GRACE COURAGE WONDER BEYOND

St. Luke's

The Chronicle

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | *Fall* | OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2026

St. Luke's NEW Mission Statement

At the beginning of 2026, St. Luke's started a process of dreaming up a new mission statement. Our old mission statement had lost some of its staying power and the energy behind it. The process of crafting new words that encapsulated the unique church flavor of St. Luke's involved a lot of input. There was a congregation conversation in February, the staff team contributed great ideas, and the ultimate ownership resting with the Executive Team. A small group edited and word-smithed many, many versions of a mission statement. That small group was Audrey Elling, Paul Kirk, Linda Hollyman, Rev. Liza Stotlz Hanson, and Rev. Calob Rundell. But each version kept feeling like a generic church mission statement without anything special to make it St. Luke's. But then, in June, just as the work was becoming tired, inspiration struck. That inspiration came from our St. Luke's guiding values, the things that makes us St. Luke's and are a unique recipe to what gives our church flavor its pop: Grace, Courage, Wonder, and Beyond. The small working team then wrote a statement that feels inspired and very St. Luke's.

When this new mission statement was first shared with church staff and leaders, a consensus formed that these were the words we had been looking for. And so, using our values as a guide, the Executive Team has approved a new mission statement:

St. Luke's is a courageous community of grace, transformed by the wonder of God's love for each person.

Our new mission statement will help guide us in who we are as a church, the ways in which we worship God, how we serve our community, and the energy that deepens our faith. It also connects to the work of the Futures Task Force and the vision for the next era at St. Luke's.

To learn more about the new mission statement, you're invited to an All-church Potluck on Oct. 25 at 6:30pm. This will be a great opportunity to talk in small groups about what it means to be St. Luke's.

Check out information on the NEW BOOK about St. Luke's history on page 2!

Pumpkin Patch 12-6pm Daily

Welcome Fall!

What a WONDERful Kick Off

On September 13th from 5:00-7:00pm, St. Luke's and people of Highlands Ranch gathered at Civic Green Park for the first annual **WonderFest** celebration! It was a time of music, food, and fun. The Wesley Players sang some tunes from recent shows and also from their upcoming production of *Anything Goes*. Gabe Mervine & Friends brought the jazz sounds to close out the evening. And there were hot dogs and so many great pot-luck dishes to share.

Ministry teams of the church invited WonderFest-goers to play games, win prizes, and learn more about how to get involved at St. Luke's. The wind made an appearance as well, but it did not blow away the wonderful spirit of the St. Luke's community.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make WonderFest '26 happen!

We also had a beautiful **Blessing of the Animals** in late September.

AND thanks for the great turnout to **unload pumpkins** and for our Oct. 2-4 weekend of food collection for the **Feeding of the 5000.** St. Luke's is a community of love in action.

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, with communion*

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

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Staff

Rev. Calob Rundell.....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
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Chris Rigolini.....x146
Director of Instrumental Music Ministry

Angela Alderson.....x136
Director of Youth Music Ministry

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Finance Office.....x124

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Barry Curtis.....x144
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Our next issue of ***The Chronicle*** will be the Winter/Advent issue.
Content due November 20, 2026
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. Calob Rundell
Lead Minister
calob©stlukeshr.com

Fall is a Time for Community

Sumer is a time for travel, experiences with family, vacation from school, and getting outside. But now that the heart of that season has passed, it's time to get connected to community!

The relationships we have with others around us is one of the main things that makes us human. And we have faith that God made us to connect with and care for one another. As you'll read in this edition of *The Chronicle,* St. Luke's has a new mission statement! And one of the first words in it is community.

At St. Luke's this fall, there are so many ways for you to experience community. You can volunteer in the pumpkin patch. Maybe you'll be a part of the Fall Festival or Game Night. Perhaps you'll check out one of St. Luke's musical groups. There are Bible studies, Sunday School, SLY (St. Luke's Youth) and SLY, Jr., Children's events and Seniors at St. Luke's for you to be a part of.

Who we are as followers of Jesus is grounded in community. In the Gospel stories Jesus calls, gathers, teaches, and sends the church as a community. Our identity as Methodists is also all about community. John Wesley organized the early Methodist movement into connected and concentric circles of community with small groups, churches, regional circuits, and geographic conferences. Community is both an invitation from God and a way that we can bless one another.

So this Fall, you're enthusiastically invited to get plugged into community at St. Luke's! Take a good look through this edition of *The Chronicle,* and find something that resonates with you. There is a place and a community for you at St. Luke's, and most likely there are multiple ways you can be a part of what God is doing through the church.

See you at St. Luke's! ***Peace, Rev. Calob***

St. Luke's Origin Story is Now a Book!

From an Albatross to a Phoenix – a history of the first 25 years of St. Luke's (1979-2004)

The early history of St. Luke's United Methodist Church parallels that of Highlands Ranch itself, with both growing fitfully though both eventually became quite successful. The book follows three gifted senior ministers - Harold Raines, Bill Selby, and Dick Evans - along with dozens of lay people and clergy from the Rocky Mountain Conference (now the Mountain Sky Conference) as we explore the history of the church and the community.

There were moments when the existence of the new church south of Denver was in doubt, but time after time people stepped up with support and creativity and raw determination.

St. Luke's member and author Jack Kennedy researched and wrote and designed this history after he realized in 2023 that he really knew very little about the history of the church he and his wife, Kathleen, joined in fall of 2002.

March, 2023 was when the church celebrated 40 years as a chartered UMC church and Jack was part of the ceremony, acting as emcee and inviting past ministers to share their memories as well as to attend the festivities. That led to many conversations with those past ministers and with long-time church members. One story often led to another, and there were many times when the author realized he simply needed to know more about the context of certain decisions and events.

The story is built from many in-person and phone interviews, primary source material, emailed memories and suggestions, and material available online.

Available now on Amazon in paperback and hardcover.

Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister
liza©stlukeshr.com

Rev. Liza's Summer Recap

Dear St. Luke's,

At this point in September it is easy to be forward-focused on all that is coming up in the busy months ahead. I wanted to pause on this beautiful fall day, now that my kids are settled back at school and ready for a great year ahead (the girls are now in 5th and 8th grade!), and share a fun summer recap!

Best Book I Read: ***Theo of Golden*** **by Allen Levi**

Commentary: Highly recommend! A little slow at times and I thought a certain part at the end was unnecessarily dramatic, but what a beautiful story of befriending the stranger. They are going to make a movie starring Tom Hanks!

What I Am Reading Now: ***The Calamity Club*** **by Kathryn Stockett**

Commentary: So funny and a well-written set of characters with intertwining story arcs. I can't put it down!

What I'm Looking Forward to Reading Next: ***Prince's Minneapolis: A Biography of Sound and Place*** **by Rahad Shabazz**

Best Sporting Event: Denver Summit FC vs Gotham FC

Commentary: Having professional women's soccer in Denver is so fun! This game in September, the Summit beat Gotham 3-0, and Gotham is the "best team" in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). Ha!

Best Accidental Road Trip of the Summer:
Billings, Montana to Beach, North Dakota

Commentary: The plan was to drive south from Billings. Boy, were we surprised to arrive in North Dakota! The silver lining is that Hazel and I saw Devil's Tower for the first time as we drove through Wyoming toward Denver.

Best Paddleboard Day:
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes

Commentary: Denton and I had the best paddleboard date while we were visiting family in Minneapolis. We paddled from Cedar Lake to Brownie Lake and Lake of the Isles because they are connected by lagoons and canals. Great views of the downtown skyline from the water.

Best Family Activity: Four-Square with Calvin-Ball Rules

Commentary: You can find us (and most of the neighborhood kids) in the evenings playing very competitive and very silly games of four-square. The "King" calls the rule for each round: jump ball, Ted Lasso ball, karaoke, washing machine, crop dust, etc. It's taken on a life of its own...

Best Outdoor Music Event: Brandi Carlile at Red Rocks

Commentary: Nothing better. Brandi's band includes the incredible violin and cello musicians "Sista Strings" who could sell out Red Rocks on their own. Brandi sang "I Will Always Love You" in a tribute to Dolly Parton and it was a showstopper!

Best Television Event: ***Ted Lasso*** **Season Four**

Commentary: Worth the wait! I'm LOVING it (seven episodes in).

Up Next on my Streaming Queue:

- PBS documentary *Mary Oliver: Saved By The Beauty of the World*
- Netflix docu-series *Death of the Pastor's Wife*
- *Widow's Bay*

Hoping that your summer months were filled with a wide range of "Best-Of" moments. I'd love to hear them!

With Peace and Love, Rev. Liza

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

A Courageous Community

The St. Luke's Brave Spaces Ministry is beginning its seventh year in our community! Brave Spaces began with the purpose of inspiring courageous learning and action to address concerns of injustice in the summer of 2020. We are grateful for all of you who have bravely stepped into challenging, real conversations and who have engaged in intentional opportunities to put faith in action. The Brave Spaces team creates opportunities for honest dialogue about issues of equity, justice, and care of creation in light of our faith. Inspired by the United Methodist Social Principles, we learn from one another as we endeavor to build a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world.

Over the past 6 years, St. Luke's Brave Spaces Ministry has focused on racial/social justice and environmental justice. Together we've hosted many learning opportunities such as how to fight racism, a Christian response to gun violence, solutions to homelessness, LGBTQIA+, immigration and care for the environment. As a community, we've become part of Together Colorado – a nonpartisan, multi-racial and multi-faith community working to place human dignity at the center of public life in Colorado. Members of St. Luke's have started the Justice League in partnership with three UMC faith communities, started a Creation Care Ministry, are building a Singing Circle to voice songs of freedom, and advocate with our legislature for the rights and dignity of all people. We have worked to support the addition of solar panels at St. Luke's, engaged our community in composting, given sponsorships for participants in the Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run, marched in the MLK, Jr. Marade, and offered prayerful presence for immigrants detained in the GEO ICE facility in Aurora. These are just a few examples of how St. Luke's is putting faith in action. Step by step, we are learning what it means to be a courageous community of faith.

Thank you all for your compassion, care and courage to show up. Brave Spaces has grown exponentially in the past six years thanks to God's guidance and the humble, gracious and open spirits of many. We warmly welcome everyone's wisdom, and thoughtful participation in our collaboration for justice.

For more conversation, learning opportunities or to join in actions of justice advocacy, please reach out to me, Rev. Calob, Rev. Liza, or anyone on the Brave Spaces Team. Wherever you may be in your journey, we respect your questions and courageous faith.

…Seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God. ~Micah 6:8

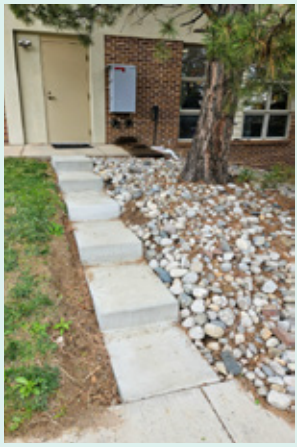
Kindest Regards, Rev. Dr. Sallie

Brave Spaces Leadership Team: *Julie Polikoff, Sharon Oliver, Jane Staller & Rev. Sallie Suby-Long*

Trustees Corner

Solar Panels, Steps, and Weeds

Solar Panels: We rescheduled the connection of our system to XCEL for October 15. That date seemed to work best for all involved. The building will be without power for much of that day. We are hoping that we will be able to turn the system on soon afterwards. Thanks again to all who contributed to this project and we look forward to celebrating when all is connected!



Steps: The concrete paver steps to the staff entrance have been slowly degrading over the years. We replaced them with concrete steps, which are much sturdier and safer. The staff is beyond grateful!

Weeds: At the Church's last Service Saturday in June, a lot of weeds were pulled around the church. Much of this was due to volunteers who felt they "owned" parts of the property and work throughout the year to make sure the area they were tending was free of weeds.

The Trustees are proposing to extend this informal process of adopting a patch of ground. If you would like to take responsibility for keeping some portion of the property free of weeds, please contact Ken Fong at kfong©att.net. Or if you're already doing this, let him know which part of the property you are taking care of.

Join the March 2027 Guatemala Mission Team Virtually!

You are invited to be a part of the Pura Vida team going to Guatemala in March 2027 even if you are not able to travel with us. Our team will be helping to build concrete block homes for families in need, fostering our long-term relationships with our friends in the Western Highlands, visiting sponsored scholarship students, enjoying activities at a local school, distributing powered milk to over 600 families and having cultural experiences. You can join the team "virtually" and receive emails and photos of the home construction and all our activities! **For a donation of $250, you can become a Virtual Team member.** Go to https://www.puravida.org/virtual-trip.html?trip_id=122 to join. Your $250 donation will help pay for the materials and Guatemalan labor for the homes to be constructed. For more information, you can contact Laura Richards, Pura Vida Trip Leader, co.richards2020©gmail.com or Betsy Keyack, St. Luke's Team Leader, bkeyack©att.net

We had an enthusiastic group of 10 youth and adults volunteering with the Foundation for DCSD

The group spent their time packing some of the 1500 backpacks that were distributed in August as well as sorting the boxes of school supplies that had been donated.

Watch for upcoming mission opportunities in the Sunday bulletin.

For more information on Missions at St. Luke's
contact St. Luke's Mission Team Leads: Linda Babcock - lindababcock38©gmail.com and Betty Ludlam - betty.ludlam1718©gmail.com

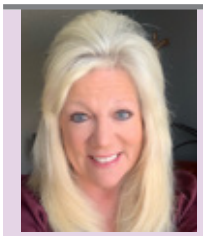
Thank you very much for your recent support of Giving Heart and HAAT Force!

Thank you all for your donations of jeans, underwear, hygiene items, clothing and towels to Giving Heart during July! Giving Heart is a drop-in center in Englewood for people experiencing homelessness. On July 30 a wonderful group of volunteers also created a delicious lunch for 70 Giving Heart guests - pulled pork sandwiches, chips, Palisade peaches and cookies. Special kudos to Linda Babcock, Stephanie Kirk, Lisa Lehnus, Trudy Turner, Brenda Hart, Joanna Cook, Nancy Plamp, Anne Bennett, Betty Ludlam and Kris Reif!

During August you all generously donated shelf stable food items for HAAT Force. Since 2010, HAAT Force has provided severe weather motel shelter, food and community resources for people experiencing homelessness in South Metro Denver. During the summer, HAAT Force also has Friday Resource Days.

Thank you again, St. Lukes friends, for your great generosity and compassion in solidarity with people in our local community! You uplift the spirits of many people, provide safety and comfort, and offer resources to help people move forward! You are appreciated!

We are very grateful for these opportunities to be in solidarity with our neighbors who need our love, housing and more! Thank you, St. Luke's!



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community & Early Childhood Ministry
sam©stlukeshr.com

Leadership Fair Oct. 11

It can be intimidating to step forward and volunteer at church. Meeting new people, learning a new role, and wondering if you have the right skills to contribute can feel overwhelming at first. When we volunteer, we trust that God can work through our gifts, talents, and willingness to serve. Whether greeting visitors, helping with children, singing in the choir, serving on a mission, trustee or finance team, every act of service makes a difference in the life of the church. Serving also brings many blessings. Volunteers at St. Luke's often develop new friendships, grow in their faith, and discover gifts they never knew they had. As we share our time and talents, we become part of God's work in the world. If you have been thinking about volunteering, consider taking that first courageous step. St. Luke's needs you, and you may discover that serving becomes one of the most rewarding parts of your faith journey. To learn more about ministry team volunteer opportunities, be sure to visit the Leadership Ministry Team Fair on Sunday, October 11, between services. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about different ways to serve, and discover where your gifts and passions can make a difference.

Seniors at St. Luke's

Our seniors at St. Luke's enjoyed a wonderful few months filled with fellowship, learning, and fun activities. Many delighted in the beauty and fragrance of the Lavender Festival at Chatfield Farms. With more than 2,000 lavender plants in bloom, the festival offered a memorable experience. A tremendous thank you to Alan Babcock for leading an AARP Driver Safety Course. His willingness to share his time and expertise helped participants gain valuable information and confidence for safe driving. Faith Day at the Rockies was a fun family event in August cheering on a win for our Rockies and ending with a fabulous Crowder concert and we had a beautiful Fall Leaf Peeping adventure at the end of September and October brought the beautiful sounds of the **Baroque Chamber Orchestra Concert** *(pictured above)*.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming opportunities:

Join us on the first Tuesday of every month for tea and **Conversations with the Pastor** in the Chapel for an open forum discussion.

Dinner & Musical *9 to 5 JR.* on *Thursday Oct 29 at 5:00pm.* PAA presents *9 to 5 JR.* based on the hit musical featuring Dolly Parton's unforgettable music. Enjoy a down home dinner before the performance. Cost $30. RSVP.

Chair Yoga on *Friday Oct 30 9:15-10:00am.* All are welcome to join for a 45-minute relaxing and envigorating easy chair yoga. Wear comfy clothes. Cost $15. RSVP.

Senior Dining Group: For more information and to add your name to a group, contact Sam Leahy at sam©stlukeshr.com

Men's Social Breakfast Club: This men's group meets on the last Monday of each month at 7:30am at the IHOP on University & Highlands Ranch. Contact Steve Stine at sstine©zivaro.com

Common Thread: This group of retired and senior ladies meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00am in the Conference Room. Contact Betty Ludlam at betty.ludlam1718©gmail.com

If you are 55 and beyond and looking for ways to build friendships, stay active, and enhance interconnectedness, we invite you to join us in the months ahead for a variety of engaging activities and gatherings. **For more information check out the website or email sam©stlukeshr.com.**

Women in Faith Offer Small Groups

United Women in Faith

"Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world."

We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

As the seaasons change, it will soon be cooler and filled with colors of fall. The heat brought challenges to some of our gatherings; room assignments because of lack of air and July picnic was moved inside to the fellowship hall. We all adjusted as needed. The most important part is that we still could gather together. All three **Interest Groups** met during the summer;

Common Thread (first Wednesdays at 10:00am) continued with giving to the mission opportunities that St. Luke's was sponsoring: Giving Heart included collecting items and some of our women helped with one of the lunches served. HAAT Force was the recipient of many items of shelf stable food. Contact Betty Ludlam at betty.ludlam1718©gmail.com

Itch to Stitch (third Saturdays at 10:00am) has continued to cut and piece the Quilts of Valor for this Veterans Day. Soon the quilts will be ready for binding and many hands will be needed to help finish these beautiful guilts. Diane Lindsay is now helping lead this group and has many ideas for a variety of activities. If you have any interest, pro or novice or want to learn, Crochet, Knitting, Embroidery, Sewing or Quilting, contact Diane at uniqueceramics89©gmail.com

Book Club (fourth Monday, 5:30pm potluck, 7:00pm discussion) chooses and reads a variety of books. A new book each month along with a potluck supper for those attending in person. The group is also available on ZOOM for the discussion of the book. The book titles are available on the UWF bulletin board in the stairwell and on the UWF link on the St. Luke's website. Contact Teri Burget at teri0962©gmail.com

- October 26 - ***The Art Thief*** by Michael Finkle
- November 30 (fifth Monday) - ***Atmosphere*** by Taylor Jenkins Reid

All women and teen girls are invited to join any of our groups at any time. Ideas for gathering themes are also welcome as we start this new church calendar year.

SAVE THE DATE: *November 1 for our ANNUAL BAKE SALE*

Peachy Gratitude!

Our SOUL Ministry is grateful for another successful palisade peach fundraiser! Thank you to all who purchased peaches this year. The proceeds from this sale support SOUL Ministry trainings and continuing education, as well as church-wide initiatives. The annual peach sale would not be possible without the support and leadership of Jean Ann Duncan. Additional thanks to and our incredible team of volunteers who survived a peach delivery day with 100°+ temperatures!

Many thanks to Sarah Barnes for creating the four new purple banners that hung in the sanctuary for our kick off.

The banners proclaim our four St. Luke's values of Grace, Courage, Wonder, and Beyond and add a great emphasis to our St. Luke's pride during this fall Kick-off season. Additional gratitude for Sharon Oliver and Rev. Liza for their creative support.

AND COMING SOON...

NOVEMBER: *Holy and Sacred Moments*

November is a time of tradition at St. Luke's, with each Sunday holding space for a different holy and sacred experience. The first Sunday is All Saints Sunday, when we name and remember those people who have died in this life and passed to the life that is to come. The second Sunday has a special highlight for Veterans Day. Then comes Reign of Christ for the third week. And the cycle of four weeks ends with Thanksgiving Sunday on November 22nd.

ADVENT: *A Weary World Rejoices*

Even though Fall has just started, St. Luke's is already planning for the season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas. Our guiding theme this year comes from the great Christmas hymn "O Holy Night." Though the world may feel weary at times, Advent invites us to experience a thrill of hope as we rejoice in the gift of Christmas.

You're invited to experience the hope, joy, love, and peace of Advent at St. Luke's. The special Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, Dec. 6. Christmas Eve worship will start with family-focused services at 1:00 & 3:00pm. Traditional services will be at 5:00 & 7:00pm. Christmas Eve concludes with communion worship at 9:00pm.

Reflecting on our Recent Sermon Series

Summer Guest Preachers During the summer, St. Luke's was blessed to have three guest preachers bring messages of hope on Sundy morning. On June 14th, David Garrett preached on being a good neighbor, with inspiration from Jesus and Mr. Rogers. Sam Leahy preached on July 19th about moving from worry to wonder by slowing down, noticing grace, and trusting God amid uncertainty. On July 16th, Stephen Collins preached on The Trinity and the power of the words "I am." Thank you to each of our guest preachers for your faithfulness and intentionality in bringing words of grace, courage, and wonder this summer!

WONDER: In July, our Sunday morning messages were all about one of our four guiding values at St. Luke's: Wonder. (As a quick refresher, our four guiding values are grace, courage, wonder, and beyond.) Wonder is a huge part of faith and spirituality. God and God's creation are bigger than our minds can comprehend. We are called to approach our spiritual journey with our human reason and the divine gift of mystery.

5 Marks of a Methodist: In 1742, John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, wrote an essay called The Character of a Methodist. Using now-antiquated language and rhetoric, John Wesley explained over a dozen things that a Methodist emphasizes in their faith and life. Thankfully for us, in 2026 Steve Harper distilled it down to 5 Marks of a Methodist. Each of these 5 marks were the topic of a Sunday morning message in late summer. A Methodist: Loves God, Rejoices in God, Gives Thanks, Prays Constantly, and Loves Others.

Characters of COURAGE: To start the Fall season at St. Luke's, our message series focuses on one of our four values: Courage. To help us understand how to live with courage, each Sunday we're learning about the life of someone that lived, or is living with courage. We started on September 13th with Harriet Tubman, whose Methodist faith was a motivator in her work for freedom and equality. Then, we learned about German pastor, theologian, and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer who led the underground Confessing church in resisting evil. The next week had two more martyrs for us, Oscar Romero and Stanley Rother, who both found courage in their faith. This series will conclude with the creation care courage of Greta Thunberg.

OCTOBER: The Mystery of Faith: Have you ever noticed that there are three short phrases we say as part of the taking Communion at St. Luke's? Before we dip the bread into the grape juice, as part of our liturgy we say, ***"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."*** Together, these three things are full of mystery and invite us to faith in Jesus. But, what makes each of these phrases central to our experience of Jesus? On October 11, 18, and 25, we'll explore each of these sayings in depth. If you've ever had questions about Jesus, you will want to catch all three sermons.

The Wesley Players Theatre Company is thrilled to announce its upcoming 2026-2027 season:

Anything Goes - October 15-18
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - Nov. 20-22
The Prince of Egypt - February 25-28, 2027
Snoopy! - June 3-6, 2027

We celebrate 27 years by living out our core values of encouraging diversity, creativity, and community in every production, providing audiences with theatre experiences that inspire and entertain.

We consistently welcome original Wesley Players members and new members to our company, including performers, volunteers, directors and music directors. For *Anything Goes* alone, we have ten newcomers!

We also look for new ways to be of service, and this year we will, for the first time, have an ASL Interpreter at our Nov. 21 show of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,* and we are doing outreach into our community with an additional satellite show on Friday, Nov. 20 at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit (6400 So. University Blvd., Centennial). In addition, the Wesley Players Theatre Company has provided 7 solar panels for our lovely home, St. Luke's!

Please help us get a KICK OUT OF this next season as you join us for our first production with tap dancing, an amazing choral ensemble, hysterics, and silliness galore. It's Delightful, It's Delicious, It's Delovely….and, with Wesley Players, you always know ANYTHING GOES! *Anything Goes* originally premiered on Broadway in 1934 starring Ethel Merman as Reno Sweeney, and has since had several Broadway and West End revivals. Broadway legend, Patti Lupone led the 1987 Broadway revival, and star of stage and screen, Sutton Foster, led both the 2011 Broadway revival and the West End revival in 2021. The show is filled with incredible music from Cole Porter, with timeless favorites such as "I Get a Kick Out of You", "You're the Top", "Friendship", "It's DeLovely", "Blow Gabriel Blow"., and of course, the title number "Anything Goes". The show is a classic, set on a 1930s cruise ship where romantic complications and criminal antics ensue… You just never know what might happen aboard the S.S. American! Come join us for the 'cruise' of a lifetime October 15-18, 2026!

Tickets are on sale now: **wesleyplayers.org**

James Ramsey
Director of Music & Arts Ministries
jim©stlukeshr.com
Chancel Choir, Worship Band, Soul Purpose Youth Choir, Wesley Players, 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
Tintinnabulators, Joyful Noise, Tone Chimes, Kidz Prayz, Cherubs, 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
allegroaa©hotmail.com
Kidz Prayz, Tone Chimes, Soul Purpose Youth Choir

Welcome Fall Music!

One of the wonderful traditions of St. Luke's is the opportunity for members and friends to offer their time and talents in providing a Music Ministry during the summer months.

The number of participants and level of musicianship always amazes me, and I am most grateful for the privilege to work with so many spiritually enlightened artists.

Please join me in thanking our record number of participants:

GraceNotes, Elise Collins, Chris Sheridan, Ed Law, Brian Bauer, Copland Rose, Andrew Vega, Patrick Griggs, Penny Harris, Chris Rigolini, Diana Sterns, Jayna Fodor, Leslie Porter, Owen Metz, JoEllen West, Rick Newell, Jon Takayama, David Garrett, Shannon Connolly, Erynn Shryack, Saoirse Galligan, Dyani Galligan, Sandy Larson, Caleb Heaton, Tracy Yacobellis, Delana Ewing, Denton Hanson, Amy and Abby Antinoro, Liz Spangler, Jim Ramsey, and all members of the Summer Choir!

And special thanks to the Wesley Players and to Gabe Mervine & Friends for providing outstanding music for our WonderFest event!

MUSIC MINISTRY INVITE:

Looking ahead, we welcome our Music Ministry ensembles back! Many new and exciting music offerings are in the works, so please stay tuned.

For those interested in Singing, Ringing, or Playing in an Instrumental Ensemble, please reach out to Dr. Jim Ramsey, Kay Coryell, Ken Mervine, or Chris Rigolini. Rehearsals are underway and new members are always welcome!

Prayers for a bountiful fall! -Kenrick Mervine

St. Luke's Choir Ministries

Children (PreK-K)
- **Cherubs Choir** – Sunday mornings

Children (Grades 1-6)
- **Kidz Prayz Choir** – Sunday mornings during 9:30am Sunday School

Youth (Grades 7-12)
- **Soul Purpose Youth Choir** – TBD

Adult & Youth
- **Chancel Choir** – Thursdays at 7:00pm
- **Grace Notes** – Select Thursday evenings
- **Men's Chorus** – Select Thursday evenings
- **Sisters of Soul** – Select Thursday evenings

St. Luke's Instrumental Ministries

Children (Grades 4-6)
- **Tone Chimes** – TBD

Adult & Youth
- **Brass Ensemble** – Select Saturday mornings or Sunday evenings
- **Flute Ensemble** – Select Saturday mornings
- **Joyful Noise Handbell Choir** – Tuesdays at 6:00pm
- **Ministers of Swing** – Select Saturday mornings (Spring only)
- **Orchestra** – Select Saturday mornings (Christmas)
- **Tintinnabulators Handbell Choir** – Tuesdays at 7:00pm
- **Wind Ensemble** – Select Saturday mornings or Sunday evenings
- **Worship Band** – Select Wednesday or Thursday evenings

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

Counseling Ministry

with Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Licensed Professional Counselor

I have the privilege of providing wellbeing counseling and spiritual direction to our St. Luke's community. I'm honored to be present with you to identify effective strategies for your enriched emotional, psychological and spiritual health. I practice with an integrated, strengths-based perspective and honor your natural capacity for enhanced health. My approach is individualized emphasizing respect, confidentiality and compassion. I believe in the healing power of listening and care for the whole person.

St. Luke's Counseling Ministry offers support for navigating change, transition, grief, anxiety, interpersonal relationships, family dynamics, spiritual growth, career changes, and identifying core purpose and values. Approaches for enhanced health, connection and fulfillment are central in our counseling ministry. With a commitment to holistic health, the Counseling Ministry is supported through St. Luke's and donations offered for services provided.

If you'd like more information or if you'd like to schedule a conversation, simply send me a message: sallie©stlukeshr.com or 303-475-0141.

I'll welcome hearing from you!

St. Luke's CSE Ministry Fall/Winter Opportunities

Join us for any upcoming event - email Sallie©stlukeshr.com for more information.

Scholarships are available for all of our classes and experiences – simply contact *sallie©stlukeshr.com*

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Sand Stone Ranch Hike:
Saturday, October 24
For questions or to rsvp, please contact Valerie Osmunvalosmun©msn.com

Upcoming Hikes: ***Friday, Nov. 13 -*** *TBA*

CLASSES & EXPERIENCES

Soul Spark
Sundays,
Oct.18 & Nov. 8
10:45-11:00am

Do you need an additional moment of inspiration on a Sunday morning? Join us in the Chapel at 10:45am for a quick (15 minutes or less) time together to give your spirit a charge of positivity, a new perspective, a smile, or perhaps just a moment to pause and reflect.

Light up your soul.
Let your spirit grow.

CULTURAL ADVENTURES

Art and Coffee *Friday, Oct. 16*

We will meet at the church at 9:15am and carpool to the Curtis Center for the Arts to visit their exhibit *Here and Now.* This is a small gallery which will allow us time afterwards to drive over to Southglenn Shopping Center to have conversation and coffee at Huckleberry Roasters. Return time to the church by 11:30am. Please email renaeparra©aol.com or janet.johnston©comcast.net to rsvp

CLASSES & EXPERIENCES

Thursday Morning Yoga
Nov. 5, 12 & 19 with Sharon Oliver

8:30-9:15am $15/session. Bring a mat. All levels welcome. Contact sharon©stlukeshr.com

BRAVE SPACES - SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sand Creek Healing Run: *A Sacred Journey of Remembrance, Truth-Telling & Healing*

The Spiritual Healing Run is a sacred, descendant-led journey that honors those killed in the Sand Creek Massacre. On November 29, 1864, U.S. soldiers under the command of Col. John Chivington attacked a peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho encampment at Sand Creek. More than 230 people were killed, most of them women, children and elders. Chivington was also a Methodist Episcopal pastor. Methodist leaders helped create conditions surrounding the massacre, and the Church failed for generations to confront that history adequately. For United Methodists, remembering Sand Creek is therefore not distant history. It is part of our own history and our continuing call to truth, repentance, relationship and repair.

The Healing Run begins at the Sand Creek Massacre Site on Nov. 25 and continues through Limon and concludes in Denver on Nov. 29, the anniversary of the massacre. Established in 1999 by descendants of Sand Creek survivors, the Spiritual Healing Run retraces the direction soldiers traveled toward Denver after the massacre. Movement along this route is an act of remembrance, witness and hope under descendant leadership.

To continue our hope toward ongoing healing and remembrance, St. Luke's is partnering with the UMC Mt. Sky Conference to help sponsor the Saturday evening meal for Cheyenne and Arapaho descendants, elders and supporters. Our goal is $1,200 to provide resources for the meal that will be held at Iliff School of Theology. St. Luke's Brave Spaces Team has donated $400 to begin moving toward our goal. If the opportunity to offer support for the Spiritual Healing journey speaks to your heart, please join us through prayer and/or a financial gift - use the QR code shown here.

SCAN ME

CLASSES & EXPERIENCES

Men In Community *with Bryan Hutchinson* We meet the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month at 5:00pm. Bryan, who holds a Master of Science in Psychology, is a skilled and engaging facilitator. Contact Bryan, Bryanrhutch©aol.com, Gordon Heaton Heaton©estreet.com, or Chris Sheridan cps80126©gmail.com for more information and details about upcoming meeting dates.

Peaceful & Bright: *Music, Reflections, & Prayers*
Tuesday, Dec. 8 - 5:30-6:30pm Join us to enjoy the beautiful light of the season at a gathering of uplifting music of Kay Coryell and Penny Harris and inspiring reflections to welcome a peaceful and bright December.

Vision Boards: Saturday, Jan. 9, 2027 - 10:00am-noon Don't miss this annual event to help you kick start your 2027!

CSE Summer/Fall Recaps

CLASSES & EXPERIENCES

Rooting in Love -A CSE Women's Wellbeing Experience: On October 1st, 28 women gathered for a vibrant, renewing retreat experience. We met at a beautiful community space offering a welcoming atmosphere to pause and connect. Together we reflected on this time in our lives and explored our emotional, spiritual, and physical wellbeing. Everyone brought fresh perspectives, meaningful stories, and openness that created an inspiring community. We enjoyed gentle yoga, a great homemade meal, and conversations about principles of wellbeing that support us to thrive individually while strengthening us to reach out to others authentically. Our thanks to all who attended and to the team collaboration of Melinda Davidson, Sharon Oliver, Renae Parra, Jennifer Jensen and Sallie Suby-Long.

Soul Spark: Themes this summer and fall included allowing time for Creativity; the joy of Awe and Wonder; the importance of Breath and a Breathing meditation; and finding Sanctuary. We will continue to offer Soul Spark one Sunday per month in the Chapel. It's a quick 15 minutes (10:45-11:00am) to rejuvenate and inspire you.

Yoga: A few of us were able to attend an amazing early morning yoga experience at Red Rocks in June and then Sharon led 6-sessions of yoga at St. Luke's in the Chapel in August and September where we focused on courage, curiosity and gratitude. We had wonderful attendance, practiced gentle yoga, and enjoyed creating community together.

BRAVE SPACES - CREATION CARE

Our Creation Care Team has been busy planning potential composting service for St. Luke's on Sunday mornings, an urban forest sanctuary on the property, and plans for our church garden. More information to come!

BRAVE SPACES - SOCIAL JUSTICE

St. Luke's and our Singing Circle partners from St. Andrew and Littleton UMC have traveled to the GEO immigration detention facility in Aurora several evenings recently to stand in support of our immigrant neighbors being held inside. On August 5 we joined Mountain Sky's Bishop Stoneking who spoke powerfully against the mass incarceration in unsafe conditions. We joined our voices in songs of protest and comfort. We'll be traveling to the GEO facility again in the future. We welcome all to join our Singing Circle to learn new songs of freedom and human dignity, as we prepare for more visits to the GEO detention center. For more information, contact janestaller©gmail.com

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

For our July hike, we found a very shady trail at **Windy Saddle Park.** We hiked the Lookout Mountain Trail up to the Buffalo Bill overlook. We even enjoyed a slight breeze on the way back down the trail.

On August 29 Suanne and Jared Ediger led an early morning hike that introduced us to the beauty of **Lost Canyon Open Space,** which opened to the public this summer. Hiking along parts of the Bootlegger's Loop and the Lost Moccasin Trail, we enjoyed lovely views of open grasslands, exposed hoodoos, and dramatic canyon cliffs. Lost Canyon Ranch currently has 10 miles of trails open for hiking, and more trails will be added in the future to enable greater exploration of this very special park. Our traditional potluck tailgate at the end of the hike offered delicious homemade treats and the opportunity to greet old and new hiking friends. 2026 marks our 14th year of Outdoor Adventure hikes, and we are grateful that new hiking leaders have joined us this year to bring fresh ideas and new leadership to our Outdoor Adventures.

CULTURAL ADVENTURES

Recently, we have enjoyed a backyard concert with the Cruisin' Cats, a visit to the Museum of Outdoor Arts and La Belle French Bakery and a lovely morning stroll at the Denver Botanic Gardens. New people continue to join us and we always have a wonderful time together. Watch for more monthly adventures to come!

Josey Seevers
Director of
Youth Ministry
josey©stlukeshr.com

ON THE SLY: Pumpkin Time!!

Youth 7th-12th grade

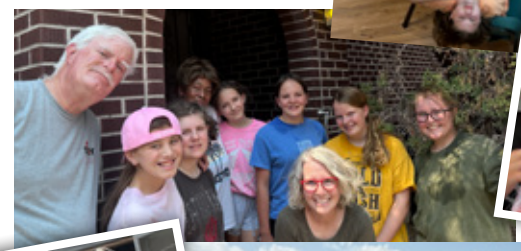
Thanks to all of the volunteers who have stepped in to help while Josey has been on a short medical leave. Sunday School and SLY Youth Group are in full swing and the pumpkins have arrived! Sign up to help with shifts! Find the SLY schedule on the website and via weekly emails. Join us!

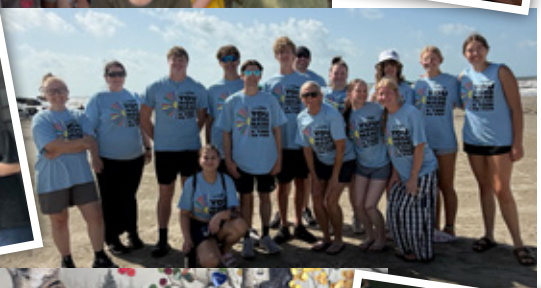
Mission Trips: This past July, SLY had two great mission trips. The middle schoolers traveled to Colorado Springs on July 5-10, and high schoolers went to Houston Texas July 19-24.

Five of our middle schoolers and 3 adult chaperones deep cleaned living units for new families at Ronald McDonald House and stayed at First UMC. They helped sort their community closet donations, and created food and hygiene packs for their pantry. They also worked with the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging to clean up two ladies' yards, to help them stay in their homes. The group went to Pueble to volunteer at the United Way donation center for the wildfires and then treated themselves to a day at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, a 3D Printing Lab and the park.

The senior high trip to Houston was focused on learning about disaster relief work. Eleven of our youth and 5 chaperones worked with Week of Compassion - the Disciples of Christ disaster response group, and The Restoration Team - a local organization created by churches in response to Hurricane Harvey. "Team Dirt" began work on a deck at a local school and updated the outside of a local home. "Team 500" worked on The Restorations Team's 500th home, dry walling, texturing and paiting inside and finishing the outside. They found out that the financial benfactor of both projects was St. Luke's UMC of Houston! Their fun day included a visit to the ocean and the Houston Space Center.

Join us for SLY - our Youth Ministry for 7th-12th grade. Email Josey for more info.





Kelly Amadeo
Director & Principal
of Little School
kelly©stlukeshr.com

A New School Year: A Season of New Beginnings

There is something special about fall. The weather begins to change, routines settle into place, and our community finds a new rhythm after the slower pace of summer. For those of us connected to St. Luke's Little School, September marks the beginning of a new school year which is a time filled with excitement, anticipation, and a lot more joyful noise!

I have often thought that the beginning of a school year deserves to be celebrated much more than January 1. After all, January may mark the beginning of a new calendar year, but September marks a very real new beginning for children, families, teachers, and schools. Classrooms are rearranged, new friendships begin, children meet new teachers, and families establish new routines. For young children especially, these transitions are significant.

The first few weeks of school are about much more than learning letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. They are about building relationships. Children are learning that their teachers are people they can trust and love. They are discovering how their classroom works, and what it means to be part of a school. They are learning to separate from their parents, navigate friendships, communicate their needs, solve problems, and become independent.

While we often focus on what children are learning, there is a tremendous amount happening behind the scenes for our teachers as well.

Before the first child walks through the door, teachers have spent countless hours preparing their classrooms, planning curriculum, organizing materials, learning about their students, completing training, and thinking through how to create an environment where every child can thrive.

One of the things I appreciate most about our school community is the dedication our teachers bring to this work. Early childhood education requires patience, flexibility, creativity, and an incredible amount of intentionality. A teacher may spend part of the morning helping a child learn to navigate a friendship, another moment encouraging a reluctant child to participate, and later helping a group of children discover something new. These moments may seem small, but they are the building blocks of lifelong learning.

As a ministry of St. Luke's, our school is also part of something larger than a classroom. We have the opportunity to surround young children and their families with a community that values Grace, Courage, Wonder, and Beyond (the four guiding principles of St. Luke's UMC). Every time we welcome a family, encourage a teacher, offer a helping hand, or create a space where someone feels known and valued, we are living out those values.

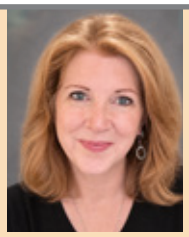
As we begin another school year, I invite our entire St. Luke's community to think about the children and educators who are beginning again. Pray for our teachers as they pour themselves into their students. Pray for our children as they navigate new experiences and relationships. Pray for our families as they adjust to new routines. It takes a village to raise children, and we appreciate your support. May this new school year be filled with Grace, Courage, Wonder, friendship, laughter, and Beyond.

Happy New School Year, St. Luke's! Kelly Amadeo

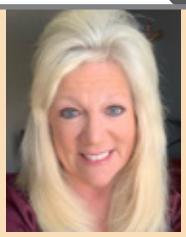
St. Luke's Kids
grace courage wonder beyond

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
sam©stlukeshr.com

Children are 'Fall'ing for St. Luke's!

SLY, Jr. (5th & 6th grade fellowship) kicked off on August 23 with food and games and an overview of our year together. Our first outing was to the Chatfield Corn Maze and we had amazing weather and a grand time! Then we helped with the Feeding of the 5000. We are looking forward to more fun and meaningful times this fall and winter! Especially gathering food to help make the **Thanksgiving Meal Bags for Food for All.** This year it is NOT cans of green beans - it's CORN & more... info to come! Watch the SLY, Jr. webpage for our upcoming opportunities!

Third Grade Bible Sunday at the end of September allowed us the opportunity to give out 10 Bibles. to our St. Luke's children. We love this tradition! Mark your calendars for **Kids Bible Study on Sundays Nov. 15, 22 & 29** at 11:00am for 3rd through 6th graders with special guests, Rev. Liza and Rev. Janet Forbes!! Mark your calendar for our **Fall Festival on Oct. 31** 11:00am-1:00pm. Come support our Pumpkin Patch with fun and games! Wear your costume if you'd like and join in our Trunk or Treat in the parking lot! Sign up online to volunteer! And **Acolyte Training** on Nov. 1 is available for children in 2nd-6th grade and **Wacky Days** are Oct. 12 & 13. Our Wacky Days in August was full and a great way to get kids familiar with the preschool routine.

Sunday School is the best! We are learning so much and having a blast on Sunday mornings. If you have not registered your child yet for the new Sunday School year - please do - we so appreciate it. Volunteer with us on a Sunday morning - it's rewarding, fun and you are SO needed! Sign up online or contact Sharon or Sam. We had a fun **Backpack Blessing Sunday** and enjoyed ice pops, and the Bouncy House and lots of chalk blessings! We hosted 2 **Tears, Tissues and Tea** mornings for parents sending their kids off to preschool. Blessings to all teachers and students for a meaningful and successful school year, especially to Little School Staff on the start of another preschool year. YOU are inspirations!!!

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

GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

Save the date for a special dinner and program celebrating ecumenical and interreligious ministry and supporting the Colorado Council of Churches. Bishop Kristin Stoneking will honor Bishop Mary Ann Swenson's longstanding interreligious work, with CCC Executive Director Adrian Miller serving as keynote speaker. More information and registration details coming soon.

Kit Campbell
Office Administrator
office©stlukeshr.com

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS: Latest Entries

Contact Rev. Liza if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x107, email Liza©stlukeshr.com, or leave a note at the front desk.

Suzanne Alexandria,
Evie Amadeo,
Jane Ashby,
Marilyn Ayers,
Bessie Bartling,
Elizabeth Bauer,
Steve Blue,
Perry Bolton,
Greg Boyer,
Carla Brown,
Bryce Carlyle,
Sally Cleary,
Marti Colpitts,
Marilyn Curtis,
Dawn Fletcher,
Julie Gustafson,
Cindy Harms,
Jennifer Havens,
Karen Herr,
Karen Jarrett,
Chris Kenty,
Linda Knight,
Karl Krantz,
Lennon Krantz,
Ed Law,
Autumn L. Winder Lusk,
Doug Lyons,
Carolyn McIntosh,
Lisa Millspaw,
Fred & Jan Munoz,
Olivia Murrow,
Kay Oscai,
Ashley Parker,
Tommie Sacrison,
Josey Seevers,
Bill Shaffer,
Bodie Shoffeitt,
Chuck Smith,
Ron Springman,
Jane Staller,
Isabel Walker,
Fran West,
Debbie Wright

ALTAR FLOWERS GIVEN:

By Sam Leahy in celebration of Ella's Baptism anniversary.

By Kim Joseph in thankful and faithful friendship to Greg and Nancy Boyer. We wish you Godspeed as you relocate to Tennessee with your family. You will be missed.

By Karen Herr in celebration of her beautiful grandchildren!

By Steve Stine in memory of Nancy Stine.

WE CELEBRATE & OFFER CONGRATULATIONS:

To parents Savannah and Billy Fletcher on the birth of Tristan James.

To Boston and Kyla Rose Lucerro on the birth of their daughter Selah.

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES & CONDOLENCES:

To the family of Steve and Sheri Larsen on the passing of Steve's father, Dean Larsen.

To family and friends on the passing of Rev. Jim Harris, and all those he pastored and served.

To Jensen & Cassy Meier & family on the passing of their grandmother, Chrystal Meier.

To Phoebe Mitchell and family on the passing of her husband, Jim.

St. Luke's will conduct our annual Silent Auction in November

The website will go live for bids on Sunday, Nov. 8, and the auction will close on Sunday, Nov. 22. Items will be on display at church during the auction.

This is an important fundraiser for the church. We are currently soliciting high quality auction items; please drop them off at the church office and fill out a donation form. *Thank You!*