



Advent/Christmas The Chronicle

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

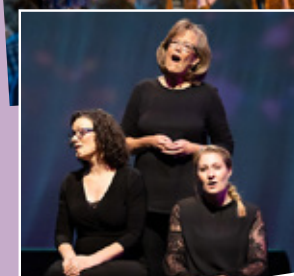
ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

Community Reconnecting!

St. Luke's celebrated our Kick Off of this new church year with so many fun and inspiring gatherings this fall. Thank you for your continued support, your love for our church family and your willingness to be engaged.

We are *grateful!*



See full Advent & Christmas Calendar on Page 5

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:15-7:00pm
ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Adult Sessions: Connecting to the Christmas Story in a new way.

WEDNESDAY 12/1: THE ANGEL STORY - Come and explore the concept of angels and how they appear in our lives today.

WEDNESDAY 12/8: THE SANTA STORY - This is the moment we finally let the sacred Christmas story inspire the secular story so we can find our peace with both.

WEDNESDAY 12/15: THE STORY IN SONG - Reconnect to the music and lyrics that speak to our hearts and that move us to come back to the love and hope we have inside.

WEDNESDAY 12/22: OUR STORY - Come and share your favorite Christmas memories, look at what makes them so special and see how you can elicit that spirit this Christmas.

Children are invited to the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays 6:15-7:00pm for their own devotion and craft.

Thank you for Supporting Refugees



St. Luke's members have reached out in compassion to refugees who will need much assistance as they become settled in the Denver area in the coming months. We are working with the Refugee Program at Lutheran Family Services. In October, St. Luke's donated a complete

Apartment Bin containing 28 items that families will need as they start life in a new home. In addition, there was a whopping \$950 donated for additional Apartment Bins or for whatever the greatest needs the refugees may have.

continued on page 3

Wesley Players Theatre Company Marks Return to St. Luke's with 2 Outstanding Shows

By Jack Kennedy **Young Frankenstein:** Before auditions for the Wesley Players' readers theater version of "Young Frankenstein" began, I had no idea how many would show up. Would there be too many – after all, I wrote the show for about 12-14 – and what would happen if four brave souls gave it a shot?

I need not have worried, as nine talented and fun people auditioned. We added two more to the mix (I "volunteered" a couple people) and we had our 11-member cast for the Oct. 9 show. The entire process, from auditions to performance, was over in 10 days, but the three rehearsals were sufficient to bring the script to life and the performance drew an audience of about 75.

continued on page 11

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

Sunday Worship services
9:00am live streamed and in person
10:30am in person

Sunday School
9:00am PreK-12th grade
 Nursery available with reservation

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

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com

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



Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Garrett.....x117
 Interim Director of Servant Ministry

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

Taletha Pogge.....x124
 Director of Finance

Jessica Shelton.....x116
 Financial Assistant

Barry Curtis.....x144
 Facilities Manager

Our next issue of **The Chronicle** will be the January/February issue.

Content due January 10

Please send inquiries and submissions to:

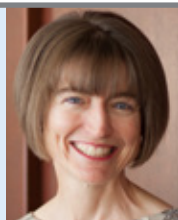
chronicle@stlukeshr.com

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

Journey to the Manger

Dear St. Luke's Family and Friends,

Are you ready for some deep peace? Some silent nights? Some holy nights?

As we complete our *Wholehearted Living* series, we move into the sacred

time of Advent on Sunday, November 28, where we prepare for Jesus to come to us in new and holy ways. I wonder what Jesus' birth will begin in each of us this year, for we are beautifully poised to come close to *The Miracle of the Manger*, the name of our Advent series.

You see, in June, I went to Sacred Heart Retreat Center to plan a year's worth of worship series. Prior to my arrival, I had been considering using Brené Brown's book *Daring Greatly* for our Fall series, and in my quiet time with God walking around the deer-filled and inspiring property, I felt called to make this series a reality. And what a great series this has been. Daring to live vulnerably without having to turn to our defense mechanisms to "protect" us, has allowed us to get back to our true, God-created selves—the selves we were born to be.

So after I picked the theme and scriptures for each Sunday of the Fall series, I went on another walk to listen for what we as a community might need heading into Advent.

What kept coming to me was that after we spend time getting back to our God-selves, we will need to come back to the holy manger as well, so its simplicity can ground us in peace, hope, love and joy. Thus, *The Miracle of the Manger*, came into being.

It's important to recognize this intentional movement.

When we dare to be all God created us to be, when we strive to "come back home" to ourselves—our God-selves—it's nice to have the security of the peace, hope, love and joy of Jesus before us, and it's nice to have the familiar hymns, scriptures and rituals of the season as we gather together.

And we will gather together!

Here's what I imagine, and what we at St. Luke's are planning for.

I envision all Advent and Christmas Eve services and events going on as ordinarily scheduled! (See p.5 for a list of all Advent and Christmas Eve events.) Yes, we will continue to have to be mindful about how many people we can safely have in each room. Yes, we will continue to watch the Douglas County numbers so we can adjust accordingly. And yes, we will probably still be masked. But I believe we can do this! And I believe we can do this together, both in-person and online. And I believe it will be worth it!

Will you join me and the entire St. Luke's community in sending your love, your prayers and your good energy toward this goal so we can bring it into being? So we can all come to the manger, no matter where we may be? Because that is what we do at St. Luke's! We come together in prayer, in spirit, in service, in missions, in worship, in fellowship, in stewardship, in music, in theater, in word, in study, in events, in tears, in laughter and most importantly, in the name of God. Thank you for the piece you bring to our community. It is essential, valuable and appreciated!

I look forward to the Miracle of the Manger that is to come for us!

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



...after we spend time getting back to our God-selves, we will need to come back to the holy manger as well, so its simplicity can ground us in peace, hope, love and joy.





Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

Falling into Advent

Denver is setting records this week for the longest stretch without measurable snow in the era of keeping record of these things (211 days and counting). I do not mind snow (I was born and raised in Minneapolis!) but I have deeply loved the fall season we have been able to enjoy to the fullest this year! A few weeks ago, I spent a rare hour on my back deck, watching golden maple leaves tumble from the sky. It was peaceful, beautiful, and soul-restoring.



Likewise, we have had a beautiful fall season at St. Luke's. My heart is full with the recent experiences we have shared as a community of faith! Every day that passes, I feel more connected to the people, ministries, and the spirit that makes this place SO St. Luke's!

A few highlights of the fall for me were the Feeding of the 5000, slinging pumpkins as we unloaded the truck for the SLY Pumpkin Patch, giggling at the Wesley Player's production of *Young Frankenstein*, finding myself in awe at the work and reach of HAAT Force, the Performing Arts Academy, Pura Vida, and We Don't Waste while attending their annual fundraising events, handing out treats as the St. Luke's Little School preschoolers "trick-or-treated" around the building, and seeing everyone in costume at our Fall Festival. It was a full and beautiful fall season that brought so much life and great energy to our community!

As we prepare for our Advent season of great preparation and waiting for the Miracle of the Manger, I find myself so eager to experience these upcoming events with our community. My kids are so excited for the Tree Lighting on November 28th and the Holiday Shop on Dec. 11th! The anticipation for the Cantata on the 12th is tangible. We are ready to roll out the Giving Tree online and in person as an opportunity for you to gift special donations to your loved ones that benefit our mission and outreach partners. And of course, to celebrate five Christmas Eve services back in the sanctuary will be meaningful, joyous, and awesome!



While the Christmas season is typically characterized as a season of joy, I want to pause and acknowledge that the reality of the season is that it holds complex emotions. In the midst of joy and festivity, there is also grief, memories of loss, anxiety, depression, and stress. **We have set aside Sunday, December 5th at 5:00pm for a special worship service called Blue Christmas.** The emphasis of this time will be to acknowledge all the emotions that arise during this season. With music, scripture, poetry, and candlelight we will remember the promise of

light, even in the darkest winter and the promise of hope, in the darkest night.

St. Luke's, please know that the offer to meet for a cup of coffee or a quick walk always stands. I am eager for opportunities to connect. Let me know ways we can pray for you during this season of Advent.

Peace and Love, Rev. Liza

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are a beautiful addition to our Sanctuary and altar for our Christmas Eve services, and you are again invited to support this tradition. Poinsettias will be available for purchase Nov. 28-Dec. 12 between services in the Narthex and online. Cost will be \$25 per plant and you'll have the option to take home your plant following the 9:00pm Christmas Eve service or donate it to an individual who would appreciate the extra decoration following Christmas. At the time of purchase, you will be invited to let us know if you would like to do so in celebration, honor, or memory of a loved one. Memorial recognition will be listed in service programs on Sunday, December 19th. Please reach out to Stephanie in the church office if you have questions.



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

Celebrate Life's Holiness

When your life is filled with the desire to see the holiness in everyday life, something magical happens: ordinary life becomes extraordinary, and the very process of life begins to nourish your soul. —Rabbi Harold S. Kushner



In early November, the Center for Spiritual Engagement Team gathered to create plans for new 2022 opportunities. We're excited to invite you to be part of fresh ways to connect, to learn, and to celebrate the amazing holiness of life. Thanks to all of you who have participated with us in the past year. We have loved being with you on beautiful hikes, in creative classes and retreats, on the lawn of the Highlands Ranch mansion for yoga, and learning new practices of wellbeing, ways to nourish our souls, and ways to thrive. We appreciated your support of the magical Backyard Movie Night Community Raiser and the Paddle and Potluck Picnic at Chatfield Reservoir. Thank you for your honesty about the challenges and hopes of the past months in our Reflect, Reset, and Reimagine conversations. As a community, we've also journeyed together toward increasingly honorable actions of anti-racism and allyship forming meaningful connections that extend beyond our immediate community. Truly, it has been quite a year! Thank you for bringing the values of grace, courage, and wonder to life. Your commitment, energy, enthusiasm and gratitude inspire us to remain true to our purpose of offering experiences that foster healing and wellbeing.

With Gratitude, Rev. Sallie

REFUGEES continued from page 1

Seasoned Voyagers and the Christian Connection class teamed together to provide an additional Apartment Bin delivered in November.

St. Luke's has also formed a trained Cultural Mentoring Group with Lutheran Family Services. This group will provide friendship to an assigned refugee family in a mutually beneficial relationship, involving cultural exchange and fun. The group will help with financial literacy, employment, practical life skills, and learning English. Members of our Cultural Mentoring Group are Pat Shaffer, Betsy Keyack, Teri Burget, Julie Gustafson, Kris Reif and Steve Collins.

There are many additional ways you can work through Lutheran Family Services to help refugees. For example, there is currently a great need for clothing and culturally appropriate food for the families. A variety of household items are still needed. Volunteers are needed to meet families at the airport. To learn more, you can go to www.lfsm.org/programs-and-services/refugees/refugee-asylee-volunteer-program/ or contact **Pat Shaffer (prshaffer04@yahoo.com)** or **Betsy Keyack (bkeyack@att.net)**. Pat and Betsy can share the latest detailed information.



Thank You, St. Luke's!

David Garrett
Interim Director of
Servant Ministry

WOW, time flies when you're having fun and I know this because it has been a very quick four

months since I started this new position. I want to thank Renae Parra for helping me with this transition and setting me up for success. I want to thank the staff at St. Luke's for their continued support and guidance as I am learning and in service of St. Luke's. I am reminded every day of how lucky I am to work with such amazing people with one common goal of serving St. Luke's and beyond. I also want to thank everyone at St. Luke's for your support and guidance. Thank you for asking how I am doing with this role as well as balancing teaching and family.

This St. Luke's community is alive, well, and awesome things are happening. Here are some examples of how YOU are stepping up and serving our St. Luke's community these last couple of months:

- Thank you to those who said YES to the requests from the Equipping Ministries team to serve in leadership starting in January. Our ministry teams are so vital to St. Luke's and we appreciate your willingness to serve. If you have a calling to serve St. Luke's please contact me by email, come find me on a Sunday morning, or speak with a staff member.
- Our SLIC groups and Wholehearted Living Groups are thriving. If you would like more information about our groups please email or find me on a Sunday morning.
- Our dedicated Sunday morning teams (coffee team, bread making team, ushers, and tech team) continue to remain flexible as things change so we all have the best possible worship experience.
- Our Community Raising Team and all of the community raisers that have taken place to bring everyone together.
- The stewardship campaign and all of the pledge cards that have been coming in.
- The Missions Team as they continue to serve our community in so many ways.

Every week I say to myself how blessed I am to work for all of you!

Grace and Blessings, David

Helpers Needed on Christmas Eve

Candle Bin Team: It takes a quick moving team to replace and repair our small candles between services. Help immediately after one of our services for 20 to 30 minutes. A small amount of time that helps A LOT! Contact David Garrett at servantministry@stlukeshr.com

Grateful for our Team Members

As the year comes to a close, we have new leaders ready to step into our teams in January. St. Luke's staff is grateful for all the ways you are serving our community. At this time we want to give a special heartfelt thank you to everyone who is rolling off a 3-year term on our leadership teams.



Diane Kitson - **Finance Team**

Kam Boles, Jay Lee - **Equipping Team**

Andrew Campbell, Jennifer Schmidt - **Lay Leader**

Brian Ary, Dawn Burger, Steve Parra - **Trustee Team**

Monty Hoffman - **Missions Team Lead**, Jim Burke - **Missions Team**

Erin Balcaitis, Megan Jones, Natalie Rose - **Children's Ministry Team**

Paul Peterman, Linda Hollyman, Pam Wiethoff - **Staff Parish Relations**

United Methodist Women Update

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



UMW Interest Groups:

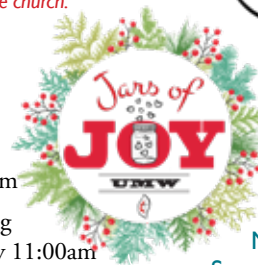
Book Club – Fourth Monday 7:00pm on Zoom.

- January 24 - *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande
- February 28 - *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

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

Itch to Stitch – Projects of crochet, knitting, sewing, quilting are all donated to charities. We usually meet on the 3rd Saturday 11:00am to 12:00pm. Contact Fran at 303-797-7107 or mfranwest@gmail.com.

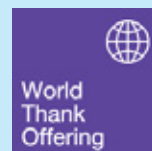
UMW Ladies – A time to connect and chat - Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. For further information contact Fran West, mfranwest@gmail.com.



UMW created and sold almost 150 Jars of Joy in November to benefit Youth and Children's Missions. Yummy Soup, Cocoa, Tea & Cookies will be going home in December.

World Thank Offering

For more than 135 years Methodist women have given to the World Thank Offering through the United Methodist Women. The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundant grace in the midst of change. When we share our gifts and they are combined with the gifts of others, our contribution makes possible the support of national and international work to meet the physical and social needs of women, children and youth in our neighborhood and around the world. More information can be found at Unitedmethodistwomen.org/worldthank



During the Veterans Day Appreciation on Sunday Nov. 11, 2021, the United Methodist Women presented two Quilts of Valor

The quilts were designed by Itch to Stitch and pieced by Mary Perterson and Liz Yount. The presentation of the quilt shows a deep appreciation for the service and sacrifices of those who have served in our Armed Forces to protect our freedoms.

Tim Boles served in the Air Force for 17.5 years. During his military career he was trained as a pilot, served as a Weather Support Official and Landing Support Officer for space shuttles and was a Project Manager for many classified space projects.

Bob Belleville served in the Air Force for 9 years. During his military career he was a Communications Intelligence Morse Code Intercept Operator and a Radio Fingerprinting Official. His work was very important to the mission for the security of our country both locally and globally.

The UMW Itch to Stitch created approximately a dozen hand crocheted lap robes that have been blessed and will be presented to Veterans at VA Hospital.





DRAW CLOSE TO THE MANGER AND LET YOUR SPIRIT BE BORN ANEW

Now thru November 30:

GIVING TREE: IFCS Adopt a Child

Support Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) and their Adopt-a-child program. Go online to sponsor gifts for a child.

DONATE ONLINE

Sunday November 28:

ADVENT 1: The Miracle of HOPE

WORSHIP.....9:00am & 10:30am

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) The miracle of the manger starts with the angels who tell us "Do not be afraid. You will have a son and you will name him Jesus." Psalm 91:9-12, Luke 1:26-38

TREE LIGHTING SERVICE.....6:30pm

Family service of carols and our impromptu Christmas Pageant! Children (age 2-6th grade) may come early at 5:45pm and pick out a costume and participate in the service (no preparation required) by bringing to life the characters of the Christmas story! Ken Mervine, Sisters of Soul, the Rigolinis and Youth Bells will perform. Enjoy cookies and cider afterwards.

November 28-December 24:

GIVING TREE: More Opportunities

Please consider supporting our Guatemala Mission (milk and construction), the CSE Honduras Music Program, Sedalia Elementary, HAAT Force, Mondays in the Park and Warren Village by gifting a special donation online or taking a tag from our tree in Fellowship Hall.

DONATE ONLINE

Wednesday December 1:

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONS...6:15-7:00pm

for Adults (Chapel) and Children (Sanctuary)

Saturday December 4:

SMILES & SMOCKS.....10:00am-Noon

Painting class. Sign up smilesandsmocks@gmail.com

Sunday December 5:

ADVENT 2: The Miracle of JOY

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION/

WORSHIP.....9:00am & 10:30am

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) The miracle of the manger draws us back to the holy story behind the Santa story so we can find deep joy throughout the season. Psalm 43:3-5, Luke 1:39-50

BLUE CHRISTMAS.....5:00pm

This service is created for those experiencing grief of all forms, those distanced from loved ones, and those who acknowledge the complex emotions during the holiday season.

ST. LUKE'S UMC 2021 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR



Wednesday December 8: WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONS.....6:15-7:00pm
for Adults (Chapel) and Children (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday December 11: CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOP.....9:00am-1:00pm

Children can shop independently for everyone in the family and delight in the joy of giving! Gifts are \$1-\$10. Little School classes shop Dec. 8-10.

Sunday December 12: ADVENT 3: The Miracle of LOVE

CHRISTMAS CANTATA.....9:00 & 10:45am

Pre-registration SIGN UP* is required in order to celebrate safely (will also be livestreamed.)

Enjoy this favorite St. Luke's tradition featuring the Chancel Choir, Soul Purpose Youth Choir, Kidz Prayz Choir, Tintinnabulators Handbell Ensemble and the St. Luke's Orchestra. (No Sunday School)

SIGN UP ONLINE*

Wednesday December 15: WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONS.....6:15-7:00pm

for Adults (Chapel) and Children (Sanctuary)

Sunday December 19: ADVENT 4: The Miracle of PEACE

CANDY CANE SUNDAY/WORSHIP.....9:00 & 10:30am

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) The miracle of the manger brings us back to the peace we have in our hearts so we can live with depth, honesty and fairness. Micah 5:2-5a, Isaiah 11:1-6

CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING.....10:00am-Noon

All are welcome to join in with Chef Jennifer for this Community Raiser in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday December 22: WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONS.....6:15-7:00pm

for Adults (Chapel) and Children (Sanctuary)

Friday December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE: The Miracle of PRESENCE

Pre-registration SIGN UP* is required in order to celebrate safely (will also be livestreamed) The miracle of the manger is that Christ is present with us and that changes everything! Isaiah 9:2,6-7, Matthew 1:18-23

CHILDREN'S.....1:00 & 3:00pm

(Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson) Enjoy a family worship experience featuring our Puppet Ministry, Kidz Prayz Children's Choir, Youth Choir and Joyful Noise Youth Handbells.

TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) Traditional carols and candles service featuring the Chancel Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, and Tintinnabulators Handbell Ensemble.

COMMUNION.....9:00pm

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) Communion service featuring Soloists and Organ.

SIGN UP ONLINE*

Saturday December 25: CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK.....11:00am-1:30pm

Donate new socks and hand warmers at the church by December 24! Contact Sam Leahy for info and to participate downtown at Lincoln Park.

Sunday December 26: WORSHIP.....9:00am ONLY

(Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson) (Family Worship - No Sunday School) Let the joy of Christmas continue as we celebrate the miracle of the manger with this casual Family Worship - wear your Christmas jammies or festive sweaters!

Sunday January 2, 2022: NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION/WORSHIP.....9:00am ONLY

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) (Family Worship - No Sunday School) Fresh Faith from Noah and the Flood: God was cleaning things up, giving the world a fresh start. What needs a fresh start in our lives? As we start a new year, what do we want? Mark 1:9-11, A Narrative of Genesis 6-9

Sunday January 9, 2022: EPIPHANY

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION OF THE KINGS.....9:00 & 10:30am

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) The miracle of the manger is that the gifts of the Christ child can continue to provide for us all through our lives so we can always have peace, hope, love and joy. Join us as our 15 ft. tall Magi puppets and their entourage present their gifts to the Christ child. Matthew 2:1-12

*SIGN UP will be available at 10:00am on the preceding Monday at stlukeshr.com

Giving Tree November & December



November: Be A Child Gift Sponsor for the Holidays

Integrated Family Community Services is in need of sponsors for their Helping Hands for the Holidays program. Please visit their website, IFCS.org, to select a child to sponsor and purchase a gift through November 30. As the covid pandemic continues, it will be completely virtual again this year. The site will allow

you to shop for the child's gift and have it shipped directly to the IFCS office for distribution. A holiday meal box may also be purchased for the family. Be a helping hand to a local family this holiday season!

December: Donation Opportunities Go online to donate at stlukeshr.com or grab a tag off of the Giving Tree Nov. 28-Dec. 24.

- **Guatemala Construction:** To Pura Vida Ministries. This gift will be used toward construction of a home for a family in need in Guatemala.
- **Guatemala Milk Program:** To support the Guatemala Milk Program. This gift will provide a 2.5kg canister of dehydrated milk, which, when mixed with water, will make 5 gallons of whole milk. This gift will give months of vital nutrition for chronically malnourished children in Lemoa, Guatemala.
- **HAAT Force, Englewood CO Severe Weather Hotel Voucher:** To support HAAT Force. This gift will provide one night of severe weather motel shelter for a family in need in South Metro Denver.
- **Honduras - Abundant Life Christian School Music Room:** To support Abundant Life Christian School in Yamaranguila, Honduras. This gift will be used to support their music room.
- **Mondays in the Park:** To support the St. Luke's ministry of Mondays in the Park. This gift will help provide weekly lunches to those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in downtown Denver.
- **Sedalia Elementary School:** To support the students of Sedalia Elementary School. This gift will provide Walmart or King Soopers gift cards to families in need.
- **Warren Village, Denver CO:** To support the ministry of Warren Village in Denver, CO.

Monday Lunches Supports New Project

Our Monday sack lunch program for folks experiencing housing insecurities is now supporting lunches to Denver's Safe Outdoor Spaces at Denver Health and Park Hill UMC. The project is an innovative, intentional approach to meet emergent needs and creates housing for increasing numbers of unhoused people. With so much change happening, it can be hard for most people to feel secure. Those who are unhoused often experience exponential impacts during transformational times like these, finding it even more challenging to meet their most basic needs. The housing project is a strategic step to provide temporary, safer housing through the winter months. It is an opportunity to provide managed care, services and compassion to those at the margins. Thank you for your donation support. For questions please contact sam@stlukeshr.com



Appreciation from HAAT Force



Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force South Metro (HAAT Force) would like to express deep appreciation to members of St. Luke's for the generous support of HAAT Force's Fall Fundraising Campaign! St. Luke's provided superb hospitality and tech support for the livestream Kickoff event on September 18. You can view the 30-minute program on YouTube. Proceeds will be used for severe weather motel vouchers for families; people with disabilities, service animals or pets; women who are pregnant; and older vulnerable adults experiencing homelessness. Your generosity will also support our efforts to provide food, resources and Case Management for our guests. During September and October, HAAT Force pre-registered people in anticipation of the start of severe weather (see photo).

HAAT Force, a 501c3 non-profit founded in 2010, has deep roots in St. Luke's. Thanks to everyone who attended the Kickoff, provided Silent Auction items and, throughout the month-long campaign, donated monetarily and bid on the Silent Auction. Tremendous gratitude is extended to our congregation for its continuous support financially and with volunteers!

Feeding of the 5000 - Our Miracle

Our Feeding of the 5000 Food Drive looked very tenuous this summer. We didn't



know if we would have stores to collect at or if it was going to be a virtual campaign like 2020. In the last few weeks, four King Soopers stores decided that we could collect at their stores.

Our goal this year was to have a food drive of some

type and give the St Luke's community and the South Metro area a chance to be generous to those in need. The community was very generous.

With only four stores, we had no idea how things would go. It was quickly very obvious that a lot of people were giving and they were giving a lot per person. Even at the Southwest Denver store where many of the people are often users of the food bank, a large number of people gave what they could.

In two days at four stores, we collected 11,500 pounds of food and over \$5000. It was much better than we had hoped for. I want to thank the St Luke's community for your support and especially the people who volunteered for their time. Next year we hope that the pandemic will be more under control and that more stores will be comfortable with our presence. Regardless, we will do what we can to help our neighbors.

Sedalia Elementary Update

This is St. Luke's 12th school year in relationship with Sedalia Elementary. Even though we have not provided classroom volunteers during the COVID pandemic, we still remain connected with the school. Sedalia Elementary has an enrollment of 190 students, about 75% of whom are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. As a national Green Ribbon School, Sedalia Elementary continues its award-winning Environmental Sustainability curriculum. They are also partnering with the Performing Arts Academy to have the students do a production of "The Lion King."

Seasoned Voyagers members have donated significant funds to Sedalia Elementary for technology in the form of programmable Yellow Bee-Bots and Blue -Bots. These robots are used by the students in grades Kindergarten through 6th grade to develop critical thinking, problem solving, design and coding skills. (see photo). The students are benefiting greatly from them!



In addition, Seasoned Voyagers has funds set aside for some gift cards for Sedalia Elementary families in need during the upcoming holiday season. Finally, the St. Luke's December Giving Tree will provide an opportunity for the entire congregation to donate toward gift cards for families who need extra help throughout the year.



Taletha Pogge
Director of
Finance

Congrats Taletha!

Welcome Taletha to the staff team as our Director of Finance (no longer Interim)! We are blessed to have you at St. Luke's.

To the congregation: Thank you for your overwhelming response to our "Rise Up" Stewardship Campaign. If you haven't turned in

your pledge card yet, please do as soon as possible so we can plan our budgets for the new year. Your continued financial support is more important than ever. *Thank You!*

You can support St Luke's in many different ways.

- **Continue your monthly or yearly pledge giving** by going online (stlukeshr.com - click the donate button) or mailing in a check to St Luke's UMC, Attn: Finance Department, 8817 S Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129.
- **One time donations** can be made online at stlukeshr.com or mailed in to St. Luke's UMC, Attn: Finance Department, 8817 S Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129.
- **Attend and financially support any of the upcoming Community Raisers.**

Any financial questions can be sent to Taletha Pogge at financedirector@stlukeshr.com



Community Raisers Update

I knew that when our team came up with the name Community Raisers, it was an absolutely perfect fit for St. Luke's! First and foremost we are a COMMUNITY. A community that is Spirit led and lives and breathes through each other. Secondly, whenever there is a need, our Community responds! And that is just what we have seen in the Community Raiser events... a gathering of people who love being together, having a great time and all the while doing something good for the church!

Recent Community Raisers include:

- **A car show** that was beyond our hopes in how many amazing vehicles who participated.
- **A spectacular golf event** at Red Hawk Ridge where the golf was only matched by the camaraderie on and off the course.
- **A bourbon tasting** that drew rave reviews and folks clamored for the next one!
- **A magnificent churchwide picnic** that reminded us of olden days of home baked goods and sharing stories.
- **Movie night** in the backyard of the church captured our hearts as we watched *You've Got Mail*... plus the popcorn was amazing! (see article at right)
- **The Wesley Players put on Young Frankenstein** and the only complaint heard was, why weren't there more performances! (see article in this issue)

So far this year, the Community Raisers have brought in over \$50,000 to help with our financial challenges. Thanks to all of you who attended one (or more!) of these events. More important than the money, is the opportunity to reconnect together in fun and meaningful ways. Be on the lookout for upcoming Community Raiser events as our team is planning on creating some community connectors that you won't want to miss! Peace and love, Marty Davidson, Community Raiser Team Lead

Matthew 12:5 "...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Our Community Rising Up!

"This year's engagement from our St. Luke's community in our stewardship efforts is like none that I have seen before. It's incredible!"—Jim Ramsey

Well St. Luke's, we asked and you responded! Thank you for your amazing participation thus far in our 2022 Stewardship Campaign. In keeping with our promise of transparency through this campaign, as of October 31st, we have received 175 pledges and a corresponding \$761,753!!! That is over 100 cards and half a million dollars more than just two weeks prior! WOW... the St. Luke's community rocks! While we have limited records on how many pledges came in each week in previous years, many people who were involved in past campaigns say this is a super strong number... thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! Traditionally, we receive about 225 pledges each year. If we can get to that number, we should hit approximately \$1,000,000. We also have an amazing group of people in our community who don't typically pledge, but are some of our most loyal and consistent givers. Between these two groups and what the Community Raiser team is going to commit to, we feel hopeful that we will reach our \$1,200,000 goal!

This year more than any others, it is incredibly important and extremely helpful if you share your intentions so our finance team can create a real, non-COVID related budget! If you need a pledge card, would like to pledge online, communicate your intentions in any way or have any questions at all, please contact our new Finance Director, Taletha Pogge (financedirector@stlukeshr.com) and she will get you whatever you need! Be on the lookout in coming weeks (and December 5 in worship service) for a complete readout on how the Stewardship Campaign turns out and a preliminary look at the budget for 2022!!!!

—Marty Davidson



CSE's Magical Movie Night

Over 50 people gathered on September 17 as St. Luke's backyard was transformed into a magical movie theater. CSE hosted a Movie Night Community Raiser event contributing \$2000. Bella Fabiani performed fantastic live music as people arrived, got their fresh popcorn, candy and drinks, and *You've Got Mail* trivia set the stage for the film. Drawing from themes in the movie, attendees were encouraged to write notes at the writing station and participate in the book exchange. As the sun was setting, everyone escaped into the 90's romantic comedy and were reminded not to judge a book by its cover as we find love in our community. **From Nancy Betts:** *"Thank you for an AMAZING movie night under the stars!!! It truly was a magical night - with the luminaries (so beautiful), the twinkling lights, the incredible bestseller goodie boxes, live music and a fun & enchanting movie. I appreciated all the little details you all put into planning the night. I enjoyed the tasty popcorn, candy and Hope-meal cookies. And loved the beautiful custom themed cards, pens with daisies and lovely serenity jars with lights! Everything was so well thought out and executed so beautifully. It was such a fun experience - I'm still thinking about it days later. I've got the "You've Got Mail" glow!"*



CSE Purpose:

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

stlukesCSE.org

Thriving!

The 10/8/21 Thrive retreat, held at the Hideaway's indoor and outdoor sanctuary, offered 11 participants and 4 facilitators expansion of the



mind, body, heart and spirit in the awe-inspiring, nature-rich landscape. In setting the stage for renewing healthy rhythms, Thrive offered innovative opportunities to recharge through conversations, connections, peacefulness and wonderment for joy. Enriching our personal wellbeing and lightning of one's spirit, attendees were guided within a centering meditation, practiced forest therapy techniques, highlighted the symbolism of trees (and our rooted interconnectedness), examined a wellbeing model for personal enhancement, journaled private reflections, read inspirational works, and traveled through the senses in savoring new aspects of gratitude. This group will also 'check in' together over a meal on 11/14 as a practice of renewal and deepening of their bonds.

CSE Classes & Experiences:

Practices of Wellbeing

In September, we joined together weekly both on Zoom and in person to engage in Practices of Wellbeing. We enhanced our individual wellbeing through learning regarding our unique Character Strengths, practicing self-compassion, engaging in meditation, movement, and many forms of mindfulness. Our weekly check in as a community was a highlight of the shared experience. While the practices were interesting and engaging, each part of our learning was also supported by research and science on increasing wellness of mind, body and spirit. If you are interested in learning more about Practices of Wellbeing, contact Dr. Sallie Suby-Long for more information about upcoming opportunities!

Brave Spaces

Over the past few months as we have continued our journey to address racial conflict, look for opportunities for meaningful change and take action we have been involved in significant learning and engagement. We've had an amazing opportunity to join with Trinity UMC in Denver for a **Dinner and Dialogue Series on Race**. Over a period of 10 weeks (5 sessions) a group from St. Luke's has joined with 70 to 80 people of racial, ethnic and intergenerational diversity to share meals and conversation, which has allowed for development of deeper relationships and understanding. The program follows a model created by the U.S. Department of Justice. As explained on their website: *"The Dialogue on Race program is an interactive, facilitated process that opens lines of communication and fosters mutual understanding to help address racial conflict and decrease racial tensions. The program convenes participants from as many parts of the community as possible to exchange information face-to-face or virtually, share personal stories and experiences, honestly express perspectives, clarify viewpoints, and develop solutions that address community concerns."* Brave

Spaces is excited to bring this valuable experience back to St. Luke's and will be sharing more in the future. Check out the 9News segment that features our Rev. Dr. Sallie.



The Brave Spaces Legislative Action Pod

continues 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 information or to get involved, contact janestaller@gmail.com.

Brave Spaces monthly meetings have been engaged in a book study of *"Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor"* by Layla F. Saad. It is a workbook and discussion guide aimed at people who hold white privilege to explore and dismantle the white supremacy at the core of our society, institutions and ourselves. As we continue this lifelong journey of anti-racism and allyship we hope you will consider joining us. If you have ideas you would like us to explore to promote this learning, please let us know.

December Prayers & Reflections

December 14, 6:30-7:00pm, CHAPEL

CSE is hosting a time of music, prayer and reflection. You're invited to step into the candle-lit beauty of the Chapel and center yourself as you listen to prayers, poems and the lovely music of harpist Kaila Davidson. We welcome you to this peaceful time for honoring the sacredness of the season and breathing in a few moments of grace and the holy light of December! Contact Sallie.

Hearts for Honduras

December 19, 9:00am Worship Service

Gift Presentation to Abundant Life Christian School

WHOLE – Exploring Wellness in Blue Zones with Sharon and Bob Oliver, Saturday, January 8, 10:00am–12:30pm - registration is now OPEN! Start 2022 with healthy habits! We will once again focus on the 5 areas of the world (blue zones) where people live longer, happier and healthier lives and dive into the reasons why. Fee is \$20 and includes class instruction, food, and materials. Scholarships are available! Contact Sharon@stlukeshr.com

CSE Outdoor Adventures:

We are very blessed to live in Colorado – there are so many beautiful places to explore. And our municipal bodies continue to set aside and develop new open spaces for us to enjoy. You can find a complete list of our hikes over the last 9 years(!) on the CSE website.

On September 16 we explored the **Fox Run Regional Park**, just east of Colorado Springs, where the Ute People created "Prayer Trees" for a variety of practical and spiritual purposes hundreds of years ago. The most common trees used by the Ute people were ponderosa pines, which they modified or reshaped by peeling away bark or bending the tree using hemp ropes. These modified trees communicated important information to others. We discovered many examples of Ute Prayer Trees during our 3-mile hike through the Fox Run Open Space.



On October 7 we revisited beautiful **Eldorado Canyon and the 4.5-mile Rattlesnake Gulch Trail** (We've never seen a rattlesnake there!) We followed an old wagon road up to the ruins of the historic Craggs Hotel and then continued on for beautiful views at the Continental Divide lookout. On warm days, this trail offers some shade for early morning hikers. We concluded our hike with our traditional potluck "tailgate" and lots of conversation.

Our final hike for 2021 was on a gorgeous fall day, Nov. 11, when we hiked the 4.5 mile perimeter of **Hidden Mesa Open Space**, east of Castle Rock with panoramic views of the Front Range.

If you'd like to join our email list, contact janestaller@gmail.com. We'll be planning new hiking adventures for 2022, and we welcome you!



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

FALL BLESSINGS!

Children's Dinner Theater Success!

After 15 years of plays and then having to skip 2020 because of COVID, putting on a Children's Dinner Theater (CDT) this year was just a dream until everything miraculously came together to make it happen. We could rehearse and perform outdoors, and directors Kay Coryell, Angela Alderson, Lisa Kramer and Sharon Oliver, parents and children were excited and willing. We ended up with a cast of 26 amazing kids. Some were in a show for the first time and for some this was their last CDT after performing for years. We even extended the age limit so those who had aged out over the pandemic were still able to be a part of this show. **"A Kid's Life"** (re-imagined brilliantly by Lisa Kramer as a kid's camp setting) brought us together with music and laughs and a message of appreciating the simple "unplugged" things on a beautiful Sept. 24 evening. Big kudos to these kids and their families and our volunteer support. We had an amazing meal outside and parents said they loved the backyard venue. And we raised over \$1000 to donate to FERN food bank for Feeding of the 5000. Wow! Can't wait to do our next show!



Fall Wacky Week Fun! Our Fall Wacky Days began with a shoe on the wall and inside out clothing and coats. With each new day the number of "wacky" things grew. The next day the children wore pj's all day and our last fun wacky day together we did everything backwards. We had a great time with many Wacky occurrences. Join us for our next set of **Winter Wacky Days 12/20-12/22** for kids age 3-6. Our Wacky Weeks this year have been great community raisers. Thanks to all who have participated!

Third Grade Bibles!

On Oct. 10 we presented our Third Graders with their very own Bible gifted to them from St. Luke's. We had 16 recipients this year. **Congratulations to:** Brooke Abrams, Madison Abrams, Ben Doernbrack, Ellington Dunn, Andrew Garrett, Jackson Gould, Owen Gustafson, Hazel Hanson, Jackson Laughlin, Madeleine Hendreschke, Ronnie Mayka, Reagan McFall, Holland Meeks, Walker Meeks, Olivia Wolfe, and Maddie Youll. We offered a 3-week Bible Basics Study in November and had a great group.



Fall Festival!

On Oct. 30 we were blessed with amazing fall weather (it got hot!) and held a festive event outside to support our Pumpkin Patch. We had over 200 people attend (many in costume) to enjoy our trunk-or-treat, games, balloons, snacks, crafts, bouncy castle and bunnies! It was a great way to bring our community back together. Big thanks to all who came to participate and support this fun time.

SLY, Jr.! Our 5th & 6th grade youth group has had a great fall - we helped with Feeding of the 5000, had a crazy science day outside, and a Makin' It event where we created Thanksgiving Table centerpieces. These kids are not only silly and creative - they have big hearts. Can't wait until our Christmas Party on Dec. 12! Check out our SLY, Jr. webpage or contact Ms. Sharon with questions and to RSVP for our events.

With Hearts full of Gratitude! -Ms. Sharon & Ms. Sam



COMING UP!

The P.R.A.Y. Program: God and Me (Grades 1-3), God and Family (Grades 4-6) is coming to St. Luke's in JANUARY 2022! 4 Sundays beginning 1/9 from 10:30am to 12:00pm. \$30 materials fee per child. For info and to sign up: sharon@stlukeshr.com - space is limited. Pins will be presented on SCOUT SUNDAY Feb. 6 at 10:30am.

Advent Bags: A special bag of items that encourage Family Time for Advent reflection at home. Contact Sam or Sharon to reserve yours. Limited quantity. Pick up on Saturday Nov. 27 during Hanging of the Greens or on Sunday Nov. 28.

Tree Lighting Service with Children's Pageant: Sunday Nov. 28 at 6:30pm (come at 5:45pm to pick out a pageant costume!) Kick off the Christmas season at this special family service of stories and carols and our **impromptu** Christmas Pageant! Ken Mervine, Sisters of Soul, the Rigolinis & Youth Bells will perform. Enjoy cookies and cider afterwards. If your child would like to be part of the prelude "recital" and perform a holiday song that they have prepared on their own, email sharon@stlukeshr.com. Bring a plate of COOKIES to share and new SOCKS to donate for Christmas in the Park - THANKS!

Family Advent Devotionals: Join us Wednesdays 6:15-7:00pm Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22 for family time mid-week to help celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

Parent's Time Away: Dec. 11 9:00am-Noon, \$20/family, Sign up with Sam.

Holiday Shop: Saturday Dec. 11 from 9:00am-1:00pm. Children can shop downstairs in the Youth Room for everyone in the family and delight in the joy of giving! Gifts are \$1-\$10. Little School classes shop Dec. 8-10.

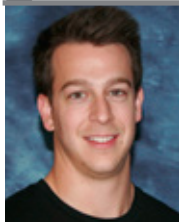
SLY, Jr. Christmas Party: Dec. 12 2:00-3:30pm. All 5th & 6th graders invited. Games & White Elephant Gift Exchange. Sign up with Sharon.

Candy Cane Sunday: Sunday Dec. 19 at 9:00 & 10:30am. See how the Candy Cane represents the Christmas Story and take one home! And join us for **CHRISTMAS COOKIE DECORATING** Dec. 19 from 10:00am-Noon (30-minute slots - 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, or 11:30am to decorate cookies in Fellowship Hall.) Donations welcome. Community Raiser Event!



Winter Fun Wacky Days: Dec. 20-22 9:00am-Noon, age 3-6yrs., \$25/day. Sign up online.

Children's Christmas Eve: Friday Dec. 24 at 1:00 & 3:00pm Enjoy a family-friendly worship service featuring our Puppet Ministry!



Jake Smith
Director of
Youth Ministry

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade

SLY Update

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

Wednesday Nights: Bible Study & Fellowshiping & Food

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

Sunday Nights:

Youth Group at 5:30pm

Youth Group: We have been

having great

attendance at our weekly Youth Group meetings, but there is always room for more! So, grab a friend, or 3 or 4 of them and come hang out. Or, just come make new friends. SLY is a great place for all youth to come hang out and have fun.

Pumpkin Patch: Thanks to all who volunteered at the Pumpkin Patch this year. We sold over \$35,000. This will help fund the youth events and mission trips over the summer. Thank you!

Warren Village: We hosted a Trunk or Treat at Warren Village in October. We handed out pumpkins and candy to the kids and families of Warren Village and had a great time!

Confirmation Class: We will begin a confirmation class January of 2022. The class is for any youth 8th-12th grade who has not been confirmed yet! Contact Jake to sign up.

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

Yours in Christ, Jake



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School

ST. LUKE'S Happy Fall, Welcome Advent!

Little School is in full swing, and we are excited to celebrate the harvest season and the season of gratitude. We are focusing on being culturally responsive by respectfully celebrating the English Settlers and Native Americans of the first Thanksgiving. Project Archaeology, The Smithsonian, and PBS, have some excellent resources to help teach children about the first Thanksgiving.

One of our favorite events each year is the Little School Halloween parade. The children paraded around the church and collected Halloween treats from the church staff. We followed that up with Halloween parties in each classroom. Staff members got their spice on and became the Spice Girls (see photo below.)



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

We look forward to the advent season and preparing for Christ's birth. Children will learn about the story of St. Nicholas and Jesus' birth during chapel time in November and December.

We wish you a wonderful harvest season and peaceful fall.

Grace and Love, Kelly

Rev. Liza's Recap of the Large Church Summit

In late October, St. Luke's was invited to participate in a Large Church Summit at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. The purpose of the Summit was to gather clergy and laity from the 400 largest UMC congregations in the U.S. for unifying discussion and community building. The churches who attended the Summit were those committed to remaining United Methodist as our denomination anticipates a future split, likely following the next gathering of General Conference, currently scheduled for Aug 29-Sept 6, 2022.

Throughout the two-day event, St. Luke's staff members, Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson and Stephanie Kirk participated in conversations with clergy and laity across our connection about what church leadership has looked like in the midst of COVID (takeaway: COVID was exhausting for church leaders and building back has been slow). We discussed what could change about United Methodism and what must remain central (takeaway: some bureaucracy could go, but GRACE remains at the core of our identity and theology). We also were inspired to think about ways to engage and invite (takeaway: United Methodism has so much to offer; let's get excited about sharing that!).

Leaving the event, the energy of the group was hope-filled and encouraged. The convener of the event, Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the Church of the Resurrection shared his perspective that in the anticipated denominational split the far left and the far right factions will peel away; many churches have already done so. But what remains is a strong committed middle, consisting of liberal-leaning beliefs, middle-of-the-road beliefs, and traditional-leaning beliefs. But shared by all is an understanding that we do not all have to think alike to love alike and with our strong theology of grace, we trust in the work of the Spirit to guide us in all things. If you have any questions about this event or the current state of the United Methodist Church, please reach out to Rev. Liza.

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences."

- John Wesley

Wesley Players continued from page 1

The beauty of readers theater is that the only true prerequisites are the ability to read and the willingness to throw yourself into a character (or two or three). No memorization. No complex blocking or choreography.

I thought of it as a radio play with a live studio audience, and hoped the script, based on a combination of the movie script, the original stage script, and a musical version of the show, would carry the show.

The actors took some chances, had some fun, and provided the audience with lots of laughs. It's a silly show with no deep message.

But it created an instant community.



All Together Now! The offer of a rights-free musical review, including rehearsal and performance tracks, sheet music, and stage projections, was too much for the Wesley Players to resist. The restriction of performing "All Together Now!" just one weekend in November made things a bit hectic and there were some "traffic jams" in terms of previously scheduled events on the St. Luke's stage, but we went for it.

A cast of 27, under the kind direction of Rebekah Ortiz and Jim Ramsey, made the most of eight rehearsals, and the tech crew battled all sorts of logistical and sound challenges to produce a show that celebrated the return to live theater after all the months of theater being "dark" across the country and the world.

In the end, over 2,400 companies from all 50 states and 44 nations performed the show – each company could choose from one or two options in each of the 15 music slots – and welcomed a live audience of over a million people. Our two audiences on Nov. 13 combined to make up about 250 of that one million.

Music Theater International (MTI), which sponsored this event, offered the material as a fundraiser as well as a celebration. For the Wesley Players, it's always about more than the performances and more than the rehearsals. Much of the fun and spirit comes from simply bringing together a wide range of people, many of whom are always a bit out of their comfort zone, into a loving and supportive community. Everyone involved in the Wesley Players deeply appreciated the audiences and their enthusiasm. Without an audience, it's just not as much fun. The show also launched our fundraising efforts that extend into mid-December and that we hope will set up WPTC for a stable and entertaining future. Thanks for thinking of us as you plan your December giving, and please check out wesleyplayers.org for information on how to donate to our 501(C)(3) organization.

"The Pirates of Penzance" is our next big show, scheduled for February, and we hope the St. Luke's community will participate... on stage, in the audience, in crews and the orchestra. It's our normal 8-80 age range and we welcome everyone to join us. The requirements? A willingness to be part of something bigger than ourselves and to bring love and passion to the process.

That is the WPTC in a nutshell.



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



Christmas Music & Arts!

Our Annual Christmas Cantata will be happening at 9:00am and 10:45am on December 12th! To attend you must sign up online to grab your spot, although both services will be live streamed. Sign ups open on Monday December 6. We hope you'll join us for this remarkable celebration of Christmas through the gift of music.

The 1:00 and 3:00pm Christmas Eve services will be geared toward families and will feature the musical talents of our puppet ministry, youth choir and youth handbells. The 5:00 and 7:00pm Christmas Eve services will be our traditional offerings and feature music provided by our Chancel Choir and our Brass Ensemble. And our 9:00pm communion service will feature music with organ and soloists. We hope to see you at one (or more!) of the services and join voices with the carols of the season. Sign ups open on Monday December 20 to attend but again all services will be live streamed.

Our 15 foot Magi will be making their appearance during the 9:00 and 10:30am services on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Join us as the story and journey of the wise men comes to life through dramatic presentation with the impressive Kings and their attendants.



Les Ludlam
Retired Clergy

More from Les: Holy Chaos

Occasionally, I will get to the church early and spend a few minutes in the sanctuary before Sunday School and worship begins. I like this time of quiet, although it's not silence.

One morning, as I sat a few rows from the back, enjoying the quiet atmosphere, I began to hear sounds of several things going on in preparation for the day's worship service. Jim and Ken were leading the choir in a last-minute tune-up of a difficult part of the anthem for the day. It was beautiful! The bell choir began setting up their tables at the altar area for the special music they would perform in the service. Operators in the control booth in the back were checking lighting, sound, and video recording equipment. An occasional scream of too much feedback would pierce the air. Another was setting up the internet link for the online coverage of the worship service. Rev. Michele noted that there were no Acolytes available today, so she began lighting the candles on the altar. Then the Bells began to warm up. The Scripture reader did a voice volume check and practiced her reading. A member of the finance committee went through his stewardship speech for this year's fundraising campaign.

"Holy Chaos" I thought; many different activities, done with intensity and anticipation of that which was to come; all focusing the Service to begin in a few minutes. I truly felt the presence of God.

The choir retreated to their room, the bell ringers went down to the congregation seating, the control room staff became focused on the start of the service.

The Chaos was ended when Ken started playing the prelude music.

It was wonderful! And the Service began.

God bless us all, Les



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.*



Food for All!

Thanks to the generous donations from Little School and Children's Ministry families, we were able to fill Ms. Sharon's entire car full of food and deliver to Highlands UMC for their annual Thanksgiving meal food drive. **Thank you St. Luke's! So grateful!**



Stephanie Kirk

Director of
Communication &
Office Administration

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS: Latest Entries

Contact Rev. 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



Adrian,
Eugene Bacon,
Don Boon,
Sylvia Brady,
Virginia Broman,
Bronwyn,
Greg Boyer,
Terri Christopherson,

Carl Cleveland,
Mark Dickerson,
Kathy Dreyer,
Nick Duran,
Larene Guest,
Allison Harper,
Jerry Heinz,
Jo Johnson,

Janet Knistern,
Zander Levi,
Marilyn Miller,
Jolene Pace,
Jeanne Rasmussen,
Amy Weiske,
Fran West

WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER:

the baptism of Calvin Scott McCarthy

the baptism of Noah Kai Venrick

*the birth of Conor Joss Blair to proud
parents Torin and Elise Blair*

*the birth of Blake Lillianna to proud
parents Logan and Ashley Hoffman, and
grandparents Raina Powell and Monty
Hoffman*

*the 19th wedding anniversary of Gail
Abernathy and Mike Stevenson*

*the 33rd wedding anniversary of John
and Karen Herr*

*the 61st wedding anniversary of Bob
and Lynne Belleville*

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

Andy Amick and family on the passing of his uncle, Ronald Amick

Ted Dryer and family on the passing of his sister, Arlene Tutino

*Ed Law and family on the passing of his former wife, Nan Tillett
Law*

Eileen Law and family on the passing of her nephew, Larry Day

*Betty and Les Ludlum on the passing of family friend, Annrita
MacLaren*

*Suzanne Lustie and family on the passing of her sister, Anita
Dawkins*

Cindy Moe and family on the passing of her mother, Stella Moe

Leslie Porter and family on the passing of her father, Jim Topham

*Trudy Turner on the passing of her sister, Claudine Louise Eldred
Bader*

Seasoned Voyagers

**We went leaf
peeping in
September**



A 55+ MINISTRY

and then last month we went to Boulder and the Fiske Planetarium. We had a fantastic time. The show was marvelous as it took us all around the night sky. Stars, planets, constellations and our moon (the dark side, too). Then a trip around the solar system to take a look at the moons of the different planets. We discovered that Saturn has 80+ moons. WOW! We visited the Denver Police Museum on November 16th. We do encourage vaccinated members and the wearing of masks where necessary. We want everyone to feel safe and secure as we venture forth on our tours. Please respond to rkrening@msn.com and let me know if you will join us on future outings.