learning and action group, has been created as a regular gathering for this collective community work.

Thank you to all who participated in the Anti-Racism and Allyship livestreamed conversation on March 9th with our outstanding group of leaders – Jordan Lee, Rev. Ken Brown, and Garlinda Burton – as they generously offer their coaching and vision. The event, expertly moderated by Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes, may still be accessed on the CSE website and our St. Luke's YouTube channel and you are strongly encouraged to hear these leaders share their wisdom and call us to action.

This event and our ongoing conversations in the Brave Spaces led to creation of the following community anti-racism action items and allyship pods. Everyone is welcomed to be part of this community work. Julie Polikoff, Jane Staller, Sharon Oliver and I welcome conversations with you.

BRAVE SPACES DISCUSSION GROUP -

Monthly large group meetings. We bring conversation partners together to learn about race theory, to uncover new voices from the past and present, and to live out beliefs more faithfully. For more info contact Julie.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION POD - We will work in allyship to promote legislation to help dismantle barriers to equality and justice for Black Americans, who continue to face systemic racism in our state and local communities. For more info contact Jane.

COVID VACCINATION POD - Help as a clinic volunteer for underserved populations. Contact Sallie.

ANTI-RACISM 101 CLASS - self-study educational program offered by the United Methodist General Conference on Race and Religion (GCORR), with small group meetings to discuss each of 3 learning sections in the class (cost \$39.99) - To register contact Julie before April 19.

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES - vetted articles, podcasts, and videos about anti-racism and allyship via the CSE website. For more info contact Sharon.

In the compelling, visionary words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "We Cannot Walk Alone." *As people of faith, we are called to increasingly honorable actions of anti-racism and allyship.* The work of dismantling systemic racism is life-long and urgent. We are all needed on this journey.

On the journey with you, Rev. Sallie



We Belong @ St. Luke's

During our Livestream worship on March 6th we welcomed new members into the life of our congregation. It is a joy to include Natalie Long and Denton Hanson and their families as part of our family of faith.

Our next We Belong session will be held Sunday, May 16 from 11:30am-1:00pm. If you are interested in learning more about what belonging at St. Luke's means for you, please join us for this casual conversation. Contact Pastor Liza for more information.



Natalie Long

Natalie lives in Littleton with her husband Rick of 23 years and their 5th-grade daughter Chloe, and they are proud of their oldest daughter, who is a Freshman at the University of Northern Colorado. She is currently a Regional Property Manager and has been in the property management business for over 20 years. She loves to spend time with her family, hiking, attending the theater, reading, and

watching movies. At St. Luke's, she has volunteered in Sunday School, was recently seen running the bunny hop races at Easter Fun Morning and is newly serving on the Lay Leadership team.

Denton Hanson

Denton lives in Denver with his wife Liza and two daughters Hazel (8) and Ruby (4). He has been a Paramedic for the past 11 years and is currently serving the City of Boulder. Denton loves Colorado sunshine, home and garden projects, chasing after his daughters, their dog, and their backyard flock of chickens. He is an accomplished musician; he plays the piano and trombone and has already been warmly welcomed into the St. Luke's Chancel Choir.



Renae Parra
Director of
Servant Ministry



Ushers are Awesome!

THANK YOU to our USHER TEAM who have been very adaptive over the past year! We are staffed and ready to serve you for two indoor services at 9:00am and 10:30am. Ushers serve one Sunday per month at one worship service. They arrive 30 minutes prior to service time and stay a few minutes after service. We can always use more ushers for our substitute list. If you are interested in being on our sub list or want to learn more about Usher responsibilities, please email me at renae@stlukeshr.com or talk to Jay Lee next time you see him. We would love to have you help us serve the congregation in this way!

Time to RE-ENGAGE!

Are you ready to re-engage in your St. Luke's community? We will have opportunities for you to get involved or serve at St. Luke's soon! What is the best way for you to stay informed? The weekly bulletin is available on the website and our app each week; it's a great way to stay updated on current and future happenings. Also, the home page of our website (www.stlukeshr.com) has an area called 'New and Noteworthy'. Make it a habit to check it weekly for updates. We also have announcements at the end of our worship service. Keep informed and be ready to re-engage with St. Luke's! Let me know what you are looking for so I can connect you to the places you want to be involved.

Grace and Blessings, Renae

Our Community Garden



It's time to till the garden area on the west side of the church. We're planning the work day for Sat. April 24. Planting day will be near the end of May.

Our produce goes to a local food bank.

If you would like to be a part of this mission service then please contact Fran West at 303-797-7107 or mfranwest@gmail.com



Jana Wesson
Office Administrator

Staff Update: The Staff Parish Relations Team is sad to announce that Jana Wesson, our Tuesday/Thursday Office Administrator, left our staff February 18th in order to prepare for an exciting arrival. Jana, husband Jacob, and son Charlie are thrilled to have welcomed baby girl, Addison Louise Wesson on March 4. So exciting! Congratulations!

Jana has grown up at St. Luke's; she sang in Children's Choir, met her husband in SLY, and has shared her talents in numerous Wesley Players productions and the Chancel Choir. Jana and Stephanie Kirk have shared the Office Administration position since December 2019. We are grateful for the creativity, joy, friendship, and sincerity she has brought to staff and she will be greatly missed. We are thrilled for Jana's growing family and excited that she promises to remain involved as a volunteer. We hope you will take a moment to offer words of appreciation to Jana whenever you see her again.



SPRT is very happy to announce that Stephanie Kirk, who has job-shared the position with Jana, has agreed to assume the position in its entirety. As the building begins to re-open, you will hear more details regarding office hours, space availability, and all the logistics that go into keeping this community safe while navigating our way through this pandemic.

Community Raisers

This past STRANGE year has impacted all of us and St. Luke's is no different. We lost connection with each other, we lost the opportunity to embrace our new pastors and we lost a lot of financial contributions. The question we need to answer is what do we do about all of our loss?



That is the goal of

Community Raisers –to bring our community together with vibrancy and connection and help address our monetary needs. But what are Community Raisers? Community Raisers are a bunch of unique, community connecting events, but also the name of the team that leads these efforts. Get used to seeing and hearing the term Community Raisers because this team is super passionate about re-connecting all of us in special, meaningful and important ways while building a foundation for our collective future!

If you are interested in learning more about Community Raisers, reach out to me, Marty Davidson, at martydavidson30@gmail.com but more importantly, please participate early and often in the different events you will be hearing about soon.

Please help Community Raisers celebrate as a part of St. Luke's Re-engagement Party!!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & WATCH FOR UPDATES:

May 8 - Mother's Day Plant Sale (pre-order NOW - see page 1)

May 16-22 - Music & Arts "Telethon"

August 28 - Car Show & Event

September 11 - Golf Event at Red Hawk Ridge, Castle Rock



Get to Know Your Weekend Minister On Call

During non-office hours, if you are in need of a pastoral care conversation, prayer, or visit (pending COVID restrictions), we invite you to contact our weekly minister on call. The rotating schedule is listed each week in our This Week at St. Luke's Wednesday email.

Rev. Michele Kaminsky,
Lead Minister
Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God."



Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson,
Associate Minister

Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long,
Minister of Healing and Wellbeing
Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "They are plans for good... to give you a future and a hope."



Samantha Leahy,
Director of Early Childhood Ministry
Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."



Rev. Patricia Schaffer,
Retired Presbyterian Church
(USA) Teaching Elder
John 8:32 "Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."



Rev. Bill Barnard,
Retired United Methodist Clergy
Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount) including this excerpt: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

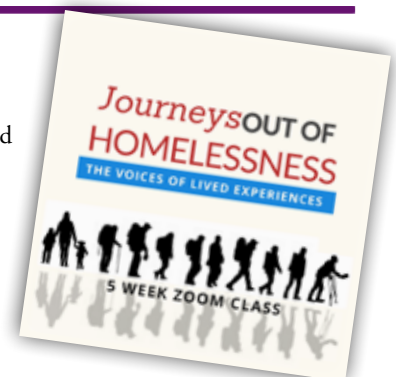


Journeys Out of Homelessness Recap

During January and February a group of 16 of us participated in a Zoom study of the book, "Journeys Out of Homelessness," by Donald W. Burnes and Jamie Rife. Although I facilitated the sessions, we were extremely pleased to have co-author Donald Burnes with us each week. Donald is the founder and advisor to the Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness at the University of Denver School of Social Work. We greatly benefited from his wisdom, insights and experience!

What an eye opener! This book tells the stories of nine people who experienced homelessness and their journeys to overcome it. One common theme of these journeys was the relationships of these people with supportive individuals who walked with them, loved them, and connected them with resources. The book also reflected on the causes of homelessness, which are broad and varied, the barriers people face, and systemic problems that need to be addressed.

I really appreciated the compassionate participation of all the book study group members, and the personal insights and inspirational experiences they shared. What a gift! By facilitating this Zoom study, I learned a great deal from the participants, from Donald, and from the book itself. I hope to continue my own journey by having direct contact with people experiencing homelessness and supporting programs that assist them. —Betsy Keyack



Imagine No Malaria

One advantage to being a connectional church like the United Methodist Church is that we can have a positive impact on a global scale. Since St Luke's is celebrating UMCOR Sunday May 2, I wanted to highlight a missions program that UMCOR supports that has had a global impact.

Starting in 2006 with a program called Nothing But Nets and continuing to the present day with an expanded program called Imagine No Malaria, Methodists have been successfully reducing childhood Malaria deaths in Africa. When we started, a child died every 30 seconds of Malaria in Africa. Now a child dies every 2 minutes. While that is still too large a number, it is a reason for hope.

This is a classic Methodist Mission program in that it is about Methodists helping Methodists. Because of our local presence in many of the towns in Africa, we have people present who can get the information and supplies out to their friends and neighbors. This is a very efficient way of working and it eliminates the problems that come when the people involved are not local. The results speak for themselves. Another part of the program that shows how we work is our partnerships with other organizations. Rather than worry about who is in charge, we join with like minded people. Our partners include the UN, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

You can give to INM through St Luke's or directly to INM at the UMCOR website. I would encourage you to join me in helping if you can. I want to see Malaria deaths in Africa disappear in my lifetime. —Monty Hoffman

Monday Lunches

St. Luke's continues to support those with food and housing insecurities by providing 80-100 lunches every Monday. We have partnered with Network Coffee House in Denver who distributes the lunches safely and offers additional resources and support to those less fortunate. We take donations of chips, peanut butter, strawberry jam and cheese sticks each week. For questions regarding this ministry contact Sam@stlukeshr.com

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."

Diapers & Soap!

Our Lenten Mission Project was a great success! Thank you to all those who contributed liquid laundry detergent, baby diapers, and baby wipes. Nearly every single day during the season of Lent a new donation was dropped off at St. Luke's!



We received over 3,630 diapers for Love, Inc. These donations will assist families in need with the essential products needed for their young children.

We also received over 40 containers of liquid laundry detergent providing 2,600 folks experiencing homelessness with clean laundry when they utilize Bayaud Enterprises mobile laundry truck.

Fresh laundry and dry diapers are some of the day-to-day essentials we might take for granted and being able to provide these resources to the organizations in our community whom we know are offering care and support to those in need is a great gift! Thank you for your generous support of our Lenten Mission Project this year!

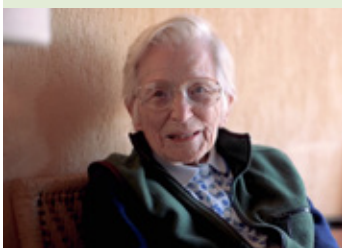


Virtual Updates from Guatemala

A lot has been happening with our friends in Guatemala. Prior to COVID-19, St. Luke's worked with Pura Vida to send an adult team and a youth team to Guatemala each year to build a house for a needy family. Because the pandemic prevented that this year, we held our first "Virtual Construction Trip" on the week of March 22-27. The "trip members" made donations to build a house in the Lemoa/Santa Cruz del Quiche region of Guatemala for Valentina, who many previous mission team members have met and who leads the nutrition program in Lemoa to feed under-nourished children. She currently has no home of her own. Each day during the week, a Facebook Live session was held for all the "trip members". During these sessions, they were introduced to the construction team, were shown progress being made on the construction of **Valentina's new house**, met Valentina and Sister Helen (the Mary Knolls sister in Lemoa), and took a "vacation day" in Antigua. Watching the video sessions made us miss even more the annual trips we have been used to making. A second Virtual Construction trip will be held May 31-June 4 (in lieu of the youth mission trip to Guatemala). You can find details at puravida.org



The construction continues on Valentina's house, with completion expected later this spring. Our construction foreman, Maco, and his crew are already working on the upper portion of Valentina's home. Once completed, a home dedication and blessing will take place. This special event will be shared with our virtual trip members.



On another front, several past missionaries held a live video call with **Sister Helen** on Easter. At age 101, she is doing well and is as perky as ever. However, her superiors feel that 102 is too old to be in the field; so she is being recalled to Mary Knolls, New York, in September. She will be sorely missed. —Ken Fong



A 55+ MINISTRY

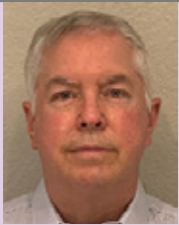
Seasoned Voyagers Help with Easter Fun Morning!

Thanks go to the Seasoned Voyagers who contributed candy and treats for

Easter Fun Morning on March 27 and/or participated in person: Sylvia Manzanera, Julie Gustafson, June Daniel, Linda Aughenbaugh, Suzanne Humphreys, Edee Worth and Betsy Keyack. Sharon Oliver and our Children's Ministry appreciated our help! We are all looking forward to the day when we can travel together again! In the meantime, we continue to contribute to the community and engage in Conversations with the Pastor on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm.

—Betsy Keyack





Rex Gradeless
Director of
Finance

Thank YOU!

In this time that has been very different for all of us, we continue to celebrate God's amazing love and we

thank you for your kindness and your generosity. In these unique days we trust that God continues to care for us and is present with us.

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

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

Please contact Rex (rex@stlukeshr.com) if you have any financial questions.

Sign up! King Soopers Rewards Program

St. Luke's depends on this program to help fund our vital ministries. **To use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program:**

- **Go to kingsoopers.com**
- **Log into your King Soopers account**
- **Scroll to the bottom of the page to select Community Rewards Program and search for St. Luke's UMC either by name or by code US274 and then click Enroll.**

You must have a registered King Soopers or City Market rewards card account to link to St. Luke's. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and rewards card number. Please contact Lee Seaman at Leemanseaman1492@gmail.com with any questions. Everyone grocery shops, let's make some free money for St. Luke's while doing it!

Annual UMCOR Sunday Offering Coming May 2



St. Luke's will hold its annual UMCOR Sunday offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief on Sunday, May 2. UMCOR is the global humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church. Its goal is to alleviate suffering and be a source of help and hope for the most vulnerable. It provides assistance to communities recovering from disasters. It also has an array of projects addressing global health; root causes of hunger and poverty; water, sanitation and hygiene; refugee needs; the environment; special needs of women and children; and sustainable development. Amazing! See www.umcmission.org/umcor.

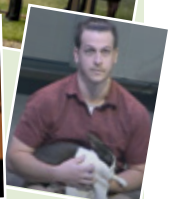
This is tornado season! According to UMCOR's Facebook page, it was responding to the tornadoes that ripped through our southern states in March. UMCOR's initial role is to support damage assessment and it will be there for the long-term to assist communities with relief and recovery.

The annual UMCOR Sunday offering goes toward UMCOR's administrative costs so that when you donate to a specific project, such as United States Disaster Response, 100% of your donation will go to that project! According to Charity Navigator, UMCOR's administrative expenses are 6.3% of its revenue, with 92.7% of its revenue going to its projects.

We invite you to respond with compassion to help improve the lives of people and communities in so many ways!



Holy Week & Easter Reflections





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.

Take a look at our website:
stlukesCSE.org



Brave Spaces - Anti-racism & Allyship Group

See Rev. Sallie's article on page 3 for more information but here is a quick overview:

CSE's Brave Spaces has expanded recently from a discussion group to action pods and more! Join in!

BRAVE SPACES DISCUSSION GROUP -

Monthly large group meetings.
Next meeting May 10 5:00-6:00pm.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION POD - Meets on Wednesdays.

COVID VACCINATION POD - Our first immersion activity is April 27.

ANTI-RACISM 101 CLASS - Self-study educational program with small group meetings April 19, 26 & May 2 - To register contact Julie before April 19.

All are welcome!

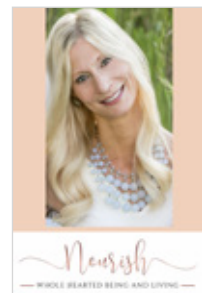
If you would like to join in or be added to our email list please contact Julie Polikoff at julie.polikoff@msn.com, Jane Staller, Sharon Oliver, or Sallie Suby-Long.

CSE Nourish Experience: A Few Spaces Available!

Wholehearted Being and Living with Melinda Davidson –

A 2-part experience: Individual Reiki session (scheduled in April & May) & Virtual Cooking Class on June 5 from 10:00am-1:00pm

Melinda has creatively adapted her healing Nourish program, so that we can experience it in a safe, "virtual" manner. Price is \$120 – includes both Reiki and cooking experience; additional fee for market basket. Partial scholarships are available. For more information or to register go to the stlukeshr.com website or contact renae@stlukeshr.com.



CSE Outdoor Adventures:

The Outdoor Adventure team is excited to announce that we will resume our monthly adventures starting in April. And we are happy to say that we will be able to offer safe carpooling on a limited basis. Our **April 22 (Thur.) hike** will celebrate **Earth Day 2021**. We will hike the Juniper Valley Loop Trail at Sandstone Ranch, a beautiful new Open Space in Douglas County. The Open Space is located near Larkspur, midway between Dawson Butte and Spruce Mountain, both of which we have hiked in the past.

We have additional adventures planned for May:

- **May 5 (Wed.)** we will visit Barr Lake State Park to see the nesting bald eagles; we hope to observe hatched baby eaglets, as well as their nesting parents
- **May 19 (Wed.)** we will hike the Belcher Trail from the east portal of White Ranch Park in Jefferson County

We are so happy that we are once again able to gather in community to explore our beautiful Colorado wild places, and we are looking forward to seeing you on an outdoor adventure soon. If you'd like more information about these hikes, or if you'd like to be added to our Outdoor Adventure email list, contact Janestaller@gmail.com or Julie.polikoff@msn.com.



CSE Classes & Experiences:

28 Days of Love Devotions: Thanks for your great response to our February Devotions - 28 Days of Love! Our team was grateful for the opportunity to create the devotions and we appreciated the feedback we received. We hope you expanded your view of LOVE during the month.



Practices of Wellbeing: In the months of February and March, Rev. Sallie met weekly with a dedicated group of 14 individuals and guided everyone through exploring and integrating Practices of Wellbeing. The experience helped us all reset and renew even in the midst of some of the challenging circumstances of the past year. We focused on identifying and developing our individual character strengths and weaving creative practices of movement, meditation, compassion, mindfulness, gratitude, and savoring more fully into our lives.

"We Cannot Walk Alone": Anti-Racism and Allyship - A Panel Discussion on March 9: "For many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back." –Martin Luther King, Jr. With words from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech as our call to action, the CSE Brave Spaces group presented our first live stream panel discussion on March 9th, "We Cannot Walk Alone": Anti-Racism and Allyship. Moderated by Rev. Janet Forbes, our panelists, leaders in anti-racism work, included



Jordan Lee, Garlinda Burton, and Rev. Ken Brown. They shared their knowledge, their vision, their passion and coached us in how to be effective allies in the fight to dismantle racism. With our intention to reach a larger community about what it means to be an anti-racist the evening was a huge success! An audience of more than 200 joined the conversation live on both YouTube and Facebook from many different churches, communities and states. Since then, there have been over 1000 views of this event. If you have not had the opportunity to watch you can access the link at stlukescse.org. Thank you, to the many people it took to make this event happen!

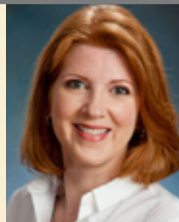
Using Enneagram Wisdom to Enrich Relationships: On a snowy Colorado Sunday in mid-March, a group of 12 gathered via Zoom as Schawn and Eric Kellogg skillfully, and expertly led us in a great afternoon of learning to enrich our relationships through the wisdom of the Enneagram. The experience was both light-hearted and meaningful. We laughed, had some profound "ah ha" moments and gained deeper understanding of how to communicate more effectively in our closest relationships.

Thursday Morning Yoga with Sharon has continued virtually and we now have 30 videos to choose from! We hope to be able to meet again in person this summer. Contact Renae@stlukeshr.com if you'd like to be added to the list to access our yoga videos and class information. Thank You!

St. Luke's Kids

grace courage wonder beyond

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



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



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

Wacky Week At St. Luke's we provide a fun, safe and nurturing environment for children to socialize and grow. We celebrated The Magic of the Rainbow during our spring break Wacky Week. Each day we celebrated another color of the rainbow with crafts, music, and lots of games. Evelyn (age 4) said, "I had such a great time, I want to go back to Rainow School!" Look for another Wacky Week opportunity in August led again by Ms. Sam.

Easter Fun Morning Weather cooperated and we had a beautiful morning on March 27 for Easter Fun Morning. It was an outside-only, scaled-back version of our usual Easter Fun Day but it was a huge success! Over 300 people participated and we made record high donations. Big thanks to over 30 volunteers who donated time, talents and treats and to Ms. Sharon for pulling it all together. We had candy, crafts and toys to hand out, games to play, bunnies to look at up close, balloon animals, breakfast treats to take home and pictures with the Easter Bunny. A joyous morning all around! **Easter Sunday** on April 4 was also a wonderful experience with live bunnies during children's time and this year, since children could not get up and close with the bunnies, they each had their very own mini stuffed bunny to hold during the service and take home thanks to Ms. Sam. And, as is tradition, Ms. Sharon made custom coloring books to fit our Easter sermon for all of the children.

Sunday School We are back! Sign up through the link on our website to attend in-person Sunday School for PreK-6th grade. Limited numbers for now for COVID restrictions but we are so excited to be back! Look for our video and printable lessons each week to continue through May. Our Nursery is also back! Join us!

SLY, Jr. Our 5th & 6th grade youth group has had an amazing few months. First we had mystery games and dancing outside on the stage in January, then a Mardi Gras/Ash Wednesday event to kick off Lent, then a "GREAT I AM" mini-Lock-In inside the church in February, and an Easter Escape Room in March! Coming up we have CIRCUS Games on April 18 and then a surprise yummy treat experience for May 2! Join us! Contact Ms. Sharon.

Lent Our Family Lenten Bags were well received and used by over 35 families. Parents let us know that they really enjoyed having the guidance and items to help make the Lenten journey much more meaningful. We also had a 2nd-6th grade 5-week Bible study to explore the stories of Holy Week. We had a great group Zoom in each Wednesday and even had Charlie join us from Washington!

Vacation Bible School

"Discovery on Adventure Island" is coming June 28-July 2 9:00am-noon! Registration opens May 3 at 2:00pm online. Spaces are limited because of COVID safety requirements. Contact Ms. Sharon with any questions.

Spring Blessings and Happy Earth Day! –Ms. Sharon & Ms. Sam



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

Welcome Spring!

We are doing so well at Little School. Our staff and students remain healthy and happy! We are enjoying the changes in weather. It keeps us on our toes with the hot days one day and the snow days the next.

We are preparing for our annual Art Show! Throughout the school year, children work on pieces of art that are kept to display in April at the art show. This year, the theme of our art show is **Award Winning Literature**. Each child in our school created an art project to go along with books like *Owl Moon*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Polar Express*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, and more! On April 22, parents will come visit our art gallery and walk through a maze of literature and art. It is always a highlight of the school year, and despite the challenges of Covid, we have found ways to still make this happen. As I have been saying all year, we can do everything we did in the past, we just have to be creative with how we do it. The art show is no exception!

We are preparing for our Mother's Day singing concert and for graduation.

We are looking forward to sending about 100 four-year olds, and five-year olds to kindergarten across the metro area. We are proud to be the safe-haven for these students as they experience the uniqueness of a pandemic, and we are proud to still offer them socialization, academics, and chances to grow in all areas of Early Childhood Development.

We are preparing to wrap up our school year at the end of May. I cannot believe how well the school year has gone given that we are in the depths of a world-wide pandemic. Our staff is wonderful at following the protocol and procedures that the Little School administration has in place to keep our students healthy, and we have witnessed the fruition of our efforts.

As of right now, we are almost full for the next school year. We have very few spots left, and many of our classes have waitlists. We are blessed that so many parents and guardians trust us with the care of their children in a very challenging era. We love our St. Luke's UMC staff and community and are humbled by the support we get from our partnership.

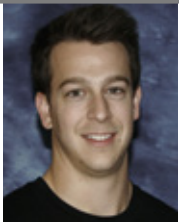
I want to wish you all a wonderful spring.

Take a child outside with you, and look for new life!

Grace and Love, Ms. Kelly



Ms. Kara and one of our 3-year-olds dressed like Ms. Frizzle from *The Magic School Bus* book series for favorite character dress up day.



Jake Smith
Director of
Youth Ministry



**Grad
Sunday
is May 16!**

SENIORS:
This is
ANYONE
GRADUATING
from High
School,
College, Grad
School, etc...

Send in
graduation
info ASAP:

- Baby picture
- Senior picture
- School graduating from
- Next plans (college, major etc...)

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade Youth Group is BACK IN PERSON!

Come join the crew during the week and let's have some fun!

Wednesday Nights:
Bible Study & Fellowshiping

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

Sunday Nights: YOUTH GROUP

All events will require a waiver and a spot on the online sign up page. Look for those in Jake's weekly "This Week In SLY" (TWIS) email.

SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY YOUTH EMAIL. It's on the church website or email jake@stlukeshr.com

Coming Soon: If there are any youth interested in participating in or helping out in a brand new Sunday evening service, please contact Jake. This will need lots of Youth and family volunteers and will be a great way to spend your Sunday evening.

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

We have a Mission Trip!!! There are VERY limited spots, so contact Jake ASAP for an application.

MISSION TRIP 2021!!!

Dates: June 13-20

Ages: Current 8th grade to 12th grade

Cost: \$450 (\$200 deposit)

Location: Oklahoma City with NEXT STEP!

Application: Contact Jake.

Yours in Christ, Jake



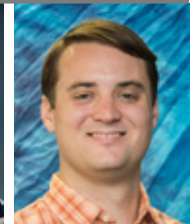
James Ramsey
Director of Music
& Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry/
Organist



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



Chris Rigolini
Director of
Instrumental Music



Holy Week Recap

What a difference a year makes! I can't thank the members of the Music and Arts Ministry enough for their dedication and service to the St. Luke's community during Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to Easter, the spirit-filled journey through Holy Week was more special than any other year. Music and the spoken word filled the Sanctuary, Chapel and Fellowship Hall in meaningful and beautiful ways that inspired us all. Here's to many, many more. Many thanks and blessings! —Dr. James Ramsey



Friday April 30 at 6:30pm
Saturday May 1 at 2:00 & 6:30pm
Sunday May 2 at 2:00pm
2021

TICKETS \$12/\$15

TICKETS FOR SALE ONLINE AT WESLEYPLAYERS.ORG
LIMITED SEATING

WESLEY PLAYERS THEATRE COMPANY • 8817 S BROADWAY
HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO 80129 • 303-791-0659

WESLEYPLAYERS.ORG

NONSENSE: THE MEGA-MUSICAL VERSION is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

Wesley Players presents NONSENSE: The Mega-Musical Version

You're in for a treat. *Nonsense* is back but bigger and better! The second longest-running off-Broadway show in history has now been "SUPERSIZED" with seven additional characters, including Sister Julia-Child of God, a new musical number, and enhanced dance numbers. An unfortunate convent cooking accident causes most of the order of the Little Sisters of Hoboken to die of botulism. In order to raise money to bury the four remaining sisters (temporarily stored in the freezer) the Sisters and Brothers of Hoboken (what's left of them) put on a riotous revue packed with hilarious, show-stopping song and dance numbers. Performances: Friday, April 30 at 6:30pm, Saturday, May 1 at 6:30pm and Sunday, May 2 at 2:00pm **Tickets available at www.wesleyplayers.org** - \$12 for seniors and students, \$15 for adults.



**Big thanks
to Cameron
VanHoosen
for being an
awesome
Easter Bunny
on Easter Fun
Morning and
thanks to all
of the Youth
who came
early to help
set up - Metz,
Thevarajah, &
Ramsey!**



Les Ludlam
Retired Clergy

More from Les: *A Springtime Lesson in Forgiveness*

It was Spring 1957 and time for the Colorado High School Band Tournament. There should be lots of new kids in town so I decided one morning to drive a few friends downtown before classes started to see who might be around.

We didn't see anyone but we were able to use up nearly all the time before our first 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 my car toward the alley.

But my judgment of distance and turning radius were not quite right; instead of going down the alley, I impaled an old cement trash incinerator at the side of a driveway! Concrete flew everywhere, my Chevy's hood buckled right in the middle, and we lurched to a stop!

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. He was all business with the tow truck and the police. But the patrolmen who had arrived started laughing! They thought the whole thing was funny!

The incinerator just happened to belong to the aunt of the Chief of Police! And the officers knew my father very well; a couple of them were his stock car racing buddies. 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. 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 down and we'll give the car a new paint job."

I could feel a two-ton weight being lifted from my shoulders!

I was forgiven. I wanted to say something really important, but all I could think to say was "O.K."

Forgiveness is not about forgetting an act but affirming that it happened and getting on with life while continuing to love the one who committed the act.

"For, just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

God bless us all, Les

UMW Update: **Love In Action**

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



What is United Methodist Women? United Methodist Women is a supportive, inclusive Christian membership organization where women like you grow spiritually, develop as leaders and serve and work to create a world in which all women, children and youth thrive. United Methodist Women is celebrated as the women's ministry of The United Methodist Church. Our members nurture one another in community and support U.S. and international projects and partners improving the lives of women, children and youth with their prayers, volunteer and advocacy efforts, and financial gifts.

Why should I join United Methodist Women?

United Methodist Women is a community of women committed to mission. As a member you can take advantage of many opportunities, including the following:

- Prayer, Bible studies and spiritual retreats.
- Hands-on mission in local communities.
- Mission education experiences.
- Leadership development and training opportunities.
- Supporting work with women, children and youth.
- Partnership with women in mission in the country and around the world.
- Advocacy for social justice issues, including those pertaining to the environment, domestic violence, immigration and the many other concerns that impact the lives of women, children and youth.
- Engagement in racial justice issues.

For the next four years two priorities all United Methodist Women are asked to be educated on:

- **Racial Equity** – *Criminalization of Communities of Color*
- **Climate Justice**

To learn more, go to the national website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>. Read and learn what is happening.

For local information go to www.mtnskyumw.org, you will find links for conference and district activities, news and leadership. The district St. Luke's is connected to is Mile High Metro.

UMW Interest Groups:

Book Club – Fourth Monday 7:00pm on Zoom

- April 26: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett
- May 24: *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare
- June 28: *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore

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

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

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



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.*

PRAYER IN THIS TIME

O God, in this time when we feel grief, hopelessness, anger,
and no words to express whatever it is we are feeling, we turn to you,
our Refuge and our Strength.

We pray for those who were killed in Boulder and Atlanta. They were treasured
and loved, and so cruelly taken from their families and friends.

We pray for those whose hearts were broken open that week.
We pray for the injured with physical, mental, and emotional pain.
We pray for the brave first responders.

Hear our collective moans and tears.
Give your comfort and your strength.
Give us your grace to live in hope, love, and peace,
as people of faith.

In the name of the living Christ we pray.
Amen.

Rev. Beverly Fest, retired pastor
Mountain View UMC
Boulder, Colorado



Stephanie Kirk
Director of
Communication &
Office Administration

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

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



*Tiffany Alverson,
Terri Christopherson,
Ted Dreyer,
David Goodin,
Mike Hollyman,
Danielle Horgan,
George and June Hutchins,
Carleen Krening,*

*Dean Luallen,
Marilyn Miller,
Jordan and Nancy Obertier,
Jolene Pace,
Jackie Phillips,
Kimberle Phillips,
Kate Sawyer,
Roger Stork,*

*Kay Tabor,
Marilyn Ware,
Edith Walters,
Amy Weiske,
David Whitelaw,
Baby Zander*

WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER:

*The marriage of Rick Jiang and Catherine
Bonnington*

*The birth of Eloise – great granddaughter of
Carolyn McIntosh*

*The birth of Shay Carpenter to Kelsi and
Brandon Griffin, and grandparents Jerry
and Terry Hertzler*

*The 60th wedding anniversary of Betty and
Les Ludlam*

*The birth of Benton Taylor to parents Erin
Hoffman and Scott Reid, and grandparents
Monty Hoffman and Raina Powell*

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

*Kam Boles and family on the passing of her father,
Bob Phillips*

*June Daniel on the passing of her daughter,
Kelly Daniel*

*Kristi Pawley and family on the passing of her
mother, Linda Heyd*

*Eric Ransick and family on the passing of his brother,
Mark Ransick*

*Frank and Connie Shoemaker and family on the
passing of their daughter, Sonja Shoemaker Tilliros*



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