



The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2015

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Trustees Corner:

Church Home Improvements

Time for our spring clean-up – this year's efforts are being bolstered by our benefactors! We hope you all like the new front concrete! This one was on our wish list for a while. We are very grateful for the donations to our wish list items that have made completion of this project possible.

Last weekend along with many Youth Team volunteers, we successfully painted our Youth Room and two of their smaller classrooms. Before we started, Dave Laurvick did some terrific work to secure feedback from youth on what they'd like to see, a designer worked with them and we're on our way to themes of Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water. After a lot of clean up there's finally space for their favorite set up – 64 bean bag chairs!

Keeping with this effort, we've also given attention to all of the adult classrooms, and after the preschool is done for the season, we'll get underway there with floor refinishing. Although we do have 'assigned' spaces, we're a really busy place – and, with Brenda's help, we try to flex to accommodate requests for space as creatively as we can. We'll ask that as you and your team use the spaces, you return them as you find them in the photos soon to appear in each space. We're theming this as "Without a Trace". With a little advance warning, Brenda works with Barry, our Facilities Manager, to set up spaces for larger group events, and they make a plan working with the event leader, to return the space without a trace of a special event that took place.

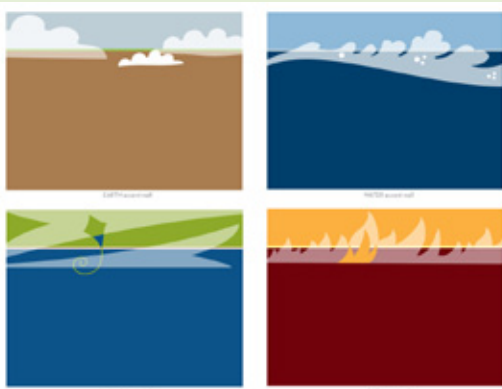
There's another big project that we've been hoping to complete for a couple of years – never more obvious than it is now. **Our parking lot.** We plan to address critical repair items in the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience with our Cone Zones! Long term, we need to complete a full renovation of our parking lot. Over the last 30 years between worship, preschool, music, arts, and education program traffic, we've simply worn it out – estimates are for about \$170,000 we can completely repair, roto mill, seal and stripe it. We can do it all at once, or in thirds – we appreciate any and all donations to help us complete the project.

Last but not least, our next Service Saturday is scheduled for Saturday, June 6 from 8:00am-Noon.

We'll be focused on refreshing our outdoor spaces, and can really use your help. Please mark your calendars now and bring friends and family to join us – rain or shine, there's a place for you and your family here! Need any community service hours? Bring your forms along!

SLY is showing off NEW COLORS!

Last Spring, the YLT (Youth Leadership Team) discussed repainting the Youth Rooms and forwarded the idea of using Earth, Water, Wind, and Fire as the theme. Enter Graphic Artist Stephanie Newton with the design concepts, and a fantastic turn out of youth, parents, and the St. Luke's community to make the concept boards come to life. Come down and see the new room colors and watch as they evolve over the next few weeks as the final touches are added.



Popsicles on the Patio

The St. Luke's Clergy Team will be hosting continuing opportunities to find yourself in the stories that emerged during Fearless Conversations:

How did you arrive at your positions on those issues about which you feel strongly?

How do you feel when confronted with someone who holds the opposite opinion?

In what ways has your faith informed your position?

Tue. June 16

at Rev. Sallie's Home

Wed. July 15

at Rev. Ryan's Home

Wed. August 12

at Rev. Janet's Home

Sunday Worship Services:

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

Sunday School:

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

Nursery available for:

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

Church Office.....303-791-0659
Fax.....303-470-5615
Email.....office@stlukeshr.com
Website.....www.stlukeshr.com
Preschool Office.....303-791-1982

**Staff:**

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Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x32
Associate Minister Emergency: 303-475-0141
Rev. Ryan Canaday.....x12
Associate Minister Emergency: 303-944-5061
Rev. Pat Shaffer.....720-988-5430
Visitation Pastor
Rev. Sarah Merchant.....Pastoral Intern
Sharon Oliver.....x27
Director of Children's Ministry
Samantha Leahy.....x40
Director of Early Childhood Ministry
Stephanie Kirk.....x11
Children's Ministry Coordinator
Dave Laurvick.....x14
Director of Youth Ministry
Amy McMullen.....x19
Assistant Director of Youth Ministry
Kay Swanson.....303-791-1982
Director of Little School
Dr. James Ramsey.....x23
Director of Music & Arts Ministries
Kenrick Mervine.....x33
Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist
Jennifer Ferguson.....x37
Associate Director of Music Ministry
Kay Coryell.....x36
Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry
Brenda Schafer.....x10
Office Administrator
Sheri Henry.....x24
Director of Finance
Kristi Pawley.....x16
Accounting Clerk
Lynda Fickling.....x20
Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director
Barry Curtis.....x39
Facilities Manager

All submissions for the combined
June/July 2015 issue
of *The Chronicle* are due June 1
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com

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Printed copies are available at church entrances.
To receive *The Chronicle* via US mail,
please call or email the Church Office.



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

Rev. B. James (Jim) George is Sky Ridge Medical Center's Volunteer of the Year

St. Luke's clergy Wind Crest retirement community resident Rev. B. James (Jim) George is the 2015 recipient of Sky Ridge Medical Center's Volunteer of the Year award.

This award recognizes Rev. Jim's 12 years of service as a volunteer chaplain in which he has offered pastoral care, support, and resources to patients, families, and staff at least three afternoons each week, and often more, when his schedule permits.

And, not to be hindered by holidays, he has also taken time to volunteer on these days, often commenting, "I think the staff and patients need some extra encouragement on the holidays."

Rev. Jim has led the Sky Ridge chaplaincy department in developing routine Emergency Department rounds to ease this anxious time for the patient and family. He especially loves the pediatric patients and has an especially tender heart for their suffering.

Staff remark repeatedly how grateful they are for his presence. He is also a mentor for the other chaplains. He also serves as a valuable member of Clinical Ethics committee, as well as on Clinical Ethics committees at two other area hospitals. He has offered invaluable assistance in crafting Patient Rights policies that are concise, clear, and true to current legal code.

Rev. Jim is continuing a lifetime of care, commitment and service for his community and the world. As a young man, he completed three years of military service in Europe with the 100th Infantry Division, receiving a bronze star for his service. He then went on to earn a law degree and began an impressive career in law, as an attorney, professor and Dean of schools such as New York Law School, Wayne State and the University of Michigan.

When Rev. Jim retired he went back to seminary and received a Master of Divinity so he could help congregations and individuals in need of spiritual support. He then served as an ordained elder in congregations in New Jersey and in Colorado. This gift in retirement was generous to society, but this too, is only a piece of his service.

Jim and his wife, Grace, are donors in the construction of an elementary school in a rural area of Guatemala. Children who attend the school need financial support to stay in school. They currently support four students who attend the John Wesley School.

Thank you, Rev. Jim. Congratulations!
Blessings, Rev. Janet



The Common Table: Food for Thought on Fearless Conversations

During April & May, we have engaged in our worship series on Fearless Conversations, we have also offered an informal opportunity for deeper dialogue with one another. It's been a great time to share about these topics. All are welcome!

4/12: **Gather together...**

Let's talk about being a community

4/19: **Ask questions...** Let's talk about

Judaism, Islam, and Christianity

4/26: **Hear stories...**

Let's talk about Immigration

5/3: **Find ourselves...** Let's talk about

Sexual Orientation and Hospitality

5/10: **Hold tension...**

Let's talk about Science & Religion

5/17: **Mirror back...**

Let's talk about Capital Punishment

5/24: **Respond...** Let's talk about Ecology

and the Earth



Rev. Ryan Canaday
Associate Minister

Last Call for Storyline

We've been hosting Storyline groups at St. Luke's and all over the south Denver community throughout the year. Incredible things have happened. Relationships have deepened. Better and more meaningful stories are being lived. We have decided to do one more round!

This summer Revs. Ryan and Sallie will be co-leading a final Storyline group. We get it. Summer gets hectic! You're traveling, you're camping, your calendar is filling up. So we've decided to do a condensed version of Storyline. We will meet for four weeks as opposed to eight. We'll explore

together. We'll go deep together. And we'll discover together where we fit into this really big story that God is creating with us.

We will start on Thursday, June 18 from 6:00pm-8:30pm. We'll meet for four Thursday's and we will rotate between Rev. Ryan and Rev. Sallie's home. Want to join us? Email Rev. Sallie at sallie@stlukeshr.com or Rev. Ryan at ryan@stlukeshr.com if you have questions or want more information.

We are looking forward to this!
Grace & Peace, Rev. Ryan



Vacation Bible School

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Can you join us for the fun?

Sign up online
www.stlukeshr.com/children

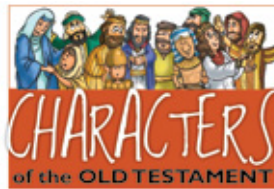
VBS Morning session:

June 22-26
9:15am-12:15pm

VBS Evening session:

July 7-9
5:45-8:00pm

Wacky Wednesdays



Open to all children age 2 1/2 years through entering 3rd grade!

(Must be potty-trained to attend.)

TIME: 9:30am-noon

WEDNESDAYS:

June 3, 10, 17, July 8, 15, 22

Registration is \$20 per day per child. If you have any questions regarding registration contact: Tami Clement at tami@stlukeshr.com

Registration forms available NOW on the website and at the church.



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Associate Minister

Reclaiming Soul from Stress Symposium

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to attend an excellent symposium sponsored by the Institute for Life and Care. The focus was

"Reclaiming Soul from Stress". Rev. Schawn Kellogg, who is part of our St. Luke's community, is on faculty at the Institute and graciously invited me to attend. Since one of my passions is wellness, I naturally thought others might appreciate a few of the things that were shared at the event.

The symposium featured an internationally known panel of experts on the topic of health and spirituality. They were a dynamic team all advocating the importance of the mind-body-spirit connection. While each of them offered many valuable suggestions, I'll share just a few. Wayne Muller, M. Div. speaker and author, said he belief human life has a natural rhythm and pace that we often ignore. The experience of living, connecting with people, feeling, and truly engaging, takes time. Yet, our culture rewards productivity so we often miss the meaning and the deep connection with one another that we desperately crave. He is an advocate for intentionally engaging in Sabbath time - time to literally be alive and present.

Victoria Sweet, M.D., Ph.D. professor and author had this to share about reclaiming one's soul from stress: When faced with a decision, ask yourself "Do I want to do this?" "Do I have to do this?" (and yes, sometimes we do, but not always!). She also spoke of realizing there will always be things that are "undone". She talked of her "80% Solution": Do 80% of what you believe is needed, and then allow time to relax.

Dr. Brian Luke Seaward, author and speaker on overcoming stress suggested the importance of humor and the necessity of creating time in life for the things and people that we love. Make time for our passions or if we don't know about our passions, make time to find out! I also loved his comment "to know and not to do is not to know". Truthfully, that gave me some serious pause. What a concept to actually do what we know contributes to our wellness, spiritual connection and fulfillment!

Here are some resources on spirituality and wellness that you might enjoy.

Institute for Life and Care – "Strengthening Those Who Serve Others" www.lifeandcare.org

A Life of Being, Having and Doing Enough
Wayne Muller, M.Div.

God's Hotel – A Doctor, A Hospital, and A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine, Victoria Sweet, M.D.

Stand Like Mountain Flow Like Water – Reflections on Stress and Human Spirituality, Brian Luke Seaward, Ph.D.



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry/
Spiritual Director

Get **CONNECTED**

Where is God Calling Me?

“Not everyone must do everything, but everyone

must do something that benefits the group as a whole.” Joan Chittister

Our community of St. Luke's is built by the people who serve its' community and we are seeking a few folks to serve in a few areas. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these positions and contact myself or stop by the Get Connected Center!

Hospitality:

Usher - to serve on Sunday mornings, one service a month! Contact Dean: markhamdean@yahoo.com

Bread Baker - to bake 4 loaves of bread one Sunday a month for our Welcome Bags! Contact Kris: kmk830@earthlink.net

Greeter - to serve on Sunday mornings, one 15 minute position a month! Contact Lisa: lisaphill4@aol.com

Get Connected Center Team - to serve one 30 minute position a month! Contact Lynda: lynda@stlukeshr.com

Grocery Certificate Team - to serve as you are able selling the grocery cards on a Sunday morning. Contact Marilyn: jamesnmarilyn@msn.com

Sunday School Support:

AND always graciously accepted, folks to serve with our **Children** (sam@stlukeshr.com or sharon@stlukeshr.com) & **Youth** (davel@stlukeshr.com or amy@stlukeshr.com)

Do you have a special talent, skill, gift or passion you would like to share with this community? We welcome you! Contact Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry lynda@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659 x20

Support Group for Family and Friends of Incarcerated Loved Ones

Did you know?....

From 1980 to the present, the number of persons in prisons in the U.S. has more than quadrupled from roughly 500,000 to 2.4 million.

There are 20-30 million Americans directly affected by having a loved one in correctional control (prison, jail, probation/parole).

The toll on spouses, children, and extended family of the incarcerated is staggering emotionally, financially, socially, and spiritually. Studies show that only death causes more stress on a family than the incarceration of a loved one.

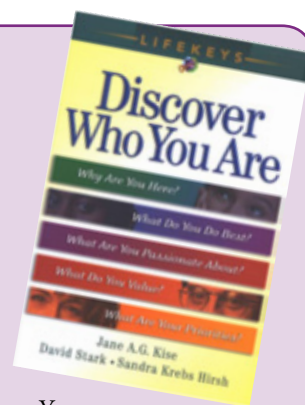
Even with 20-30 million people being directly affected by having a loved one in correctional control, there are very few support groups for family and friends. St. Luke's is starting a support group to meet the needs of this population.

If you, or someone you know, are one of the 20-30 million people who has a loved one incarcerated or recently released from prison, St. Luke's is inviting you to meet with people in the same situation. Our support group meetings are on every fourth Thursday of the month, here, at the church. Our next one is on May 28. The meetings are from 5:00-6:30pm in room 210. This invitation to join us is open to anyone in the community. For more information, contact Rev. Sallie or Rev. Ryan.

“Servant by Design” Class Starting Soon! Join us for a fun summer course!

Sundays, June 28-Aug. 23,
11:00am-12:00pm, Room 213

Discover who you are...Why are YOU here? What do YOU do best? What are YOU passionate about? What do You value? What are Your priorities? Begin your journey to a God-centered life by discovering how you are created to be God's hands and feet in the world. Discover your Life gifts and Spiritual gifts (What you do best) Personality type and Values (The places or atmospheres that give you the most energy) Passion (The purposes God placed in your heart). Cost \$14.00. Sign up online www.stlukeshr.com or at the Get Connected Center. Facilitators: Renae Parra renaeparra@aol.com and Lynda Fickling Lynda@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659 x20



Seasoned Voyagers Donates to Casa de Paz



Seasoned Voyagers' Mission Beneficiary for their recent "Taste of Mexico" lunch was the non-profit Casa de Paz (House of Peace). Casa de Paz provides a place for families to stay while they are visiting their loved ones in the Immigration Detention Center in Aurora. The Detention Center is a large, national, for-profit facility that holds undocumented immigrants until

either they are released on bond or a judge determines whether they will be deported or not. I went to visit someone there recently and there was an abundance of mothers with young children visiting with their husbands/fathers through glass barriers and a telephone. Casa de Paz also provides temporary shelter to the immigrants who are released from the Detention Center and need to arrange to get to their next destination. The Casa provides food, snacks, bedding, towels, toiletries and volunteer hosts. Their main source of income is a large Volleyball League that they have organized. We appreciate Seasoned Voyagers' contribution to this ministry and their generosity in supporting works of mercy to those in need!

Footprints in the Sand

A Southern Colorado Experience Near the Sangre de Cristos



Join us June 19-29, 2015 (primary weekend June 25-29) for a retreat and mission at Monarch Spur RV Park and Campground, Poncha Springs, CO. Enjoy the Sand Dunes, Gold Medal Water fishing, hiking the 14teeners, mountain biking or the premier birding trails. Visit historic Buena Vista or tour a goat dairy. Or, participate in mission and help Elsie and Fred prepare the RV park for the coming season. Camping sites are free for those who join in the mission.

Make your own space for personal and spiritual time as the days are yours to plan. Enjoy community meals in the evening or one of the fine restaurants in Salida and Sunday brunch together. Gather for an evening campfire and experience the spirituality of the outdoors.

All ages are welcome. This is a small group event for building spiritual friendships in the beauty of Southern Colorado. Spaces are limited so please sign up early.

Don't have a tent or RV—no problem—cabins (3 sleep 4-6) comes fully furnished including linens. All you need to bring are your personal items and food. Or, stay at one of the motels in Salida or Poncha Springs—only 15 minutes away.

Tent sites are down along the creek in the cottonwoods. All RV sites have 20/30/50 amp, water and sewer. All sites are pull-through and fit big rigs. There is ample space for parking. Showers and laundry room are provided. There is no cellular service but WiFi is provided. Rates vary—weekly and monthly rates are available. Come early and stay late.

For info contact: Val Clark, 303-918-3193 or inthesandretreat@gmail.com



Our Mission: To promote healing and wholeness by creating opportunities for authentic connection, and by providing experiences that inspire and transform.

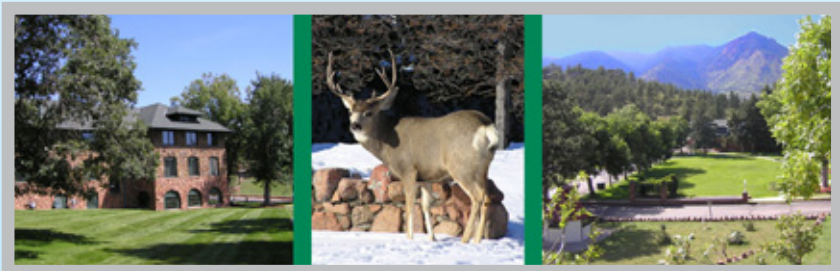
Please visit our new website www.stlukesccse.org to learn about upcoming opportunities and explore our photo gallery.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE MINISTRY: Please consider joining us for one of our upcoming outdoor adventures:

- **May 30 – Join us for Birding at Aiken Canyon**, one of Colorado's most vibrant foothills ecosystems along the Front Range. More than 100 bird species have been documented at Aiken! We'll look for the blue-gray gnatcatcher and western bluebird, and we'll listen for the sweet sounds of the Virginia's warbler and Lazuli bunting. We'll take it slow, but participants should be comfortable hiking four miles on a well-maintained, moderately strenuous trail. (janet.johnston@comcast.net)
- **June 20 - Native American Archaeology Hike at South Valley Park** – Our guide will be Jack Warner, President of the Colorado Archaeology Society. We'll explore areas and artifacts that point to human civilization in this area for at least 8,000 years. (janestaller@gmail.com)

CLASSES AND EXPERIENCES:

- **On May 2, we came together to walk St. Luke's labyrinth on World Labyrinth Day.** Jenita Rhodes gave us a brief history of labyrinths and invited us to walk the labyrinth, taking note of our journey, with its twists and turns, as they mirror our personal spiritual walk. When we reached the labyrinth's center we were invited to open ourselves to God's revelations. It was a lovely afternoon that afforded opportunities to reflect on how we can create peace in our troubled world.



- **Women's Spirituality and Wellness Retreat, August 7-8.** We invite you to renew your spirit at our Women's Spirituality and Wellness experience at the lovely and tranquil Franciscan Retreat Center near Colorado. Details will be available soon. Registration begins June 1. (sallie@stlukeshr.com)

SPIRITUALITY AND WELLNESS SPEAKER SERIES:

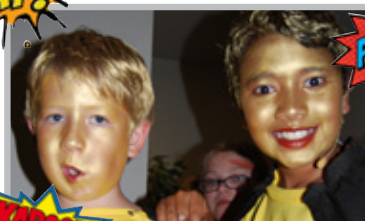
- **Save the Date: Tuesday, September 15.** Engaging the Spirituality of Children and Teens: Perspectives from a Pastor and a Psychiatrist, facilitated by Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley, Founder of First Steps Spirituality and Dr. Fred Michel, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist.

FIRST STEPS SPIRITUALITY:

- We are delighted to announce that Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley will be returning for a full-day of **Holy Listening training on Wednesday, September 16, 2015.** For more information, contact sam@stlukeshr.com. First Steps continues to offer Holy Listener support to children experiencing loss, grief, or difficult times during most Sunday School hours (9:30-10:30am). Contact sharonoliver@stlukeshr.com.



Woof! Woof! Meow! Jake, Max, and Shea here to bring you up to speed on what we are sniffing out for children at St. Luke's.



The 11th annual Children's Dinner Theater production was a huge success!

Thanks to all who helped with this event and who came to see it! We had 56 kids participate this year in grades 1-6! On Friday May 1 we had a yummy dinner, a fabulous prelude by the Cherubs Choir and an absolutely AMAZING show by our dinner theater cast and crew! Bravo! The performances were some of the most animated we've ever seen and had the audience laughing and cheering. From donations to our Guatemala outreach we were able to purchase all 60 of the bilingual books that will go to our English camp this summer PLUS we raised \$500 for the bricks project for home construction and \$500 for the water filter project for the youth mission trip this June. *Way to go!!!!*



Sharon Oliver
Director of
Children's Ministry



Samantha Leahy
Director of Early
Childhood Ministry



Stephanie Kirk
Children's Ministry
Coordinator

St. Luke's Kids
Growing with God

Reflections on Children's Dinner Theater

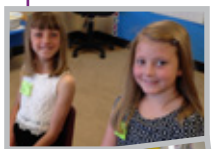
by Amy Antinoro

St. Luke's Children's Dinner Theater (CDT) is one of my favorite events of the year! My 2 kids have been involved in CDT for the past 9 years, this being our last, as my kids will be in 7th and 10th grades next year. They have played a wide range of characters from narrators, evil villains and waiters to wolves, squirrels and dwarfs and have loved every one of them. One of the best parts of CDT is that all kids are cast and all kids that want lines get them. Since CDT involves 1st-6th graders, this is, for many of the children in the show, their first exposure to acting or being on stage. What a loving, caring environment in which to perform for the first time!

The children begin by rehearsing with the cast one time per week. These rehearsals include singing, prayer, focus, memorizing, and most of all, having a blast! My kids have so much fun at rehearsals and are able to reconnect every year with friends that they only really spend time with during CDT. The leaders are patient and are great at keeping the kids on task. They always act with much love and grace no matter what is happening on stage.

The culminating show is always amazing! It is absolutely unbelievable what these kids and their CDT leaders can accomplish in just a few rehearsals. The kids speak and sing with confidence, laugh with each other, help others with lines, and are so very proud of themselves at the end of the performance. They know that they have worked hard, excelled, and delivered the show's intended message.

My favorite part of the whole CDT experience has been watching the kids that are involved in the show grow and change over the years. I can picture the current 6th graders when they began as 1st graders. They started as cute squirrels or little flowers with smaller parts in the show and grew into the stars. They began by looking up to the big kids, and are now the role models for the younger children that are in CDT. They've gone from little kids to leaders.



It's been a full and fun month in Sunday School - we discussed PEACE and ACTS of KINDNESS and had a PENTECOST party!

It's Gonna Be A Great Summer for Kids at St. Luke's!

There are still spots open for **Wacky Wednesdays** (June

3, 10, 17, July 8, 15, 22) and **Evening Vacation Bible School** (July 7-9)

VOLUNTEER for St. Luke's Vacation Bible School Morning or Evening Session - a great service opportunity - 6th graders and up can help! For more information and to sign up go to stlukeshr.com/children.

AND please take a moment and go to the **Summer Sunday School** Servant Sign Up website and pick a day or 2 to help out. It's so much fun and a great way to spend an hour on a Sunday morning. Our kids need you so let's get those spots filled up! **We have so many wonderful things in store for Sunday mornings this summer! Join us!** Thanks so much!!

Mark your calendars:

May 24 (SUN) - **No Sunday School**, Enjoy Family Worship, 6th grade moves up to SLY

May 31 (SUN) - 9:30am **SUNDAY SCHOOL: Joy Trek (PreK) & PEAK** 5-wk. VBS Lessons Begin

Blessings to you!



What an amazing program this is! Thank you to everyone who makes this happen every year!



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

Merry Month of May

We love that we are excited about the month of May. We know that it means that school is almost over but, there is so much to look forward to before graduation! Our threes will have their Mother's Day Spring Sing and tea May 5th and 6th. Our fours will have their "Letterland" Parade on May 7th and 8th, dressing up as their favorite letter from the year! The playground will be very busy with lots of outdoor play and field and water days. The fours will get their driver's licenses in our little coup cars and we will

be celebrating our Graduation on May 20th. Our graduation theme will center around our chapel talks this year and our story box!

Little School is proud to announce that they have been chosen "The Best Preschool" in Douglas County for the third year in a row! This is a community vote through "Macaroni Kid" and we are very honored and blessed to be chosen again this year! Thank you to our families and the St. Luke's community for your continued support and faith in our program.

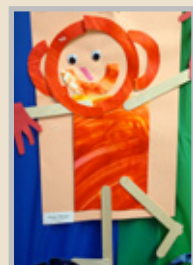
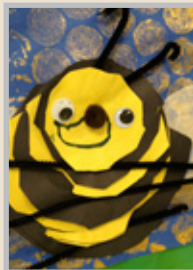
A HUGE thank you to Rev. Janet, Laura Fry and Lindy Howard, as well the entire staff and congregation for our fantastic celebration for our 20th anniversary. It was very touching and greatly appreciated to have all of us recognized for the many years of dedication and ministry to St. Luke's and the community! We are especially thankful to Joy Damsgard and Rev. Bill Selby for their dream and vision in 1995 to have a preschool that has grown and prospered over the years. It is my honor and privilege to have served as the Director for all these years, and feel that God has truly blessed me with this calling.

Our 20th Annual Creative Critters Art show was a huge success centered around "Medium Madness". Each room was a different art medium including chalk, watercolor, architecture, recycle and many more! Almost a 1,000 people came through and the biggest joy of the whole evening was seeing the absolute amazement in the children's eyes and the parent's smiles. Many proud moments! Congratulations to our amazing staff for their creativity and their encouragement of budding young artists!

Little School is looking forward to their summer break but don't forget our fabulous summer programs available. You can always reach Ms. Kay through her email Kay@stlukeshr.com if you need anything!

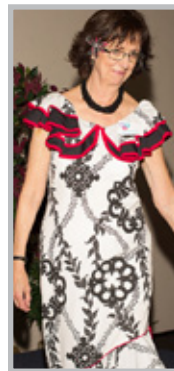
Blessings from Ms. Kay and Staff

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



United Methodist Women

An ALOHA Greeting: A Taste of Hawaii



Hawaiian Tea and Style Show guests were greeted with Smiles, Shell Leis that carry blessing, beauty and the giving of time, and the beautiful Hawaiian word - Aloha - a greeting love and friendship. Muumuus, the fashions of an Hawaiian Tea, were adorned by Ann Newton

who gave us the Hawaiian Tea inspiration. From "Island"

style to "Mainland" style, the tea was a celebrated success. Spring and Summer Fashions from Renewed Treasures were modeled by St. Luke's women and children, including Rev. Sallie, Rev. Sarah, and extending to family generations of Mother, Daughter, Daughter In Law, and Grandchildren, both girls and boys. Beautiful Hawaiian Music was supplied by Patrick Griggs and his daughters, Kylie and Taylor. Our mission Denver Children's Home was represented by Dr. Rachel Hea, Executive Director. Our hearts were touched by all the wonderful work that DCH does in assisting and protecting children.

Urban Peak Lunch - May 14, Mission to provide Lunch for 40 teens. UMW Book Club have volunteered to bring the food items requested by Urban Peak. However, we need your assistance also. To sign up and donate to this most needed mission, please contact renaeparra@aol.com

Mission u Studies: Social Issue Study: The Church and People with Disabilities; Spiritual Study: Happiness; Geographic Study: Latin America.

- July 16-18: Three Day Event, 1st UMC, Co. Spgs, Co.
- Aug. 15: One Day Event, Smoky Hill UMC.

Co-sponsored by Rocky Mountain Conference UMC and UMW.

Interest Groups of United Methodist Women at St. Luke's:

Women are welcome to attend an Interest Group of UMW anytime!

Book Group - Fiction/Non-fiction/Informative/Fun. Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm (6:15pm potluck) RenaeParra@aol.com for info.

- June 22 "Sum it Up" by Pat Summitt

Common Thread - Friendship, Fellowship, Caring, Sharing. First Thursday of each month, 10:00am. Meets at the church. Contact: Caroline Butler carolinebutler@q.com or 303-797-3225

Itch to Stitch - Mission - Crochet, Knit, Sew. Meets 2nd Saturday in church basement. All skill levels welcome! Contact: Fran West 303-797-7107

Women's Night Out - Food, Friendship, Fun. First Mondays, 6:30pm - Contact Elaine Carlstrom ecarlstrom@comcast.net or Jean Dunn jd-teacher@hotmail.com

- Next Night Out is in September

Women's Monday Night Bible Study - On Summer Break. Will resume studies of the third series in September. Contact Sharon Smith sewssmith@aol.com

Save the Dates:

June 18 - Supplying Dinner for Warren Village

June 27 - District Ubuntu Work Day

July 16-18 - Mission u - Location - 1st UMC, Colo. Springs

July 19-25 - UMCOR Mission trip to Salt Lake City, Utah

August 2 - UMW Sunday

August 15 - Mission u - Location - Smoky Hill UMC, Centennial

August 30 - Pie Prayer Purpose Celebration. Fellowship Hall, 2-4pm



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

Seasoned Voyagers Teams with HR Metro District to Plant Trees

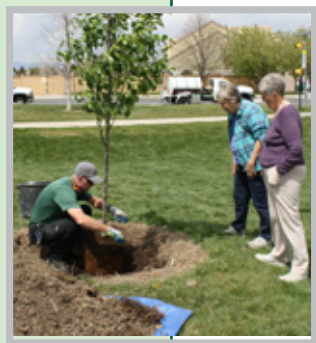


What a fun experience! In honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day, Seasoned Voyagers helped plant 5 Ornamental Pear Trees in Cougar Run Park in Highlands Ranch. We arranged this event with the Forestry Department of the Highlands Ranch Metro Districts. These trees produce beautiful white flowers in the Spring and turn several bright colors in the Fall. They can grow to 30 feet tall and 20 feet wide, with a lifespan of 50 years.

The Forestry Department team dug the holes and provided mulch, stakes, water, most of the labor and "thank you" bags for us. Seasoned Voyagers paid for 87% of the cost of the trees. Very importantly, the Forestry Department gave us valuable and surprising instruction about the proper way to plant trees and shrubs. Seasoned Voyagers members who helped plant the trees were Rich and Carleen Krening, Caroline Butler, Kay Oscai and Betsy Keyack.

Cougar Run park is located between Colorado and University Boulevards on Venneford Ranch Road just west of Cougar Run Elementary School. Park on Venneford Ranch Road; you can see the trees from the road. We hope to have many picnics near our trees in the future!

We are grateful to the Highlands Ranch Metro Districts and to the Seasoned Voyagers' generosity for this opportunity to help the environment and give back to our local community! If anyone wants to contribute toward the trees they can write a check to St. Luke's UMC care of Seasoned Voyagers.



MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

Highlighting Mission Opportunities:

For more about missions supported by St. Luke's, contact Scott Hetherington 484-883-0778 scott.g.hetherington@gmail.com

The Bridge of Love Offering – Ebola Recovery in Sierra Leone:

This is our annual offering that is taken to Annual Conference. Please consider helping our brothers and sisters in Sierra Leone recover from this devastating epidemic!

Mondays in the Park: Thank you for your support which helps feed 100 individuals every Monday. Please continue supporting this ministry by donating chips (individual bags) & creamy peanut butter. (Sam Leahy sam@stlukeshr.com).

Sedalia Elementary Needs: More info? Betsy Keyack ~ bkeyack@att.net Volunteers every morning in the 1st-4th grade classrooms to assist

with reading & writing; Collecting used books for the children; New underwear and clothing for students; Box Tops for Education (collection envelope on the Missions closet door).

St. Paul's UMC Sunday

Meal Program: Sign up online or at the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall to help feed the homeless down at St. Paul's. We need your help the **3rd Sunday of the month. (Pam Wiethoff 303-204-0252)**

Love INC (In the Name of Christ)

303-794-LOVE(5683) www.loveincittleton.org Love INC brings churches together to provide volunteers who help people in need. To learn how to get involved, attend the next orientation meeting May 20 at 1:30pm. Call the Love INC office at 303-798-0037 for more information.

Renewed Treasures Thrift Shoppe

720-446-1877 6512 S Broadway, Littleton Please keep us in mind when you start your "Spring Cleaning". We appreciate your donations. Would you like to volunteer at the shoppe? Stop by and fill out an application.

Are you interested in sponsoring a student to attend school in Guatemala?

Due to difficult financial situations, many children in rural Guatemala are not able to attend school beyond second grade because their families need them to begin working to help the family. Visit Pura Vida's website www.puravida.org and see which children are still waiting to find a sponsor to help them continue their education. As part of the program, you can write letters to the student and even visit with them if you go on one of our mission trips!



More from *Les* by Rev. Les Ludlam: Puppies and Life

After considerable discussion and reflection, Betty and I decided that at age 6, our son, Jimmy, was old enough and responsible enough to have a dog to care for. (And I wanted one too!) We decided to buy a female German Shepherd puppy from a

family that lived just outside of town.

Jimmy named her “Dolly.” He took responsibility of feeding and cleaning up after her and did pretty well considering that he was a first-grader. Dog and boy became very close.

Later that year when she was barely 8 months old, Dolly became pregnant when we weren’t watching her closely! After some conversations, Betty and I decided not to take her to the vet, but to let her have the puppies as a good “learning experience” for Jimmy.

It was December and Dolly would not stay outside, so Betty and Jimmy made a bed for her in the garage, near the door to the house. “Give it plenty of padding with old towels and blankets,” said Betty; “Dolly will need a soft place when she delivers her puppies.” As delivery time came closer, Dolly would spend more time in her bed and Jimmy, Betty and I would take turns checking on her and spending time with Jimmy to talk about where dog babies come from, how to take care of the puppies, and what mother Dolly would need when the time came for the puppies to be born. Jimmy took it all in as best he could.

Then, early one evening we heard Dolly whimpering loudly and I checked on her.

Sure enough, the puppies were arriving! I marveled at how quickly Dolly the puppy of a few months ago had become suddenly a mother who did all the things she had to do to make sure her pups survived. There were two pups, cleaned up and struggling to find food, a third was getting its mother’s wash job and there were indications that there were more to come. She growled at me, perhaps to assure me that she had things in control and certainly to let me know I should keep my distance at that moment! I did, filled her water dish, and retreated.

About an hour later, Betty and I took Jimmy with us to check on Dolly and her puppies. There were four now, but the newly born fourth wasn’t breathing. Betty quickly took over and picked up Number 4 and began gently stroking its back to work the lungs. Dolly didn’t protest, somehow she seemed to know what Betty was doing and was preoccupied with delivery of the fifth pup.

After a few minutes of stroking, Number 4 began breathing on its own and then began crying its puppy cry. Betty smiled and placed the pup near Dolly’s abdomen and let mother dog do her thing.

Jimmy had been taking all this in silently, but suddenly he burst out loudly. “You saved him, Mom!” He had tears in his eyes.

But the last of the litter, Number 5, was less fortunate, it was still born and Dolly instinctively knew it and moved the still body away from her family. We put the deceased pup in a small trash bag, sealed it up and took it outside.

Making sure that Dolly was OK, we then left her with her puppies and since it was well after Jimmy’s bedtime, went upstairs and to bed.

Next morning, Jimmy was up, bouncing into our bedroom before the alarm clock went off. “Can we go see them?”

“No, not yet, let’s have breakfast and get some food ready for Dolly, she’s been through a lot and needs some rest and good nourishment so she can take care of her babies.” We could tell from his questions during breakfast that Jimmy had been thinking a lot about the puppies overnight.

“Are we going to keep them? Can I name them? Will Dolly have any more puppies? How does she know what to do to take care of them?” And then, a tough one, “What are we going to do for the dead one?”

We talked at length about death and dying and then Jimmy burst out, “Let’s have a funeral for Number 5!” I agreed and we chose a bare spot

east of the house. A small hole was dug and Number 5’s body was wrapped in an old towel and placed in its resting place. I said a few words about Number 5’s spirit being with God. We filled the hole and covered it with a large flat rock. For several weeks, Jimmy would pick dandelions or other wild flowers from the nearby fields and place them on the rock.

After the puppies were old enough to be sold, an ad was put in the local paper and soon we were getting inquiries. To our amazement, Jimmy was an excellent salesman! “I call this one “Jumper” because he likes to jump and run around. This one is “Sweetie” because she likes to cuddle.

And, this one is the strongest, so I call him “Hunter.”

One by one the dogs went to their new owners and Jimmy seemed to enjoy the process of sending these pups on their way.

After the last one left with its happy new owner, I sat down with Jimmy to talk about the events of the previous three months with Dolly and her puppies.

“I was happy to see how well you took care of Dolly and her puppies.”

“It was fun for me, but I think it was hard for Dolly.”

“It didn’t bother you to see the puppies go to new owners, did it?”

Jimmy looked at with me with a look that expressed a wisdom far beyond his age.

“Having puppies was hard work for Dolly and she worked at it all the time. I think she was ready to just play with me like we did before. Now that someone else is taking care of the puppies she can have fun again.”

God bless Jim, God bless our memories of time with Dolly and her set of puppies, and...

...God bless us all. —*Les*





Upcoming Events!

SLY (St. Luke's Youth) is an inclusive group for all 7th-12th graders that focuses on fellowship, fun, and finding out what this God thing is all about! As always, we have lots going on and are so excited to grow closer while having fun and being the hands and feet of Christ!



- ✦ **May 24: 6:00-7:30pm**
Welcome Night for ALL incoming 7th graders and their parents!!
- ✦ **May 30-June 7:**
Guatemala Mission Trip
- ✦ **June 13-21: Sr. High**
Mission Trip to Rockford, IL
- ✦ **July 12-18: Jr. High**
Mission Trip to Crownpoint, NM

Sign up to receive our emails and Check www.stlukeshr.com and click on "Youth" or "SLY" for up-to-date info on programs, activities, opportunities and more!

Sundays:

- **9:30-10:30am – SLY AM**
Exploring life issues and the bible
- **5:30-6:00pm – Community Dinner** - \$2 per person.
- **6:00-7:30pm – SLY PM**
All sorts of fellowship and fun activities are happening Sunday nights in the youth room!
Check out our website for details.

Wednesdays:

- **Homework/Tutoring Hour**
5:30-6:30pm – A chance to get your homework done and even get help if you need it!
- **Wed. SLY 6:30-8:00pm** – Youth directed fellowship activities. Coming up we have dinners, crafts, and a movie night!

Look for our Summer Schedule coming soon!

ON THE SLY: Spring Fun

Lots of fun things have been going on in the Youth Room this spring! From movies and popcorn to painting and Mother's Day crafts, SLY is getting ready for the busy summer!

Many of our Jr. High youth were excited for the annual district retreat in Buena Vista at the beginning of April.

The weather however had different plans for our weekend! Although the snow was not too bad in our area, the camp we were supposed to go to was hit with nearly two feet of snow! There was no way our bus was going to make it through those windy roads! Just when we thought the weekend was lost, Hope UMC offered to host the event in their church! It wasn't the full weekend away that we expected, but we got a full day in of fun, faith, and worship! Even the band made the trek down to join! It was definitely a day that we will not forget!

Later in the month (and on a much warmer day) we had our annual progressive dinner! With the numbers we have, the jr. high and sr. high have to go to different houses so that everyone can fit! We started with appetizers at one house, entre at another, and finish the night with dessert at a third house. Tradition is that the sr. high dress up for this event, and I can tell you, they clean up pretty well! They all looked so great and it was a very fun and delicious night!

With only a few weeks left until we leave for our Guatemala mission trip, our prep and fundraising is almost complete! Thank you to everyone who came to our Cold Stone fundraiser the first week of May. It was a huge success and we had a great time getting to be behind the scenes and scoop ice cream for our family and friends! Keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we leave on May 30th!

SLY (St. Luke's Youth) is an inclusive group for all 7th-12th graders that focuses on fellowship, fun, and finding out what this God thing is all about! As always, we have lots going on and are so excited to grow closer while having fun and being the hands and feet of Christ!

As always, we have a lot going on! We are blessed to be able to work with the youth of St. Luke's love to watch God work in their lives!

*—Yours in Christ,
Dave & Amy*



Dave Laurvick
Director of Youth Ministry



Amy McMullen
Assistant Dir. of Youth Ministry



Meet A Youth!

In April we had the pleasure of seeing Liza (college student), Laura (senior) and Jenna (sophomore) Nolder perform at church with their dance group, the Heritage Irish Stepdancers! These sisters have been a part of SLY for a long time, and been Irish dancing for over 11 years!



Sheri Henry
Director of Finance



Kristi Pawley
Accounting Clerk

Thanks for Your Financial Support!

We offer a variety of

ways for you to make your contributions.

We invite you to select the method that is best for your particular need from the following methods:

- Cash, check or stock transfers
- Scheduled automatic withdrawals from your checking or credit card accounts.

You may enroll in either of these methods by going online at stlukeshr.com or contacting me directly.

- One-time online transaction. Go online at stlukeshr.com and do a one-time transaction from your checking or credit card accounts. This method is great for situations such as forgetting to leave your check in the offering plate on Sunday or if you're out of town.

Thanks to everyone who has returned your 2015 Commitment Cards. If you have not had an opportunity to return yours yet, you may mail them in or drop them off at the church at any time. We greatly appreciate your support!

Confirmation 2015

This year I was in confirmation with 18 other 8th graders.

We were broken up into family groups where we did a lot of different things. One of the things that was special to our group was the journal that Jenita, one of our family group leaders, gave us. It helped me to keep track of memories from confirmation and the things I learned.



I really loved the community that was formed through confirmation. I got particularly close to my prayer partner, Mrs. Bacon, and it was really nice to have her and the other youth leaders to talk to. The cross that she got me was super special. She gave me a cross necklace and a night light that her family hand carved. I use the night light every night to remind me of the love that the people around me have for me.

I will never forget stepping up to the altar and getting blessed with the water from Rev. Janet and the oil from Rev. Sallie. Also the personal prayer that Dave said over me. It made me cry! It was a big step in my faith journey and I am so glad I got to experience it with St. Luke's.

-Ellie Hill (8th grade)



James Ramsey
Director of Music & Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of Music Ministry/Organist



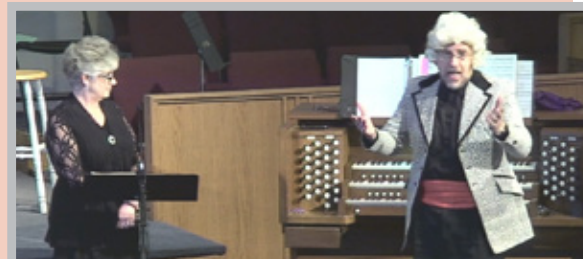
Jennifer Ferguson
Associate Director of Music Ministry



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

Spring Concert

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Spring Concert on Sunday, May 3rd. The Wind Ensemble performed an inspiring arrangement of *Summon the Heroes* by John Williams and received a standing ovation. SLYJO played a funk arrangement of Aretha Franklin's "Respect" as well as a challenging arrangement by Paul Desmond titled "Blue Rondo a la Turk". The piece featured constantly shifting time signatures and the kids did a great job.



The Ministers of Swing, led by Ken Mervine, played a toe-tapping lively set featuring solos by Carl Fitch, Ken Reck, and Copland Rose. Finally, Ken Mervine teamed up with his wife Barbara to perform an incredibly funny sketch featuring *PDQ Bach*. It was an educational and hilarious performance that was well received by the entire audience. Thank you to all who participated to in a great event!

Summer Music

As is our tradition at St. Luke's, our traditional music program that includes Worship Band, choirs, handbells, and instruments will be taking a break this summer. Ken Mervine will be organizing small groups and solos to provide music during summer services. If you are interested in playing or singing, please contact him at kenm@stlukeshr.com.

And a great big thank you to all music ministers who dedicated time and effort into the 2014-2015 year! Enjoy your well-deserved break, and see you in the fall!



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

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

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

For the most up-to-date calendar of events check www.stlukeshr.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Brenda Schafer
Office Administrator

*Don't you be
afraid, for I
am with you.*

*Don't be
dismayed,
for I am
your God.*

*I will strengthen
you....* —Isaiah 41:10

PRAYER CONCERNS

Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or Brenda Schafer if you have any additions/removals. 303-791-0659 x32, leave a note on the front desk, or email sallie@stlukeshr.com or brenda@stlukeshr.com

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Joe Forbes

Debi Sheppard

Jane Riegle

Lee Long – Annie Van Hoosen's sister

Lynn McNichols – Trudy Turner's friend

Bob Halderman

Jan Lindquist

Denise Anderson

Natalie Murrow

Grant Larson

Julie Roy

Nancy Obertier

Claudia Swanson

Sandy Lowe – Janice Ernster's mother

Joan Campbell – Patrice Goldman's mother

Barbara Bond – Sharon Oliver's aunt

Amy Hertling-Johnson

Larry Aswegan – Kathy Swier's friend

Art Schneider – Mindy Dunbar's brother

Carol Carnahan

Marshall Kuhn

Pete Middleton

Les Ludlam

Nancy Springman – Gail Abernathy's sister

Chip Rovetta's mother & brother

Norma Kleiver – Allison Wright's mother

Jerry Goff – Marge Harper's brother

Matt Wenstrom – Doug & Lynette

McKinney's family friend

Rolland Hea – Trudi Mathews' friend

Ann Lamoreaux

Debra Mitchell

*Judy & Jim Askam – Jan Munoz's sister &
brother-in-law*

Melina

Rick Owens

Bea Long – Tom Suby-Long's mother

Art Kain – Val Clark's uncle

Mia Wadopian – Sue Weston's friend

SYMPATHIES TO:

Mike & Diana Stephens on the passing of Mike's uncle, Wayne Stephens

Brain and Terri Ary on the passing of Brian's mother, Marilyn Ary

Doug & Lynette McKinney on the passing of their family friend's 6-year old son, Roman Wenstrom

Scott & Karin Wesson on the passing of Scott's grandfather, Sidney Wasson

Bob & Sharon Oliver on the passing of Sharon's sister-in-law's mother, Charlotte Morris

Dave & Elizabeth Laurvick on the passing of Dave's uncle, Douglas Nordmeyer