



St. Luke's has cancelled in-person worship at this time and moved to live-streamed worship. In addition, all events, rehearsals, classes, and activities have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. While this was a difficult decision, we believe it is important for the well-being of our immediate and extended community.

We will update you regularly through emails and on our website. We are grateful for the compassion, centeredness, and grace of our community. These are important strengths that offer support and a sense of calm. We can all work together to protect each other, to slow the progression of COVID-19 (coronavirus), and to remain in community even in the midst of separation. In this unique time, we trust all will continue holding our community in prayer and living our principles of grace, courage, wonder and beyond at every opportunity.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need support, such as grocery delivery, compassionate listening and connection, or pastoral care. The St. Luke's staff continues to be available for the congregation and community. On behalf of St. Luke's staff and leadership team, thank you for being in partnership with us.



# April 59:30amPalm SundayApril 97pmMaundy ThursdayApril 107pmGood Friday

Join us ONLINE for Easter 2020

special Edition

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

EASTER 2020

ALL SERVICES WILL BE LIVE STREAM ONLY, PALM SUNDAY THROUGH EASTER. GO TO STLUKESHR.COM TO ACCESS THE LINK FOR THE LIVE STREAM.

6:15, 9:30am EASTER

# "THE FACES OF JESUS"

St. Luke's UMC 8817 S Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO (303) 791-0659 | stlukeshr.com | officeestlukeshr.com



April 12

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

# This year, Holy Week will be different,

and we will gather in a different way. Rather than sitting next to each other, greeting one another, waving palm branches, welcoming each other with a handshake or a hug, sharing a cup of coffee or a donut, taking family pictures or showing off new Easter outfits, we gather over our computers, tablets and phones in our separate spaces. It is a different kind of community gathering, but it is still community. We continue to be St. Luke's UMC!

And in many ways, this time of physical and social distancing creates an opportunity. This is an opportunity to connect with the scriptural story of Holy Week in a new, and profound, and relevant way.

When Jesus entered the Holy City, on what we call Palm Sunday, he didn't fully know what would happen and what was awaiting him. As he marched into Jerusalem that day, he marched into the unknown. As we enter Holy Week, we do so amid our own 'unknowns'.

When we take Holy Week seriously, it invites us into the story – into Jesus' story, the disciples' story, the crowd's story, and our own story. The Holy Week story includes fear, anxiety, isolation, distancing, loneliness, grief, and waiting. We can relate to this story in new and powerful ways this year.

**On Maundy Thursday,** we will be joining in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You are invited to gather your own elements to participate at home. Be creative if you wish. For the bread, select a food you enjoy – a piece of bread, a cracker, a cookie, a tortilla, a chip, a vegetable. For the cup, select your beverage of choice – grape juice, water, wine, any juice, tea, etc.

As I bless the sacraments in worship, I'll say a prayer over all the elements. And, if you think about it, **take a picture of your 'bread and cup.'** We'll have a post on the church Facebook page on Thursday where you can share your 'elements' with the community. *–Rev. Jessica*  When we take Holy Week seriously, it invites us into darkness and light, into death and new birth, into transformation of the individual and the community. In many ways, we have been living Holy Week for a while now.

#### When we take Holy Week seriously, we open ourselves to resurrection, in whatever form that takes this year. Resurrection of hope. Resurrection of community. Resurrection of faith.

As we enter this week, this sacred week, this Holy Week, I hope and pray you will take advantage of this opportunity. I hope and pray you will connect with the story and make it your own. I hope and pray you will open yourself to the resurrection that awaits all of us.

#### Grace and Blessings, Rev. Jessica

FROM REV. 🙈 ALLIE

Our building is currently closed to non-essential persons.

In-person Worship Services, Sunday School and events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

Worship services will be live streamed on Sundays at 9:30am.

Email.....office©stlukeshr.com Website.....www.stlukeshr.com 



- Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x132 Lead Minister of Spiritual Life
- Rev. Jessica Rooks......x109 Lead Minister of Community Life
- Rev. Schawn Kellogg.....x143 Care Pastor
- Sharon Oliver.....x127 Director of Children's Ministry
- Samantha Leahy.....x140 Director of Early Childhood Ministry
- Jake Smith.....x145 Director of Youth Ministry
- Dr. James Ramsey.....x123 Director of Music & Arts Ministries
- Kenrick Mervine.....x133 Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist
- Kay Coryell.....x136 Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry
- Chris Rigolini.....x146 Director of Instrumental Music
- Renae Parra.....x117 Director of Servant Ministry
- Stephanie Kirk.....x110 Office Administrator M/W/F Jana Wesson.....x110
- Office Administrator T/TH Rex Gradeless.....x124
- Director of Finance Jessica Shelton.....x116 Accounting Clerk
- Leon Hrcek.....x110 Building Maintenance/Custodian Fall-Spring

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

#### This is a SPECIAL EDITION of The Chronicle.

Our next full 12-page issue will come soon. Please send inquiries and submissions to: chronicle©stlukeshr.com

#### Editor: Sharon Oliver

The Chronicle is published 6 times per year and is emailed to those on our email blast list, and it can be found on the church website. Printed copies are available at church entrances. To receive The Chronicle via US mail, please call or email the Church Office.



# Taking (are of Our Community

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

Spiritual Engagement

When I talked with my friend and colleague Ken Fong about the generous response of our community to the coronavirus challenges, he said, "This sounds



like the St. Luke's I know: taking care of our community." And it is true. Over the past weeks, you have stepped up to offer everything from grocery and meal delivery, to technology set up assistance, to building maintenance, to contributions of supplies and resources, to personalized calls ensuring everyone is okay.

We are all finding creative ways to gather for conversations, live-stream worship, reach out to families, and support our children and youth through online stories, video lessons, and innovative learning experiences. Our care teams are doing what they do so well - offering spiritual support, listening, and outreach. And, our musicians are sharing their talents in new ways - including an attempt to sync voices via Zoom. The resulting laughter was possibly the most beneficial part of the experience! Thank you for your generosity, creativity, patience, and sincere care for one another.

My hope for all of us in the days ahead is that, while we care well for our community and remain connected, we will also embrace this time to reflect and pray. To be in nature, to play with our children - to be fully present to those we love. To rest and think and create and laugh. To welcome unfamiliar rhythms and new ways of being. As a community of faith, may we listen thoughtfully for the sacredness of these unprecedented days.

#### Every Blessing, Rev. Sallie sallie©stlukeshr.com (303)475-0141

Here are some wellbeing resources, volunteer opportunities, and easy ways to contact us. We are here for you and with you.

Community Care: Our pastoral staff and care team continue to be available to you in ways that honor social-distancing and stay-at-home expectations. Here is contact information so you can easily reach us. We welcome your calls and messages. Sallie©stlukeshr.com (303-475-0141) Jessica©stlukeshr.com (303-453-9643) Schawn@stlukeshr.com and Sam@stlukeshr.com

Grocery Delivery: For those who are advised not to go to a grocery store due to vulnerabilities or health concerns, we can assist with delivery of groceries. Contact Sallie©stlukeshr.com and our team can pick up and deliver your online grocery order.

Volunteering: If you are looking for ways to help our community by volunteering, donating supplies, donating blood etc., here is a link to Help Colorado Now https://covrn.com

**Wellbeing:** Here are a few resources that can offer emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual support for your wellbeing.

- How to Care for Yourself While Practicing Social-Distancing - Mental Health First Aid www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org
- Managing Anxiety and Stress Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov
- Supporting Kids During the Coronavirus Crisis www.childmind.org/article/supporting-kids-duringthe-covid-19-crisis/
- Creative Activities for Families www. rochester. kidsoutandabout.com/content/250-creative-ways-keepyour-family-sane-during-covid-19-crisis
- Calm listen to meditations and music to stay centered and invite peace into your heart & mind https://blog.calm.com/take-a-deep-breath
- AllTrails explore the beauty of nature on local hikes www.alltrails.com
- St. Luke's Center for Spiritual Engagement wellness opportunities including yoga online www.stlukescse.com

**Connection:** If the realities of socialdistancing and the Colorado stay-athome order are bringing feelings of disconnection, anxiety, or just making you a little uneasy, our Stephen Ministers welcome a conversation with you. Our team will provide compassionate listening and connection. Simply email Rev. Sallie sallie@stlukeshr.com or one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Bob West bobwest3rd©gmail.com Melinda Davidson md.md@comcast.net Laura McCarthy Lauramccar@me.com or Nancy Abbott abbott7212@msn.com

**Online Support Groups:** Here are some links to online support groups. If we can help you in making these connections, please let us know.

- Depression/Bipolar Support -
- www.supportgroupscentral.com Grief Support -
- www.griefincommon.com
- AA Support www.twelvestepfellowship.com
- Al-Anon Support www.al-anon.org
- SA Support www.sa.org
  - NA Support www.na.org

Prayer: We continue to pray for you and our community. We know you are praying with us. Please send your prayer requests for loved ones, family, our community, or yourself by going to our website: www.stlukeshr.com/reservations/ PrayerRequest/

Contact Rev. Sallie for any questions or links to specific resources.



**Trustees Update** During the Stay-In-Place period, the Trustees are insuring the building is safe for those essential people who still use the facilities, and to insure it will be in good condition when everyone is invited to return. The building is locked at all times, and only essential personnel have key cards that allow access to the building. Our cleaning companies are continuing to

service the building and they are performing extra sanitizing, as is Leon Hrcek (our building supervisor.) We've reconfigured the sound booth in the Sanctuary so that the techs can provide live streaming on Sunday mornings and still maintain good social distancing. The team has met using Zoom to coordinate their work; several routine improvements and repairs are underway (note in particular that the green recycling bin in the Fellowship Hall/ **Kitchen/Conference Room** is now camouflaged thanks to Steve Parra.)





# **Storytelling Project Update**



Have you seen the new lights in the Fellowship Hall? They are another feature the Storytelling Project added to the public spaces in our building to make them feel more updated and welcoming. We have many more projects slated for this year including:

new flooring for the Fellowship Hall donut area, updating the bathrooms on the main level, and beautifying our sanctuary cross. We hope you are enjoying the new look!

Monetary contributions

are needed to continue

this work. Storytelling

Project updates are not a part of the St. Luke's budget; we operate only on donations!! How to donate?

- St. Luke's website (select Storytelling Project / Building Updates on the donation screen)
- A check with Storytelling indicated in the memo line

Thank you for your support; together we are showing St. Luke's inner beauty to all who enter! Let's continue to tell St. Luke's story!

If you have questions please contact anyone on our team: Ken Fong, Rev. Sallie Suby-Long, Kristi Pawley, Michelle Lamoreaux, Jake Smith or Renae Parra (renae©stlukeshr.com)

# Biblical Archaeology Classes Continue Christian Magic & Miracles June 14, 11:00am-12:00pm

An early Christian emphasis on miracle working and supernatural powers of Jesus and his followers resonated with pagan communities as well as some in the Jewish community and encouraged their conversion to Christianity. This class will look at examples of the blending of Christian and Pagan practices at a time when rituals,

prayers and magic offered reassurance and proof in the power of God to help the ancient people.

Hillary Morgan, MA Book and Manuscript Preservation and Conservator, CU Boulder, will



6th C Christian Amulet excavated at the site of ancient Oxyrhynchus, Egypt

join us to share images and background from her work at Cambridge and other sites. Together we will examine history, artifacts and Scripture from the early centuries of our Christian faith.

I hope you will join us! We appreciate RSVP's: Schawn6©hotmail.com Plan to arrive early to help yourself to refreshments and find a seat.

-Rev. Schawn Kellogg

In this time that has been very different for all of us, we continue to celebrate God's amazing love and we thank you for your kindness and your generosity.We are aware that this is a time of financial uncertainty and we honor and respect everyone's circumstances.We also honor and respect the needs of St. Luke's as we continue to create new ways to connect and serve our community, especially during this critical time. Know that your generosity is helping to support the safety and health of our community. In these unique days we trust that God continues to care for us and is present with us.

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

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

#### We give thanks for your continued

**generosity** as we continue to be the St. Luke's community in this unique and unusual time. Please contact Rex (rex©stlukeshr.com) or Jessica (jessica©stlukeshr.com) if you have any financial questions.



#### ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade

Hello from SLY! This is an interesting time for us all, and between counting our toilet paper rolls and leaving a permanent dent in our favorite couch cushion, I hope everyone is staying safe and sane! SLY has shifted all of our meetings to Zoom. We meet on Wednesday nights for Bible Study and Sunday nights for youth group. We are getting creative with some of our activities. We have played Pictionary on Zoom and we

Director of Youth Ministry

**Jake Smith** 

have also played Jackbox (a fun online party game if you want to try something new!) We will continue to meet and stay in connection with each other as it is so important to remain connected as a community. Feel free to reach out for the Zoom links if you, or someone you know would like to join in on the fun!!!

**Confirmation and Youth** Sunday are postponed until further notice. Both

will be rescheduled as soon as we are able to meet in person!

#### **Weekly Meetings:**

Sundays © 5:30pm: Youth Group Wednesdays © 5:00pm: Bible Study and Hangout

Email jake@stlukeshr.com for links to the Zoom meetings! Yours in Christ, Jake



**Rev. Schawn** Kellogg Care Pastor

My husband and I enjoy walks around our neighborhood. There are not many people out recently, but every so often we approach a family out for a walk together. We have learned to spread out when we pass, honoring that six-foot rule. It's strange, but understandable.

We have noticed that people seem to make more of an effort to smile, nod, say hello when they pass. Whereas before, they may

not have even looked up.

The same is true for us, we feel more of a need to reach out when someone comes across our path. In the nod to passersby we let each other know that we understand some of what they are holding in their lives. The adjustments and the confusion, the hopes and the uncertainty.

At the same time, we walkers share the beautiful outdoor weather, and time with close family. We are even finding breaks in our day to walk which we may not have had a few weeks ago, before everything.

I hope that our change in routine, for the time being, can help us each be more attentive to gifts of the present moment.

In the Gift of this present moment In the gift of time and eternity intertwined Let me be Thankful Let me be Attentive Let me be open to What has never happened Before. -John Phillip Newell







Kenrick Mervine Kay Coryell Dir of Handbells & Children's Music



**Chris Rigolini** Director o Instrumental Music



# Ministry Chancel Choir Meets?

It seems like Zoom is the thing to do these days. I tried to do something unique and hold a choir rehearsal to see what happens. I sent out the invitation and had 38 people chime in for St. Luke's first ever zoom choir rehearsal on Thursday the 26th at 7:00pm. We did our typical joys and concerns connecting the community (which was about 30 minutes!) Then I read a short passage and we all prayed together for healing, health and safety. As is normal, we would sing our anthem for Sunday but since the choir wasn't singing on March 29th, I tried doing a song that was very familiar with everyone, The Lord Bless You and Keep You by Peter Lutkin. I made my first attempt at screen sharing the sheet music and leading by directing. Wow, was that a challenge! I was paging down with my left hand while directing and singing and listening to Ken play piano in a delay. LOL!

The good news is we got through it, sang and then laughed quite a bit at the fact that no one could actually hear Ken playing piano, me singing, or anyone else singing for that matter. However, it was a great bonding and connectional moment for the chancel choir. We all decided that it was totally worth doing and looked forward to next Thursday! Its



never a bad time to join the choir. Blessings to all -Dr. Jim and Ken

Live Streaming - Who knew ?! As we navigate new opportunities at St. Luke's, I want to give a big shout out to our Worship Band members and to Ken Mervine for sharing their gifts (6 feet apart) and helping make the live stream experience SOOOOOOO much better! As we're not sure how long this will last, kudos and many thanks! -Dr. Jim

**BIG THANKS** to all who have shared their skills and talents to help others during this time. Our Itch to Stitchers and more sewers are hard at work making hundreds of face masks for Denver Rescue Mission and others and Marge Harper even offered them up to the whole choir! KUDOS!



Our "new normal" - staff meetings via Zoom. We are all working hard to keep St. Luke's connected from our homes. Can't wait until we are all back together with the congregation in person!





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James Ramsey Director of Music & Arts Ministries



**Renae Parra** Director of Servant Ministry

Hello friends, I miss seeing all of you on Sundays. It is such an unusual time we are experiencing right now. Easter is right around the corner and this year will be so different. It is always a busy day at St. Luke's and such a joyful time to

**Easter Spirit at Home** 

see the children excited about Easter Fun Day and everyone looking their best for Easter worship. This year, we are forced to try something different. Worship will be from your homes watching the recorded or livestream service from St. Luke's. Indeed, this will be a memorable Easter, but what can you do this year to honor

its uniqueness and make it a special day? How can you bring the Easter spirit into your home? Here are a few suggestions, but I encourage you to get creative and find something that works for you:

- Get dressed up in your Sunday best for the Easter live stream service
- Have a special breakfast of pancakes or waffles or a family favorite while watching the church service
- Choose a special candle to light during the hour of worship
- Have your Bible with you to hold or read along with the scriptures
- Create an altar on a mantle or table where each family member places a memento that reminds them of Easter or church

 Make a Blessing Basket or Jar. Have paper and pencils available for everyone to fill the basket with notes of what they are grateful for in their lives

- Decorate your table with a beautiful table cloth or centerpiece, even if you aren't having guests. YOU are special enough to have a beautiful place to eat!
- Write a care note or card to a neighbor wishing them a Happy Easter and place it on their doorstep

Happy Easter to everyone! We can't wait to see you soon! -Renae

### Welcoming our newest members

We welcomed new members into Membership on March 8. Members have taken the vow of membership during a ceremony we hold about once per quarter. If you are interested in membership let Rev. Jessica know or look for information in the bulletin for the next opportunity to attend The Gathering.



Jon & Jennifer Schmidt (Hayley & Ryan) - "We have been welcomed into the great community and feel blessed to be a part of it"

Derek & Kris Long (& Josie) - "We want to engage in this community"

Tom & Rev. Mina Hall

> Greg & Maria Hoffman - "We like the community and feel welcomed and inspired each time we come"



The Caring Connection is a long-standing team at St. Luke's that is going through a refresh! They provide meals for those with new babies, after surgeries, during cancer treatments, or those just in need during a difficult time. We are collecting new names of people who want to participate in helping members of our community. Our new team leader is Jennifer Schmidt. When there is someone in need, Jennifer will email the team with the specifics. If you are able to help out at that time, you can reply to the email to help. It is easy to jump in and serve our community! You choose when you are able to participate. Email Jennifer (schmidt.family.denver@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the Caring Connection email list. A BIG thank you to Maryellen Davis who led this team for many years at St. Luke's!



Despite having to cancel, postpone and rethink our beloved children's programs, during this stay-athome time, we are dedicated to staying

connected to our St. Luke's families. During uncertain times such as these, predictability provides three major benefits for children: a sense of control, trust and consistency. Unpredictability can create undue stress for children. We hope our online **Sunday School lessons** 

and videos will help children keep predictable routines and build on their foundation of healthy coping. We are chellenged



Director of

Children's Ministry

Samantha Leahy Director of Farly Childhood Ministry



by our situation but are inspired to get creative. We had a Zoom meeting with our SLY, Jr. kids, where we played games and made gratitude rocks to put outside for our essential workers as a small way to let them know we

are thankful. And we have collected cards and pictures to go to Care **Centers** around our community to spread some love (thanks Kara Emig!)

During Holy Week feel free to create your own Easter altar at home to honor this special season using found objects to represent God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit or contact Sharon to drop off an Easter altar kit on your porch!



We are taking a good hard look at the schedule and, although we've had to cancel Easter Fun Day, 般 we are trying to be hopeful in rescheduling our "Space Pirates" children's dinner theater, VBS and Wacky Wednesdays. But, of course, the safety of our families is our first concern. And until we can be together again, we will stay connected in creative ways. With care and connection, we, too, can stay strong during the pandemic and perhaps even grow from this transformative experience. Contact us ANY time! We miss you! - Ms. Sharon & Ms. Sam

LITTLE SCHOOL weekday preschool has not missed a beat caring for our students. We are busy developing online lessons and unique ways to connect and the creativity is off the charts. Thank you to our amazing Little School staff. Prayers for all of our families as we go through this challenging time.



Kelly Amadeo Director of Little School









#### St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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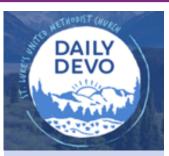
GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

Because of the life and teachings of Jesus, we exist to deepen people's connections with God, show compassion for all, and reflect God's love in a way that changes lives.

# **Live Streaming**

has been a real learning experience. We had to find a way to live stream to our Youtube channel in the few days between when we found out we could not hold in-person worship services. We did our first live stream on March 15 with a temporary setup, because the hardware encoder that we purchased had not arrived vet. We used that encoder for a different approach to live streaming on March 22. Both those live streaming efforts succeeded, and we were gratified to see up to 150 people watching during our second live stream worship experience. On March 29, just before the 9:30 live stream was to start, we encountered an error in connecting to Youtube. So we ended up recording the service and uploaded that recording later that morning. So we are continuing to learn about live streaming! Fingers crossed for next time! Thank you for being patient with us as we all learn new skills together! And thank you for the gracious support to our staff and volunteers as we go beyond the norm to something new.

\*BIG THANKS to Ken Fong for making this happen!



### Would you like to receive a daily email devotion offered by the St. Luke's Staff?

You can still sign up for a daily devotional email, sent out Monday-Friday at 9:00am. If you would like to receive this daily devotion email, **please go to** stlukeshr.com to sign-up. These devotions will include scripture, prayers, videos, questions, reflections and connection, and are offered by the St. Luke's UMC staff.

#### PRAYER CONCERNS

Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or the Office Administrator if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 ×132. or email sallie@stlukeshr.com

Tiffany Alverson, Ross Barnard, Brad and Jan Bradbury, Andrew Campbell, Valerie Charney, Dale Cleveland, Karen & David Corson, Todd Davis, Ted Dreyer, Carrie Enloe, Bonnie Garrett, Mark Godsey, David Goodin, Betty Halderman, Ron Halderman, Linda Harris, Warren Heaton, Christian Holder, Brian Holder, George and June Hutchins, Brie Katz, Dennis Laber, Rick Long, Betty Lubben, Rob Ludington, Inge Verhaegen Lyons, Dean Luallen, Jerry Lubben, Lara Magyar, Will Maniatis, Marilyn Miller, Katie Mueller, Richard O'Neil, Bob Phillips, Jackie Phillips, Brian Reamy, Justin Schnackenburg, Kay Tabor, Marilyn Ware, John Wohlleber, Amy Weiske, Baby Zander, Mary Keyack

## Our Monday Lunch Mission

team is still prepping lunches for those who are food insecure and without homes. We



are following safety precautions directed to us by the Denver Public Health Department to make the lunches and leave for the dedicated folks at After Hours Denver to hand out in the park to limit exposure. The City of Denver has installed hand washing stations in Civic Center Park to help folks ensure better hygiene. Thank you St. Luke's for your continued donations of peanut butter, jam, chips and paper products and a very special thank you to St. Luke's Itch to Stitch group for making face masks for our team! If you are able to support us. donate on the St. Luke's *website* so we can continue to support our homeless neighbors at this unprecedented time.