



Advent/Christmas The Chronicle

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

Feeding of the FIVE Thousand

**6,400 lbs.
Delivered!**
Cash Donations
Still Needed!

Rising to the challenges of this year, the Feeding of the 5000 team knew continuing with the annual food drive was more important than ever this year. The weekend of November 20-22, volunteers received food donations at St. Luke's and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). In total, the effort was able to bring 6,400 lbs of non-perishable food to the Food Exchange Resource Network (FERN) to provide healthy food for families in need across the SW Denver metro area.

Many thanks to the leadership of Mike and AJ Preble, Mina Hall, and Monty Hoffman for re-envisioning the Feeding of the 5000 for 2020!

DONATE
ONLINE

Online financial contributions will continue to be collected until Sunday, Dec. 6! We are over half-way to our goal of sending \$10,000 to FERN. Find the link at stlukeshr.com



OPERATION: Love Your Neighbor OUTDOOR WORSHIP UPDATE

"O what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh," or in our case, "O what fun it is to ride to the church's parking lot!" Yes, with colder weather coming, we have moved our outdoor worship service from the backyard to the South parking lot, and it is fun! We beep our horns, we hear the scriptures, we sing worship songs and Love shows up and blesses us in ways we never thought possible. God is good! **Sign up for one of our parking lot services online**, and if the weather is nice, bring a lawn chair and tailgate! The new stage is now complete so check that out, too. Thank you to Lee Seaman, Ken Fong, Jim Ramsey and to all of the Trustees and friends of Trustees who helped build us this stage. It is fantastic. Jingle all the way over to the parking lot and worship God with us! O what fun it is! -Rev. Michele



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at St. Luke's: **RENEWED**

Do you need some renewal? Do you need to restore and revive your days?

This Advent, we will come into the presence of renewed peace, hope, love and joy, to refresh us and to root us in the age-old, never-changing peace, hope, love and joy of God. For Jesus will be born anew in us on Christmas morning, no matter what.

Prepare to be Renewed this Advent, and prepare your heart for the best gift of all.

See FULL calendar on page 5.



Christmas Eve: **RENEWED LIFE**

Thursday December 24

DRIVE-IN CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR

SERVICE.....Noon & 1:30pm

Sign up online to reserve your spot and come enjoy an outdoor worship experience featuring our Puppet Ministry telling the Christmas Story in a parking lot service with carols, glow sticks, coloring book and a take-home craft! *Message from Pastor Liza.*

DRIVE-IN CAROLS & CANDLES

SERVICE.....5:00 & 6:30pm

We will Light Up the Night with the familiar carols we all know and love, and with the light of Christ that will shine from our hearts and from our candles. For Jesus will be born anew in us on Christmas morning, no matter what. *Message from Rev. Michele.*

CHILDREN'S (prerecorded).....Streaming starting at 8:00am

Children's Christmas service featuring the Puppet Ministry!

Renewed Expectations (Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson)

LUKE: 2:1-14

TRADITIONAL (prerecorded).....Streaming starting at 8:00am

Enjoy a carols and candles service at any time from your own home!

The Light of Christ (Rev. Michele Kaminsky)

LUKE 2:1,4A,6-7

Our building is currently closed to non-essential persons.

Worship services will be live streamed on Sundays at 9:00am
Outdoor worship on Sundays at 10:30am as weather permits - attendance is limited, please sign up online to attend.

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



Staff

Rev. Michele Kaminsky.....x105
Lead Minister

Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson.....x107
Associate Minister

Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x132
Minister of Healing & Wellbeing

Dr. James Ramsey.....x123
Director of Music & Arts Ministries

Kenrick Mervine.....x133
Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist

Kay Coryell.....x136
Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry

Chris Rigolini.....x146
Director of Instrumental Music

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

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

Jake Smith.....x145
Director of Youth Ministry

Renae Parra.....x117
Director of Servant Ministry

Stephanie Kirk.....x110
Office Administrator M/W/F

Jana Wesson.....x110
Office Administrator T/TH

Rex Gradeless.....x124
Director of Finance

Jessica Shelton.....x116
Financial Assistant

Barry Curtis.....x144
Facilities Manager

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

Our next issue of **The Chronicle** will be the New Year/Epiphany issue.

Content due January 15

Please send inquiries and submissions to:

chronicle@stlukeshr.com

Editor: Sharon Oliver

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



Rev. Michele Kaminsky
Lead Minister

Renewing the Spirit of Christmas

Dear St. Luke's,

As we prepare our hearts to be Renewed this Advent, let us look for the little things that renew and refresh us, because little things can have a big impact and bring lots of pleasure. Things like hanging ornaments on a tree, smelling comfort food in the oven, playing Christmas carols in the background, walking around the block to take in the lights, receiving cards filled with love, making angels in the snow, watching Christmas movies and wearing the festive colors red and green.



All of these little things are important, especially now, as our Christmas celebrations will look different this year. When our big moments of gathering for meals, indoor worship and parties are limited, it is a loss, and in our grief, we can lose sight of the little things that can give us renewed peace, hope, love and joy.

So instead of focusing on what Christmas won't be this year, what if we focus on what Christmas still is? Because Christmas is still coming. Love will still come down from heaven and be born anew in us again. Christmas will still be the birth of new possibilities and new hope for each of us. Christmas will still be a time to reach out and talk to those we love. Christmas will still be lying in a manger on Christmas morning, because Jesus came into this world as a little child, a tiny baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. And that means Christmas will still bring us a gift—the gift of the Christ child. Something so small and so little, but something so wonderfully big in our lives. For Jesus' arrival is larger than life and bigger than any traditions we may have. So let's focus on the little things this year, and renew the spirit of Christmas deep within.

In Christmas Love, Rev. Michele

St. Luke's Reopening Team Update

Fifteen St. Luke's staff, clergy and lay leaders recently began the process of building a plan for the return of in-person worship at St. Luke's. The team is charged with ensuring the safety of worshipers and creating a reverent atmosphere that fosters spirituality.

The team is addressing many of the concerns and issues involved with gathering people together during our current situation. Corona virus has changed the way we can worship. Ken Fong and Jim Ramsey have extensively researched what is necessary to safely gather and ensure recommended physical distancing. Other issues include the number of people who can safely worship at any given time, how to safely enter and leave each service, in service singing (which may spread corona virus more than ordinary talking) and current governmental guidance. The team is working through the issues and will submit a plan to the District Superintendent for approval. Once the plan is approved and conditions allow, we will return to limited in-person worship!

Douglas County is currently under restriction for indoor, in-person meetings. The increase in positive cases currently precludes in-person worship. Projections are discouraging and it does not appear that in-person worship will be possible any time soon. St. Luke's has a great team planning alternate Advent and Christmas worship (see calendar in this issue.) As soon as it is safe and prudent for indoor, in-person worship, we will offer these services. —Bryan Hutchinson





Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

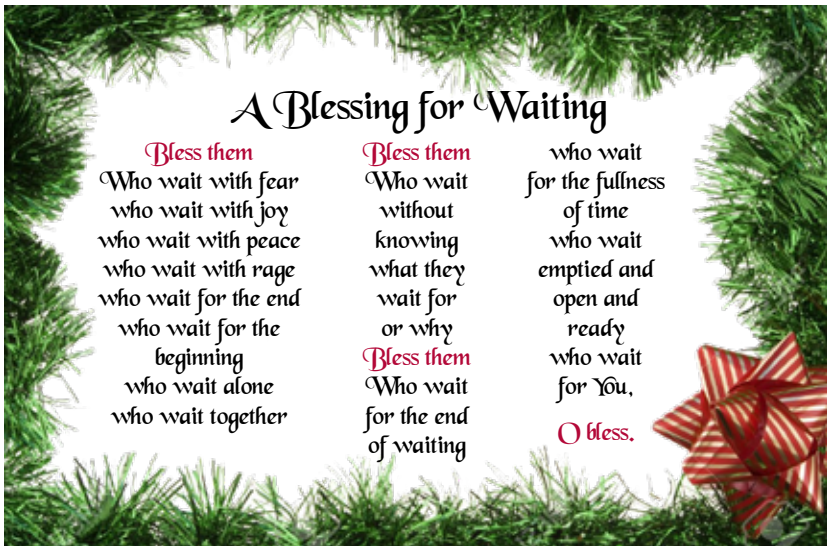
A Blessing for Waiting

As we move into the season of Advent, I'll be honest when I say the idea of beginning the liturgical season of waiting and anticipation feels pretty redundant. Haven't we been in a season of waiting since news of COVID broke? Since stay-at-home orders began? I feel like I have been in a liminal season of the in-between for eight months and I ask myself, what will be different about Advent?

When I take a deep breath and pause, I am able to remind myself exactly what is different about Advent. This season of waiting ends with the birth of the Christ Child. No matter how much (or little) I prepare for it, Christmas morning will arrive. LIGHT will shine brighter than the night. Hope will not be extinguished.

I do look forward to traveling through the Advent season with all of you. I eagerly anticipate the traditions of St. Luke's that have been reimaged but remain true to the St. Luke's spirit.

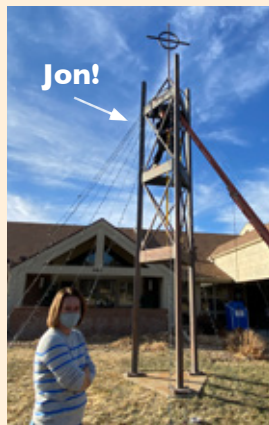
I hope you be reminded of why we are waiting through this excerpt from Jan Richardson's book "A Circle of Grace"



Blessings on you in your waiting during this Advent season, Pastor Liza

Trustees Corner - It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!

To support the parking lot worship services that started November 8, Lee Seaman has taken the lead to build a stage on the south side of the church. Supported by the Trustees and other volunteers, the stage will offer a level surface with increased visibility for the pastors and musicians. Thanks to Lee and all the others who have worked on this project! And a big shout out to Marty Davidson and AGS Construction for his assistance with the materials for the stage. And big thanks to the Schmidt family for constructing the tree light sculpture in the front lawn and getting us our very own live Christmas Tree! Wow! St. Luke's is amazing!



Stewardship 2020: Standing Up for St. Luke's

Throughout this tumultuous year, the importance of our connections and the support we provide one another have



become even more evident. While we all miss the in person interaction in our church building, we've been blessed to have a staff that has worked tirelessly to keep our community together. We have approximately 60 groups and events that have continued to connect. Our passionate church community from our children to our adults are engaged across classes, music and arts, small groups, yoga, bible studies and missions just to name a few. Hundreds of congregational care visits and calls have also been taking place. **Sharing our values of Grace, Courage, Wonder and Beyond certainly hasn't shut down!**

Mike Hollyman, chair of our Stewardship team, presented our targeted budget of \$1,250,000 as well as some of the challenges we're facing. We started 2020 with a deficit and shortfalls from loose plate collections has added to that. The operating budget is broken out into these main areas:

- **People:** our amazing staff and clergy and the ministries they bring to life
- **Upkeep:** maintenance on our building and property
- **Mortgage:** our church home
- **Conference:** our contribution to the UMC Mountain Sky Conference

The operating budget provides the foundation from which all of our wonderful ministries and relationships come. Without this strong foundation all that we can accomplish as a community is impacted.

Rev. Michele shared stories of defying gravity throughout our Stewardship series. We want to be ready to defy gravity as we emerge from this extremely difficult time. In order to be best prepared for this we need to have a complete picture of our budget. You can help by prayerfully considering what this community and its connections continue to mean to you and your family. **Then complete your pledge card online at stlukeshr.com or mail the one you received back.** These cards provide guidance to church leadership on how we continue our journey of sharing our love and grace.

Thank You!



Les Ludlam
Retired Clergy

More from Les: From a Teacher

To my friends at St. Luke's:

This note was written by my daughter, Cindy West, a teacher in the Cherry Creek

school district, back in April as part of a project by the teachers to share how things are going for them during the COVID 19 pandemic. With her permission, I decided to share it because it really speaks to the experiences of many of us during this time of social distancing and staying at home.

God bless us all, Les

April 13, 2020: Wait in line, measure height, wait some more, take a seat, buckle in, squeak, click, click, click, click, click, crunch, jerk, ascending, up and up and up, anticipation, hold on tight, and... Whoosh, rushing forward and down, elated, nauseous, smiling, screaming, descending, speeding, gravity, smooth, falling, slowing, slowing, screech, jerk, unbuckle, exit, decision... Ride again or not? Those words may, or may not, have created the image in your mind of a roller coaster ride. The last few weeks of life have been a bit of a roller coaster. You may have heard this idiom before as people use it to describe times in their life that have had a lot of ups and downs, good and bad experiences and emotions. If you have never ridden a roller coaster, the experience comes with a lot of opposing feelings in a very short amount of time: anticipation and fear; gravitational pull backward and free falling forward; excitement and nausea.

The governor has ordered us to stay at home which feels like a roller coaster to me. Being home is a gift of time I normally don't get with my husband, kids and pets. But, being home means I can't look straight into the eyes of my students and know if they are really OK or not. Being home means a slower pace during the day and lots of long walks in the sunshine. But, being home means that I can't see if my students had breakfast or have enough food to eat for lunch. Being home means that I have the flexibility to get my teacher work done and still have time to help the food bank sort and stock its shelves. But, being home means washing my hands a million times, using hand sanitizer often, and wearing protective masks just to be able to volunteer and serve. Being home means having time to plan and cook healthy meals. But, being home means missing our weekly family dinner with my aging parents. Being home means that I've been given breath and life for today and I won't waste it! But, being home means that many other people are grieving the loss of their loved-ones to this virus. Being home means that I will do my part to stay safe and keep others safe. But, being home means that I will continue to wonder about my students and when I might see them again.



Renae Parra
Director of
Servant Ministry

Stepping Up for St. Luke's

First of all, thank you to those who said YES to the requests from the Equipping Ministries team to serve in leadership starting in January. Our lay led ministries are vital to St. Luke's and we appreciate your willingness to serve.

Wow, the members of this church have STOOD BY ST. LUKE's the past few months! Many of you have found new, creative and important ways to serve our church and community.

Here are some examples of how YOU are stepping up and standing by St. Luke's during the past months:

- **Six people are leading new SLIC groups (St. Luke's In Community) which meet weekly to provide connection and the opportunity to grow in faith and love.**
- **An increased number of volunteers on Sundays show up to assist with our Live stream worship and to set up our Outdoor Worship. There is a lot of set up required, especially for sound and music!**
- **Volunteers came out of the woodwork (!) to build a new stage on the south side of the building for parking lot worship and Christmas Eve services.**
- **A group of dedicated ushers and greeters have made sure all of our Outdoor Worship services were safe and then they completely switched gears to accommodate the flow of cars for our parking lot worship.**
- **A group of laity has worked with staff to create protocols and guidelines for building re-opening. Another group of volunteers stepped forward to help plan Christmas Eve services with the staff.**
- **The Seasoned Voyagers have been unable to go on their fun outings and tours, so they turned their attention to mission work; fundraising for the school in Sedalia, preparing meals for Giving Heart and more!**
- **About 20 people offered to reach out to each member of St. Luke's in our November calling campaign. They care about the people of St. Luke's and wanted to spend time giving everyone a personal call (if you did not receive a call, we probably do not have your current phone number! Please contact the office with updated information.)**
- **Members of the Mission Team re-designed our Blue Bin food drop off for veterans so that we can accommodate 24/7 food drop off!**

These are only a few examples of how people of St. Luke's are standing by the church and being creative and dedicated in their ways to serve. I am so grateful to serve alongside all of you in this fabulous community. Every week I say to myself how blessed I am to work with all of you!



If you would like to help with outdoor Christmas Eve services (60-75 minute shifts in the parking lot), please contact me at renae@stlukeshr.com

And there ahead of them, went the star they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. (Matthew 2:9)

Merry Christmas to ALL! *Grace and Blessings, Renae*

Book Study: **Journeys Out of Homelessness: The Voices of Lived Experience**



5 week Zoom class, Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00pm, starting January 5

This book, published in 2020, traces the journeys of nine people who have experienced homelessness. There will be discussions about the causes of homelessness and ways to eradicate it. The class will be co-facilitated by Betsy Keyack and Don Burnes, one of the authors, who is founder of and advisor to the Burnes Center on Poverty and Homelessness at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work and has 35 years of experience in the field. Contact bkeyack@att.net

ST. LUKE'S UMC ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR 2020



stlukeshr.com



November 10-30

GIVING BACK: VIRTUAL Giving Tree - Adopt a Child

We are continuing to support Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) and their Adopt-a-child program. Go online to sponsor a child and send gifts to IFCS for distribution.

DONATE
ONLINE

November 20-December 6

GIVING BACK: Feeding of the 5000

Donate cash online through Dec. 6 to support filling up local food banks through FERN (Food Exchange Resource Network.)

DONATE
ONLINE

November 23-December 24

GIVING BACK: Snacks for Healthcare Workers

Drop off store-bought individually packaged snacks to be delivered to our frontline healthcare workers to show our support and gratitude. A donation box will be at the front of the church every day through Advent.

November 28-December 24

GIVING BACK: Christmas in the Park(ing Lot)

Donate new socks and hand warmers! A donation box will be at the front of the church every day through Advent. Monetary donations can be made online. *Donations due by Dec. 24.*

Advent 1: RENEWED HOPE

Sunday November 29

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP.....9:00am

PARKING LOT WORSHIP.....10:30am

Holding on to Hope (Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson)
ISAIAH 40:28-31, LUKE 1:57-66

SIGN UP
ONLINE

TREE LIGHTING SERVICE.....6:00pm

Kick Off the Advent season with an outdoor parking lot service with carols, bells and LIGHTS. Come see the church outdoor decorations light up, get a candy cane, glow stick and enjoy a short family-friendly message.

SIGN UP
ONLINE

Weekly Advent Devotions On Mondays **November 30, December 7, 14, & 21**, and on **Christmas Day**, watch your email for devotions to help center our hearts on the hope, joy, peace and love of the season.

December 1-20

GIVING BACK: VIRTUAL Giving Tree - More Opportunities

Please consider supporting our Guatemala Mission, the CSE Honduras Music Program, Sedalia Elementary, HAAT Force and Warren Village by giving a cash donation to the Giving Tree online.

DONATE
ONLINE

Advent 2: RENEWED JOY

Sunday December 6

CHRISTMAS CANTATA (prerecorded).....9:00am

Go to stlukeshr.com and enjoy the Cantata from your home. Share in the joy of this annual Advent highlight and be Renewed! *No Parking Lot worship.*

Saturday December 12

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOP.....8:30am- 1:30pm

Children will have the independence to shop outside for everyone in the family and delight in the joy of giving! Gifts are \$1-\$10. Sign up online to reserve your spot. Kids will have 30 minutes to shop.

SIGN UP
ONLINE

Advent 3: RENEWED PEACE

Sunday December 13 - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION & CANDY CANE SUNDAY

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP.....9:00am

Our prerecorded Children's Pageant will be featured during this service!

PARKING LOT WORSHIP.....10:30am

The Gift of Peace (Rev. Michele Kaminsky)
ISAIAH 52:7-10, LUKE 2:8-14

SIGN UP
ONLINE

Advent 4: RENEWED LOVE

Sunday December 20

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP.....9:00am

PARKING LOT WORSHIP.....10:30am

Saying "I Love You" (Rev. Michele Kaminsky)
PSALM 89:1-5, MATTHEW 1:18-23

SIGN UP
ONLINE

Christmas Eve: RENEWED LIFE

Thursday December 24

DRIVE-IN CHILDREN'S OUTDOOR

SERVICE.....Noon & 1:30pm

Sign up online to reserve your spot and come enjoy an outdoor worship experience featuring our Puppet Ministry telling the Christmas Story in a parking lot service with carols, glow sticks, coloring book and a take-home craft! *Message from Pastor Liza.*

SIGN UP
ONLINE

DRIVE-IN CAROLS & CANDLES

SERVICE.....5:00 & 6:30pm

We will Light Up the Night with the familiar carols we all know and love, and with the light of Christ that will shine from our hearts and from our candles. For Jesus will be born anew in us on Christmas morning, no matter what. *Message from Rev. Michele.*

SIGN UP
ONLINE

CHILDREN'S (prerecorded).....Streaming starting at 8:00am

Children's Christmas service featuring the Puppet Ministry!
Renewed Expectations (Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson)
LUKE 2:1-14

TRADITIONAL (prerecorded).....Streaming starting at 8:00am

Enjoy a carols and candles service at any time from your own home!
The Light of Christ (Rev. Michele Kaminsky)
LUKE 2:1,4A,6-7

New Year's Eve Service

Sunday December 27

LIVE STREAM WORSHIP.....9:00am

PARKING LOT WORSHIP.....10:30am

We Have a Choice (Rev. Michele Kaminsky)
JOHN 1:14, LUKE 2:22-24, 36-38

SIGN UP
ONLINE

Epiphany

Sunday January 3, 2021

LIVE STREAM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION & CELEBRATION OF THE KINGS.....9:00am

Tune in as our 15 ft. tall Magi puppets present their gifts to the Christ child in a family worship experience. *No Parking Lot worship.*

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNION.....10:30- 11:30am

Holiday Light Display Contest

Share in the joy this holiday season and participate in the St. Luke's Holiday Light Display contest. **Submit a photo of your holiday light display** by December 6 to enter. Voting will take place online December 6-25 at midnight. Stay tuned for the link to vote!

Church Family Christmas Tree

We invite you to bring an ornament to hang on our tree in honor of you. Stop by the church during the Tree Lighting or anytime thereafter and **secure your ornament to the tree** (located by south parking lot stage.) Write your name on the ornament so we know who it's from. Please avoid materials that could be damaged by outdoor elements.

How You Can Help

At St Luke's, we have always taken pride in the fact that our missions work has a relational component. We don't just send a check. We are present and helping people. We let them know we care about them and the lives they live. We also realize that in doing missions this way we often get much more than we give.

This Advent Season is going to be different. We won't be going shopping for a gift for the IFCS adopt a child program. Instead, you can find a link on the St Luke's webpage. We will provide numerous opportunities throughout the Advent Season for you to generously provide help to people who need it. Feeding of the 5000, UMCOR, the children of Honduras and Guatemala, the children of Sedalia Elementary, and other opportunities will be featured on the St Luke's website. We will also be accepting food drop offs for Feeding of the 5000 and for the Blue Bin.

The communities and the people who we are connected with still need our help. Right now, we can't see their smiles or give them a hug. That time will come again. Until then, please continue your generous support of missions programs at St Luke's. - *Monty Hoffman*

The DECEMBER Giving Tree



The December Giving Tree offers an opportunity for you to give a special gift to a loved one and support an important mission at the same time! Visit the Virtual December Giving Tree webpage at stlukeshr.com to select one of the missions below. You will be able to print an accompanying tag so your gift recipient will know all the details of who is benefiting from your donation. Thank you for your generous support of these vital missions!

The mission opportunities are:

Guatemala – Milk Program (\$12.50): Your donation will support the Guatemala Milk Program. Your gift will provide a 2.5kg canister of dehydrated milk, which, when mixed with water, will make 5 gallons of whole milk. This gift will give months of vital nutrition for chronically malnourished children in Lemoa, Guatemala.

Guatemala – Construction (\$123.85): Your donation will support Pura Vida Ministries. Your gift will be used to help provide a home for a needy family in Guatemala.

Honduras – Abundant Life Christian School Music Room and Program (\$50): Your donation will support Abundant Life Christian School in Yamaranguila, Honduras. Your gift will be used to support their music room and program.

Warren Village, Denver CO – First Step Move-Out Bin (\$100): Your donation will support the First Step ministry of Warren Village in Denver, CO. Your gift will support a "Move-Out Bin" of household supplies for families moving from the First Step location to their own housing.

HAAT Force, Englewood CO – Severe Weather Hotel Voucher (\$70): Your donation will support HAAT Force. Your gift will provide one night of severe weather motel shelter for a family in need in southwest Denver.

Sedalia Elementary School – (\$25): Your donation will support Sedalia Elementary School. Your gift will provide a \$25 Walmart gift card to families in need.

Mondays in the Park – (\$20): A special donation has been made in your name to support the St. Luke's ministry of Mondays in the Park. Your gift will help provide weekly lunches to those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in downtown Denver.

Donations Needed for Sedalia Elementary Families

Alas! Seasoned Voyagers will not be able to have its annual December bake sale to help Sedalia Elementary families! Every year the bake sale proceeds are used to purchase Walmart gift cards for selected families in need at the school.

But the need is still great and we are responding! During the month of December we will be having a church-wide donation campaign to raise funds for \$25 gift cards for the families. Sedalia Elementary approached us and asked if we could still do our bake sale this year. They said "things just keep getting worse for everyone." When we said, "no bake sale, but we can still do gift cards" our staff contact said "You truly bring tears to my eyes" and "Thank you for all you do for us and have done." **So far more families need our gift cards than in past years.**

You can contribute by writing a check to St. Luke's UMC with "Sedalia Gift Cards" on the memo line or you can donate at www.stlukeshr.com.

If and when you are enjoying your own delicious baked goods in December, think of this as our "virtual" Seasoned Voyagers Bake Sale. You are invited to say a prayer for struggling Sedalia families and make a donation, too!

HAAT Force Thanks You for Your Support!

Thank you to all who supported HAAT Force's October Virtual Fundraiser. HAAT Force - Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force South Metro



- provides severe weather motel vouchers to families and people with disabilities. We have had two severe weather events so far this season. We appreciate all the monetary donations, silent auction item donations and silent auction winners from St. Luke's! We are at www.haatforce.org. -*Betsy Keyack on behalf of the HAAT Force Board of Directors*

Mondays in the Park

Our Mondays in the Park sack lunch program for those in need has now partnered with The Network Coffee House in Denver. As we seek to continue to serve our homeless friends and lovingly be a resource for them we have shifted to having the coffee house support our lunch distribution. We prepare and deliver 80 lunches every Monday in addition to toiletries. If you are looking to donate items please reach out to sam@stlukeshr.com. At the end of the day, it's our shared poverty that unites us and illuminates a surprising hope.

UMCOR Disaster Response

The United Methodist Committee on Relief continues its efforts to help those in the US and beyond suffering from this year's hurricanes. Please consider donating to UMCOR. You can write a check to St. Luke's UMC with "UMCOR - Disaster Response" on the memo line.

Seasoned Voyagers Rocks with Missions!

Seasoned Voyagers greatly misses all of our exciting field trips! However, during the pandemic, we are still reaching out to help our neighbors near and far. We contributed funds to help the family of our sponsored student Felix in Guatemala; provided Sedalia Elementary with Walmart gift cards to help families struggling at the start of the school year; donated to HAAT Force; and donated 20 pumpkins from our pumpkin patch for students at Sedalia Elementary. These students received the pumpkins as awards for reading the most over Fall break and they had much fun decorating them!



During November, we had a hands-on project with Giving Heart, a day shelter in Englewood for people experiencing homelessness. On a Thursday, we dropped off lunch for 50 Giving Heart guests. Our delivery was much appreciated!



Snacks for Frontline Healthcare Workers



Drop off store-bought individually packaged snacks to be delivered to our frontline healthcare workers to show our support and gratitude. A donation box will be at the front of the church every day through Advent. Snacks will be dropped off at UCHHealth Anschutz campus weekly.

Christmas in the Park(ing Lot)

Donate new socks and hand warmers! A donation box will be at the front of the church every day through Advent. Monetary donations can be made online. Donations due by Dec. 24.



Please sign up! King Soopers Rewards Program



St. Luke's depends on this program to help fund our vital

ministries. **To use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program:**

- Go to kingsoopers.com
- Log into your King Soopers account
- Scroll to the bottom of the page to select Community Rewards Program and search for St. Luke's UMC either by name or by code US274 and then click Enroll.

You must have a registered King Soopers or City Market rewards card account to link to St. Luke's. If you do not have a King Soopers or City Market rewards card, they are available at the customer service desk at any King Soopers or City Market and cost you nothing. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and rewards card number. Please contact Lee Seaman at Leemanseaman1492@gmail.com with any questions. Please feel free to ask friends and family to register their cards as well. Everyone grocery shops, let's make some free money for St. Luke's while doing it!



Holiday Light Display Contest

Share in the joy this holiday season and participate in the St. Luke's Holiday Light Display contest. Submit a photo of your holiday light display to office@stlukeshr.com by December 6 to enter.

Voting will take place December 6-25 at midnight. Stay tuned for the link to vote!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLES



Candles for Christmas Eve

This year, in lieu of poinsettias, purchase \$20 worth of battery-operated candles to light our sky and spread the joy on Christmas Eve. Candles can be given in remembrance or celebration. Each candle would contain a sticker signifying what/who the candle is for.

Go to stlukeshr.com to place your order online or email jana@stlukeshr.com



CSE Purpose:

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

Take a look at our website:

stlukesCSE.org



Brave Spaces - Anti-racism Discussion Group

CSE's Brave Spaces is an online opportunity for those who want to engage in conversations to learn more about anti-racism. Our intention is to create a community to discuss racism, learn from each other and support each other on a life-long journey of being an anti-racist. As a group we have shared thoughts and ideas, books, articles and other learning sources that have allowed us to go deeper into these difficult conversations related to racism and social injustice. **Our next 6-week session will be Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22 and Mar. 1.** All are welcome! And, as we fill the need to stay connected and involved prior to our next session we are offering weekly emailed reflections on the important work of anti-racism following the tenets of Advent – Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. This will include quotes, scripture, thoughts, articles and prayers. If you would like to join our conversations or be added to our email list please contact Julie Polikoff (julie.polikoff@msn.com), Jane Staller, Sharon Oliver, or Sallie Suby-Long.

CSE Nourish Experience

Recap: *"My experience with Nourish was beyond excellent! It was truly transformative. The care, intentionality, and grace with which every aspect was shared created a restorative, refreshing and meaningful experience. I am forever grateful for this opportunity. I learned most upon the depth of my energy alignment, releasing and trust. It was such a remarkable experience for me, and the outdoor space added another healing element. All was completely comfortable and gracious and significant."*

Nourish completed its unique 2-part experienced that offered caretaking to one's whole mind, body and spirit.

The Reiki portion was delivered socially

distanced with Melinda's therapeutic hands 'raised', in a serene outdoor pergola, letting the sights and sounds of nature cradle the healing energy at work.

The cooking class interfaced with a virtual platform (for a first time) that let everyone be the experts in their own environments. All participants were offered a Market Basket of the designated ingredients along with a simple step-by-step recipe cookbook. The 2 ½ hour cooking gathering created an instant community of comradery, connection, conversations and laughter! Across our roasting, pureeing and chopping of Melinda's recipes, she incorporated knowledge of health benefits and nutritional pathways through each course.



Giving Tree: Honduras Music Program:

CSE has partnered with Abundant Life Christian School in Yamaranguila, Honduras for several years. We have taken two service teams to Honduras to create a library with books that St. Luke's has purchased. We are now excited to support the school's dream of a music education program. They need to build a physical space for music classes and purchase sheet music and basic instruments. They would like to offer both vocal and instrumental music to the children. Please consider supporting CSE by giving a cash donation to the Giving Tree for the CSE - Honduras Music Program. Look on the home page of St. Luke's website in December for the Virtual Giving Tree. Thank you!

CSE Yoga Update:

Thursday Morning Yoga with Sharon has continued despite the pandemic and we now have 22 videos to choose from! And we were even able to hold three socially-distanced sessions in Fellowship Hall. It was great to be together again - if only temporary. Contact Renae@stlukeshr.com if you'd like to be added to the list to access our yoga videos. Thank You!



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



The month of November started off with a bang!

We were awarded Best Preschool in Douglas County through Macaroni Kids for the sixth year in a row!

We love our community and the support they give us. As a fully-licensed preschool, we have multiple random inspections by Tri-County Health and The Office of Early Childhood annually. In early November, we had our Tri-County Health inspection. Not only did we pass with flying colors with no violations, but they also praised our COVID efforts and how well we are doing during a pandemic. My staff works very hard to keep Little School safe, and this was a wonderful compliment for us.

Being in-session means we just need to re-examine our traditions in a COVID-friendly way. We still had our Halloween Parade, just outside with socially-distanced parents in the parking lot. Our Thanksgiving Feasts still happened, but we did them in the individual classrooms instead of Fellowship Hall. We will be recording our Christmas Program this year to send out as videos instead of squeezing two audiences full of 400 family members into the sanctuary. *My motto has been, we can still do things we did in the past, we just have to be creative with how we do them.* We are proud to offer some normalcy to our Little School families. COVID isn't forever, so we can come up with creative ways to meet the needs of our families and children through this temporary situation. It brings us joy to do so. Our Christmas season is filled with so many wonderful activities. In chapel, we will learn the story of Christmas and of St. Nicholas, and the children will place their shoes under the Christmas tree in hopes that St. Nicholas will visit Little School. In addition, we celebrate the season of Advent with a pancake breakfast cooked by our own building manager, Mr. Barry; we have pajama day coming up; and we have socially distanced visits from Santa himself to help the children celebrate Advent, the Christmas spirit, and Jesus' birth.

In January, we prepare for western weeks and our campfire sing-alongs. Our western weeks align with the stock show being in town, and we enjoy turning Little School into a mini stock show.

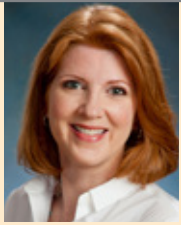
All of us at Little School want to wish you a wonderful season of love, peace, and light.

"Gifts of love and time are surely the ingredients to a truly merry Christmas."

-Anonymous

Grace and Love, Ms. Kelly





Sharon Oliver
Director of
Children's Ministry
sharon@stlukeshr.com



Samantha Leahy
Director of Early
Childhood Ministry
sam@stlukeshr.com

St. Luke's Kids

Growing with God

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 be inspired by God's love.

Please register for the 2020-2021 Sunday School year online to keep our records current and help us stay connected. *Thanks!*

Reimagining Children's Ministry this Fall!

As Children Ministry leaders Ms. Sharon and Ms. Sam have been working hard to reimagine a new way forward for many of our traditional children's programs. We

have had to reimagine how we meet the needs of our families to maintain the safety and health of all.

Fall started off with **Third Grade Bible Sunday** on Sept. 27 and was held at our worship service outside and 10 children received their gift Bibles! Congrats! In October, we held an **Outdoor Family Movie Night** that was so much fun! We had perfect weather and enjoyed "Trolls World Tour" in our church backyard. And we had an awesome **Kids' Bible Study** in November learning about this amazing book, especially Psalm 23 and the Christmas story, even though Ms. Sharon is Zoom-challenged! We held a few outdoor lessons and continue to make our **Sunday School videos** and printable lessons each week - hope you all are tuning in and enjoying your weekly time with us and finding it meaningful. We can't wait to see you in person again for Sunday School!

Traditional summer Wacky Wednesdays moved to a **Wacky Week** and we are now planning several Wacky Weeks throughout the year to accommodate children in smaller groups instead of larger group gatherings. Our first Wacky Week group learned about friendships of the Bible and enjoyed fun play outside, music and crafts, all while staying safe and following our health guidelines. Look for our next Wacky Week in the spring.

We had a great time at our **Trunk or Treat** event where SLY, Jr. partnered with SLY to offer children a chance to get in their costumes and come enjoy some fun and candy and our Pumpkin Patch outside at the church. And **SLY, Jr.** also gathered several times outside, to record children's books for Warren Village, make snack bags for the homeless, run our very own ninja warrior obstacle course, and volunteer at the Feeding of the 5000. Our next gathering is on Dec. 13 for our Christmas party - weather permitting.



Contact us ANY time!
We are grateful for YOU and send blessings!
—Ms. Sharon & Ms. Sam



Join us for Advent!

(see Children's Christmas Eve events on the cover of this issue)

Tree Lighting in the Parking Lot

Sunday Nov. 29 at 6:00pm
- Sign Up Online

Kick Off the Advent season with an outdoor parking lot service with carols, bells and LIGHTS. Come see the church outdoor decorations light up, get a candy cane, glow stick and enjoy a short family-friendly message.

Holiday Shop

Saturday Dec. 12 8:30am-1:30pm - Sign Up Online

Children will have the independence to shop outside (weather permitting) for everyone in the family and delight in the joy of giving! Gifts are \$1-\$10. Kids will have 30 minutes to shop. Sign up online to reserve your spot.

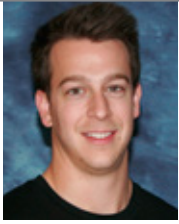
Candy Cane Sunday with prerecorded Children's Christmas Pageant*

Sunday Dec. 13 at 9:00am
(live stream with prerecorded pageant)

Sunday Dec. 13 at 10:30am
(parking lot) - Sign Up Online

See how the Candy Cane represents the Christmas Story and take one home!

***Sign Up for the Pageant Online by Nov. 29** - you will be assigned your individual recording time (children Pre- grade 6) to be part of the prerecorded pageant.
Filming on Dec. 5 from 8:30am-12:30pm.



Jake Smith
Director of
Youth Ministry

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade

Hello! If you didn't know, we had a pumpkin patch!!!

It was wildly successful and a ton of fun! We sold \$50,000 worth of pumpkins! It was a great way to stay involved at the church and see and interact with the community! Thank you to everyone who helped work the patch, move pumpkins or just bought pumpkins. We will use the money raised to improve the youth room and go on mission trips! We are still keeping our fingers crossed on all 3 of our mission trips in 2021 (Guatemala, High School and Middle School).



We have been meeting around the church, and building community in any creative way we can find. We will be transitioning back to ZOOM most likely through the holiday season, but stay tuned to Jake's weekly email for the most up to date info.

Reach out to Jake with any questions, comments, concerns or IDEAS for fellowship. Let's be creative!!!

Yours in Christ, Jake

SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY YOUTH EMAIL.

It's on the church website or email jake@stlukeshr.com



"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

—Melody Beattie



James Ramsey
Director of Music
& Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry/
Organist



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



Chris Rigolini
Director of
Instrumental Music



A Message from Dr. Jim

Many thanks to all of our ensembles for bringing music to our worship experiences during these unconventional times. You have gone above and beyond to bring the Spirit to our community.

Our annual Christmas Cantata is coming to a screen near you!

Thank you to all of our St. Luke's musicians (and our tech team led by Ken Fong) for your commitment and making time for the recordings that will be used for the Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve. **The Cantata will "air" on December 6 at 9:00am during the regularly scheduled live stream service time.** This year will feature pre-recorded music and live music. Share in the joy of this advent season and be Renewed! Please make sure you tune in at some point when its convenient.

Due to the exponential and increasing amount of community spread of COVID19, we are going to suspend large ensemble rehearsals until further notice. I understand it's disappointing but fortunately I believe we have enough recently recorded music to carry worship through the Advent season.

I, along with our amazing Music Team, offer our deepest thanks and appreciation and will work to stay connected in creative ways until we can be together again. I feel blessed and grateful our music ministry was able to accomplish what we did without too much issue these last few months. *Happy Thanksgiving and may you have a very blessed and safe holiday season!*



Safe-Distancing Christmas Carol Sing-a-long!



Since we had so many wonderful responses from our first Hymn Sing, we put together a Christmas Carol Sing-a-long to help with the Holiday Spirits.

Watch for this coming in mid-December.

In the meantime, stock up on your favorite Seasonal snack and libation to cozy up by the fire (or laptop) and join with "Heaven and Nature Singing!"

**Pax,
Ken Mervine**



A 55+ MINISTRY

Seasoned Voyagers is a ministry for our 55 and older crowd

The Seasoned Voyagers have not been able to go on our tours and outings, but that hasn't stopped us from being involved! A number of us have been on a **calling team** reaching out to folks to check in and see how everyone is doing. We hope YOU are doing well.

Betsy Keyack has been leading lots of **mission opportunities** for us. Recently, we provided lunch for the Giving Heart guests who are experiencing homelessness: 50 burritos from Santiagos, pico de gallo, chips, cookies, bananas, bottled water, plus King Soopers gift cards and bus passes. Thanks to Rich and Carleen Krening, Debbie Boucher, Kay Oscai, Suzanne and Ron Humphreys, Julie Gustafson, Linda and Jim Aughenbaugh, Mary and Jerry Schade and anonymous donors who provided the food and/or financial support. Our delivery was much appreciated!



A usual, we continue to support Sedalia Elementary. We purchased pumpkins from our own St. Luke's patch for some of the kids and we are collecting money for Christmas gift cards. Contact Betsy Keyack for more info (bkeyack@att.net).

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PASTORS

is still going! Monthly meetings are scheduled at 2:00pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Meet our new pastors, ask questions, see one another via Zoom! I hope many of you will join us.

If you have ideas for future activities or want more information about our group, contact Rich Krening at 303-589-1839 or Renae Parra (renae@stlukeshr.com).



November Giving Tree

VIRTUAL Giving Tree - Adopt a Child. We are continuing to support Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) and their Adopt-a-child program. But instead of getting a gift and bringing it to the church, go online (stlukeshr.com) through Nov. 30 to sponsor a child and send gifts to IFCS for distribution. Thank You!

Thank YOU!

In this time that has been very different for all of us, we continue to celebrate God's amazing love and we thank you for your kindness and your generosity. In these unique days we trust that God continues to care for us and is present with us.

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

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

Please contact Rex (rex@stlukeshr.com) if you have any financial questions.

UMW Update: Lap Robes for Veterans and More



On November 11th, lap robes were blessed during the worship service. These lap robes will be given to the Veterans Hospital to be presented to Veterans who served our country. The 27 lap robes were made by 5 members of the St. Luke's Itch to Stitch Interest Group. Each lap robe was hand knit or crocheted and a tag with a blessing is included on each blanket. These lap robes provide comfort and care and makes an impact on the recipient. Itch to Stitch is currently working on baby items for the Children's Hospital and scarves for the Christmas shop and for the homeless.

We are United Methodist Women

UMW is open to ALL Women

*We are a community of women who know God;
we experience freedom through Jesus Christ;
we develop a creative and supportive Fellowship;
we are advocates for Justice;
we expand the concepts of Mission;
we support Women, Children and Youth.
And we do all this with prayer through faith,
hope and love in Action.*

*We serve this purpose with
friendship, enjoyment, fun
and the satisfaction and
gratification of being God's
servants -- God gives to us
and we give to others.*



UMW Interest Groups:

- Book Club** – Fourth Monday 7:00pm on Zoom
- January Book: *American Dirt* by Janine Cummins
 - February Book: *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin

For more information contact Teri Burget, teri0962@gmail.com

Itch to Stich – Projects of crochet, knitting, sewing, quilting are all donated to charities.

Individuals are working on projects at home. For more information contact Fran West, mfranwest@gmail.com.

UMW Ladies – A time to connect and chat -- Zoom meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. For further information contact Fran West, mfranwest@gmail.com.

Candlelight Memories

This year the UMW will be sending a surprise in the mail since we can't celebrate together with our annual Candlelight Dinner. *May hope, peace, joy, and love be renewed this Christmas season!*





St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

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



Stephanie Kirk
Office Administrator
M/W/F



Jana Wesson
Office Administrator
T/TH

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Contact Pastor Liza Stoltz Hanson or the Office Administrator if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x107, or email liza@stlukeshr.com or office@stlukeshr.com

Tiffany Alverson,
Valerie Charney,
Helen Cox,
Karen & David Corson,
Debbie Davidson-Stanfill,
Todd Davis,
Ted Dreyer,
Carrie Enloe,
Kristine Fong,

Charles Freese,
Bonnie Garrett,
Mark Godsey,
David Goodin,
Danielle Horgan,
George & June Hutchins,
Brie Katz,
Mary Keyack,
Dennis Laber,
Sarah Long,

Jack Lowney,
Dean Luallen,
Lara Magyar,
Will Maniatis,
Marilyn Miller,
Katie Mueller,
Lauri Murphy,
Margo Naranjo,
Richard O'Neil,
Mike & Lori Preble,

Sharon Smith,
Ethan Sokol,
Kay Tabor,
Kenny Tilt,
Marilyn Ware,
Amy Weiske,
John Wohlleber,
Baby Zander,
Xavier Tan



Congratulations:

On the birth of Noah William Northrop to parents Paul and Kristen Northrop and grandparents Peter and Susan Northrop;
On the marriage of Kristin Speedy and Ryall Struyk;
On the birth of William Bradley to proud parents Andrew and Andrea Mann, proud grandparents Steve and Sheri Larsen;
To Third Grade Bible recipients;
To the Church families on the birth of Brady Anderson Church;
To the Osborn families on the birth of Brianna Grace;
To the Coryell and Kramer families on the birth of Casey Ross Kramer;
On the marriage of Hannah and Ryan Boudreau;
On the marriage of Bennett and Marina McIntosh;
To Brad and Janet Bradbury on the birth of their great grandson, Beckett James Richey born on June 2nd

Sympathies to:

Frank Harris and family on the passing of his wife, Linda Harris;
Randy Smith and family on the passing of his mother; Martha Smith;
Cathy Collins and family on the passing of her mom, Barbara Wightman;
Trudy Turner and family on the passing of her husband, Glenn Turner;
Sharon Williams and family on the passing of her cousin, Jack Karriker;
Terry and Debbie Boucher on the passing of Terry's brother, John Boucher;
Cindy Johnson on the passing of her son, Jay Jorgensen;
Rev. Michele Kaminsky and family on the passing of her stepfather, Jerry Haney;
Rev. Pat and Bill Shaffer and family on the passing of Rev. Pat's mom Agnes Simmons who lived a remarkable 103 years
Andrew Campbell and family on the passing of his grandmother, Doris Campbell;
The family and friends of Norm Veach on his passing