



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



Advent & Christmas at St. Luke's

We are invited to gather together to have our hope, peace, love and joy strengthened within us by the divine messages of the angels.

And we are invited to become Angels in Action so we can strengthen the hope, peace, love and joy in others all over our world. May the true spirit of the season be strengthened in each of us this Christmas.



Did You Know?

St. Luke's has a big celebration coming next year because we are turning 40 on March 13, 2023!



For 40 years St. Luke's has changed lives through all of the ways we have reflected God's love, deepened people's connection to Christ and shown compassion to all.

For 40 years we have blessed our community and our world through inspiring worship, breathtaking music, heartfelt connection and life-changing mission work.

What is your favorite memory at St. Luke's? (email Rev. Michele)

We have so many memorable moments that deserve to be celebrated, so get out your party hat and save the date for these special events now:

Sunday, January 15 join us for the first in our series of 40th Anniversary Concerts with an Organ Recital by Owen Metz.

Monday, March 13 join us for hors d'oeuvres, music, entertainment and more to mark this awesome milestone on this special date.

Saturday, March 18 gather with your St. Luke's family for a day of intergenerational service work.

Sunday, March 19 celebrate 40 years of grace, courage, wonder and beyond with a special worship service to launch us into the next 40 years.

WORSHIP

Sunday December 11:

ADVENT 3: LOVE

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

9:00 & 10:45am

Enjoy this favorite St. Luke's tradition featuring St. Luke's musicians. (Family Worship - No Sunday School)

Sunday December 18:

ADVENT 4: JOY

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

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. Psalm 34:1-8, Matthew 1:18-21

Saturday December 24:

CHRISTMAS EVE

Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:8-16 (3:00 & 5:00pm Livestreamed at stlukeshr.com)

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

(Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson) A family worship experience

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

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) Carols and candles service

COMMUNION.....9:00pm

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) Contemplative communion service

Sundays December 25 & January 1:

WORSHIP.....9:30am ONLY

(Family Worship - No Sunday School)

Sunday January 8, 2023: EPIPHANY

KINGS SUNDAY/WORSHIP.....9:30 & 11:00am

(Rev. Michele Kaminsky) The gifts of the Christ child can provide for us all through our lives as we experience 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

Time Change to Our Worship Services - Coming SOON!

Dear St. Luke's Family and Friends, I wanted to let you know about some discussions we've been having here at St. Luke's about a possible time change to our worship services, moving them from their current times of 9:00 and 10:30am, back to the pre-pandemic times of 9:30 and 11:00am.

The origin of having 9:00 and 10:30am services stemmed from the need in the spring of 2020 to go from three services to two. In that process before Rev. Liza and I arrived at St. Luke's, it was decided that to be fair to everyone, one service would be eliminated and the remaining two services would adjust their times so the entire community would absorb the changes and not just one group of worshippers.

And then the pandemic hit Colorado, and shortly after, everything shut down. Then Rev. Liza and I came onboard in July, and thankfully, we are now out of the worst of the pandemic, but



continued on page 4

FALL OFFICE HOURS:**9:00am-1:30pm M-TH****CLOSED on Fridays****Worship services****9:00am** live streamed and in person**(9:30am starting Christmas Day)****10:30am** in person**(11:00am starting January 8)****Sunday School****9:00am** PreK-12th grade

Nursery available with reservation

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

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

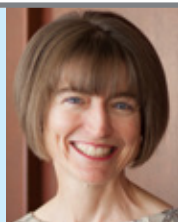
Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com

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

**Staff**Rev. Michele Kaminsky.....x105
Lead MinisterRev. Liza Stoltz Hanson.....x107
Associate MinisterRev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x132
Minister of Healing & WellbeingDr. James Ramsey.....x123
Director of Music & Arts MinistriesKenrick Mervine.....x133
Associate Director of Music Ministry & OrganistKay Coryell.....x136
Director of Handbells & Children's Music MinistriesChris Rigolini.....x146
Director of Instrumental Music MinistryAngela Alderson.....x136
Director of Children's & Youth Music MinistriesKelly Amadeo.....x115
Director of Little SchoolSamantha Leahy.....x140
Dir. of Community & Early Childhood MinistrySharon Oliver.....x127
Director of Children's MinistryMaya Opati.....x145
Director of Youth MinistryStephanie Kirk.....x110
Dir. of Communication & Office AdministrationTaletha Pogge.....x124
Director of FinanceJessica Shelton.....x116
Financial AssistantBarry Curtis.....x144
Facilities ManagerOur next issue of **The Chronicle**
will be the Lent issue.**Content due February 1, 2023**Please send inquiries and submissions to:
chronicle@stlukeshr.com

Editor: Sharon Oliver

The Chronicle is published about 5 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

A Meaningful Advent

Dear St. Luke's Family and Friends,

The word **Advent** means the coming of Christ, and as we prepare our hearts and our homes for Christmas this Advent, I invite us to be intentional with our preparations this year.

As we put up the lights, what needs to light up in us once again? And where can we bring a little light? As we trim the tree, is there anything we can trim off of our To Do list? As we plan for and prepare all of the wonderful food, is there something we can identify that might nourish our souls?

You see, now that we are out of the worst of the pandemic, we're busy again, and as one St. Luke's member said, being busy again is both welcome and intrusive. So I invite us to be intentional about what we want out of the Advent season this year. Because the word Christmas means Christ's mass, or a celebration of Christ. **So how do you want to celebrate Christ's birth this year? What is most important to you? What does your soul need to make this year's celebration meaningful and reviving?** Whatever makes sense for you and yours this season, I invite you to honor that.

And as a little inspiration for us, I want to share a poem by Grace Noll Crowell that someone shared with me last year. It is titled Facing Christmas.

With Christmas Blessings,
Rev. Michele

Facing Christmas

*I shall attend to my little errands of love
Early this year,
So that the brief days before Christmas may be
Unhampered and clear
Of the fever of hurry.
The breathless rushing
That I have known of the past
Shall not possess me.
I shall be calm in my soul and ready at last
For Christmas: "The Mass of Christ."
I shall kneel and call out His name;
I shall take time to watch the beautiful light
Of a candle's flame;
I shall have leisure—I shall go out alone
From my roof and my door:*

*I shall not miss the silver
silence of stars as I
have before;
And perhaps—if I stand
there very still, and
very long—
I shall hear what the clamor
of living has kept from me;
The Angel's song!*



Poinsettias \$25

Please help us decorate the Altar for the Christmas season. Poinsettias may be ordered

ONLINE or by contacting Stephanie in the office and by ordering at a table in the Narthex on Dec. 11. The poinsettias can be In Honor Of, In Memory Of, or In Celebration Of. Names will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18. You may take your poinsettia home after the last service on Christmas Eve. Or you may donate your poinsettia where it will be taken to a hospice center and nursing home for others to enjoy.



Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

Spiritual Renewal

In September, I had the incredible privilege of leading a retreat weekend for a group of women from St. Luke's. This was part of a project required for my ongoing ordination and in many ways it was a bit of an experimental pilot program. I look forward to revisiting the idea of an annual women's retreat in the near future!

The theme of the weekend was "You Can't Pour From an Empty Cup" and the intention was to take time away from our regular routines of work, family, caregiving, chores, and stress to refill ourselves so we can continue to find the joy in the good work we do.

The weekend was full of good food and great conversation. We spent intentional time reflecting on what commitments in our lives get the best parts of us, what important things (or people) get whatever is left, and most importantly remembering what fills our cups and restores our souls.

On Saturday afternoon, three of us embarked on what was indicated to be a short but steep hike with the reward of reaching a point where three crosses had been

placed. The hike was very steep, longer than anticipated, and the crosses were difficult to find. Although the journey was not what we expected, it was a beautiful day with aspens just starting to turn from green to yellow and the journey provided plenty of time to reflect on the experience.

As I have reflected back on the retreat weekend and the hike specifically, I have loved identifying the Spirit of God at work. In the time of stillness and beauty, in the time of rest and distance from the day-to-day routine. In the laughter and creation of friendships. I wonder why God seems easier to see in the times we are out of our usual element? It served as an important reminder to me to take time away, to find time for adventure, and to keep on the lookout for wonder and awe in my life.

As we begin Advent and prepare for the season of Christmas, this reminder seems especially important. I look forward to sharing Advent Devotions on Wednesday nights at 6:15pm starting November 30th and all the other opportunities for connection, fun, and spiritual renewal this season.

With Wonder, Rev. Liza



I HAVE LOVED
IDENTIFYING THE
SPIRIT OF GOD
AT WORK.



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

CSE Thanks!

Thank you, St. Luke's, for being part of our Center for Spiritual Engagement experiences over the past year! We have loved sharing adventures with you, learning together, engaging in meaningful conversations and action,



and serving in our own community and beyond. Your participation breathes life into each opportunity we create. Thanks for your commitment to Grace, Courage, and Wonder. As we reflect on the experiences of the past year, we celebrate the purpose of St. Luke's Center for Spiritual Engagement. *To foster healing and wholeness of mind, body, heart and spirit through experiences that inspire connection and wellbeing.*

Here are a few CSE experiences from the past year:

- A Little Bit of Good: Celebrating Desmond Tutu
- Hikes in our Beautiful State
- Classes, Book Discussions, and Retreats
- 10-years of Outdoor Adventures
- Brave Spaces - Engaging in Anti-Racism Actions
- Cultural Adventures
- Wellbeing Counseling
- Yoga Classes
- Enneagram Classes
- Practices of Wellbeing
- Men in Community
- Nourish
- Community Raiser – Backyard Movie Night
- Hearts for Honduras Book Drive
- Family Paddle and Potluck

We are excited to invite you to be part of the new opportunities we're creating for 2023. Watch for more information coming soon!

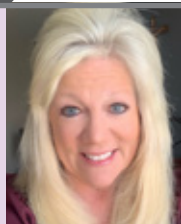
With Gratitude, Rev. Sallie

Backyard Movie Night Soars!

On a beautiful crisp evening in mid-September, the CSE Team hosted a very memorable Movie Night. *Hidden Figures* is an outstanding movie, highlighting the remarkable contributions of three black women scientists working for NASA in the 60s and 70s. The movie invited deeper thinking regarding the space race, NASA, the civil-rights movement, and the significant racial and gender issues of that time. The experience embraced the themes from the movie through a silent auction, NASA-related Launch Boxes for guests, displays of NASA memorabilia from our own St. Luke's rocket scientists. Families, couples and individuals gathered for this very special community event under twinkling lights and an early autumn sky in our St. Luke's backyard. Thanks to everyone's generosity, the event raised over \$1,500 and the CSE team contributed an additional \$500 bringing the total contribution for this St. Luke's Community Raiser to \$2,000. Thank you, all!



As an added bonus, some members of the CSE team led a follow-up discussion about our movie selection, *Hidden Figures*, where those who had seen the movie were invited into deeper conversations about racism, discrimination, and the remarkable women who were highly instrumental to the successful work of NASA.



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community
& Early Childhood
Ministry

Building Community

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members," Coretta Scott King said. To serve, she said, quoting her husband, all one needs is "a heart of grace and a soul generated by love."

Belonging to a supportive and caring community has a positive impact on an individual's overall health through good times and adversity. Studies

show vital social connection and engagement are associated with better health, stronger immune systems and improved mood. Living in a vibrant community gives people a sense of belonging. Community is about finding each other and a place we can call home. But we are also compelled to build community not only because we are survivors in an existing world order but because we bring differences to a society that erases our differences. By dealing with differences we confront the question of the social and economic foundations of our society. By building community we put some order in the fragmented world.

I am so proud to be part of this community and to call St. Luke's my home! If you are looking for new ways to connect or be part of this amazing community this season or in the coming year please reach out to me at sam@stlukeshr.com. ***Blessings of belonging to you, Sam***

Time Change continued from page 1

what we realized is that we never really had time to live into the 9:00 and 10:30am worship times. And now that we are back full swing, we are seeing how worshipping at 9:00 and 10:30am are impacting us, especially those in our community with younger children.

Over the summer, some of our families with children were expressing their desire to go back to the 9:30 and 11:00am worship times as it would allow them more time on Sunday mornings to make it to church. We heard them, and I specifically reached out to these families and asked them three things:

- **What are the key reasons you desire to change worship times?**
- **Would changing back to these times result in more frequent and consistent attendance for your family?**
- **Do you know other families who would benefit from changing back to these time?**

I learned from their responses that the key reason they would like a 9:30 or 11:00am service is that they rush every other morning to have their kids ready for school, so having a more calm morning on Sundays would be welcomed. They also said this time change would result in more frequent and consistent attendance for them, and they all said they knew other families who would love this time change too.

I then reached out to staff, various groups and classes, key leaders and folks who don't have children at home to see how they would feel about a possible time change, and overwhelmingly they were supportive, some even saying it would help out their mornings as well.

I also want you to let you know the next steps. I gathered the feedback and brought this information to our Exec Team on December 4 where they voted and approved moving from 9:00 and 10:30am to 9:30 and 11:00am. The Exec Team has already had two meetings where we discussed this, we just wanted to make sure we heard as many voices as possible to help with the decision.

We will begin this time change on Christmas day, and since Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we would only have one service at 9:30am. Christmas day is an easy day to remember the start of something new, so it makes sense to begin this time change then.

Thank you so much St. Luke's for your dedication to our worship services. I am truly honored to be your pastor.

With Gratitude and Peace, Rev. Michele



United
Women
in Faith

Transforming Communities with Gifts of Gratitude

We continue to care about our community and world even though we are not meeting regularly. Please see the donation options below to give to "World Thank Offering" during December. In the past we have collected our extra change to donate, any amount is greatly appreciated.

The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God's blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Some women give thanks for their daily blessings, while others give thanks for special occasions in their lives. Through the World Thank Offering, the mission carried on through United Women in Faith's is carried out in the United States and around the world. In this season of thanksgiving and hope, we thank God for our blessings through our prayers and our giving. We celebrate World Thank Offering, where we bring our gifts of gratitude for the transformation of local and global communities by raising money for women, children, and youth in our neighborhoods and around the world.

Join the Grateful Hearts Movement and help promote World Thank Offering!

To make a contribution to the World Thank Offering, donate online or mail checks to United Women in Faith, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10115, Attn: World Thank.

We will keep you informed on what is happening with the new organization and look for a special gathering early in the new year. God Bless all of you with a joyous Christmas and happy new year. If you have questions contact Betty Ludlam at betty.ludlam1718@gmail or Cathy Collins at scecollins@q.com

Growing our Garden

As we were driving to an early morning soccer game in downtown Denver, there was a mile's long line of cars. Was it a funeral procession? Was there an accident? No, this was a line of folks waiting to receive food from a local church. Food scarcity right in our area is real.

Gardening and seeing things grow fills my cup. St. Luke's provided over 80 lbs. of fresh fruits and veggies to the Integrated Family Community Services food bank this summer. We partner with Grow Local Colorado, a local non-profit, whose mission is to turn unused land into food havens. As you are dropping off food, folks are coming and taking the food. It is a really cool fresh outdoor grocery store.



In other news, we added two new gardens to St. Luke's this year partnering with Centennial Water's Garden in a Box. There is a new garden right by the front entrance using all CO native low water plants and a shade garden outside Ms. Sharon's office on the front porch of the church.

We also are working to revitalize the backyard behind the stage. We added loads of new mulch and are cleaning up the fountains. I hope come spring you will take advantage of these outdoor off the beaten path spaces to reflect and enjoy God's beauty and bounty.

Thanks to all the volunteers (especially West, Rose, Rairigh & Ediger families, Barry Curtis, Vern Coy and more) who made the garden and various gardening projects possible. If interested in helping, please contact nichole.rairigh@gmail.com. The garlic has already been planted for 2023 so we are off to the races.

St. Luke's Commitment to Wellbeing

St. Luke's is dedicated to supporting your emotional, mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing. As a community, we have made a commitment to offer resources, counseling, spiritual direction, and consultation as part of our ministry. We can all benefit from working in partnership with someone to navigate life's transitions, changes, and challenges. This partnership can be an opportunity to learn new approaches for addressing challenges, to proactively add resilience practices to our lives, and to grow spiritually.



As a licensed professional counselor, educator, minister, and spiritual director, I have the privilege of partnering with people to support movement toward enhanced wellbeing & fulfillment. Confidentiality is always honored. Wellbeing sessions are offered in person or through telehealth. I always welcome connecting with you. sallie@stlukeshr.com

Wishing you and your loved ones every happiness this holiday season!

Kindest regards, Sallie

Sallie Suby-Long, PhD, LPC, Minister of Healing & Wellbeing, Director – CSE

Your Pledges Make a Difference



Thank you for turning in your 2023 pledge cards. If you haven't turned yours in yet there is still time to get it in. With year end giving approaching this is a great opportunity to fulfill your 2022 pledge or contribute towards your 2023 pledge.

Some options to fulfill that are to go online to <https://secure.myvanco.com/YN7C/campaign/C-YZX4>, cash out your stocks, or use your year end IRA

distributions. If you have any questions contact Taletha at financedirector@stlukeshr.com



Taletha Pogge
Director of Finance

Welcome ST. LUKE'S TEAMS!

As we all bounce back from 2 very different years in our world, the St. Luke's community continues to thrive and adapt. If you have not rejoined back in the capacity you were pre-pandemic, please make 2023 the year to do so. There is SO much going on with activities for everyone.

And, in the height of our stewardship campaign, let me remind everyone that there many other ways to help out and give back to St. Luke's! January is the time for all new teams to start with fresh new team members.

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

If you are not currently on a team and feel a calling to join one, we would love to speak with you! Please speak with me or any one on the Equipping Ministries team. You can also ask Sam Leahy or anyone on the church staff to direct you to one of us.

Peace and blessings to all of you, and please know that any gifts you share with St. Luke's will always be appreciated.

—Jay Lee, Equipping Ministries Team Chair

With Gratitude...

We are so excited to have all of our leadership teams start with new incoming members in January. And we also wanted to express our utmost gratitude to the existing team members, but especially those who are completing their 3 year terms and rolling off the teams at the end for 2022. Some of these folks have even served multiple terms or additional years. Your service and commitment to St. Luke's is SO appreciated.

Lay Leaders: Paul Kirk and Natalie Long

Trustees: Lindy Howard and Jason Koenig

Staff Parish Relations: Debi Ransick, Carl Cleveland, Ryan Rairigh, and Judy Weiler

Finance: Julie Gustafson, John Harper, Mark Johnson, and Carson Mallory

Equipping Ministries: Jay Lee

Missions: Mina Hall

Family Ministry: Dawn Garrett, Christina Gross, Kaitlyn Haupert, and Brandi Petterson



Get to Know Your St. Luke's Staff - Christmas Edition

Here are a few Christmas-related questions for our staff: What is your favorite... Christmas movie/show? Christmas song/hymn? and Christmas cookie? Here are a few of their answers... ENJOY!

Favorite Christmas movie/show?

Michele - Elf, It's a Wonderful Life, & A Christmas Story, Liza - The Family Stone, Sallie - The Holiday & Miracle on 34th Street (90s version), Jim - It's a Wonderful Life, Ken M. - A Christmas Carol (2019 Guy Pearce/Andy Serkis version), Kay - Elf, Angela - Elf, Taletha - The Sound of Music, Jessica - The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Stephanie - Muppets Christmas Carol, Kelly - White Christmas, Sam - It's a Wonderful Life, Sharon - Charlie Brown Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Maya - The Best Man Holiday, Barry - The Sound of Music, Ken F. - Love Actually

Favorite Christmas song/hymn?

Michele - I Need a Silent Night, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Liza - Whitney Houston's Joy to The World, Sallie - See Amid the Winter's Snow, Jim - The Christmas Song, Ken M. - O Holy Night, Kay - O Holy Night, Angela - Carol of the Bells, Taletha - Mary, Did You Know?, Jessica - Angels We Have Heard on High, Kelly - Silent Night, Sam - Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) Amy Grant, Sharon - Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas (Carpenters), Maya - All I Want for Christmas is You (yes I am that Mariah fan), Barry - Colorado Christmas by Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Ken F. - I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas

Favorite Christmas cookie?

Michele - sugar cookies, gingerbread cookies, ANY cookie really!, Liza - Peanut Blossom, Sallie - Spritz Cookies, Jim - the one in front of me, Ken M. - Peppermint Bark (technically may not be a cookie, but it's my favorite), Kay - Thumb Prints, Angela - White Chocolate Covered Oreos, Taletha - Snowball Cookies, Jessica - Chocolate Chip, Stephanie - Grandma Ruchti's Sugar Cookies, Kelly - peanut butter cookie with Hershey's kiss, Sam - Classic Holiday Sugar Cookie with Icing, Sharon - Hopemeal Cookies (Jennifer & Hannah Smith's recipe), Maya - Chocolate chip in the shape of Xmas Trees (I know, very specific), Barry - Caramel Corn with Chocolate Covered Pretzels, Ken F. - any

2022 Community Raisers Success

Another successful year coming together as a community to raise funds for St Luke's. The year started off with a pancake dinner. Other events throughout the year included Mother's Day Dance, Plant Sale, Wacky Weeks, Harp Concert, Summer Concert Series, Shred Event, Golf Tournament, Car Show, Kick off Picnic, CSE Movie Night, Silent Auction, and Bourbon tasting. With all these successful events, and the support from St. Luke's community, we were able to make this year's budgeted goal of \$50,000. Thank you to everyone that helped make 2022 successful. Looking forward to 2023 and all the exciting events planned for next year. —Marty Davidson and Taletha Pogge



Miracles Because of Us!

St. Luke's Feeding of the 5000 Community Food Drive was in full swing from Sept. 23-25. With six King Soopers stores participating on Friday and Saturday, and drop-offs continuing at St. Luke's on Sunday, our community exceeded last year's mark, donating nearly 12,000 pounds of food valued at about \$23,000 dollars, as well as cash donations of about \$5,000. All food and cash benefited the Food Exchange Resource Network (FERN), a food resource collaborative that serves



an estimated 800 families each week.

Feeding of the 5000 has a long history at St. Luke's, and is a premier food drive in the South Metro area. While this year's food donations were lower than all-time highs, we are rebuilding nicely from pandemic

times when access to stores was limited or prohibited.

Each year sees dozens of committed volunteers working hard all weekend to alleviate food insecurity. We are grateful to everyone from St. Luke's who donated their time to volunteer at store fronts, drive the pick-up vehicles, sort and pack the donations at St. Luke's, and deliver them to FERN. And of course we're especially grateful to everyone who contributed food and cash! —Bruce Kirchhoff



HAAT Force Making A Difference

HAAT Force has started its 2022-2023 season, providing severe weather motel vouchers to families, people with disabilities, pregnant women, older adults and people with animals who are experiencing homelessness in the South Metro area. HAAT Force serves a unique need in the South Metro area by providing shelter to people who would not otherwise have a place to go on stormy or bitter cold nights. One of our guests sheltered from the snowstorm of November 3rd was a 61-year-old man. He was brought to us at Giving Heart in Englewood by the Mobile Response Unit, a collaboration between the Englewood Police Department and All Health Network. This man, a veteran, was found huddled in front of a store. When he was brought to Giving Heart, where we were issuing motel vouchers, he was exhausted, incoherent and starving. The night before, he had slept at a bus stop. His phone had been stolen. He was given a hot meal, which helped him immensely, and guidance on getting a SNAP (food stamps) card. We will be connecting with one of our community partners to determine how this guest can be helped moving forward and the Mobile Response Unit will be keeping an eye out for him as well.

HAAT Force is grateful to the people of St. Luke's for your support in the form of donations, silent auction bids and the hosting of our Fall Kickoff. With your help, we are showing life-sustaining compassion to people in our community who need it greatly! Thank-you very much, St. Luke's! To learn more about HAAT Force, go to www.haatforce.org or email info@haatforce.org

We're Building a Home in Guatemala this March!

St. Luke's will be building a home for a Guatemala family in need in March 2023! A team of 15 people from St. Luke's, including Rev. Michele, will be traveling to Guatemala through Pura Vida, to help with the construction. We will also be visiting Pura Vida scholarship students and friends with whom St. Luke's has had relationships for many years.

Everyone at St. Luke's can participate in this project! We are raising funds solely for the construction materials and labor. Here's how:

- 1) **The team will be a "Hybrid" - that is for a donation, you can be a "virtual" part of the team. You will receive daily photos and updates from the start of construction through the final move-in celebration.**
- 2) **You can purchase a beautiful craft from Guatemala - they make great Christmas gifts!**
- 3) **You can purchase a homemade breakfast burrito for pickup and take-home on Three Kings Sunday, January 8**

On Sunday Dec. 18, team members will be in the Fellowship Hall after services for you to sign up for the virtual part of the team; purchase Guatemalan crafts; and pre-order breakfast burritos. We'll also be there on January 8 for you to pick up your take-home burritos in a festive atmosphere!

Thank you, St. Luke's for all your love and compassion with the people of Guatemala in the form of friendship, new homes and scholarships for students!



CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK: Sunday Dec. 25 from 10:30am-

1:30pm Donate new sweats (pants & tops) by Dec. 24! Contact Sam Leahy or Rev. Liza for info or to participate downtown at Lincoln Park.

Check Out Our Giving Tree through Dec. 31



Thank You for supporting Integrated Family Community Services during November. For the rest of December you can grab tags off of the tree to donate to various missions that St. Luke's supports. **What a great gift to give this holiday.**

We Don't Waste!

A crew of eight St. Luke's members had a blast volunteering with We Don't Waste at Empower Field at Mile High Stadium on October 23rd. We were part of a group of 30 volunteers who swept through private suites following the Broncos game to recover protein that would otherwise have been thrown away. Instead, area organizations that care for those experiencing food insecurity received 2,600 servings of food! A couple more of us went down on Nov. 20. St. Luke's LOVES We Don't Waste and WDW is so grateful for the connection and support of our community.



Trustees Corner: Covid-19 Update

Covid-19 cases in Douglas County were at a low level during the months of September and October, but they have been rising slowly over the last few weeks. The case rate is now 15 new cases per 100,000 people. The CDC rates counties on a Low/Medium/High scale to correspond to the level of risk for infections and hospitalizations. On November 10, Douglas County moved from Low to Medium, based on going above 100 new cases per week. At this level, masks are still **recommended** when indoors at St. Luke's. We are still well below High; when Douglas County was last at High (during the summer), wearing of masks was **strongly recommended**. Everyone is encouraged to get a Covid-19 booster, especially those who are in a high risk category, to minimize risks of severe sickness and hospitalization. —Ken Fong



St. Luke's Organ Dedication Concert

We are happy to report that the "Organ Transplant" that Rev. Liza had called for is completed, and dedicated to the Glory of God and Service to the Community of St. Luke's UMC.

The November 6 evening concert was attended by 167 members and friends!... that's got to be a record for a local organ concert!



Barbara (Mervine) and I were delighted to showcase the multiple pipe organ specifications within this magnificent instrument (American, French, English, German...) as well as numerous orchestral and percussion samples. The "winning" specification was the French, and the three most requested hymns featured were: "How Great Thou Art," "Joyful, Joyful," and "Amazing Grace."

For those whose favorites didn't make the top list, we will try to include other repertoire and hymn requests over the next few months.

And in case you missed the live concert, it has been posted in the St. Luke's YouTube channel.

I am most grateful for the support and generosity of such a loving community, and I am humbled to collaborate every week, in Sacred Song with such a talented and dedicated staff.

Please stay tuned, as we plan to have organ events in the future...especially in light of St. Luke's 40th Anniversary in 2023!

Blessings, Ken Mervine



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

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



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

Grace Notes,
Men's Chorus,
Sisters of Soul



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

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



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

Brass Ensemble,
Wind Ensemble,
Ministers of Swing,
Orchestra



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

Kidz Prayz,
Tone Chimes,
Soul Purpose
Youth Choir

Music & Arts this Christmas



Annual Christmas Cantata will be happening Dec. 11 at 9:00am and 10:45am! We hope you'll join us for this remarkable celebration of Christmas through the gift of music. Many thanks to all who are participating this year.

The 1:00 and 3:00pm Christmas Eve services will be geared toward families and will feature the musical talents of our 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 Wind Ensemble. And our 9:00pm communion service will feature music provided by a very talented soloist. We hope to see you at one (or more!) of the services and join voices with the carols of the season.

Our 15 foot Magi will be making their appearance during the 9:30 and 11:00am services on Sunday, January 8, 2023. Join us as the story and journey of the wise men comes to life through dramatic presentation with the impressive Kings and their attendants.



For more info on Music & Arts Ministries use this QR code:

Two Outstanding Shows from WPTC this Fall!

Guys & Dolls: Concert Version: The Wesley Players Theatre Company (WPTC) was thrilled to be able to perform *Guys & Dolls: Concert Version* the first weekend in November. What a show! We had over 300 attend the three performances and welcomed some new faces to the WPTC community. WPTC recently donated \$750 to benefit St. Luke's missions.



A Mountainville Christmas Readers Theater

Theater: Live theater is as ephemeral as a perfect fall day, and our readers theater adventure was an even more fleeting experience than most shows. We had an overwhelming 50 people come out for auditions for this original readers theater, *A Mountainville Christmas*, so on the fly we decided to make 2 casts and deliver 2 shows! Within one week the 2 casts had made each of their roles – each of their lines – their own. Director and writer Jack Kennedy marveled, "It's a mystery as to how that happens, but I can testify that I saw it and I was thrilled by how it all turned out." The show on Dec. 3 combined a parody of Hallmark Christmas TV shows with scenes from Christmas staples like *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Elf* and *Love Actually*. We had 2 great audiences, much laughter, and exceeded our fall fundraising goal. And new friends and connections were made. That is what community theater is all about.

Happy holidays! Love, actually is all around.





CSE Purpose:

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

stlukesCSE.org



Nourish & Be Well Experience:

Encircling one's beauty to revitalize and shine in 2023!

Connecting within nourishes our soul and sets our emotional, spiritual, and mental well-being. Our return to inner clarity and steady breath comes from the restoration that listening, reflecting, feeling and being in nature can usher. Launching a new calendar year can be challenging and uncertain... discover what you personally need to create the rhythms and practices that yield understanding and repose to the enhancement of YOU.

Join Melinda Davidson and Dr. Sallie Suby-Long on **Saturday, January 28 from 9:00am-4:00pm** for a day of deepening and heart centered listening.

Contact Sallie at sallie@stlukeshr.com to register. Scholarships available. Registration fee including lunch, refreshments, facilitation, and all materials is \$115.

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



Brave Spaces Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade (march/parade): On Monday, Jan. 16 join us to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King as we walk from City Park to Civic Center Park, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles. We'll meet at St. Luke's to carpool around 9:30am, and travel together to City Park. We'll provide more details soon. We hope you'll join us for this uniquely Denver celebration. For more information,

contact julie.polikoff@msn.com

Brave Spaces **Racial Justice Legislative Advocacy:**

Join us to influence racial justice legislation in our 2023 Colorado legislature. Begins in February. We'll advocate for bills that address disparities in policing, climate justice, housing, healthcare, and education. No experience is necessary. Contact janestaller@gmail.com



Brave Spaces **"The Color of Compromise:**



The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism" - 6 Sunday mornings 10:45am-12:15pm, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 26, & Mar. 5 – Our course last fall was so popular we are offering it again! This is an in-person class with a video study

based on Jemar Tisby's book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, beginning Sunday, January 22. The book speaks to the connection between the church and racism throughout American history as well as the author's thoughts about how Christians can pursue racial justice. This study is designed to help us dig deeper into the topic of racism through personal reflection and group engagement. Registration for class and materials \$30. For information and registration, contact julie.polikoff@msn.com

Cultural Adventures: Celebrating ONE year of Cultural Adventures with CSE! We have exciting plans for ethnic restaurants, art and cultural experiences planned for the upcoming year. We would love to have you join us on an excursion.



Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 25 - The Dirty South special exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art in downtown Denver. We are collaborating with our Brave Spaces group to visit this groundbreaking exhibit. It explores the traditions and legacies of the Black South and how these traditions have shaped visual art and music in America. Admission is \$10 (\$7 for Seniors). Please RSVP so we can arrange carpools from the church. We plan to visit the exhibit at 1:00pm. Contact renaeparra@aol.com or janet.johnston@comcast.net for more info or to RSVP

Upcoming: Wednesday morning, Feb. 22 - Denver Botanic Garden indoor experience (tropical conservatory and visual art displays)

The Light We Carry... conversations on overcoming in times of uncertainty:

Experience includes three Tuesday Sessions 5:00-6:00pm, February 21, 28, & March 7

Self-worth comes from self-knowledge and builds confidence in who we are and the strength we have within. As we grow in our abilities to stay centered and keep perspective in the midst of challenges and an ever-changing world, we connect more meaningfully with others, too. One authentic light uplifts another. One honest, engaged group strengthens another. One courageous community inspires another courageous community. These connections ignite enhanced energy, restored wonder and deliberate actions for the good of all. Join us for conversations on practices to extend the power of the light we carry. As our guide, we'll use the book *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama. We would love to have you join us! For more info or to register, Contact sallie@stlukeshr.com Fee: \$35 (includes book, materials and contribution to CSE ministry).



Men in Community: with Bryan Hutchinson (1st Monday of the month at 5:00pm at the church and occasional 3rd Monday dinner out) – Engage in informal conversations about relevant topics and connect with other men in our community regarding everyday aspects of life... family, work, faith, challenges, transitions, goals and hopes. NEW! Men In Community will start meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month for dinner out at a local restaurant for casual fellowship. Locations will vary, so make sure we have your contact info if you would like to be a part of this group. Join in anytime! Contact bryanrhutch@aol.com



BE WELL Counseling & Consultation: with Dr. Sallie Suby-Long – Sallie welcomes you to care for your health, healing and wellness.

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

Books, Bikes, Food, Classes, Hikes! A Fulfilling CSE Fall Season

I've Been Thinking Experience... *Conversations on Strength, Resolve, Faith and Hope, October 2022:* In October, a dedicated group of twelve met in the Chapel weekly for conversations about what is happening in the world and in our lives. We were committed to finding meaningful ways to respond and to remain centered even in the midst of challenging circumstances. Again, we learned that connection with others can uplift us, help us think more deeply, renew our inner lives and sustain our courage. We were inspired by many of Maria Shriver's writings. Thanks to all who offered your presence and wisdom!

Hearts for Honduras Book Drive:

Thank you, St. Luke's for your remarkable support of the Hearts for Honduras Book Drive! Your generous contributions made it possible to purchase multiple sets of books and many individual titles for the students' classrooms. We are deeply grateful for your partnership to support the students, teachers and families of Abundant Life Christian School in Yamaranguila!



Thank you, Bryan Hutchinson!



For over 12 years, Bryan Hutchinson has served on the leadership team of the Center for Spiritual Engagement. Bryan was instrumental in helping to encourage and uphold the vision of this ministry from the very start. I still recall multiple conversations with Bryan as we were imagining what this ministry could become and how we could integrate spirituality, healing, and a comprehensive wellness perspective into transformative opportunities for our community. Bryan never wavered in his support and encouragement. His commitment helped shape CSE over twelve years of development and growth. Bryan, thank you for generously sharing your enthusiasm, ideas, leadership, creativity, good humor and excellent facilitation talents with CSE and our community! *With gratitude, Dr. Sallie and the CSE Team*

Color of Compromise Class:

Brave Spaces recently offered a video study based on Jemar Tisby's book *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*. Tisby's book speaks to the connection between the church and racism throughout American history as well as the author's thoughts about how Christians can pursue racial justice. This study helped us dig deeper into the topic of racism through personal reflection and group engagement. This class went beyond the topic of racism and many new friendships were formed over the seven weeks of class. CSE plans to offer this class again in early 2023. And a group of twelve St. Luke's Brave Spaces folks filled a pew at Montview Presbyterian on Saturday, Nov. 5, to hear Dr. Jemar Tisby, who also authored *How to Fight Racism*. He provided a powerful call to action for people of faith to actively engage in the work of anti-racism. Some comments from participants:



- "He was so animated and passionate; he gave me hope"
- "He talked about moving away from guilt to 'Godly grief' over Christian complicity; guilt is so crippling."
- Dr. Tisby also told us that the current "opposition to anti-racist work is a measure of progress toward a more just world."

Cooking With Jen & Jen:

Our first cooking class with Jennifer Hiltz could not have been more fun or informative! Thanks to Jennifer Jensen for her supreme hospitality. Jen H. informed us of how and where to shop for specialty Asian foods and then put all of us to work preparing Pad Thai, Green Papaya salad and Mango Sticky Rice. Our palettes were beyond satisfied and the passion of Jen and Jen inspired our own spirituality.



Outdoor Adventures: *Golden Gate Canyon hike* – In mid September, we hiked the Upper Mule Deer trail to Frazer Meadows at Golden Gate Canyon State Park. We were a little too early for any fall color, but we were treated with the amazing sighting of FOUR moose!

Green Mountain bike – In October we hiked a 3 mile trail at the William Hayden Park on Green Mountain. The hike provided scenic views overlooking downtown and metro Denver while offering scenic views of the mountains to the west. After hiking we dined at Cafe Jordano.



Upcoming: We do not schedule hikes in January or February. Watch the Sunday bulletin this Spring for new hiking opportunities with us. If you would like to be added to the CSE Outdoor Adventure email list, contact janestaller@gmail.com



Cultural Adventures: Our recent adventures have led us to Westminster, Littleton and Lone Tree. In September, we ventured to Westminster to experience one of the metro area's best authentic

Polish restaurants, Cracovia. St. Luke's friend and member Suzanne Alexandria was in Poland in the early 1990's with the Peace Corps. She shared photos and stories of life in Poland and recommended food for us to try. In October we visited **Chatfield Farms Corn Maze** on a gorgeous fall morning. Not only was solving the maze a lot of fun, we learned that collaboration was necessary to be successful. The candied apple food truck was a delicious way to enjoy our escape from the maze! Our adventures have been awesome! Join us!

Bicycles, Blessings and Brunch:



*"I would like to live
Like a river flows,
Carried by the surprise
of its own unfolding."*

John O'Donohue

Thanks to Melinda Davidson for leading a new kind of enriching, outdoor experience for us on a chilly morning in October. Across our rich autumnal landscape, the joy of being in community with an offering for love and personal inner connection we traveled far along the South Platte River. Along the journey, we (pit)stopped (*ala Rev. Michele*) and Melinda shared readings and reflections. Our scenic stops were at a picturesque lake, a grove of trees and lastly, a river waterfall. We each were offered to find a leaf, internally name a release and to then let go of our leaf downstream. Our time culminated in nourishing food prepared by Melinda and close companionship of our shared spirited cycling souls.

Gentle Yoga: Our Thursday morning Gentle Yoga in the Chapel this fall focused on easing us into the holidays. Themes for these 6 sessions have included: *turning inward, letting go, practicing gratitude, cultivating joy, staying present and celebrating wonder*. We are so grateful to Sharon Oliver for offering this weekly respite for us!



Maya Opati
Director of
Youth Ministry
mayo@stlukeshr.com

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade

Joyous Season!

Ecclesiastes 3:1-5 says, *"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;"*

What a joy it has been to begin this new season with the wonderful Youth that make up SLY. The last three months have been a whirlwind of getting to know the AMAZING families that support this wonderful ministry! Our youth have helped guide me, brainstorm and enact activities. Whether, that be sitting in the brisk air passing the time selling pumpkins in the Pumpkin Patch. (*Record sales! Thank you for all of the support!*) Donating their time at Warren Village through the power of face painting and bobbing for donuts. Playing Bible relay games (you can ask any youth who the only female judge is in the Bible and they will know!) Or spending a weekend in November at the IGNITE Retreat stargazing and winning a coveted lip sync battle. SLY youth are instilled with the passion and joys that are the building blocks of this community. I am excited to continue learning from SLY and pray that we are able to grow this upcoming season as we start confirmation classes, study the word, head out on retreats, volunteer our time and prepare for our mission trip the summer of 2023. Thank you all for allowing me to work with such a great family! *Blessings, Maya*

Upcoming Events: Join us Wednesdays at 5:30pm, Sundays at 9:00am & 5:30pm

Dec. 9 - LOCK IN: Escape Room, Christmas Relay, Karaoke and more!

Dec. 18 - White Elephant Gift Exchange

Dec. 21 - College Kid Night

Sign up to get Maya's weekly email for all the details.



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



Shining Bright!

Every three years, St. Luke's Little School proudly navigates a quality improvement rating system through Colorado Shines.

This November was our three-year mark, and we went through the rating process again. This means that Colorado Shines and their affiliate, Clayton Early Learning, rated our school in all areas. As the director, I was required to submit budgets, business practices, handbooks, curriculum maps, student assessments and progress reports, and much more that demonstrate sound business and educational practices. In addition, raters came into our school at random to assess our classrooms. They were looking for excellent teaching skills and quality materials and furnishings. We did not know which teachers the raters were coming to assess until the days they showed up, and they rated nine classrooms during the month! The process is intense, time consuming, and a lot of work. However, the process not only helps us maintain quality and current best practices in education for our preschoolers, but it also affords us significant grant opportunities. The higher we rate, the more grant money we are eligible for. At this time, Little School has received about \$200,000 in grant money over the last three years. This has allowed us to re-carpet the basement, put in touchless faucets, put in a new play structure, install bottle filler water fountains downstairs, and much more. I want to make a shout out to our teachers. They worked so incredibly hard in November, and it has significant impacts on the health of Little School and the church. In addition, Mr. Barry, our maintenance manager, and the church staff did all they could to help in the process. Stephanie in the front office even made our teachers breakfast one day in November! We greatly appreciate the relationship our staff has with the church staff.

We had a fun and chilly spirit-filled **Halloween Parade in October**

- one indoors and one outdoors as weather permitted. The kids and staff costumes were so creative. Several superheroes were spotted!

We are looking forward to our Christmas programs this holiday season on Dec. 14 & 15.

Our music teachers, Ms. Laura, Ms. Sheri, and Ms. Jana work so hard on this program, and they do a fantastic job! We usually have about 600 visitors come see our Christmas programs. The best holiday tradition is watching preschoolers in Christmas outfits sing Christmas songs!

This month of December, we are also looking forward to our pancake breakfast day! Mr. Barry makes pancakes for all our preschoolers, they wear pajamas to school that day, and we even have a special visitor come visit to hear what the children want for Christmas.

I want to wish you all a wonderful advent season. I hope you are able to find peace and quality time this month and into the new year.

Much love and blessings to you and your loved ones, Kelly



Miracles Recap

Have you had fun naming the miracles that happened in your week with the Mentimeter poll we did during our *Miracles Among Us, Miracles Because of Us* series? So many of us have expanded our view on miracles, and we've spent time each week lifting up the different ways we can experience miracles in our world.

On Sept. 11, Kick-Off Sunday, we lifted up how miracles can come from **teamwork**, because when we work together each doing our small part, big things can happen. And we recognized that miracles are not limited to the miraculous event themselves, but point more toward the affect the event has on us.

On Sept. 18, we noticed how miracles come from our **God-selves**, that holy place in us that is of God, because even though we are human, we are also divine. And the divinity in us can inspire miracles!

On Sept. 25, we talked about how miracles come from **being the salt of the earth**, because when we salt the world with God's love, miracles can come from that love. But if we pepper the world with hate and anger, we limit love's potential.

On Oct. 2, we expanded on the concept of God's love in our world and talked about how miracles come **when we live love-based** instead of fear based, because fear closes us off, like a contracted muscle, but love opens us and allows us to move through the world.

On Oct. 9, we considered how miracles come from **our moments of devotion and worship**, and we began to see how making regular "pit stops" to be present with God, our Great Miracle worker, equips us to be miracle workers as well.

On Oct. 16, we celebrated how miracles come from **our connection to others**, because when the God-in-us meets the God-in-others, so many miraculous things can happen from that connection.

On Oct. 23, we recognized how miracles come from **mercy and justice**, because if a sheep falls into a hole, it is merciful to help them out, and helping them can be miraculous for them and for us. We also recognized how justice is doing our part to help fill in the holes that are out there so none of God's sheep have to fall into them.

On Oct. 30, we affirmed that miracles come from **our giving**, because when we give of our time, our energy, our talents and our money, God can grow incredible things from them just like a mustard seed is able to grow into a beautiful tree.

On Nov. 6, we celebrated the fact that miracles come **despite our mistakes**, because even though the people we loved who have gone on before us made mistakes, we still loved them and their presence in our lives was a miracle and a blessing.

On Nov. 13, we talked about how miracles come from **our wonder**, because even though some miracles can be explained away, it is important to stay open to the wondrous works of God in our world.

And on Nov. 20, we acknowledged that miracles come from **our commitment to them** and how important it is to continue to harvest miracles in the world so God's good work can continue through us.

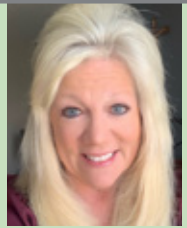
So even though we won't be reporting the miracles we saw each week at the beginning of worship anymore, keep noticing them and let them reassure you that God is alive and well in our world!

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
Dir. of Community &
Early Childhood Ministry
sam@stlukeshr.com

Children's Ministry: Discovering Wonder this FALL!

Sunday School is going strong on Sunday mornings as we are diving into Bible stories, sharing our joys and concerns, praying together and finding God's love and presence in our own lives. We are learning through crafts, cooking, science, videos and games. We are discovering the wonder in every story and ways to share God's love with others. We love our **new blue seating** units which



makes our space more welcoming, more unique and more comfortable. Thank you, St. Luke's for that amazing gift! In late September we presented **gift Bibles** to 13 3rd graders. We followed that up with a 3-week **Bible Study** and had so much fun learning about this amazing book. We were blessed with beautiful warm weather for our annual **Fall Festival** at the end of October and had so much fun coming together as a community to celebrate the season. We had over 200 people attend and enjoy the festivities. Thanks to all who helped with crafts, games, balloon animals, bouncy castle, food, trunk or treat cars and goats! Yes, we had goats this year!



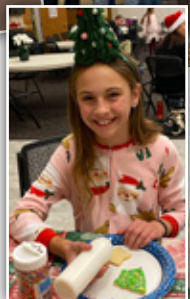
We moved into Advent with a joyful **Tree Lighting Service and Christmas Pageant** that included our Puppet Team this year! We started our **Wednesday Advent Devotions** and decorated cookies and watched "The Star" at our **Christmas Movie Night** on Dec. 2. *Welcome Advent!*



Watch for our annual Holiday Shop Dec. 14-17 9:00am-1:00pm and Candy Cane Sunday on Dec. 18!

Wacky Days: We had another fun Fall Wacky Days in October. This program offers students the opportunity to continue learning in a play environment with developmentally appropriate activities. The children participated in fall themed arts and crafts, music games, and outdoor play. We look forward to our next school break Wacky Days in the spring. Contact Ms. Sam.

SLY, Jr.! Our 5th & 6th grade group has been busy! First we helped with Feeding of the 5000 and then spent an afternoon helping the Pumpkin Patch. We also made a video to send to our honorary SLY, Jr. friend Dieguito in Guatemala. We went to the Corn Maze at Chafield and then spent an afternoon making Thanksgiving Meal boxes for Food For All. Thanks to St. Luke's and Little School for all of the food donations for the meal boxes! We are looking forward to a fun Christmas Party and then meaningful opportunities to create community in 2023. We are Angels in Action! Our schedule is on the St. Luke's website. Contact Ms. Sharon with any questions.





St. Luke's United Methodist Church

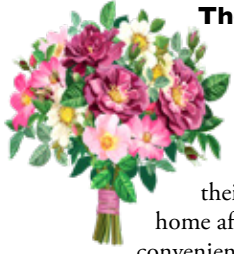
8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

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

HELP WANTED: Please help serve the families of our community by giving your time and service to the Bereavement Team by helping with receptions following funeral/memorial services at St. Luke's. Contact Jenita Rhodes - Jenita@pcisys.net or Betty Ludlam - betty.ludlam1718@gmail.com *Thank You!*



The Altar Team invites you to help us decorate our Altar each Sunday by

Celebrating Your Life, Your Family and Your Friends. The two bouquets, designed by our floral designers, cost \$40 for both. You may request certain flowers/colors and the designers will do

their best to honor that. You may take the bouquets

home after the later service and return the vases at your

convenience. Call or stop by the office to reserve your

"Special Flower Sunday." The 2023 calendar is now available.



Stephanie Kirk

Dir. of Communication &
Office Administration,
& Music and Arts
Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeshr.com

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS: Latest Entries Contact Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x107, email Liza@stlukeshr.com, or leave a note with Stephanie at the front desk.

Dale Chavers,
Dave and Meryl Cupp,
Mark Dickerson,
Kathy and Ted Dreyer,
Gary Enloe,

Bret Fishman,
Linda Frederick,
Bev Furns,
Steve Gray,
Jeanne Halderman,

John Herr,
Ann Kershner,
Madison Kintzel,
Kerry Kirkpatrick,

Bob and Leslie Mainger,
Bob Miller,
BJ Miller,
Jolene Pace,

Kelli Radle,
Mary Richards,
Nancy Springman,
Amy Weiske



WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

Elizabeth Bauer and family on the passing of her father, Robert Berg

Jim and Carole Collier and family on the passing of their son-in-law, Shad Poole

Lynda Drake and family on the passing of her mother, Caroline Butler

Lynda Drake and family on the passing of her husband, Fred Drake

Karen Herr and family on the passing of her mother, Marilyn Miller

Michelle Lamoreaux and family on the passing of her aunt, Maureen Cardinale

Sam Leahy and family on the passing of her aunt, Pat Nauman

Bob, Sharon, Evan and Alex Oliver on the passing of Bob's mother, Suellen Oliver

Sharon Oliver and family on the passing of her godmother, Ann Maslanka

Renae Parra and family on the passing of her father, Gerold Radcliffe

Lisa Phillips and family on the passing of her brother, Bill Phillips

Sharon Smith and family on the passing of her husband, Dewey Smith

Kristine Fong and Ethan Sokol and family on the passing of Ethan's sister, Arielle Sokol

Mike, Diana, and Chris Stephens on the passing of Mike's father, Ralph Stephens

Mary Wilterdink and family on the passing of her brother, Merle Edwards

The St. Luke's Community and family and friends of Cindy Chapman on her passing

To Jordan and Ellie Price on the passing of Ellie's father, Ben Price

WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER:

the birth of Colin James Rigolini to proud parents Chris and Kelly, and big brother, Rory

the birth of Ryan Elliott Kramer to proud parents Zach and Lisa, big brother Casey, and grandparents Ed and Kay Coryell

the birth of Crystal Lynn Gibbons, granddaughter of Mark and Sandy Gibbons

the birth of Mason Rae "Maisie" McCarthy to parents Rachel and Justin McCarthy, and grandparents Scott and Geri Johnson

the birth of Laney to proud grandparents Sandi and Peter Thompson

the loving support and volunteering efforts of Dorothy Lindhal

the loving memory of Roxanne Browning

the loving memory of Amy Turner's birthday and Glenn Turner

the 62nd wedding anniversary of Bob and Lynne Belleville

*the 34th wedding anniversary of John and Karen Herr
the 31st wedding anniversary of Jim and Leigh Ramsey*



Les Ludlam
Retired Clergy

More from Les: *Murphy's Law in Action*

Not long after my college graduation, Betty and I moved to my new job in Long Beach, California. A few months later, my parents and grandmother decided to come visit us at Christmas. They would be the first visitors to our home, so this was a big deal for us.

Recalling the nice barbecue with a built-in rotisserie that had been given to us at for our wedding, I offered a suggestion. "Let's do chicken on the new barbecue! The chicken won't be too greasy if we cook it that way and it will be good for Grandma." After some thought, Betty agreed. "If you do the chicken on the barbecue, I'll have more time to prepare the salad and side dishes and get the dessert ready, but just be careful, don't burn it!"

Preparations proceeded pretty much as planned on the day my family members were to arrive except it took a long time getting the charcoal going with the new barbecue.

As lunch time approached, I went outside to check on the chicken that was roasting on the spit. I took a fork, probed the flesh, and to my dismay, blood dripped out!

"It's not done!" I thought, "And we don't have long before my folks will be here!" I'd better build up the charcoal bed and get more heat to finish cooking it! Quickly, I added more charcoal to the bed of coals and, without thinking, I picked up the can of charcoal lighter and began squirting fluid on the unlighted briquettes. (Chemical Engineers trained in petroleum chemistry should know better, but...) Whoosh! The lighter fluid, evaporating as it hit the hot coals and erupted into a spectacular ball of flame!

I jumped back! Some of the lighter fluid had spilled onto the pan that had been used to catch the chicken fat drippings and caught fire! Fearing the fire would spread, I put on my insulated barbecue glove, slammed the lid shut on the grille and ran for the garden hose.

About this time, Betty came out the door. "How's it going?" she asked.

Sometimes, even our best efforts do not work out exactly as we had planned. What we think might be the best for someone else, something which we feel they would really enjoy, just turns out wrong! Something that we have most carefully and thoughtfully planned goes awry, usually at the worst possible time! But we don't stop then, we cannot!

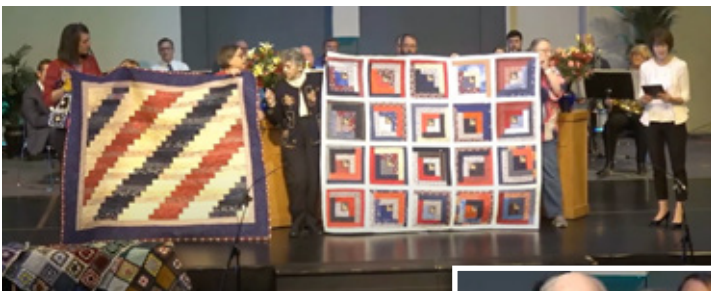
I quenched the fire, made sure the house was safe, but the chicken..."Ugh!" Not only was it still pink on the inside, but now it was blackened on the outside!

Betty looked at me with a face that is hard to forget! Then she said softly, "The deli down the street is still open, take some of the grocery money and go buy some rotisserie-cooked chicken from them. I'll put this mess in the trash!

Our parents arrived a little late, but the dinner went very well. And Grandma loved the chicken! We had a joyful Christmas! (We never told her.)

God bless us all, Les

During the Veterans Day Appreciation on Sunday Nov. 13, 2022, the United Women of Faith presented two Quilts of Valor



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

Greg Boyer served in the Army for 20 years. During his military career worked in Communications and Telecommunications. He earned the Bronze Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with 3 oak clusters. He served in staff and command positions for the Signal Corp, the Signal Brigade, the US Army Concepts Analysis Agency, and the Army Depot. He was stationed in Germany, Vietnam, and California.

Ted Dreyer served in the Air Force for over 25 years. During his military career he served as an Aircraft Commander and flew 195 night missions in Vietnam and over his career logged over 5400 flying hours. He served in Puerto Rico, Vietnam and later as the Vice Commander for the Technical Training Center at Lowry Air Force Base. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Vietnam Service Medal with 6 Battle Stars.



The Itch to Stitch group created approximately a dozen hand crocheted lap robes that Trudy Turner assembled. These lap robes were blessed during the worship service to provide comfort to the VA Hospital Veteran