



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

An August Full of Music & Cars!

Our 3rd annual Backyard Summer Concert Series became one backyard and two Sanctuary concerts this year for a month of amazing music! Due to overly hot temps, two of our shows needed to be held indoors but that did not dampen the enthusiasm. Big thanks to the Cruisin' Cats, the Wesley Players and Gabriel Mervine and Friends. We raised over \$2000 for St. Luke's and enjoyed 3 wonderful shows! And our Car & Motorcycle Show on August 26 was a big success with over 50 cars on display and plenty of food and fun! Thanks to staff leadership and volunteer teams for putting on these events and creating community this summer. And **THANK YOU** to all who participated in and attended the events in August! What a joy it is to share the love of music and share life together at St. Luke's!



...to seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. -Micah 6:8



PUMPKINS are COMING!
Sept. 30
All HANDS Needed!
Help unload and sign up to sell.
Contact Josey & Anna.

THE FEEDING OF THE 5000 & 5K RUN/WALK IS BACK!

Friday-Sunday: October 6-8, 2023



Imagine 5000 people who are struggling – parents, children, grandparents no matter what the family configuration – now, imagine their joy when once empty cupboards are filled with food! This is what Feeding of the 5000 accomplishes. It was awarded as one of the best actions of hunger in the state. It also has been celebrated as “one of the best things my family has ever done together” and “a great way to get to know more of the St Luke’s community.”

So, we’re doing it again. The Feeding of the 5000 will take place October 6, 7 and 8. Not only are we doing the Feeding of the 5000-food drive, we are also including a 5K walk/run with the drive called **Feeding of the 5K Run/Walk**. Everyone is welcome to join – dogs, strollers, walkers, and runners. **The run/walk will be on October 8 at 11:00am.**



The more people involved; the more lives changed. Once again proving “there are some things that can only be accomplished when people come together”. Help us collect the food and sign up for the 5k run/walk. Do it because it matters.

We need countless people to help gather, sort, and manage the food we collect and volunteer at and sponsor the run/walk. This is work for all ability levels and ages. Work as a family or office and bring friends. We need people at more than 10 grocery stores, we need drivers to deliver loads of food, and sorters to take all the food we collect and get it on to pallets and into the semi-trailer. Food drive signups and info are at our website feedingofthe5000.us. The race signups and info are at feedingofthe5k.com. Links are on the St. Luke’s website.

We need your help to make a difference in the lives of so many. We want our lives to be changed by being a part of something greater than ourselves.
For information on the food drive, AJ Preble (720)537-5710
For information on the 5K Run/Walk, Mike Preble (720)244-2045

Thanks for a Fantastic 2023 Golf Event!



Jaden davidson, Jon Takayama, and Chris Gould! Overall, St. Luke's had another successful golf tournament. We are making plans to have next year's golf tournament back at Heritage Eagle Bend.

This year's golf tournament was at Heritage Eagle Bend in Aurora. We had 48 players and we lucked out with a slight cool down from our blazing hot summer temps and it didn't rain - it was just perfect. A big Thank You to the following people for volunteering and making the tournament great: Brian Owens (event leader), Ken Fong, Sandy Larson, Kam Boles, Linda Babcock, Alan Babcock, Laura McCarthy, Teri Burget, John & Marge Harper, Debi Ransick and Sarah Barnes. The golf committee was able to generate over \$3,000 in raffle prizes, silent auctions, and giveaways. We had 7 core sponsors and 20 community sponsors this year. Money raised will go to cover expenses for our buses and to help the church's general operating fund. Congratulations to the winning team Marty and



OFFICE HOURS:
9:00am-1:00pm M-F

WORSHIP SERVICES:
9:30am large traditional worship
(live streamed and in person)
11:00am small gathering/large spirit
(in person)

SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:30am PreK-12th grade

Nursery available with reservation

Church Office.....303-791-0659
Email.....office@stlukeshr.com
Website.....www.stlukeshr.com
Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com
Little School Office.....303-791-1982



Staff

- Rev. Michele Kaminsky.....x105
Lead Minister
- Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson.....x107
Associate Minister
- Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x132
Minister of Healing & Wellbeing
- Dr. James Ramsey.....x123
Director of Music & Arts Ministries
- Kenrick Mervine.....x133
Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist
- Kay Coryell.....x136
Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministries
- Chris Rigolini.....x146
Director of Instrumental Music Ministry
- Angela Alderson.....x136
Director of Children's & Youth Music Ministries
- Kelly Amadeo.....x115
Director of Little School
- Samantha Leahy.....x140
Dir. of Community & Early Childhood Ministry
- Sharon Oliver.....x127
Dir. of Children's Ministry & Comm. Creative Dir.
- Josey SeEVERS.....x128
Director of Youth Ministry
- Anna Fisher.....x129
Associate Director of Youth Ministry
- Cassy Meier.....x110
Communications & Office Administrator
- Taletha Pogge.....x124
Director of Finance
- Jessica Shelton.....x116
Financial Assistant
- Barry Curtis.....x144
Facilities Manager

Our next issue of **The Chronicle** will be the Winter/Advent issue.

Content due November 1, 2023

Please send inquiries and submissions to:
chronicle@stlukeshr.com
Editor: Sharon Oliver

The Chronicle is published quarterly and is emailed to those on our email general information list, and it can be found on the church website. Printed copies are available at church entrances. To receive a printed copy of The Chronicle via US mail, please call or email the Church Office.



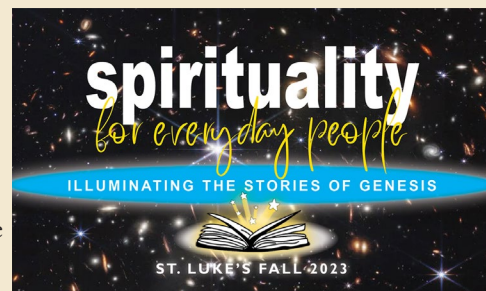
Rev. Michele Kaminsky
Lead Minister

Insight for Generations

Dear St. Luke's,

Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter of Coaching and Consulting Inc. gave a great recounting of the multiple generations seen in most churches

in her blog on August 16, 2023. I've adapted her descriptions here:



Generation	Description
The Greatest Generation (born before 1928)	Endured the Great Depression and World War II which instilled values of resilience and patriotism.
The Silent Generation (born 1928-1945)	Lived through the Dust Bowl and grew up with a scarcity mindset from the deprivation of the Great Depression.
Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964)	Lived through the Kennedy assassination, the Vietnam War, and cultural movements like Civil Rights, Gay Pride, and the Jesus revolution.
Generation X (born 1965-1979)	Were the first latchkey kids, the first to see an increase in divorce rates, and also watched the rise of the women's liberation movement.
Generation Y/Millennials (born 1980-1994) and Gen Z (born 1995-2009)	Grew up with happily ever-after Disney movies while experiencing the impacts of 9/11, the invasion of Iraq, and the Great Recession. Social networking became a defining aspect of their lives.
Generation Alpha (born 2010-2024)	Witnessed the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of social justice movements like Black Lives Matter, while polarized political environments and extreme weather events shape their worldview.

These generation descriptions do not give a complete overview, but it is important to note the cumulative impact history has had on humanity. So, what does this mean for the church? And how can the church meet the diverse needs of the people who have lived through so much?

Well, according to a September 16, 2017 Pew Research Center survey, 48% of U.S. adults say they are both religious and spiritual, 54% think of themselves as religious, while 75% say they are spiritual. Yet the Bible continues to be a bestselling book. Why? Because people still feel it has wisdom to enlighten our lives. But the bible can be confusing, and it can be difficult to understand how these ancient stories have any relevancy to our lives today.

Therefore, I welcome you to our new worship series **Spirituality for Everyday People - Illuminating the Stories of Genesis.**

This fall, St. Luke's will go back to the very beginning of our sacred text and open the door to the timeless wisdom it holds for all generations. We will illuminate the Genesis stories by asking honest and pertinent questions so we can find personal hope and insight for our lives as we live them today, and so we can actively be the spiritual people we desire to be.

For in the beginning, there was God, and in our continuing, we can access the living God in each of us today!

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



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

What is your favorite fall beverage? Pumpkin Spice Latte (Liza), Fresh Apple Cider (Josey), Spiced Apple Cider (Taletha), Cinnamon Apple Spice Tea (Sharon), Pumpkin Spice Eggnog Coffee (Ken M.), Grand Marnier (Ken F.), Pumpkin Latte (Michele), Hot Chocolate with Marshmallows (Sam), Hot Caramel Latte (Cassy), Pumpkin spice latte (Anna), Hot spiced wine and pumpkin spiced latte with almond milk (Kelly), hot apple cider (Sallie)

What was your favorite grade and subject in school? 11th/English (Liza), 12th/history (Josey), 11th/Home Economics (Taletha), 6th/Art (Sharon), 4th/Reading (Ken M.), 12th/English (Ken F.), 2nd/English (Michele), College/Psychology (Sam), 6th/Math (Cassy), 12th/Language Arts (Anna), 4th/History (Kelly), 9th/English(Sallie)

What is your favorite pumpkin-flavored treat and/or pumpkin-related activity? Unloading Pumpkin Truck with SLY (Liza), carving jack-o-lanterns/pumpkin bread (Josey), Starbucks pumpkin spiced latte (Taletha), Toasted pumpkin seeds/Pumpkin Unloading (Sharon), Pumpkin/Chocolate Chip Cookie or Pumpkin Pie (Ken M.), Carving Pumpkins (Ken F.), Pumpkin Bread with Frosting (Michele), Pumpkin swirl brownies while sitting in the pumpkin patch! (Sam), Pumpkin Patches (Cassy), Carving (Anna), pumpkin muffins/anything to do with pumpkins (Kelly)



Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

A Place to Call Home

What A Summer! The last three months have moved at the speed of light, mostly revolving around the kids' summer schedules. Of course, my ordination celebration was a major highlight of the summer including a special celebration get-away to San Francisco for just me and Denton and the amazing party hosted by St. Luke's after worship on July 9th. I am still basking in the glow of the love and support showered on me that day.

One major event of every summer is our annual road trip across the plains back to Minnesota and Wisconsin where Denton and I were raised, went to college, and still consider "home." "Home" is where our roots are, where our parents are, always serves an important reminder of who we are.



On the way back into Colorado, we stopped on the border of Nebraska and took a family photo with the iconic Colorful Colorado sign. I posted on Facebook, "The Hanson Family is back across state lines" and the comments started to roll in, many of the messages saying, "Welcome home!"

The comments made me pause and ponder. Home? I just left home! Home is my parent's 1910 bungalow in Minneapolis. Home is watching four blond cousins run and wrestle in the backyard. Home is referencing events from childhood and tired but legendary inside jokes. Home is finding four-leaf clovers in Wisconsin and getting ice cream and cheese curds at the Creamery.

The American writer NK Jemisin wrote, "Home is what you take with you, not what you leave behind." As our minivan rolled into our Denver driveway that night, I was so filled with gratitude

for the home that Denton and I have built here in Colorado. Because Colorado is home too. It is where our babies were born and where we have created amazing careers and friendships.

St. Luke's is home as well, and I know it is the same for so many of you. Having a church home where we feel a sense of belonging, a church home we are proud of and inspired by, a church home that celebrates with us and encourages us to grow and learn are all important elements of what makes St. Luke's home.

As we leave behind another summer, and step into an amazing fall at St. Luke's I encourage you to ponder what makes St. Luke's home to you. Maya Angelou said, "The ache for home lives in all of us" which reminds me that many of our friends and neighbors are looking for a place to call home and what we are part of here at St. Luke's could be just the place of belonging they are looking for.

With peace and love, Rev. Liza

On Saturday, August 26th St. Luke's supported Douglas County PrideFest by helping to staff a booth for Douglas County Inclusive Churches.

Twelve churches were represented at the booth where we offered brochures, pins, stickers, sunscreen, and a reminder that God's love is fully inclusive. The mission of the groups was to affirm "LGBTQ+ persons because we envision a future where all can gather at God's table, which is a visible manifestation of the Kingdom of God." Ten of us from St. Luke's attended the event which welcomed over 2000 to the Douglas County Fairground in Castle Rock. St. Luke's Executive Team gave their blessing for our support of PrideFest acknowledging that St. Luke's mission statement to "reflect God's love and show compassion to all", as well as our Belief Statement to "live out our values of love and inclusion based on the life and teachings of Jesus" support participation in events that celebrate and affirm our LGBTQ+ community. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated!



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

Invitation to Brave Spaces

Racial Justice & Environmental Justice

St. Luke's CSE Brave Spaces was formed in July 2020 to bring conversation partners together

to learn about our complicity in systemic racism, to uncover new voices from the past and present, and to learn ways to become anti-racist and to move toward allyship. Being an ally requires those of us who have privilege and power to engage in self-reflection, learning, and action to support and to stand in solidarity with those who are experiencing racism in our community. Along this journey, many of you have joined us and we are grateful. You have shared your beliefs, experiences, authenticity and wisdom. We'll continue to learn and to support each other on this life-long journey with an October class based on Jemar Tisby's book, *How to Fight Racism*. The experience will be facilitated by Jane Staller, Julie Polikoff, Audrey Elling and the Brave Spaces team, all who are deeply committed to our ongoing justice work at St. Luke's.



This fall, while continuing our racial justice focus, we are also expanding our environmental justice focus.

Environmental justice is based on the belief that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution, and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. We're grateful to Nichole and Ryan Rairigh for sharing their environmental justice passion with us from a faith perspective. They will be offering a Creation Care class beginning September 17 & 24 at 10:45am in the Chapel.

The core of Brave Spaces is about practicing justice and living into the foundational commitment of our St. Luke's community shared in Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".

We can have a meaningful impact by living our beliefs with faithfulness. I'm thankful for our continued partnership as we prayerfully move forward. Let's continue to live into this call together! I'm happy to talk with you if you have questions or would like more information (sallie@stlukeshr.com) 303-791-0659.

Kindest regards, Dr. Sallie

Brave Spaces: Environmental Justice

Creation Care Circle – Sundays, September 17 & 24, 10:45am-12:15pm, Chapel

Brave Spaces: Racial Justice

How to Fight Racism – Mondays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Nov. 6, 5:30-7:00pm, Chapel



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community
& Early Childhood
Ministry

Team Approach

Large or small churches (or somewhere in between!) can all benefit from the team approach to ministry. Jesus didn't call just one helper—but a group of twelve. St. Luke's Equipping Ministry Team is a group of diligent members who spend a lot of time discussing and discerning who would best fit for a variety of

positions in the church. We try to find just the right people to serve on a variety of teams from Trustees, to Staff Parish Relations, Family Ministry, to Hospitality and Greeting to make our visitors and congregation feel welcome every Sunday. The list is lengthy but the work these teams do around the church is critical to lifting our community and extending the mission of our Church. If you are interested in using your gifts on a team please reach out to Teri Burget or Joely Maddux who co-chair our Equipping Ministry Team or reach out to me and we would love to share more about the many ways you can support St. Luke's.

1 Peter 4:10 "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." For information on ways to connect at St. Luke's contact Sam@stlukeshr.com.



REMINDER! Please do not leave valuables in your unoccupied car. Three vehicles were broken into during worship services at a nearby church, and purses were stolen. Similar

incidents have occurred at other local establishments. Please take precautions so that this doesn't happen at St. Luke's.

Summer By the Sea Recap

What a wonderful summer we've spent together by the Sea, St. Luke's! We went to the Mediterranean Sea where Jonah

gets swallowed by a whale. And we spent a lot of time by the Sea of Galilee, the place where Jesus spoke more than half of his parables to us, and the place where he performed most of his miracles.

The Sea of Galilee is also the place where he calls his first disciples to drop their nets and become fishers of people, and where all twelve of his disciples get in a boat to go to the other side of the sea so they can get some rest after their first tour of preaching and working miracles through the power God bestowed upon them.

The Sea of Galilee is integral to Jesus' ministry and to his ensuring his ministry continues through his disciples. And as Jesus' current disciples, we too are called to keep his wisdom and love alive in our world.

As we transition from summer to fall, how will you keep Jesus' ministry going through the ways you seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God? (Micah 6:8) For the power of God has been bestowed on each of us as well. May we make this known in every season!



UWF is Ready for Fall

Over the summer our UWF women supported VBS, the Shred Event and other activities. We are looking forward to becoming even more involved as we Kick Off Fall on September 10 by supplying the specialty baked goods for the picnic. Also, we will be continuing groups and re-starting Common Thread!

There is information in the entrance and on the bulletin board in the stairwell.

WATCH FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR FALL BAKE SALE!!

COMMON THREAD: We have started and are gathering on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am in the Conference Room! Our beloved Caroline Butler started the Common Thread Group years ago. It is not a sewing group but a gathering for retired, senior women who want fellowship with others for conversation, devotions and yummy refreshments. We take turns with devotions and refreshments. If you are interested in learning more or being a part of Common Thread *please contact Betty Ludlam.*

ITCH TO STITCH: Gathers every 3rd Saturday at 10:30am in the youth room to work on various projects. In November we will present the Quilt of Valor and finalize the Christmas Stockings for kids at Warren Village. *More information about Itch to Stitch contact Victoria Mason or Fran West.*

MONDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB

Hybrid gathering (in person and Zoom) at 7:00pm on the 4th Monday. Join in the discussion of any or all the books planned. *More information contact Teri Burget.*

Sept. 25..... *The Doctors Blackwell* by Janice P. Nimura

October 23..... *The Girl in His Shadow* by Audrey Blake

November 27.... *The Surgeon's Daughter* by Audrey Blake

WORLD THANK OFFERING

Save your loose change in a container and turn in to Betty Ludlam or Ann Newton in October. Funds are used to help women, children and youth around the world with childcare, food insecurity, housing and other issues. If you want a label for your container, ask Betty. This is a good project for children.

UPCOMING: Mile High Metro District Annual Meeting with Bishop Karen Oliveto, Keynote Speaker "Telling our Story—Hearing Yours" Saturday September 16. 4 Breakout Sessions. Doors open 8:15am, Welcome 9:00am, Finish by 1:30pm at Phillips United Methodist Church, 1450 S. Pierce St., Lakewood CO 80232. *Mission Project:* baby & children's socks and underwear, diapers and wipes for The Action Center. More information contact Betty Ludlam betty.ludlam1718@gmail.com

Seasoned Voyagers 2023 Fall Activities



Leaf Peeping: Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 9:30am Meet at St. Luke's at 9:30 for departure on the bus for Leaf Peeping! Cost \$10 per person.

Hammond's Candies Tour: Thursday, Nov. 9 at 9:15am Meet at St. Luke's at 9:15am. \$10 per person bus fare. The tour is free. Need a volunteer to coordinate/lead this trip. The tour time is reserved.



Cookie Exchange: Thursday, Dec. 7 from 1:00-3:00pm Cookie exchange and Mingo at St. Luke's. Please bring 1/2 doz. cookies for exchange. No cost.



United
Women
in Faith

We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done. And we invite you to join us.



A 55+ MINISTRY
For information contact Pam Burke burkefami@aol.com

Thank You for Your Continued Support in 2023

Two quick reminders:

- 1. Check out the new ways to give page on the website:** Click the DONATE button on the home page and find 4 options to explore - *now including Venmo* and a link to our latest financial information.
- 2. Keep turning in your pledges and donations and finding ways to support St. Luke's.** It is appreciated!

Mark Your Calendar: Our Stewardship Drive "This is the Start of Something New" is coming this October - Pledge Sunday is Oct. 29! We are so excited for what 2024 holds for our St. Luke's Family!

Contact Taletha Pogge at financedirector@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x124 if you ever have questions regarding St. Luke's finances.



Taletha Pogge
Director of Finance

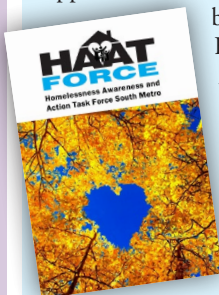


this is the start of something new

For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!
— Isaiah 43:19

HAAT Force Faith Community Appreciation Event & Silent Auction - September 16

You are invited to a special appreciation event and silent auction by HAAT Force, Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force. HAAT Force provides severe weather motel shelter to people experiencing homelessness.



It will take place in St. Luke's Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 16, from 9:30 - 11:30 am. There will be free breakfast savory and sweet treats; information about HAAT Force and homelessness in our community; inspiration and lots of appreciation! Come join us one and all! For more information you can contact Betsy Keyack, betsy.keyack@haatforce.org.

Youth Ministry Today



On Sunday, August 13th, we were honored to welcome Chris Wilterdink back to St. Luke's as a special guest speaker. Chris served as Director of Youth Ministry at St. Luke's in the early 2000s and since then has been a leader at the General Board of Discipleship, advising in ministries for youth and young people across the United Methodist Church. After over a decade in Nashville, Chris, Emily, and their two kids are back in Colorado and it is a joy to have them near-by.

We invited Chris to speak to staff, church leadership, youth and families on the relevant and vital topic of what the landscape of youth ministry looks like these days, especially due to COVID impacts.

Close to 40 people gathered in the fellowship hall to engage in this conversation. Chris acknowledged some of familiar realities:

- Youth (and their parents) are under significant stress to perform well academically, athletically, and socially
- Youth and families face many competing choices regarding how and where to spend their time
- All of us are realizing how important face-to-face social contact and relational experiences are to happiness and meaning in life

Chris reminded us of key touchstones in vital age-specific ministries:

- There is great importance in experiences over cognitive emphasis
- There is a lot of value in a ministries of presence vs programming
- Relationships are crucial

Chris ended by saying that a clear goal in vital churches is for each young person to have a meaningful relationship with seven adults in the congregation who know their name, check-in on them regularly, and know what is going on in their life.

Resoundingly, Chris's presentation served to remind us of the important work of ministry with youth and young people and the successful ways that St. Luke's does this. It was also a challenging message that served to motivate us to continue this conversation as we look to the future of our church.

If you would like to watch the recording to Chris' presentation, you can find it on our St. Luke's YouTube channel.

Sermon Series Recap The Gospel According to... Finding Hope and Inspiration on the TV Screen!



For a fun end-of-summer sermon focus, we have been tuning into our TV sets to find the inspiration and hope of the Gospel in the shows we watch and stream.

For this series our mission has been to find the Gospel message of Jesus in the tv programming that streams on our devices. We looked at comedies, reality TV, western dramas, and children's shows – and within each we found stories of hope, redemption, transformation, forgiveness, courage, faith, and loyalty.

August 13: The Gospel According to *Ted Lasso*

Ted Lasso reminds us to be curious, and not judgmental which are character traits we also see Jesus exhibit as he asks questions to his disciples and followers. Ted encourages his players to "Be a Goldfish" which means to let go of mistakes and be willing to start anew, like goldfish who only have a 3 second memory.

August 20: The Gospel According to *Queer Eye*

This reality TV make-over show highlights the importance of knowing who we are created to be as Children of God, created in the image of God. Rather than worrying about how we look and having the "right" style, the Fab Five have a tremendous way of reminding each of the folks participating in the show their inherent value and self-worth.

August 27: The Gospel According to *Bluey*

Bluey is a children's cartoon that treats kid's issues with dignity and honor. It is a reminder that Jesus revered young people and brought children in to receive his blessings. *Bluey* also preaches important messages for all grown-ups to hear including messages about self-care, rest, and the importance of play.

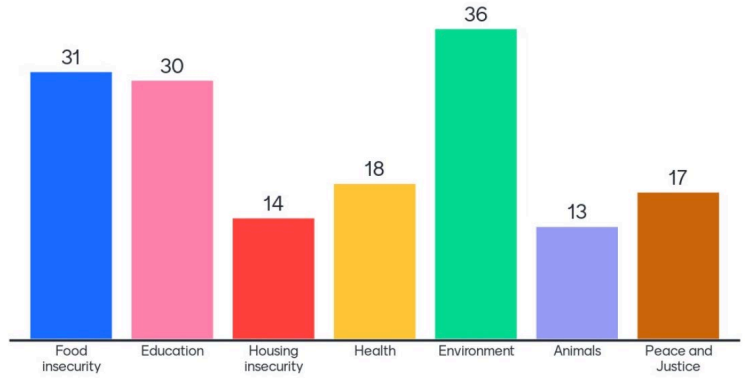
September 4: The Gospel According to *Yellowstone*

Yellowstone, an American neo western television series follows John Dutton, a sixth-generation homesteader and devoted father trying to preserve his family and legacy for the land he loves. Loyalty matters to John and through this series we are reminded God's loyal heart is what empowers us to be loyal.

St. Luke's Passion for Service

Each Sunday during Missions Month in May, Rev. Liza presented a Mentimeter question to poll the congregation on where and how they serve. We learned that our members show up in a big way when it comes to service. Not only are people taking time to serve with the church, but there were also many organizations represented where people serve outside the church. We learned that we are most passionate about serving to help the Environment, along with Food Insecurity and Education. These questions will guide the Missions Team on where St. Luke's can serve the community in the future. If you are passionate about an organization that could use a helping hand from St. Luke's contact Carolyn Maddox (cjmaddox@central.com). *Thank you St. Luke's for showing up and lending a helping hand where most needed.*

Where are you most called to serve through missions? (Pick 2 or 3)



What organization(s) have you volunteered with recently?

Castles, Caves, and Cathedrals: St. Luke's Music Ministry Celebrates Forty Years

by Leigh Ramsey This summer, 55 members from Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulators, Brass Ensemble, Orchestra, and friends enjoyed 9 days performing in the American Celebration of Music in Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia. Following a boat and walking tour of Venice, we performed a variety of classical music selections and spirituals at Antonio Vivaldi's church in Venice. We then traveled to Kranjska Gora to visit the Hochosterwitz Castle, the charming town of Bled in Slovenia, and a guided tour of the Postojna Caves. In the capital city of Ljublanja,



our group visited the castle and performed at St. Nicholas Cathedral. The tour ended in Zagreb, Croatia with our final performance at St. Anthony of Padua.

The 2023 tour is St. Luke's 4th music ministry tour and

certainly one of the most memorable. Director Jim Ramsey remarked "we were honored to be included in Slovenia's national music festival and met many wonderful people that helped and supported us along the way, including the pastor of the only Methodist church in Zagreb who offered us a blessing before our final concert." Indeed, we were blessed with an amazing experience and we're already looking forward to the next tour.

Trustees Corner: HVAC, Reserve Funds & More!

St. Luke's has 23 heating and air conditioning (HVAC) units, to serve the various parts of the building. Most of these units are past their rated useful life. Over the last several years, we have had an increasing number of failures in these units (some minor, a few major). We've generally been able to repair the units that have had problems. However, we are now at the stage where we will need to begin replacing some of the units: the cost of repairs is either prohibitive or replacement parts are not available.

We are beginning by replacing the 3 HVAC units above the roof of the office area; these serve the Sanctuary, the office area, and the Goliath room plus adjacent classrooms downstairs. We have had numerous problems with these units over the last year (only half of the Sanctuary AC is currently working); they serve the most critical parts of the church; and future repairs have become infeasible. We've decided to replace all 3 units at the same time due to the need to rent a crane and remove and replace the beams above the units. Due to the lead time to acquire new HVAC units, we are starting now to insure having functioning AC for these parts of the building by the summer of 2024. The estimated cost is about \$175K. This cost will be covered by our Reserve Funds, although the cost will use up most of the funds. We are hopeful that we will be able to repair rather than replace our other aging HVAC systems until we are able to build up our Reserve Funds again.



Thanks to Ken Fong, Lee & Yvonne Seaman, Randy Larson, and Trudy Turner... the choir loft enlargement is nearly complete. Some minor items remain, but we've added room for 6 chairs where the organ used to be, and cleaned up the wiring substantially.



**BE THE CHURCH
BE ST. LUKE'S**

★ Help Shape Our Future ★

*Shoot for the moon,
land among the stars!*

Futures Task Force Update Thank you for participating in our questions during worship service over the past few weeks. The task force has met multiple times taking a deep dive into looking at who we are now, who our neighbors are, discussing the idea of church as a network that has both fluid and fixed communities, and coming up with some plans about what's next. We are so excited to be able to dream with God and with you about our future, so be looking for more information soon about next steps!

Summer Music Thanks!

from Ken Mervine - It continues to move me greatly, how greatly blest is the community of St. Luke's UMC. Scheduling and preparing Summer Music Ministers is far more of a privilege than a job requirement. We offer a heartfelt Thank You and Blessing to all who have generously offered their talent and time to enhance our collective worship and spiritual experience:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long</i> | <i>Sandy Larson</i> |
| <i>Shel Stanfill</i> | <i>Rob Datsko</i> |
| <i>Chris Rigolini</i> | <i>Kay Coryell</i> |
| <i>Erynn Schryack</i> | <i>Nichole Rairigh</i> |
| <i>Dyani Galligan</i> | <i>Kim Ransick</i> |
| <i>Torin Blair</i> | <i>Stefanie Roth</i> |
| <i>Owen Metz</i> | <i>Rick Newell</i> |
| <i>Caleb Heaton</i> | <i>Patrick Griggs</i> |
| <i>Roberta Hamilton Griggs</i> | <i>Jeff Johnson</i> |
| <i>Mac Merchant</i> | <i>Kim Goddard</i> |
| <i>Jack Ramsey</i> | <i>Matthew Rodrigues</i> |
| <i>Luke Ramsey</i> | <i>Leslie Porter</i> |
| <i>Elise Collins</i> | <i>Beth Caldwell</i> |
| <i>David Garrett</i> | <i>Lisé Takayama</i> |
| <i>Marge Harper</i> | <i>Amy Antinoro</i> |
| <i>John Harper</i> | <i>Summer Choir</i> |



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

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



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

Grace Notes,
Men's Chorus,
Sisters of Soul



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

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



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

Brass Ensemble,
Wind Ensemble,
Ministers of Swing,
Orchestra



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

Kidz Prayz,
Tone Chimes,
Soul Purpose
Youth Choir



Music Ministry Groups Return!

Have you been inspired by the various music ministries at St. Luke's? Have you considered joining one of these groups? Now is the perfect time to give us a try! **Our Tinnabulators Hand Bells Choir is currently rehearsing Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm; our Chancel Choir began rehearsing on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm on September 7, our KidzPrayz Children's Choir and Soul Purpose Youth Choir begin rehearsing Sunday mornings at 10:45am on September 10, and a complete calendar of our Music Ministry rehearsals through the fall can be found online! Christmas Cantata Retreat - will be Saturday SEPTEMBER 30 from 8:30am-12:00noon.** Feel free to reach out to Dr. Jim or Kay Coryell at any point to ask questions and get involved!

Auditions!

Visit wesleyplayers.org for info & to sign up!

FALL MUSICAL: A Christmas Carol: This musical revisits the Charles Dickens classic with the Wesley Players this fall! Auditions will be held on Wednesday, September 20 from 6:00-9:00pm and Saturday, September 23 from 9:00-10:30am with callbacks on Sunday, September 24 from 1:00-4:00pm, if necessary. Performances will be Thursday, November 30, Friday, December 1, and two shows on Saturday, December 2.

READERS THEATER: Much Ado: A romcom readers theater experience brings "Much Ado About Nothing" to a high school set in Mountainville, Colorado. Experience the story through a set of sketches in this original script written by our very own Jack Kennedy. Auditions will be Saturday, September 23 at 10:30am with rehearsals on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, September 26-28. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, September 29 and 30, at 7:00pm.

Broadway Under the Stars!

Wesley Players Theater Company is known for multi-generational casts and Broadway Under The Stars on Sunday evening, August 20, proved no different, ranging in age from 10-70. With over 45 people in the cast, band, and technical crew, and over 200 people in the audience, the comedic, musical review hit all the right notes!

"Enthusiastic, Great fun, and entertaining!"

"Funny, creative, spirited and talent-filled performance!"

New cast members made their debut with the Wesley Players, finding a new community of friends to perform with. And, in addition to providing laughter and heartfelt tears, proceeds supported St. Luke's UMC.

RUDY LUCENTE

Organ Concert



SUNDAY, SEPT. 10, 2023
3:00PM AT ST. LUKE'S UMC



KEN MERVINE ENTHUSIASTICALLY INVITES YOU TO A FREE CONCERT PRESENTED BY RUDY LUCENTE! HE IS AN ASSISTANT ORGANIST AT THE WANAMAKER (MACY'S) GRAND COURT ORGAN IN PHILADELPHIA, AND APPEARS REGULARLY AT LONGWOOD GARDENS IN KENNETT SQUARE, PA, THE KIMMEL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN PHILADELPHIA, AND BOARDWALK HALL IN ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY. AS A RECITALIST, RUDY IS KNOWN FOR HIS "FAMILY FRIENDLY" PRESENTATIONS AND DEDICATION PROGRAMS. HIS FIFTY-PLUS YEARS AS A CHURCH MUSICIAN ENABLED HIM AS A CONSULTANT AND DESIGNER OF EXTRAORDINARY INSTRUMENTS WITH THE ALLEN ORGAN COMPANY.... ONE OF WHICH IS A MAGNIFICENT PART OF ST. LUKE'S MUSIC MINISTRY!!



Center for Spiritual Engagement

inspiring connection & wellbeing

CSE Purpose:

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

stlukesCSE.org

Outdoor Adventures:

White Ranch Park Hike

Friday, September 22 at we'll be hiking a variation of the Rawhide Trail, which is considered moderately challenging. We'll hike approximately five miles with an elevation gain of around 900 feet. The trail offers many lovely views of South Ralston Peak and a protected area in Coal Creek Canyon, as well as Denver and the eastern plains. We also hope



to see early fall colors. We'll share our traditional potluck tailgate snack at the end of our hike. The trailhead is approximately 45 minutes from St. Luke's, and we'll meet at St. Luke's at 8:00am to carpool. For more information and to register, contact janestaller@gmail.com

Save the Date for other Upcoming Adventures:

- **Tues., Oct. 17 - Castlewood Canyon State Park**
- **Wed., Nov. 8 - Alderfer/Three Sisters**

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

Backyard Movie Night Friday

Sept. 15 at 6:30pm "A League of Their Own"!

Bring a chair and join us for a cozy evening in the church backyard on Friday, Sept. 15 at 6:30pm (movie starts at 7:20pm) to raise money for St. Luke's. Enjoy fun pre-movie activities including games, silent auction, a hot dog dinner and our own barbershop quartet. Baseball collectors are encouraged to bring memorabilia to show. \$10/per person event entrance fee only (walk ups welcome) or \$30/per person includes event entrance fee, cracker jacks, drink and theme surprises (limited supply.) sharon@stlukeshr.com

CLASSES & EXPERIENCES:

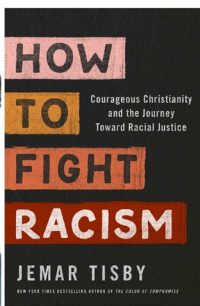
Brave Spaces: Environmental Justice Creation Care Circle: Sundays, September 17 and 24 (10:45am-12:15pm) As a new part of Brave Spaces with a focus on Environmental Justice,



we are excited to offer a Creation Care Circle led by Ryan and Nicole Rairigh. Have you ever wondered if

people of faith are called to care about the environment? Does the Bible say anything on this topic? If you have ever wondered about the what, why and how of creation care, we would love to have you join us. Please contact sallie@stlukeshr.com to register for this class; no fee.

Brave Spaces: Racial Justice "How to Fight Racism": Class meets 6 consecutive Mondays starting Oct. 2 from 5:30-



7:00pm. We previously offered Dr. Tisby's acclaimed video study, The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism. Dr. Tisby's newest book and video series How to Fight Racism is an action-oriented follow-up. The study's foundational concept is Dr. Tisby's model of the ARC of Racial Justice, which entails ongoing efforts to develop Awareness, Relationships, and Commitment. The class fee of \$30 covers materials and a donation to CSE. Contact julie.polikoff@msn.com with any questions and to register.



Fall Wellbeing Series with Dr. Sallie Suby-Long, Tuesday, October 17 and Monday, November 13

5:00-6:30pm: (Specific Topics will be Announced Soon!) Would you love to connect with a

small group of people and add a new wellbeing practice or two to your life? I'd love to offer some additional opportunities for you to integrate new resources, ideas, and practices for your enhanced wellness. Registration is \$30 per class and includes materials and resources. For more information or to register, contact sallie@stlukeshr.com, (LPC)

BACKYARD MOVIE NIGHT!

GAMES • SILENT AUCTION • HOT DOG DINNER

AN ALL-STAR COMEDY FROM THE TEAM THAT BROUGHT YOU 'BIG'

BASEBALL ENTHUSIASTS
BRING & SHOW MEMORABILIA AT OUR HISTORY TABLE

This summer, Tom Hanks and the Rockford Peaches prove that a woman's place is at home...first, second & third.

BARBERSHOP QUARTET ENTERTAINMENT

A League OF THEIR OWN

ICE CREAM & PEACHES!

Friday Sept. 15 • 6:30pm

MOVIE STARTS AT 7:20pm
More info and tickets stlukeshr.com
Fundraiser for St. Luke's!

Fun pre-movie activities! \$10 or \$30 per person packages.
Popcorn, hotdogs, treats and drinks will be available for purchase.
Bring a chair. Walk ups welcome. Sponsored by CSE.
(will move inside for inclement weather)

CULTURAL ADVENTURES:

Lunch at Mango House Thursday, September 28 - Lunch at Mango House in Aurora. Mango House is a food hall staffed with immigrant

chefs preparing their culinary traditions (such as Somali, Syrian, Swahili,

Asian and Nepalese food.) Contact renaeparra@aol.com or janet.johnston@comcast.net for meet up details or to RSVP.



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

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

Men in Community with Bryan Hutchinson (1st Monday of the month at 5:00pm at the church and occasional 3rd Monday dinner out) – Engage in informal conversations about relevant topics and connect with other men in our community regarding everyday aspects of life... family, work, faith, challenges, transitions, goals and hopes. Join in anytime! Contact bryanrhutch@aol.com

Summer was Full of Wellness Events

Summer Wellbeing Series with Dr. Sallie:

Through the summer, we gathered monthly to learn new wellbeing practices and to access new resources for enhanced wellbeing. We had amazing groups each month. Thank you for being part of these opportunities! Sallie shared several of her favorite “go to” resources/practices. Each session was designed to introduce a concept that participants could try out to see if it was valuable to them at this time in their lives. The sessions were research-based and focused on practices known to provide wellbeing benefits. We made meaningful connections in our conversations on the following topics.

- Times of Transition - Navigate Unsettling or Challenging Life Changes
- Discover Your Character Strengths - Bring Your Strengths to Life!
- Mindfulness & Self-Compassion - Honor Yourself, Claim Your Strengths and Thrive

Since the sessions were popular, we'll continue with a new wellbeing series on additional topics this Fall! We hope you will join us!

Brave Spaces Descendant Movie and Discussion - August 13 and 20: The CSE Brave Spaces team invited St. Luke's to gather on two



consecutive Sunday mornings in August to view and discuss the documentary film *Descendant*, which tells the story of the descendants of the last ship to bring enslaved Africans to the United States. Our discussion of this beautiful film, told through the voices of the Africatown descendants, examined the importance of ancestral stories, and the issues of systemic racism, white privilege, and the nature of justice.

Cultural Adventures: In this social and friendly group of open minded and kind-hearted individuals we seek multicultural destinations offering to indulge your senses,



inspire connection, education and together co-create authentic experiences. We invite you to join us on our lively cultural adventures to celebrate and whole-heartedly embrace the arts. We look forward to sharing these magnificent moments with you.

Our August adventure at the Denver Botanic Gardens was one of the most beautiful nights of the summer! No wind, no rain, no dramatic weather. We explored the garden with delight and intensity. At the end, when we shared our favorite part about the evening, each person had a unique experience or plant or flower



which made the evening special for them. Everyone is eager to return on a summer evening to this outstanding public garden.

In July we visited the Edgewater Public Market food hall and tried Kongo Ethiopian restaurant. So many new and different flavors to experience! We also enjoyed walking around the food hall to find ice cream shakes, baked goods and other places we want to try on our next visit.

Chatfield Potluck & Paddleboarding:

Even though there were some cloudy skies and a few sprinkles the weather did not deter 40+ people, of all ages, coming together for our annual Potluck and Paddling at Chatfield State Park. We enjoyed an abundance of delicious food as many folks took to the water for paddle boarding and swimming. It was a



lovely evening filled with fun and fellowship. Special thanks to Suanne and Jared Ediger for all they did to coordinate and plan this event for us!

Yoga and Reiki Experience: On a warm summer evening a group of us gathered in St. Luke's back yard to experience a unique opportunity. We engaged in a combined meditation, reiki and yoga session presented by Melinda Davidson and Sharon Oliver. Melinda began with a soothing, centering meditation followed by Sharon leading us in gentle, mindful yoga. As Sharon led us through our yoga poses, we each enjoyed an individual reiki experience with Melinda. I left with a sense of renewal and joy! Thank you, Sharon and Melinda, for this gracious and creative evening!



Outdoor Adventures: On a beautiful summer day in July, we hiked the Burning Bear trail on Guanella Pass. Janet Johnston led this hike through meadows and forest and she stopped to show us examples of the red squirrel middens which are along this trail. Middens are piles of shredded pine cones where squirrels store and retrieve their food. Our August evening hike at Roxborough State Park was canceled due to storms, which have interrupted more than a few activities this summer.



CSE's Year of the TREE: In honor of the 16,000 trees lost in the June tornado, CSE plans to plant Norway Blue Spruce seedlings, donated from Arbor Day Foundation. Watch for more info to come in our celebration of trees!

CREATION CARE CORNER: Use the Thermostat to Your Advantage

This is a seasonally-specific column based on actions everyday people can take to care for God's creation



by Nichole Rairigh Whoa, it was a hot one this past weekend with 95 degrees Fahrenheit with wind that felt like bus exhaust. Your thermostat setting is more important than you might think when it comes to energy consumption. In fact, your HVAC system uses almost 50% of the energy consumption in your home. **How can you be more “green” using the thermostat?** Turn your thermostat to 68 degrees for the winter and 78 degrees for the summer. This could save you between 5-10% in energy costs. If you have a programmable thermostat, you can set it to change automatically.

Also, don't forget to change your furnace air filter every few months. Remember to use fans, too, which can lower the room temperature as well. The Hunter Website says the following: Changing your ceiling fan direction seasonally is a simple way to SAVE YEAR-ROUND. The ceiling fan direction in summer should be counterclockwise to help create a downdraft, which creates that direct, cooling breeze. Your fan direction in winter needs to be clockwise to create an updraft and circulate warm air around the room. By recirculating the warm air and distributing it back into the living space you can improve the average room temperature and keep your furnace from working overtime.



Josey SeEVERS
Director of
Youth Ministry
josey@stlukeshr.com



Anna Fisher
Associate Director of
Youth Ministry
anna@stlukeshr.com

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade **Welcome Josey & Anna!**



I am originally from rural Indiana and grew up United Methodist. I attended Johnson University in Knoxville TN and earned my B.S. in Bible & Theology, Youth Ministry, and History. I graduated and married my husband Nate in 2019. After graduation, I worked as a daycare director and nanny while volunteering with a local middle school ministry. In 2021, I became the Director of Student & Family Ministries at Shiloh United Methodist Church in Cincinnati OH and served in that capacity for 2 years. I have experienced a strong calling to and passion for the work of youth ministry. I am so excited to join St. Luke's in creating a loving, vibrant faith community for their youth. I am also finishing up my M.A. in Youth Ministry with the Center for Youth Ministry Training and Austin Theological Presbyterian Seminary and intend to pursue ordination as a deacon.

In my spare time, I like to try out different craft projects, garden, read, and play board games or video games. I am almost always in the middle of a Dungeons & Dragons campaign. I have two dogs, Bruno and Padfoot, along with my husband form our little family.

I have felt so welcomed at St. Luke's and am excited to become a part of such a kind and open faith community. I am thrilled to start working with the youth to create a loving and vibrant space where they can explore their faith and belong.

Thank you for having me. -Josey

We are also pleased to announce that Anna Fisher has accepted the part time position of Associate Director of Youth Ministry. Anna grew up at St. Luke's and was an active part of SLY, and has eagerly and generously volunteered with SLY all summer.

A Huge Shout of Gratitude to Jacob Wesson!

Jacob took over planning and facilitating SLY in July and did a fantastic job of engaging and supporting our youth, communicating with parents, and bringing back some SLY traditions like Ultimate Frisbee, Messy Games, and the closing benediction. We are all so thankful for Jacob's leadership! Thank you! Please don't be a stranger!



Messy Games

Summer Mission Trip Memories

Jonah Metz: This past summer, I embarked on a mission trip to Kansas City, expecting to help those less fortunate than myself. Little did I know that this experience would not only create lasting friendships but also touch my heart in profound ways. Our mission was clear: to assist in the renovation of a house in a disadvantaged neighborhood, where it would then be sold to underprivileged families. The tasks at hand were no small feat - moving heavy concrete blocks and demolishing parts of the house in the blistering heat. However, despite this difficulty, I found joy and fulfillment. It became evident that this mission was not just about repairing a house but also mending the bonds within the community and willingly helping those around me. In addition, the many laughs and good memories will be cherished in my heart forever and I am truly grateful that I was able to attend this trip.

Anna Fisher: The last week of June, I had the privilege of chaperoning another St. Luke's mission trip, with our senior high youth. Our work team completed yard work throughout the week at various worksites including homes and a local park. This was to aid with the long-term project by the Ivanhoe Community Center of refurbishing homes for low-income families. The difference we made at our first location was stunning, to see a jungle of weeds stripped away that revealed a vacant home that just needed some TLC. We worked alongside Next Step Ministries, which is a Christ-centered program that connects church youth groups across the country, and provides ministry, worship, mission service, and friendships in new communities. Our youth have once again demonstrated the power of trust, faith, community service, passion, and endless love for our neighbors. In addition, the love and support that the youth have for each other is the true SLY purpose. To have the opportunity to see God's work firsthand through our amazing youth, is yet another reminder why I love attending mission trips with SLY. Can't wait for next year!!



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



School starts!

We had a wonderful teacher kick-off/training day on August 21st. Our 35 amazing Little School teachers/staff members participated in a **Church Scavenger Hunt** where they had to visit each church staff member for a special gift. We truly value our relationships with the church staff. *Big thanks to Mr. Barry for getting the building ready for us!*

We welcomed students on August 28th. Ms. Sam and Ms. Sharon hosted a **Tea and Tissues** event for our parents where they could have some tea, tissues, baked goods, and maybe even celebrate their child going back to school.



We are looking forward to some of our upcoming events. We will have a **Morning with Moms** event where our moms/guardians will come into the building for a special moment with their children in their classrooms and a chance to meet other moms.

One of our favorite events is our mini field trips to the **Pumpkin Patch** in October. We of course are looking forward to all the fun events that fall and Halloween bring.

The 204 Little Schoolers we have this year are the biggest joys in our building. If any of you are looking for a chance to volunteer, please reach out to me. Working with children is a perfect way to boost anyone's moral and day.

Grace and Love, Kelly

Family Camp 2023

by Abby Antinoro

Every July, St. Luke's families bring their tents, vans, and RVs up to the mountains for a week of relaxation, activities, and community. This year, the 23rd annual Family Camp took place at Winding River Resort in Grand Lake, CO, July 20-27. For some, this was their first Family Camp, for others it has been a tradition for years, but everyone became one big family over just a few days. Each year, we welcome families in every form- retired people, young adults, families with kids- to come together and form connections.

Out of the 24 summers I've been alive, I've been to Family Camp 22 times, so needless to say it is one of my favorite weeks of the year. Many of my best summer memories from over the years took place at family camp. As a kid I loved running around the campground, getting into mud puddles, and dying my hands every color of the rainbow when I refused to wear gloves while doing tie dye. As an adult, camp is the place I go to reset, catch up with old friends, and enjoy nature (and still occasionally dye my hands).

There is something for everyone at camp, whether you have kids or not. Annual activities include hiking, crafts, and a scavenger hunt. This year we spent one day in Grand Lake, going paddle boarding and enjoying picnics and homemade ice cream on the beach. Another evening we drove into Rocky Mountain National Park just across the river from camp to find elk and moose. Each evening, we gathered for community meals and campfires with s'mores. Other activities change every year as people share their talents and hobbies with the group. We have had yoga instructors, guitar players, expert tie-dyers, and great cooks. This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming Rob Datsko, with his son and two young grandkids for the first time. Rob brought his telescope and led a wonderful star gazing session on Saturday night, showing everyone an amazing view of the surface of the moon, as well as some constellations, planets, galaxies, and different colored stars. Thank you, Rob, for sharing your knowledge, and thank goodness for clear skies! As a group, we also enjoyed great conversation, and of course, just spending time together in God's beautiful creation!

Family Camp 2024 will take place July 18-25 at Winding River Resort. Please contact Caroline Merchant (caroline@merchant-us.net) for more information. Camping/lodging reservations can be made at windingriverresort.com



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



Sharon Oliver
Dir. of Children's Ministry & Comm. Creative Director
sharon@stlukeshr.com



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community & Early Childhood Ministry
samm@stlukeshr.com



Celebrate a New School Year with Us!

Third Grade Bible Sunday is October 1! Reserve your Bible NOW

Do you know a third grader who would like the gift of a Bible? St. Luke's is honored to continue our tradition of gifting third graders with wonderful Deep Blue Bibles. Please let Sharon know by Sept. 24. Send their full name and if they are able to attend the presentation of Bibles on Oct. 1 at the 9:30 or 11:00am worship service.

We celebrated the end of summer with **Summer Wacky Days** where children came to enjoy a modified preschool day and enjoyed social interaction through games, music, crafts and play. Although still structured, this 3-morning camp is relaxed and provides time and freedom for spontaneous play. Playtime creates a safe place for children to express their thoughts and emotions, creating stronger and happier kids. Look for our next Wacky Days during fall break!



In August we **Blessed our Backpacks and Teachers** and are looking forward to our year together where we can find ways to create "heaven on earth" - our church-wide theme for the year. Blessings for a wonderful school year!

Sunday School is going great and registrations for the new year are available online. Tweens (5th & 6th) have their own room and new furniture(!) and we have a NEW check out time at 10:40am as **KidzPrayz Choir** starts up again at 10:45am on most Sundays beginning Sept. 10. In PEAK Sunday School we helped paint the Tweens/Little School Music Room and had a special music Sunday with Ms. Angela & Ms. Kay! **Harry Potter Movie Night**, in July, was a fabulous experience and we watched part of the movie inside then moved outside as the sun was setting and made potions and watched the rest of the movie under the stars! **SLY, Jr.** met for a summer gardening experience and had a great time harvesting 14 pounds of produce from our church garden to give to IFCS food bank! SLY, Jr. officially kicks off the year on Sept. 10. Watch for opportunities with our **Parent's Night Out** and our **Parent's Morning Out** programs. And congratulations to our 6 new **Acolytes**: Ramsey, Myles, Kennedy, Ruby, Hannah & Caleb! They successfully completed training.



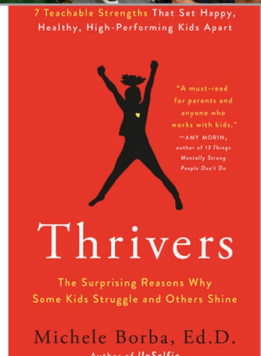
Mark your calendars for our **Fall Festival on Oct. 28** with Trunk or Treat, Games, Crafts, Pumpkins and more!!



Contact Sam and Sharon for more information.

NEW CLASS
Join us on **WEDNESDAYS** starting Sept. 13 for 7 weeks 6:00-7:00pm (Zoom option)

THRIVERS
Contact Rev. Liza for more info and to sign up.





St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

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



A Bushel of Thanks to our St. Luke's community for their support of our annual Palisade Peach sale! The proceeds from peach sales support the work of our Stephen Ministry including grief booklets and regular continuing education opportunities for both Stephen Ministers and the community. Big thanks to Jean Ann Duncan for leading the effort!

TUESDAYS
5:00-6:30pm

Work in the Digital Age
- A New Paradigm

6-week class

Sept. 19-Oct. 24

in the Chapel (Zoom option)

Work is being transformed into something we won't recognize in the very near future. **Join Stephen Bennett for a discussion.**

Contact sam@stlukeshr.com to sign up



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

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Linda Anderson,</i> | <i>Dick Dunham,</i> | <i>Brian Heiar,</i> | <i>Lennon Krantz,</i> | <i>Nancy Springman,</i> |
| <i>Eugene Bacon,</i> | <i>Tammy Dunlap,</i> | <i>Sophia Jimenez,</i> | <i>Jan Lindquist,</i> | <i>Amy Weiske</i> |
| <i>Joe Barnes,</i> | <i>Penny Harris,</i> | <i>Ann Kershner,</i> | <i>Floyd Shoemaker,</i> | |



Cassy Meier
Communications and Office Administrator
office@stlukeshr.com

Welcome Cassy!

Our Staff Parish Relations Team is delighted to introduce you to our new Communications and Office Administrator, Cassy Meier. Cassy brings incredible leadership skills in managing and motivating teams, creating a positive work atmosphere, knowledge of many of the computer programs we use, and an efficient ability to schedule activities and maintain the church calendars. Cassy is a fun and enthusiastic person who is detail oriented and who is an excellent communicator. Cassy has been a member of St. Luke's since 2012, and her husband, Jensen, was a part of our St. Luke's Youth program and has actually been a member since he was in the 7th grade. Together Cassy and Jensen have two children, Emryn, Kindergarten, and Everett who attends our Little School preschool downstairs. Cassy started work here in August. When you see her, please welcome her and share your gratitude for having her on our staff team!

WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER & OFFER CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Steven and Alyssa Alvarado and grandparents Cinda and Brad Deats on the birth of Noah Bradley Alvarado.*
- Alyssa and Quinn Conley and grandparents Michelle and Gary Tekolste on the birth of baby Leland Michael.*
- Jake and Katie Smith on the arrival of their new baby, MacKinnon Dart Smith, born August 29.*

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

- Stephen Collins and family on the passing of Stephen's aunt, Gillian Lloyd Evans.*
- Ed Coryell and family on the passing of Ed's father, Austin Coryell.*
- Darren Chilton and family on the passing of his mother, Phyllis Chilton.*
- Kim and Kyle Vines and family on the passing of Kim's father, Walter Wilson.*
- The St. Luke's community and the family of OB Baldwin on his recent passing.*
- Cindy and Shane Johnson on the passing of their brother-in-law Rick Johnson.*



Flowers are Celebrations of Life!

The Altar Team invites you to help decorate our altar each Sunday by Celebrating Your Life, Your Family, and Your Friends. The two bouquets, \$40 for both, may be taken home after the last service. Vases may be returned later and placed at the sink area of the Narthex. Contact the office to place an order or answer any questions. There are open Sundays in September, October and November.



Les Ludlam
Retired Clergy

More from Les: *Remember the Past, But Don't Live In It*

During a recent Seasoned Voyagers tour of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum I asked the volunteer leading our group where the Oil Shale Exhibit was located. I was surprised by his response! "You mean the North Dakota oil-bearing shales?" he asked. "No, I mean the hydrocarbon-bearing Marlstone in the Green River Formation in Garfield and Rio Blanco counties of Colorado. "Let me get someone else," was his reply.

A quick call to another museum staff member brought an answer I wasn't expecting. Yes, there had been an Oil Shale display in 1970's but had been taken down when oil prices dropped and the industry shut down in the early 1980's. "Display space is very limited" was the reason given. Suddenly, I felt very obsolete!

My interest in Oil Shale began with a 1950 visit with my parents to the newly opened U.S. Bureau of Mines Oil Shale Research facility near Rifle, Colorado.

It was reinforced later by my transfer to ARCO's oil shale development partnership in 1969 and it ended with the collapse of world oil prices in the early 1980's.

Oil Shale is one of a variety of hydrocarbon-containing mineral deposits in the world from which liquid fuels can be produced. Very high-temperature processing produces a liquid product commonly referred to as "raw shale oil." Raw shale oil can be upgraded to "synthetic crude oil" and processed in a petroleum refinery.

The cost of synthetic crude oil production from oil shale falls somewhere between that for conventional petroleum crude production and that from coal-based gasification and liquefaction techniques. The economic viability of an oil shale industry hinges on World Oil prices. If oil prices are high enough, synthetic crude from oil shale is profitable. But as we know, world oil prices can vary a lot!

I thanked the staffer and rejoined our tour group. This was not the time for any extensive discussion of that which had been the focus of my career for over ten years of my time at Atlantic Richfield Company. "The train has left the station," I thought, "and nobody seems to care." This was an important reminder for me!

Change happens continuously, but memories are fixed. It's OK to recall experiences: they are important in how we learn and in shaping who we have become. But, we cannot spend our time and resources in the present without recognizing the changes that have come over time! Change is a fact of life> That's common sense! BUT recognizing how we have changed does not come automatically. It takes patience, introspection, and reflection (and sometimes courage) to affirm that we are not the same person as we have been in the past.

So, here are suggestions for helping us recognize how we have changed.

- Look carefully in the mirror, then go dig up your High School yearbook and look at the individual picture with your name. Ask the person in the picture about their hopes and dreams for the future. Are they the same for you now?
- Ask your brother or sister or cousin about changes they have seen in you since you all have grown to adulthood. Don't try to coach them and just listen.
- Who was your hero years ago, who is now?
- Talk to a young person; reflect on the things from the conversation that surprise you.
- Make a list of the sources of information (e.g. friends and family, newspapers, television, newsletters and billboards) you encounter every day.

Do they tend to agree with you? Are some upsetting for you? Which ones influence you? Why?

Surprise! You have changed!

Now, new person, go change the world around you and be changed even more!

God bless us all, Les



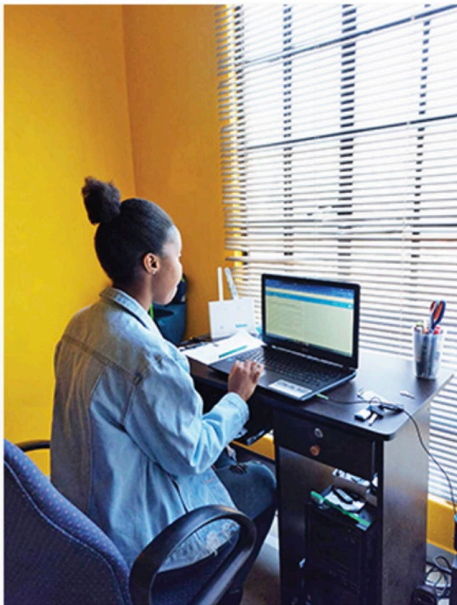
Work in the Digital Age - A New Paradigm?



Join us Tuesdays 5:00-6:30pm
6-week class from Sept. 19-Oct. 24
in the Chapel (Zoom option available)

Contact **Stephen Bennett** stephenwbennett54@gmail.com
 or **Sam Leahy** sam@stlukeshr.com for more info and to sign up.

Work is changing. Digitization is sending tremors through traditional workplaces and upending ideas about how they function. Roughly 30% of workers change jobs every year. There is a severe shortage of essential workers, yet the Service industry is projected to grow at a 17% annual rate worldwide according to the World Economic Forum. At the same time other work categories including manufacturing, construction, and agriculture are projected to stay the same or decline.



Online gig workers, or “cloudworkers” connect with clients through a platform interface, which extracts rents from transactions, and often exerts a high degree of control over the labor process. Credit: Fairwork Project.

Gig work with the promise of self-employment is growing while digital commodification and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are becoming a part of almost every job. Manual labor is disappearing and the traditional roles of men and women in the workplace are reversing.

In addition, Work-life balance remains elusive for most mid to high income knowledge workers exacerbated by the remote or platform work options, while low-income wage earners have no guarantees, let alone benefits.

Massive immigration pressure driven by war, famine, natural disasters, and high wage disparity continues to disrupt financial and labor markets throughout the world.



Yet work is a part of everything we do. It frames the economic, social, and political spheres of our everyday life and defines the structures for all human encounters from commerce to war, to art, health, and

wellbeing, to leadership and authority. Work is a part of who we are.

Global population growth, human creativity, climate change, and exponential growth in energy use are just some of the factors driving the disruptions.



Work is being transformed into something we won't recognize in the very near future.

This series will explore each of these issues and provide an opportunity to discuss future possibilities.