



The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

Inside This Issue:

From Rev. Sallie.....	2
From Rev. Ryan.....	3
From Rev. Jessica.....	3
Welcome Renae.....	5
Children's Ministry.....	6
UMW Update.....	8
CSE Update.....	9
SLY (Youth Ministry).....	10
Music & Arts.....	11

and much more!



Join One of Our Christmas Eve Teams!

Come serve Dec. 24 at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 or 10:00pm

Greeters: Welcome all to St. Luke's. Be here 20 minutes prior to the service. Contact Lisa Phillips lisaphill4@aol.com

Ushers: Assist in welcoming and with various duties during the service. Will need you here 30 minutes prior to the service.

Contact Jay Lee
jlee1012@gmail.com

Candle Bin Team: Help replace and organize the small candles we distribute for the services. 20 minute time slots beginning at 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, or 6:15pm. Contact Renae Parra renae@stlukeshr.com

Parking Lot Attendants: Help direct traffic in our lot for the 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 or 7:00pm services. Contact Sandi Miyaki sandi.miyaki@realtor.com

Fellowship Hall Tear-Down: Help put away chairs in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall between 8:00-9:30pm to prepare our church for service the next morning. Contact Sandi Miyaki at sandi.miyaki@realtor.com



Celebrating Advent!

Starting with the annual Hanging of the Greens, Tree Lighting Service & Children's Christmas Pageant along with a Puppet Show, Advent Devotionals, Lectio Divina and a Candlelight Dinner, and Sunday Worship – Advent is filling St. Luke's with the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the season. Thanks to all who have helped bring the season to life. *Merry Christmas to all!*

ONE LIFE. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the holidays, in the rhythm and flow of everyday life, how are we remaining open, hospitable, and present to the arrival of Christ in our world? *One Life.* It found them where they were. It finds us where we are. It changes everything. There's lots happening around here during this Advent and Christmas season. Find ways to stay connected—find ways to love and serve others, and let's wait in anticipation together.



Sunday Dec. 11 - ADVENT 3
NO 8:00am CHAPEL SERVICE
CANTATA.....9:30 & 11:00am
(NO CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL)
Gabriel: You're The One Who Gets To
Announce The New Thing LUKE 1:26-28

Wednesday Dec. 14
AN ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA
EXPERIENCE.....7:00am & 7:00pm
FAMILY ADVENT
DEVOTIONAL.....6:00pm

Thursday Dec. 15
LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM.....9:15 & 11:00am
All are welcome to see our Little School
children "shine" as they perform for their
families. Christmas spirit at its best!

PAA HOLIDAY FESTIVAL.....7:00pm
Featuring artists from Central City Opera,
Boulder Philharmonic, the PAA Honor
Choir and the Mountain Vista High School
Chamber Orchestra. Tickets on sale at
stlukespaa.org (\$10) and at the door (\$12).

Sunday Dec. 18 - ADVENT 4
CANDY CANE SUNDAY
WORSHIP.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
Joseph: When Trusting In Something
Bigger Than Yourself Is Really Hard
(Rev. Ryan Canaday) MATTHEW 1:18-25

Wednesday Dec. 21
AN ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA
EXPERIENCE.....7:00am & 7:00pm
FAMILY ADVENT
DEVOTIONAL.....6:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE
Saturday Dec. 24



Experience *ONE LIFE* through one of
our services of carols and candles:

CHILDREN'S.....1:00 & 3:00pm
Children's Christmas service featuring the
Puppet Ministry, Cherub's Choir, Primary
and Junior Prayz Children's Choirs, Soul
Purpose Youth Choir, and Joyful Noise
Youth Handbells.

TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm
Carols service featuring the Chancel
Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, and
Tintinnabulators Handbell Ensemble.

COMMUNION.....10:00pm
Communion service featuring Soloists and
Organ.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday December 25
WORSHIP.....9:30am **ONLY**
(NO CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL)
Shepherds: Running Toward Good
News (Rev. Jessica Rooks) LUKE 2:8-20
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK.....noon
Distributing cold weather supplies to the
homeless in Lincoln Park.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Sunday January 1, 2017
WORSHIP.....9:30am **ONLY**
(NO CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL)
(Rev. Ryan Canaday)

EPIPHANY

Sunday January 8
SERVICE OF
KINGS.....8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
Join us as our 15 ft. tall Magi puppets and
their entourage present their gifts to the
Christ child in a family worship experience.

Burrito breakfast to benefit
Guatemala missions. Advance burrito
sales will be at the Guatemala table
in Fellowship Hall on Sundays
Dec. 11 & 18.

Sunday Worship Services:

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

Sunday School:

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

Nursery available for:

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

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

Fax.....303-470-5615

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

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

**Staff:**

Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x132
Lead Minister of Spiritual Life

Rev. Ryan Canaday.....x112
Lead Minister of Worship & Missional Life

Rev. Jessica Rooks.....x109
Lead Minister of Community Life

Rev. Pat Shaffer.....x142
Visitation Pastor

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

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

Stephanie Kirk.....x111
Children's & Families Ministries Coordinator

Dave Laurvick.....x114
Director of Youth Ministry

Amy McMullen.....x119
Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

Jeremy Brown.....x141
Associate Director of Youth Ministry

Kay Swanson.....x115
Director of Little School

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

Rena Parra.....x117
Director of Servant Ministry

Brenda Schafer.....x110
Office Administrator

Sheri Henry.....x124
Director of Finance

Kristi Pawley.....x116
Accounting Clerk/Music & Arts Admin. Assistant

Barry Curtis.....x139
Facilities Manager

**All submissions for the
February 2017 issue**

of The Chronicle are due January 20

Editor: Sharon Oliver

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The Chronicle is published up to 10 times per year and is emailed to those on our email blast list, and it can be found on the church website. Printed copies are available at church entrances. To receive The Chronicle via US mail, please call or email the Church Office.



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Lead Minister of Spiritual Life

Your Health and Wellness

As we begin a new year, we often consider hopes we have for enhancing our health and well-being. Being intentional about our overall health, including mind, body and spirit, is always worth the investment. Through

engagement in practices of prayer & meditation, presence in nature, expanding our learning and connecting with others, we automatically increase our mental, emotional, social, physical and spiritual health.

At St. Luke's, we enthusiastically encourage your commitment to caring for all aspects of your life. We have created many opportunities that we think you'll love. Give me a call or send me a text or email and I will do my best to connect you with an opportunity that aligns with your needs at this time. You can talk with me in person or contact me at 303-475-0141 or Sallie@stlukeshr.com. Here are a few ideas that I hope you will consider!



- **Center for Spiritual Engagement** – Ongoing opportunities for experiences promoting well-being, connection, healing and inspiration. Join us for workshops, retreats, seminars and classes featuring excellent facilitators. Coming up in early 2017, we'll offer an inspiring evening with author Brian Luke Seaward on *The Health and the Human Spirit* (Feb. 21 at 6:30pm). We also have classes scheduled that we think you'll love such as learning about your gifts through the Enneagram (January 28 at 9:00am), *The Soul of the Pilgrim - Practices for the Journey Within*, (beginning in January), and a Group Coaching Series (Beginning on January 19 at 10:30am). We will also continue to offer ever-popular Outdoor Adventures, Yoga, and creative experiences that will engage you in learning new practices for mind-body-spirit well-being. For more details about these opportunities, go to our website at: stlukesce.org.
- **Mentoring & Coaching** – Enhance your life practices of wellness and gain support for managing transitions, enhancing self-awareness, gaining new insights, making desired changes, and proactively addressing life challenges.
- **Counseling** – Rev. Dr. Sallie, Rev. Ryan, Rev. Pat, and Rev Jessica offer short-term, solution-based counseling, pastoral care, and referrals for individuals, couples, and families seeking support. Confidentiality is always respected.
- **Stephen Ministry** – provides confidential, one-to-one care to individuals in our congregation and community. Stephen Ministers are volunteers who have specialized training in listening and providing emotional and spiritual care. Contact a pastor or Stephen Leader if you or someone you love would benefit from this ministry.
- **Prayer Team** – gathers regularly to pray for concerns of individuals, the congregation, and the community. Requests for prayers may be sent through the website, written on a prayer request card or shared with a member of the pastoral and staff team.
- **Support Groups and Classes** – St Luke's offers support groups and classes focused on a variety of topics including 12-step programs, divorce recovery classes, and grief support groups. Information about current groups is available on St. Luke's web site and in the Care Ministries brochures in the church entry.
- **Faithful Friends** – offer care and friendship to individuals in care centers, those who may be dealing with long term health challenges, and individuals who may have difficulty getting to St. Luke's on a regular basis.

If we don't offer the type of support you are seeking, the pastoral team will make every effort to connect you to additional resources and networks within our community.

Wishing you a year of health and well-being! *Rev. Dr. Sallie*



Rev. Ryan Canaday
Lead Minister of
Worship &
Missional Life

Parables: Stories that Surprise, Provoke and Inspire

Jesus was a first-century Jewish Rabbi and he was a master storyteller. Jesus told stories. It's how he taught. It's how he related to his people. It's how he asked questions. These short stories carried the element of surprise—"I know you thought the Kingdom of God was like this, but it's actually more like this..." These short stories were meant to provoke deeper conversations about life and faith and everything else that mattered in the world. These short stories would inspire the hearers towards a new hope not only of the Kingdom of God, but how to find it here on earth. These short stories are called parables and Jesus often spoke in parables.

During this Epiphany season—the season when we proclaim who Jesus was and who Jesus is in the world—we will explore some of Jesus' parables as reported in

the Gospels. The PARABLES worship series will begin on Sunday January 15 and we'll be there for seven weeks.

How do we hear the parables through an imagined set of first-century ears, and how can we translate them so that they can be heard still speaking? It is not enough for us to ask, "what do these parables mean?" We can't reduce parables to a single meaning, we would miss so much! The best stories function on multiple levels and provide multiple meanings—we read them differently at different times. And Jesus' parables will often times challenge us and make us uncomfortable, turning things a bit upside while calling us to ask the deepest questions of ourselves. The best kinds of stories do exactly this, don't they? So we must also ask, "what do we do with these stories and what do they do to us?"

My prayer is that we hear and re-hear Jesus' parables together, that we hear them anew. May we approach these stories with an openness. And when it comes to these stories, may we find surprise, provocation, and inspiration. Let's together join the conversation that's been happening for nearly 2,000 years.

On another note: This worship series will align beautifully with the arts as The Wesley Players present *Godspell* this Spring. The story of this show hinges on the parables. How fun... you won't want to miss it!

Welcome to the parables, my friends. Let's explore!

Grace & Peace, *Rev. Ryan*

Our Monday Park Ministry prepares and delivers 100 lunches to those without homes in Civic Center Park. Homelessness is not just about a roof its about community, inclusion and belonging. Thank you St. Luke's for your acts of compassion and support both in prayer and action each week to serve those less fortunate.

This Christmas Day we will offer cold winter items and IKEA bags to members of our homeless community where Christmas might be just another day. Help us to bring JOY to the park. Donations can be left in the bin located in the Narthex. Anyone interested in delivering on Christmas morning contact sam@stlukeshr.com for details.



Rev. Jessica Rooks
Lead Minister of
Community Life

Why We Celebrate Advent & Christmas

If you're like me, December is a busy month. There is shopping to do, presents to wrap, decorations to put up, cookies to bake, meals to prepare, parties to attend, and the list continues. It would be easy to end up in the middle of January, looking

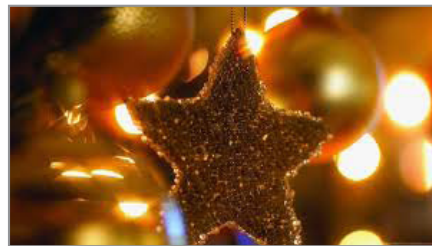
back on December as a blur of chaotic activity, having missed the whole Christmas event. I have to be intentional each year, about experiencing Advent and Christmas; about not getting lost in shopping lists, wrapping paper, and business of the season. I have to be intentional about taking time to pause, and remember why we celebrate Advent and Christmas.

The following poem is one I read at the beginning of Advent each year. It is found in the book, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, by Ann Weems.

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing angel voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.*

*This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made
known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion,
in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angel's wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.*

As you journey through this season of Advent of Christmas, I hope you will take a moment to listen for the brush of angel's



wings in the voices of friends, neighbors and strangers; to see the love of God reflected in the faces of those you encounter; to experience the

hope, peace, joy and love that is offered to us in God's grace this Christmas. I hope you experience Christmas, not as a holiday, but as the possibility for something new in your life.

Merry Christmas, *Rev. Jessica*

Lots Happening with Sedalia Elementary!

We are in the midst of our 6th school year with Sedalia Elementary School. The school year started like fireworks as the Vacation Bible School, organized by *Sharon Oliver*, collected supplies needed for the Specials Teachers (Art, Music, PE, Sustainability). With help from some of the *Seasoned Voyagers*, the VBS collected ALL the items and quantities on the teachers' wish list and more! Shortly thereafter, the *Stephen Ministers* generously donated 200 sketch notebooks requested by the art program. The Specials Teachers wrote in a Thank-you note: "Thank you so much for your generous donation of supplies for our specials program at Sedalia! They have come in extremely handy, and we are so grateful! You guys rock!"

Volunteers continue to help out in the classrooms, helping students with reading and math. Volunteers this school year are: *Linda Streaty, Sue Stephenson, Sharon Oliver, Carleen Krening, Lee Seaman, Betsy Keyack and Michael Streevy. Sherrie Miller and Julie Love-Ott* will be starting in the near future. Thanks to all!

On October 27, we provided a meal for the teachers and staff during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We had 3 crock pots going, salad, bread, beverages, beautiful desserts and flowers. Contributors to this effort were *Caroline Butler (our chief planner), Julie Love-Ott, Kay Oscai, Carleen Krening, Jon and Linda Streaty and Betsy Keyack*. We received many expressions of appreciation in a Thank-you note, such as "You outdid yourselves," "Wonderful dinner!," "You are all wonderful. Thanks so much for all you do for Sedalia!," "Outstanding!," "You all rock!"

St. Luke's individual donors and Seasoned Voyagers have been very generous in providing funds for gift cards for families at Sedalia. Thanks to all who participated in the bake sale sponsored by *Seasoned Voyagers* on December 4 - both the bakers from throughout the congregation and all the buyers! During November and December we donated \$1800 worth of Walmart and King Soopers gift cards to the school. We have received emphatic thank-yous from the principal and office staff for these gift cards. They are very important because 52% of the students are on the free/reduced cost meal program.

Since last summer, St. Luke's people have made other thoughtful in-kind donations to Sedalia Elementary and have kept the Box Tops for Education coming!

Thank you everyone and we look forward to the rest of the school year! —*Betsy Keyack*

Guatemala Mission Trips 2017

St. Luke's will sponsor two mission trips to Guatemala in 2017: March 18-26 and May 26-June 4. Currently, we have 3 spaces open for the March trip. If you would like to go and have any questions, please contact Ron Miller (720-381-9452, ronmiller74@gmail.com) for March, or Dave Laurvick (303-791-0659 x114, davel@stlukeshr.com).



Cost for the March trip is \$1,850. Cost for the SLY trip is \$1,650 and has a waiting list, so please see Dave before applying. Team is limited to SLY 11th and 12th grade students and their parents. During our trips our construction projects will cost a total of \$11,000 which the teams will raise, however, prior construction experience is not required. We will also spend time helping at the school in the village.

Fundraisers for the trip will be our Annual Guatemala Burrito Breakfast that will be held on January 8, and a Guatemala crafts sale on December 11. Burritos will sell for \$4 for pre-sales and \$5 on the day of the breakfast, and pre-sales will be available in the Fellowship Hall between services during early-to-mid December.

Guatemala Alternative Christmas Gift Options

The Guatemala Mission teams will be offering a variety of alternative Christmas gifts this year. Tags with more information can be found on the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall in December including:

- Supplying milk to the families in Lemoa, Guatemala. The cost is only \$12.50 for a can of this enriched powered milk, which can last up to 3 months. This makes a wonderful gift to these families, who are not able to afford this luxury for their family.
- Water Filter Project. Most rural families do not have access to clean water which causes a multitude of health issues. A \$40 filtration system will provide a family with fresh water for a year. Our SLY team will distribute the filters in May. Donations in any amount are appreciated.

Members of St. Luke's recently traveled to Guatemala to help select new students to be sponsored through the Pura Vida scholarship program. In Guatemala rural children are only able to complete up to 6th grade at the most, with many dropping out by 3rd grade to work for their families. A sponsorship allows these students to continue on in school and be supported in their education. We have a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can learn more about the sponsorships and select a student to sponsor.

The SLY team has Estate Reserve Fair Trade coffee beans in 1 pound bags they are selling at the MT Cup coffee cart or the youth office. All proceeds go to the Water Filtration Project.

What's Up With Our Bus?



You may be surprised to learn that the St. Luke's bus is approximately 13 years old, seats 24 people, and has only been used on Sundays. Given that it only tallies 66,000 miles, this could be true. However I'm not to try to sell it to you; I'm framing why we should keep it. Here's the issue - repairs have cost St. Luke's \$25K over the last 4 years leading to a concern the bus is a money pit. As a result, the trustees met in November with other interested parties to review a usage and cost analysis. Sandi Miyaki had pulled together from data collected over the last 4 years.

Regarding usage, the bus is driven around 100 days/year. Youth groups and the Wind Crest crew split 85 of those days. Nine other groups capture the remaining 15. While all groups are trending up, the fact remains this asset sits unused 250+ days/year. Part of the challenge of increasing its usage is that drivers must possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). We have 6 such individuals. Scheduling the bus takes, well "scheduling", which means advance notice is required without a guarantee that one of the six will be available.

The data shows total costs for insurance, maintenance, repairs, fuel, and supplemental rentals run \$11K/year. We incurred some large repair bills over the last two years. However the cup can be viewed as half-full. We switched to a different shop for maintenance and repair. Unlike the previous shop, "fixes" now stay fixed and the charges are more reasonable. Sandi also learned our model year was a lemon - the primary culprit being a poor electrical system and computer. The fact we've experienced a lot of electrical issues isn't surprising but ever since our new shop replaced the wiring harness the electrical system has been solid.

So, what if we sold it to you ask? It's worth around \$5K. These things depreciate faster than a Jim
[cont. on page 5](#)



by Rev.
Les Ludlam

More from Les: A New Holiday Tradition

Christmas was only a few days away, but 6-year old Jimmy was in a funk. His family had moved from California, where all his friends lived, to Colorado. He didn't know as many kids as before and now his one new neighborhood friend, Steven, had left town with his parents.

It was cold and stormy outside and he couldn't go out to play. "You're coming down with a cold," his mom had said, "and I don't want it to get any worse!" His 10-month old sister was enjoying her newfound mobility by getting into his toys and mom wasn't doing anything about it. Jimmy's world was in shambles; he was on the verge of a meltdown.



His mother noted the fact and decided to do something for him, to give him a sense of some control over his life. "Jimmy, I want help in deciding what to have for Christmas dinner. Granddad and Grandma will be coming so I think we ought to fix something special. What do you really like?" Jimmy was caught a little off guard. Mom had never asked him such a question! He thought for a moment, "I don't really like ham or turkey, or dressing, or green bean casserole, or cranberries, but..." then smiled and enthusiastically replied, "lasagna!"

Mom smiled, "That's a really good idea, Jimmy. Let's make a list of the things we will need to make lasagna, and I'll add them to tomorrow's grocery shopping list. Then on Christmas day, you can help me make it. Would you like that?" "Sure," replied Jimmy.

When Christmas morning came, Jimmy rushed through opening his present, and then turned to Mom, "Let's start the Lasagna now!" They disappeared onto the kitchen. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas day meal! From that humble start, having lasagna for lunch on Christmas day became a delicious tradition for Jimmy's family.

God bless us all. -Les

Bus continued from page 4... Ramsey sports coat. A new one like ours would cost \$133K. Rentals? Prohibitively expensive. Even a smaller van that doesn't require a CDL would be \$65K. In bus-terms, 66K miles is very low mileage and we're optimistic the bus is now in better hands so we concluded we should keep it for the near term. Should we lose the transmission or get hit with something equally expensive we'll reconsider.

Finally, it may make sense to purchase a second, "non-CDL" bus if we could find one just a few years old. The trustees will study whether this is feasible. There is a bus fund in our church financial portfolio which contains \$23K. \$5K was raised in 2016 via Dan and Cindy Raap's fund-raising tribute to our beloved Dean Conklin. The annual golf tournament raises roughly \$7K/year and the trustees have an annual budget of \$5K. Wind Crest riders provide an annual donation of a few thousand, too. Finally, the youth are considering ways they can contribute - perhaps via a fundraiser of their own. We're not in a bind and have the luxury of time to find a good one. Given the rate of depreciation buses experience, we may find something very reasonable.

So, in summary the strategy is to retain the current bus, continuing to stay on top of preventative maintenance and safety inspections - thank you James Bacon and Dave Laurvick! With fingers-crossed we will learn and listen by participating in ongoing conversations with teams and individuals, whether a 2nd, non-CDL bus, is desirable and financially feasible. We would like to hear from you as we consider next steps - please send questions or comments to trustees via email: trustees@stlukeshr.com. -John Church



Renae Parra
Director of
Servant Ministry



Do you like to bake? We are in need of new members for the Bread Baker team starting in January. This is an essential piece of our welcoming ministry. You bake three mini loaves for one Sunday per month. Please contact Joanne Cleveland at jcleland05@gmail.com

Our Sunday Morning Coffee Team

would love to have a new member starting in January. Contact Renae Parra for info at renae@stlukeshr.com

Clipboard Sunday - January 8 Sign up for 2017 Class Offerings

Mark your calendar and watch for new and on-going opportunities to learn, connect and grow at St. Luke's.

Welcome Renae!

Please join us in welcoming Renae Parra to the staff of St. Luke's UMC as our new Director of Servant Ministry.



Renae has been a member of St. Luke's since 2005 and is excited to join the staff team. She has served our faith community as a member of the hospitality teams, the

Equipping Ministry team, the Staff Parish Relations team, the Lay Leader team, United Methodist Women, and the Center for Spiritual Engagement. She has led and co-led a variety of educational and spiritual growth classes and women's retreats, facilitated the UMW Evening book club and has represented our congregation at District and Annual Conference events. As a staff member, Renae wants people to know their authentic selves and spiritual gifts so they can serve from a place that feeds their soul and enriches our community. Her vision is to continue to have St. Luke's be a place where all are welcomed when they walk through our doors. Renae has been married to Steve nearly 30 years and they have two young adult children, Clark and Jackie. Renae was introduced to the congregation as the Director of Servant Ministry during the worship services on Dec. 4, 2016. We are so blessed to have her serving our St. Luke's community. Welcome!

Children's Ministry News Praise, Play & Prayers

CHILDREN'S CALENDAR:

(check our website for full calendar)

- December 11 (SUN) - **No Sunday School** - Enjoy the CANTATA!
- December 14 (WED) - 6:00pm **FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS**
- December 16 (FRI) - **PLAYGROUP** 9:00am - All are welcome!
- December 18 (SUN) - **CANDY CANE SUN.**
- December 21 (WED) - 6:00pm **FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS**
- December 24 (SAT) - 1:00 & 3:00pm **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** featuring our puppet ministry and children's & youth choirs
- December 25 (SUN) - **Merry Christmas! No Sunday School** - Enjoy Family Worship
- January 1 (SUN) - **Happy New Year! No Sunday School** - Enjoy Family Worship
- January 6 (FRI) - **PLAYGROUP** 9:00am
- January 7 (SAT) - **Parent's Time Away** 9:00am-noon Contact Ms. Sam to RSVP
- January 8 (SUN) - 9:30am **JOY TREK** (PreK: 2-4 yrs.) Sunday School begins 3-week lesson "Simeon & Anna" Sign up to serve
- January 8 (SUN) - **P.R.A.Y. Program** - God & Me (1st-3rd grade) & God & Family (4th-6th grade) - 11:00am-12:30pm
- January 8 (SUN) - 9:30am **PEAK** (K-4th grade) Sunday School begins 3-week rotation "Jesus & the Children" Sign up to serve
- January 8 (SUN) - **SLY, JR. JUMPSTREET** 5:30pm
- January 13 (FRI) - **PNO Parent's Night Out** 5:45pm Contact Ms. Sam for more info
- January 15 (SUN) - **P.R.A.Y. Program** - God & Me (1st-3rd grade) & God & Family (4th-6th grade) - 11:00am-12:30pm
- January 20 (FRI) - **PLAYGROUP** 9:00am
- January 22 (SUN) - **P.R.A.Y. Program** - 11:00am-12:30pm
- January 27 (FRI) - January 28 (SAT) - **SLY, JR. LOCK IN!** - 5th & 6th grade overnight event. 5:30pm to 8:00am. More info to come.
- January 29 (SUN) - **P.R.A.Y. Program** - 11:00am-12:30pm

Children Bring Light to Advent!

Our St. Luke's children have been sharing their stories, their faith and their gifts this joyous holiday season. It started with a fun **Family Movie Night** with "Finding Dory" - we had a full house! And then we helped gather food to fill over 100

Thanksgiving dinner boxes

for DenUM (SLY, Jr. went down with SLY to put the boxes

together - see photo on pg. 10), and the SLY, Jr. had a great **Christmas Party** (completing the mannequin challenge and making snowmen) and collected socks for the homeless. SLY, Jr. will go to Jumpstreet on Jan. 8 and our annual lock in will be Jan. 27! Our littlest preschoolers all the way up to our 6th graders helped kick off Advent with the **Tree Lighting Service** - that included our impromptu **Christmas Pageant**. What a joyous event! Rev. Ryan, Rev. Sallie & Rev. Jessica portrayed 3 Bethlehem stars and along with our fabulous youth bell choir guided us to the manger. Thanks to all who helped make that event happen. And our Puppet Ministry gave us a fun **Puppet Show** on Dec. 3. Our **Family Advent Devotionals** have been a beautiful pause during the week to remember the meaning of the season and our **Holiday Shop** was a big hit as always Dec. 9 & 10! And Sunday School has been inspirational with the lighting of our Advent candles and learning about this glorious season. Don't miss out on **Candy Cane Sunday** and our **Children's Christmas Eve services!** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to ALL!



Sharon Oliver
Director of
Children's Ministry



Samantha Leahy
Director of Early
Childhood Ministry



Stephanie Kirk
Children's & Families
Ministries Coordinator

St. Luke's Kids
Growing with God



Holy Listening at St. Luke's



Children face challenges and painful situations each and every day. The most helpful thing we can do is listen to them. Holy

listening is when we listen without trying to fix, without making judgments, and without minimizing the feelings of the child. The goal of holy listening is to help the child feel comfortable enough to describe the pain they feel without causing them to feel ashamed for having the feelings they have and begin their healing. We invite God to be present and guide us throughout the process. To learn more about Holy Listening contact Ms. Sam sam@stlukeshr.com or Ms. Sharon sharon@stlukeshr.com

The P.R.A.Y. Program

is coming to St. Luke's in
JANUARY 2017!

4 Sundays Jan. 8, 15, 22 & 29
11:00am-12:30pm

Open to all in Grades 1-6
\$25 materials fee per child.

Sign up now - space is limited. For info or to register:
sharon@stlukeshr.com

God and Me (Grades 1-3)
God and Family (Grades 4-6)



ST. LUKE'S 
FAMILY CAMP

July 21-28, 2017

Snow Mountain Ranch
Granby, CO

Sign-up:

January 1-April 15

stlukeshr.com/familycamp/

Fun, Fellowship, Great Food, Tubing Hill,
Boating on Grand Lake, Day at Adventure
Park in Winter Park, Camping,
Hiking, Biking



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

Preschool Playfulness

Little School is running in high gear celebrating the birth of baby Jesus, learning to share and giving to others. December is packed with so many activities that definitely add JOY to our days. Santa came for a visit, and during Chapel this month we will be talking about St. Nicholas (the patron Saint of Giving) concentrating on giving to others and listening to our moms and dads. We add to that Pajama Day for everyone and Pancake breakfast with learning stations for our 4 & 5 year olds. **The icing on December will be our wonderful Christmas Programs on Dec. 15. (MWF classes 9:15am and TTHF classes 11:00am)**



in the Sanctuary. All family members, neighbors and friends are welcome to come and celebrate the "Little Voices of Christmas". We will begin our Christmas break on Dec. 16 and return to school on Jan. 3, 2017!

A BIG shout out to all of our Little School families, for their generous donations to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Our families brought in 814 food items, which helped to fill almost 600 food boxes! We couldn't be prouder of our children, who took this challenge to heart, and made a DIFFERENCE!

January means it is time to REGISTRATION for Fall preschool 2017. Registration for current families and church members begins Jan. 3 & 4, with new family registration opening Jan. 8. PLEASE remember that classes fill quickly, so register early

to have the best selection. We are a Christian preschool for Children 2.5 years of age, potty trained and completely immunized to almost 6 years of age. Remember our additional excellent program for children that have summer or early fall birthdays and may not be ready socially or emotionally for kindergarten. Explorers is an alternative to kindergarten, to give children the grace to grow. If you are considering this option please contact the school for special parent meetings early in January. **TOURS of Little School are welcome on Wed. or Thu. morning at 11:00am, no appointment is necessary and children are welcome to join you! For info call 303-791-1982 or contact Ms. Kay, Director at Kay@stlukeshr.com.**

*From all of the Staff at St. Luke's Little School (34 in all!):
We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!*

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



St. Luke's Little School -
Best Preschool in Douglas County
2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016!

Get to Know Sam



Samantha Leaby

Samantha has been attending St. Luke's with her family since 2003 and became staff the following year. Samantha currently serves as the Director of Early Childhood Ministry.

Her passion is to introduce the love of Jesus so the children will have a biblical foundation at the earliest of ages. It is her privilege to partner with parents to ensure their child's first experiences with God will be meaningful and engaging. In addition to her role in Children Ministry she serves as a Stephen Minister and on the Congregational Care Team. She grew up in Iowa and studied health care administration at Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Samantha's 16 years of personal and professional experience coupled with her genuine love of children and strong integrity has allowed her to develop her spirit for the care and tutelage of children. She is the proud mother to two daughters, Keara (22) and Ryann (20) both attend CU Boulder. Sam and her girls enjoy Colorado's beautiful outdoors and road trips back home to see family in Iowa when the opportunity allows.

Get to Know Sharon



Sharon Oliver

Sharon currently serves as Director of

Children's Ministry. Children have been a big part of her involvement with St. Luke's since she became a member in 1998, (her sons attended Little School) serving as a teacher in Sunday School and directing the annual Children's Dinner Theater. She has a passion for children's education and feels so blessed to have joined the staff in 2009. Her other passion is the creative arts. She has a BFA in graphic design with minors in advertising and art history from Oklahoma State University (where she went to school with Garth Brooks.) Before St. Luke's she worked for over 20 years in communications, most recently as VP of a Denver advertising agency and still does marketing and graphic design through her own company, s.o. creative. She designs many of the church's printed materials and worship series logos and is editor/designer of *The Chronicle*, (this is her 148th issue) and has participated in music and drama ministries. She is mom to 2 boys, Evan (22) and Alex (19) at CU, and wife of 26 years to "Mr. Bob", an IT professional and familiar face downstairs in Sunday School. They are avid movie-goers and love the theater. A life-long active Methodist, she grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma where at her church, her mom was the organist and dad was a lay leader and Sunday School teacher. She is currently attending Stephen Ministry training and getting her certification from Cornell University in Plant-Based Nutrition (she hasn't eaten an animal in 23 years.) She volunteers with St. Luke's Center for Spiritual Engagement and weekly you can find her reading with kids at Sedalia Elementary. A nature-lover, she tries to escape to her cabin near Estes Park and hike as often as she can. Her goal for Children's Ministry is to help create and sustain a wonderfully vibrant, supportive and welcoming environment for children at St. Luke's to grow closer to God and experience Jesus' message of love, compassion and service.



UMW Candlelight Dinner "Hats Off to Christmas"

On Dec. 6th, 101 Women celebrated Christmas with the Annual Candlelight Dinner. Ladies began their advent season in the Candlelight Ambiance and Soft Lights of a Christmas "Winter Wonderland" by Enjoying a Delicious Dinner Catered by



our Fantastic Fellowship Events Team, Elegantly served by our wonderful men of St. Luke's. They Enjoyed "Ringing in the Season" with melodic sounds of bells provided by our own St. Luke's Tintinnabulators. The phrase "Hats Off" is just a symbol of a salute or to honor someone or something. We honored Advent, Christmas, and the Gift of Giving. Our Mission recipient was The Crisis Center (Formerly Women's & Family Outreach Center). Our UMW women provided many of the needed items on their wish list! Thank you to Lynn Adams for your inspiring words about the Crisis Center.

Special Mission Recognition Award Winner

- During the UMW Candlelight Dinner, one person was recognized who has truly embraced the mission and purpose of UMW and has answered the call to serve. Her affirming gifts encourage Education, Mission Work, Social Action, and Bible Study, just to name a few. She quietly serves in all of these avenues and more. She has an energized and open mind. She is hospitable, welcoming, fun. She is unassuming, thoughtful, caring, and is always willing to help or volunteer in any way possible and always with a smile. She receives Joy from giving and serving. We are so proud to present our 2016 Special Mission Recognition Certificate and Pin to **Samantha Leahy**. A financial contribution to the United Methodist Women's Mission fund celebrating women, children, and youth has been given in honor of our recipient.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! We would like to give a SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR TEAM - Sharon Smith, Alicia Nelson, Linda Streaty, Diana Stephens, Fran West, Brenda Hart, Peggy Fretz, Ann Newton, Maggia Giardina, our new member Cathy Collins, our Advisor and District President - Betty Ludlam, and our Minister Advisor Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.

Thank you also go to: our UMW Interest Groups - The Book Club; The Women in Common Thread; The Itch to Stitches & all of the Itch to Stitch Angels. ALL OF US SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP, SATISFYING MISSION NEEDS, AND KEEPING EACH OTHER IN PRAYER.

We also would like to offer a special thanks to our outgoing officers: Brenda Hart, Secretary and Diana Stephens, Communications

A Special Thank you to Sharon Smith for your 6 years+ service to St. Luke's UMW as out-going president. We greatly appreciate all you do!

A Special thank you: To the Fellowship events team for preparing a wonderful candlelight dinner and To the Tech team for their assistance with sound and lighting. To the Office staff for their assistance with printing. To Ken Fong and Bob Oliver for such beautiful photographs. To Kay Coryell and the Tintinnabulators for their beautiful music. To Elaine Carlstrom and Julie Polikof for help setting up the dinner.

UMW 2017 Leadership Team:

Officers: President - open; Vice President - open; Treasurer - Alicia Nelson; Secretary - Cathy Collins; Education/Mission- Linda Streaty; Spiritual Growth - Fran West. And our Team Members: Peggy Fretz, Maggia Giardina, Brenda Hart, Ann Newton, Sharon Smith, Betty Ludlam, Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long

We would love to have you join our team assisting us in our mission to help women, youth and children domestically here at home, nationally around the United States, and internationally.

All of our missions "lift up and give a helping hand" in assisting women to become self sufficient; youth at risk of becoming homeless; advocates for healthy family atmospheres; assisting therapists to aid children of abuse; keeping the homeless warm; and the list goes on. Our hearts are always touched by listening to the Mission Speakers, and the wonderful work they accomplish. And over the years we have supported over 25 different missions. Join our team in this wonderful adventure.

If you are interested in joining the UMW Leadership team, please contact umwinfo@stlukeshr.com



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

UMW Monthly Mission:

On Dec. 10 several members of UMW helped children shop and wrapped presents for St. Luke's Children's Holiday Shop.

St. Luke's UMW will be the host church providing space for the 2017 annual Church **Women United Luncheon/ Fashion Show** on Friday, January 27. All Christian denominations are represented in their membership. They celebrate unity in diversity and work for world peace and justice. If you would like to help UMW with this event, please contact Sharon Smith at umwinfo@stlukeshr.com

Interest Groups of UMW at St. Luke's:

Itch to Stitch ~ Mission - Crochet, Knit, Sew, donating projects to charities. NEW TIMES! Meets 2nd and 4th Saturday from 10:00am-12:00pm in church basement. All skill levels welcome! Next meeting: Jan. 14, 2017 Contact: Fran West - 303-797-7107. Check out Our Facebook page!!! - "St. Luke's UMC Itch to Stitch Guild"

Common Thread ~ Friendship, Fellowship, Caring, Sharing. (not a craft circle, but older ladies meeting for fellowship). First Thursday of each month, 10:00am. Meets at the church. Contact: Caroline Butler (carolinebutler@q.com or Betty Smith (303) 797-3225)

Book Group ~ Fiction / Non-fiction / Informative / Fun. Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm (potluck 6:15pm) Contact: Renae Parra (renaeparra@aol.com)

- Dec. 26 - no meeting - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- Jan. 23 - "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein
- Feb. 27 - "The Winter Sea" by Susanna Kearsley

For further information about UMW: Email us at umwinfo@stlukeshr.com. Look for our brochure at the church entrance ~ Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stlukeshrumw>

2017 UMW Calendar of Events:

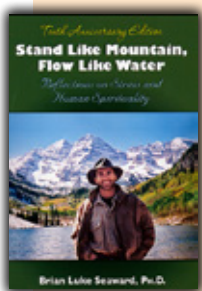
- Jan. 21** - Mission, Mentoring, & Celebrations - Parker UMC
- Mar. 18** - Spiritual Day Apart - Castle Rock UMC
- Apr. 21-23** - Spiritual Life Retreat - Estes Park; **Apr. 20** - Spring Tea;
- Aug. 27** - Fall Pie and Prayer; **Dec. 5** - Candlelight Dinner

2016 – A Year in Review with the Center for Spiritual Engagement

Can you picture yourself in any of these adventures? If you can, we invite you to join us in 2017. CSE is a ministry of St. Luke's and all CSE experiences are open to everyone in the St. Luke's community. Please check our website regularly www.stlukesce.org to consider new opportunities for connection, inspiration, and transformation in 2017!



Speaker Series: Tues. Feb 21, 2017



Brian Luke Seaward
and Health of the Human Spirit
(6:30-8:00pm)

in Fellowship Hall. Dr. Seaward is internationally renowned as an expert in the field of stress management, human spirituality and mind-body-spirit healing. Based on Dr. Seaward's bestseller, *Stand Like Mountain, Flow Like Water: Reflections on Stress and Human Spirituality*, this presentation weaves theory and story, personal experience and humor, wit and love in a poetic synthesis that both educates and inspires. Times of change bring with it stress, when balance is necessary to stay grounded, centered and connected – to stand secure and strong like a mountain, but to flow like water. We hope you will join us for this deeper exploration of the interconnectedness between spirituality, health and well being (Julie.polikoff@msn.net).

Starting in early 2017:

- **Book Conversation: Stand Like Mountain, Flow Like Water by Brian Luke Seaward** beginning January 29 at 11:00am-noon. We'll explore spirituality to honor our life experiences, connect our personal stories and celebrate the restorative power of connection with all humanity. Classes will meet for four consecutive weeks on Sunday mornings. (sallie@stlukeshr.com, julie.polikoff@msn.net)
- **Group Lyfe Coaching - Level I with Gargi Agarwala** Thursday mornings, starting January 12 10:30am-noon at St. Luke's. This 6-week class is a powerful experience that supports participants to access their inner wisdom, honor their passions and individual giftedness and clear the path to claiming an authentic, purposeful and joy-filled life (julie.polikoff@msn.net). \$TBD/person.
- **Enneagram Class with Rev. Schawn Kellogg and Shani Jones** on Saturday, Jan. 28 9:00am-1:00pm at St. Luke's. The Enneagram is a time-tested model for understanding our unique way of being in the world. It helps us to explore our authentic self and the gifts and liabilities of the style we identify with - \$20/person.
- **Healthy Relationships Class with Carl Cleveland** on Sunday evenings starting January 15 6:30-8:30pm at St. Luke's. This 6-week class will help you improve your relationships through learning about relationship systems and having a chance to address your specific situations - \$25 materials charge (Carl@Ctr4IntLdrs.com).
- **Exploring Your Spirituality Class with Bryan Hutchinson** starting Wednesday, February 1 6:00-7:00pm at St. Luke's. In this highly interactive 6-week class we will explore what spirituality means to each individual and gain an understanding of how spirituality changes throughout our lives (bryanrhutch@aol.com).
- **Soul of a Pilgrim Class** starting Wednesday, January 18 6:30-8:00pm. This 8-week class will lead as you follow intentional steps to make a transformative journey within (jenita@pcsys.net and sam@stlukeshr.com).
- **Gracious Space with Jenita Rhodes** starting February 10 10:00-11:30am at Jenita's house. Gracious Space is a drop-in forum and will meet the 2nd Friday of each month. It will offer a time to renew, refresh, and regenerate. There will be devotions/lessons and time to explore through various art forms. Come when you can to see what exciting things Jenita will bring to your day.
- **Morning Yoga with Gargi** resumes Jan. 12 on Thursday mornings (9:00-10:15am), in St. Luke's Youth Room. Gargi invites us to turn off our mind chatter, and tune into our bodies. All abilities are welcome. Drop in once, and you'll want to come as often as your busy schedule allows. Bring a yoga mat. Suggested donation \$12/class (renaeparra@aol.com).
- **Outdoor Adventures:** We're planning monthly Outdoor Adventure for 2017 starting in March. Our outdoor experiences are open to everyone in the St. Luke's Community. Come join us to snowshoe, hike, canoe, and explore some of Colorado's most beautiful places (Julie.polikoff@msn.com, janestaller@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support of this ministry this past year! Your generosity helps us continue to grow and offer more experiences to our community that offer the possibility for deep connection, the inspiration to new ways of experiencing life, and the possibility of transformation to new ways of being. If you would like to make a financial contribution to our continuing ministries, please see the button on the bottom of the CSE website page (www.stlukesce.org), or you can always put a check into the offering plate (memo line: CSE).



Upcoming Events!

- ✦ **Dec. 11 - CANTATA**
NO SLY EVENTS
- ✦ **Dec. 14 - 5:30-6:30pm**
Homework Hour
6:30-8:00pm Wed SLY -
Make/Decorate Christmas Cookies
- ✦ **Dec. 18 - 9:30-10:30am**
SLY AM - Miss Amy
5:30-6:00pm SLY Dinner \$2
6:00-7:30pm SLY PM - Christmas
Lights © Hudson Gardens! (bring \$\$)
- ✦ **Dec. 21 - 5:30-6:30pm**
Homework Hour
6:30-8:00pm Wed SLY - Christmas
Movie & Hot Cocoa
- ✦ **Dec. 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
NO SLY EVENTS
- ✦ **Dec. 28** NO WED SLY
- ✦ **Jan. 1 - HAPPY NEWYEAR!!**
NO SLY EVENTS
- ✦ **Jan. 4 - 5:30-6:30pm**
Homework Hour
6:30-8:00pm Wed SLY - Planning
the spring
- ✦ **Jan. 8 - 9:30-10:30am** SLY AM
1:00-3:00pm Confirmation
(Parent meeting 2:00-3:00)
5:30-8:00pm SLY PM- Dinner &
Karaoke © St.Andrew (\$2)
- ✦ **Jan. 27-29:** Youth Leadership
Conference
- ✦ **Feb. 24-26:** 9th & 10th Grade
Retreat
- ✦ **Sign up to receive our emails
and Check stlukeshr.com and
click on "Youth"
or "SLY" for
up-to-date info on
programs, activities,
opportunities and
more!**



ON THE SLY: Christmas Blessings

We ended the year on a high note with a fabulous Christmas Party and much to be thankful. The youth, partnering with the children and Little School, put together Thanksgiving boxes for over 100 families! Thanks to all who donated, participated and to those who went down to DenUM to assemble the boxes (see team photo at right.) We are so grateful that we in SLY have the opportunity to be a blessing to others out in the community. Contact Dave, Amy, or Jeremy for info on how you can help us help others. *Yours in Christ, Dave, Amy & Jeremy*



Dave Laurvick
Director of
Youth Ministry



Amy McMullen
Assistant Dir. of
Youth Ministry



Jeremy Brown
Assistant Dir. of
Youth Ministry



St. Luke's Young Adults has had quite the active end to the year!

Besides spending a nice cold night at zoo lights, we helped make sack lunches to bring down to the homeless in the park and had an awesome white-elephant style Christmas party! For the second year in a row, YA had the opportunity to volunteer at the Denver Parade of Lights! Bundled up under lots of warm layers, we were in charge of controlling the giant white tiger balloon, the biggest balloon in the parade! With the added wind, it took lots of muscle to handle the sharp turns and duck under the street lights along the parade route!

Trivia and bible study have been going awesome as well!

Although ending up in 10th overall for the state tournament was not as good as we had hoped, we are looking forward to the new trivia season starting in January! Bible study has been so well received that we are moving it to twice a month! Starting in January on the first and third Mondays of the month you will find us eating food, playing games, and diving into the word! Contact Jeremy or Amy for info on any of our events!



Thank You, Trustees!

Our team has been busy this year – highlights include intentionally providing more comfortable seating and facilities for everyone who has mobility challenges our thanks to Pastor Tonya and Boy Scouts for our Accessibility Audit! We've also become more educated on life safety strategies, trained staff and ushers – thanks Vicki Lauer and Jay Lee for your efforts improving and testing our safety drills! Thanks to the Wesson family donation, Ken installed new classroom audio visual capabilities to enhance classes!

In response to community demand, we've made adjustments to offer more comfortable space for those attending daily 12 step recovery programs – we are thankful for Buddy Key for keeping us connected. In turn, program participants painted a classroom for us this summer! We are grateful for their dedication!

We are also grateful for the service of our facilities manager, Barry Curtis, who has completed daily maintenance and unending repairs throughout our building and grounds! From refinishing our tile floors, to scheduling annual inspections for fire safety, and backflow performance – even tackling the challenges of managing our 4 ejector pumps, our contract cleaners, and completing radon testing aligned to Little School licensing requirements! Our master of keeping furnace filters changed (a 2 day job each quarter), and seasonal fertilizer is Ken Decker! We are so very thankful!

Lights, sound, computer, phone and connectivity challenges are routinely managed by Ken Fong with support from our sound and technology team. Enhancing Sunday Services and drama performances through the year – LED enhancements and other electrical upgrades completed bring welcome functionality! Outside Randy Larson keeps our sign messages current! *cont. on page. 11*

Finishing 2016 Even

Our financial performance so far this year indicates we will finish another year where we have managed to keep our spending within limits of the funds we will collect.

One Love. One Gift. We have had a great response to our stewardship campaign but our pledges for 2017 are slightly behind 2016. If you have not turned in your commitment card, we encourage you to do so immediately or send an email with your intentions to sheri@stlukeshr.com. It is so important for you to share with us your estimate of giving for 2017. Our biggest task in preparing a budget for 2017 is trying to figure out how much money we will have to work with next year so that St. Luke's can continue all of our wonderful programs and outreach activities and do so within a balanced budget. Please keep in mind that when you inform us of your intentions for giving in 2017, you are not making a legal commitment and we understand that your plans may change, but any information we can get about your intentions is better for our budgeting and planning purposes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

You Still Have Time For Year-End Tax Planning. To give you credit for your donations in 2016, we must receive them on or before December 31st or must be postmarked on or before December 31st. Keep in mind that some of the methods you may choose to use for your donations may take time for processing. If you need assistance for getting your transaction processed, please give me a call or email me at sheri@stlukeshr.com. I will be glad to assist you.

Pick and Choose Your Method Of Giving. We have many ways for you to make your giving to St. Luke's easy and convenient. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions. In addition to cash and checks, we offer online credit card transactions, stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts.



Sheri Henry
Director of Finance



James Ramsey
Director of Music
& Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry/
Organist



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



Kristi Pawley
Music & Arts
Admin. Assistant/
Accounting Clerk

Wesley Players Update

The Wesley Players just wrapped up their fall production of Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*. The show was a great success! The play was both hilarious and touching. Audiences helped The Wesley Players raise \$2500 for our Guatemala Missions Group and Hurricane Relief. This generous support helps our Guatemala mission partnerships provide homes, schools, and scholarships for indigenous Mayan children and for Hurricane Relief programs to provide shelter, food, and comfort to those in affected areas. Thanks to everyone who supported the ministry!

This spring, The Wesley Players are thrilled to present *Godspell* (instead of *Oklahoma!* to go along with our Parables worship theme.) This was the first show performed by the Wesley Players. It is also the first major musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*.) Led by the international hit, "Day by Day," *Godspell* features a parade of beloved songs. A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life. *Godspell* performances will be March 10-12, 2017. Be on the lookout for more information.



Meet the Music Ministry

Welcome back to our series *Meet the Music Ministry!*

BRASS ENSEMBLE

The Brass ensemble has been around for almost 20 years and had 18 members at one point! The instruments included in the ensemble are Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone and Tuba. Depending on the song they are playing, each section can divide anywhere from 1 to 6 parts. They have a lot of fun on Saturday mornings and welcome all who have previously played an instrument in high school or college and love to "toot their horn". If you are interested in joining, please contact Dr. James Ramsey at jim@stlukeshr.com. For information on all the music groups, please browse the Music and Arts brochure online.

Trustees cont. from page 10 We are thankful for the long hours and experience offered by James Bacon and Dave Laurvick to keep our bus operational! We are grateful for our CDL licensed drivers including James, Dave, Trudy Turner Kathy Swier, Brian Ernster, Dave Rhodes, and all of the volunteers who have organized rental units and private cars to staff the Wind Crest route on Sundays when Ministry on Motion carries youth to mission trips!

Our pastors and staff appreciated efforts of Sandi Miyaki and Jennifer Richeson as they cleaned, painted, and refreshed offices! Brian Owens, David McMullen, and Ken made sure we stay current with routine light bulb and battery changes – from the fire alarm covers, to smoke detectors, safety lights, alarm systems, and our AEDs. With occasional help of members and constituents, James, Matthew, and Brian Bacon completed extensive yard mowing, clean up, and

regular maintenance inside and out with the help of volunteers on Service Saturday events and weekdays through the year. Kudos to Russ Overman for bringing the whole family to these events! Dave Trotter joined Sandi, Jennifer, and Maria Fox turning playground bark in time to load in a new specialty bark layer -- the Boy Scouts joined us in the wheel barrow parade just in time for Little Schools' State Licensing inspections! Mike Stephens and Dave Rhodes have worked hard to keep parking lot light towers working - an uplifting experience!

To wrap up Thanksgiving, we enjoyed terrific support from our Boy Scout troops as we got all dressed up for Christmas – thank you Claudia Swanson for a year of terrific recruiting! Finally we are so very grateful for gifts, time, and talent that so many of you have offered through the year that make all of what we do possible!



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

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

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



A 55+ MINISTRY

Seasoned Voyagers Update



Christkindl Market

What's not to like about our Christkindl Market jaunt in November? Dessert first, then cabbage rolls and great conversations and a little shopping! Look for more events to come in 2017!

Who are the Seasoned Voyagers?:

A 55+ Ministry based on St Luke's Mission and Core Values of being

Invitational and Relational within the broader community of Highlands Ranch and the surrounding communities. Join our email list at www.stlukeshr.com (under resources)



CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Brenda Schafer
Office Administrator

*Don't you be afraid,
for I am with you.
Don't be dismayed,
for I am your God.
I will strengthen
you....* —Isaiah 41:10

PRAYER CONCERNS

Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or Brenda Schafer if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x132, leave a note at the front desk, or email sallie@stlukeshr.com or brenda@stlukeshr.com

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Natalie Murrow	Fran West	Roberta Towell –
Debi Sheppard	Sherrie Miller	Jon Streaty's sister
Kay Swanson	Myles Hoenisch	Michelle Bergman
Stuart Beecher	Trudy Turner	Bob Halderman
Peter Waldheim	Chris Harrison	Norm Veach

SYMPATHIES TO:

Josh & Jane Staller on the passing of their brother-in-law, John Catlett
Dean & Cindy Markham on the passing of Dean's mother, Iris Markham
Joyce Rovetta on the passing of her mother-in-law, Mary Rovetta
Marty & Melinda Davidson on the passing of Marty's mother, Diana Davidson,
and grandmother of Jaden & Kaila
John & Marge Harper on the passing of John's sister, Lydia Marzano
Peter Jonnard & Melanie Kirkpatrick on the passing of Peter's brother, Bill Jonnard

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Garrett & Sage Felix on the birth of their son, Palmer Felix, and to grandma,
Marilyn Watson
Penny Xiaopeng and Jonathan JongSoo Haas on the birth of their daughter, Addison
Alberta Haas and to big brother Hunter and proud grandfather, Don Haas, too
Caroline McIntosh on the birth of her greatgranddaughter, Adeline Rose McIntosh
John & Tami Clement on the birth of their grandson, Tristan Michael Rudolph

Planning for Cold Weather Closures

In the event of inclement weather, the pastors and staff of St. Luke's have adopted these procedures:

During the week:

- When North Douglas County cancels school, St. Luke's will close the church office and cancel all classes, meetings, and events in the building. All childcare for the day will be cancelled.
- When North Douglas County schools announce an early dismissal, St. Luke's will close the office and cancel all afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events.
- If there is no school closure, but weather conditions are becoming severe, staff and group leaders will determine by 4:00pm if evening classes, meetings, and events will be cancelled.
- When North Douglas County delays the start of the school day, St. Luke's will open at the normal time (8:00am). All classes, meetings, and events will continue as scheduled.

On weekends and holidays:

- The church staff and group leaders will determine whether classes, meetings, and events will be held. All closures will be posted on the St. Luke's website (www.stlukeshr.com) as soon as a decision is made. The closure of the St. Luke's Little School will also be given to local television and radio stations.

