

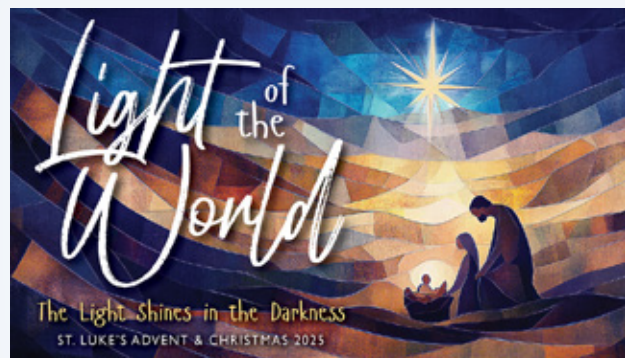


ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Winter

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

**It's GREAT
to Be Here!**



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

Now thru December 31:

GIVING TREE: Support our missions by gifting a donation online stlukeshr.com or taking a tag from our tree.

Sunday December 14: ADVENT 3: LOVE

CANDY CANE SUNDAY/WORSHIP.....9:30 & 11:00am
(Rev. Calob Rundell)

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SHOP.....10:30-11:30am

Children can shop independently for their family and delight in the joy of giving! Gifts are \$3-\$10. Little School shops Dec. 10-12.

CHRISTMAS PUPPET SHOW.....4:00pm

Silas Angel—the Christmas Curmudgeon is a tale that will bring warmth and laughter to your heart. Enjoy this family-friendly musical holiday performance by our Puppet Ministry.

Monday December 15:

DENVER BRASSARIES QUINTET CONCERT.....7:00pm

Fun holiday brass music! Sponsored by Music & Arts Ministries.

Thursday December 18:

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BUS TOUR.....6:00pm

Hop on the St. Luke's bus to go tour Christmas lights in our community. RSVP with sam@stlukeshr.com

Sunday December 21: ADVENT 4: PEACE

WORSHIP.....9:30 & 11:00am
(Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson)

Wednesday December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
(3:00, 5:00 & 9:00pm livestreamed)

CHILDREN'S.....1:00 & 3:00pm

(Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson) A family worship experience featuring our Puppet Ministry, Kidz Prayz & Cherubs Choirs, Worship Band and Joyful Noise Handbells.

TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm
(Rev. Calob Rundell) Traditional carols and candles service featuring the Chancel Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, and Tintinnabulators Handbell Ensemble.

COMMUNION.....9:00pm
(Rev. Calob Rundell) Communion service with Soloists and Organ.

Sunday December 28: NEW YEAR'S EVE SUNDAY WORSHIP.....9:30 & 11:00am
(Rev. Calob Rundell) (Family Worship - No Sunday School)

Sunday January 4, 2026: EPIPHANY KINGS SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION/WORSHIP.....9:30 & 11:00am
(Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson) Join us as our 15 ft. tall Magi puppets and their entourage present their gifts to the Christ child.

Pick up pre-ordered breakfast burritos to benefit the Guatemala mission.

Outperforming Expectations

The annual Feeding of the 5000 Community Food Drive at St. Luke's returned October 3-5, 2025, surpassing last year's totals and strengthening partnerships across the South Metro area. This year, St. Luke's joined forces with St. Andrew and the local LDS Stake, expanding volunteer involvement and community reach.

Eight King Soopers locations participated throughout the weekend, helping generate 34,555 pounds of donated food—exceeding last year's record—as well as more than \$9,000 in cash contributions. In addition, the annual Feeding of the 5K run/walk raised another \$1,900 in support of the Food Exchange Resource Network (FERN).

All food donations were shared between FERN and the St. Andrew's Market. FERN, a collaborative food resource network, provides support to an estimated 1,000 families each week, making these contributions especially meaningful. The Feeding of the 5000 drive has a long history at St. Luke's and remains one of the South Metro area's premier food donation events. Each year, dozens of dedicated volunteers give their time to staff storefront collection sites, drive pick-up vehicles, sort and pack donations at St. Luke's, and deliver goods to FERN.

Organizers extended heartfelt thanks to every volunteer and donor who made this year's event a success. We give a special shout out to the Preble family who make the Feeding of the 5000 happen and put in countless hours. "Because of the generosity and hard work of our community, thousands of families will receive the food support they need," organizers said. "We are grateful for everyone who contributed—see you again next year."



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

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL:
9:30am PreK-12th grade
Nursery available with reservation
Church Office.....303-791-0659
Email.....office@stlukeshr.com
Website.....www.stlukeshr.com
Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com
Little School Office.....303-791-1982



Staff

Rev. Calob Rundell.....x105
Lead Minister

Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson.....x107
Associate Minister

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Samantha Leahy.....x140
Dir. of Community & Early Childhood Ministry

Sharon Oliver.....x127
Dir. of Children's Ministry & Comm. Creative Dir.

Josey Seevers.....x128
Director of Youth Ministry

Kit Campbell.....x110
Office Administrator

Melissa Graham.....x124
Director of Finance

Jessica Shelton.....x116
Financial Assistant

Barry Curtis.....x144
Facilities Manager

Our next issue of *The Chronicle*
will be the Lent/Spring issue.

Content due Feb. 20, 2026

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

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



Rev. Calob Rundell
Lead Minister
calob@stlukeshr.com

Leaning in to Advent

People of St. Luke's, it has been a full fall season in the life of St. Luke's! There were so many ways we gathered for worship, serve others, build community, grow in our faith, and have fun together. I want to invite you to take a look at everything that is mentioned in this issue of *The Chronicle*. Take a look at the gatherings and events that took place. What were you able to be a part of? Maybe there's something you want to be a part of in the future the next time it comes around.

I also want to invite you to look forward to the season of Advent that started on November 30th. Advent is a time of preparing our hearts, minds, and souls for the experience of Christmas. This is one of two intentional times of preparation in the life of the church that leads us to an encounter with Jesus. (The other season is Lent that leads us to Easter.)

During Advent we lean into four aspects of our faith in Jesus: Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace. Each of these aspects are so needed in our lives and in our world. As news of political strife and conflict afflicts the world, we proclaim Hope that God is indeed with us in the birth, life, death, resurrection, and teachings of Jesus. When the circumstances of life are not what we want them to be, we find Joy in the compassion of Christ. In a culture that can foster isolation, we seek to live with Love towards others. And in the midst of systems that survive through strife, we proclaim the blessing of Peace.

This Advent season, see you at St. Luke's! *Peace, Rev. Calob*



Challenge is On!

During the month of December, you're invited to take on The Advent Challenge! Starting on December 1st, read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day. There are 24 chapters in Luke, meaning you will have read the entire book by Christmas Eve. The meaning of The Advent Challenge is to be more open to the wonder of Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. And what better way to celebrate Jesus, than by being more familiar with His story. To help us get the most out of each chapter, there will be a short 10-15 minute study video from Rev. Calob for each day. You can find these videos on the church's social media channels, specifically Facebook and Instagram. These videos will provide historic context, highlight interesting themes, and provide space for questions that come from the chapter.



Join us for our sermon series for Jan. 11-Feb. 15, 2026.

YOU HAVE A PLACE: We are all invited to a part in God's story. Characters from the Bible that teach us we all have a place in God's work

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, September 28, all sorts of pets and their humans gathered in the church's back yard for the annual Blessing of the Animals. The clergy team blessed each pet with words and the laying on of hands, and their people received a special certificate to remember the blessing. Each pet also got a special St. Luke's tag for their collar. Thanks to everyone who brought their animal friends to be blessed.



SOUL Ministers are trained to work with individuals with dementia, those in senior living communities, anyone in the midst of a significant life transition, or in need of a supportive caring connection. If you are interested in receiving SOUL Minister support, email SOUL@stlukeshr.com or contact Rev. Liza.





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

Study Leave January 2026 - Q&A

Dear St. Luke's,
With much excitement and gratitude, I want to share that I have been approved for a month-long study leave in early 2026! As I have planned and prepared for this opportunity, and discussed the possibility with staff and leadership teams at St. Luke's, a common set of questions



have surfaced so I thought it would be fun to share more about this study leave in a FAQ-style format!

Q: What is Study Leave? A: Every four years, up to four weeks of study leave are available for full-time clergy serving under the same appointment. This guideline falls under Clergy Support and Continuing Education in the policies and procedures of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference, and is not considered vacation time.

Q: What was the approval process? A: I first mentioned the possibility to Rev. Calob who offered his unwavering support. In August, I presented my proposal and syllabus for a potential study leave to our Staff Parish Relations Team (SPRT) who voted unanimously in approval. That proposal was submitted to our District Superintendent, Rev. Jessica Rooks, who gave the final sign-off. *(Oh, of course Denton also gave his approval since my syllabus includes some travel away from home!)*

Q: Why now? A: As I said, clergy are eligible for study leave every four years. I have had the honor of serving St. Luke's for five-and-a-half years! Since 2020, ministry has been fun, challenging, life-giving, soul-filling, and fast-paced! I feel a tug to recenter my soul and spiritual practices, remember my call to ministry, and renew my mind, body, and soul for the next five-and-a-half years of ministry.

Q: What are you going to study? A: In the syllabus I created, I have a different focus for each week of the leave.

WEEK 1 - Rest and Reflect: This week, I will intentionally reflect on the last 5 years and review where there have been successes and where there have been missteps. I will return to the important readings that influenced me in seminary and at different points in my journey of spiritual formation. For this week, I will travel to Minnesota and Wisconsin for a personal retreat and time to reconnect with my roots.

WEEK 2 - Imagine and Investigate: My goal for this week is to dive into a handful of books, podcasts, and webinars that I have bookmarked as "when I have time." I never have time! Many of these resources share the topic of leadership, innovation in ministry, and generational studies.

WEEK 3 - Prioritize Peace: Thanks to a grant from the conference Ministerial Education Fund, I will travel to St. Simon's Island, GA and attend a 5-day clergy retreat led by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center on the topics of Family Systems, Conflict Transformation, and Reconciliation Practices. This is a retreat that has been on my bucket list for several years and I am looking forward to the experience.



WEEK 4 - Inspire and Integrate: Following the retreat, I will be intentional about planning for the integration of ideas into my daily spiritual practices and ministry at St. Luke's! I have additional items on my reading list for this time and I am sure there will be follow-up reading from the retreat that I will want to review while it is fresh.

Q: What are the dates? A: The leave begins on Wednesday, January 7. My first Sunday back leading worship will be February 8 and I will be back to my regular schedule then.

Q: How can we reach you during your Study Leave? A: Great question! My intention is that you will not have reason to! My areas of ministry will continue to be led by the lay leaders who are in leadership roles: SOUL Ministry, Prayer Team, Friday Bible Study, and Pub Theology. Our incredible clergy team and staff will handle care needs and anything else that may arise and will be in touch with me, if needed.

Thanks, St. Luke's! As always, I appreciate this supportive and loving community that cares for our clergy and staff. I can't wait to share the new and inspiring things I will learn during this time.

Peace and Grace, Rev. Liza

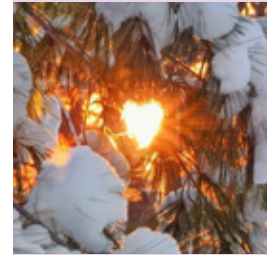


Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long, LPC
Minister of
Healing & Wellbeing
Director – Center for
Spiritual Engagement
sallie@stlukeshr.com

Presence

In early October, Tom and I had the joy of welcoming another grandchild to our family. Little Rumi's arrival has invited me to again reflect more intentionally on the question of what matters most. Truthfully, the answer for me is simple, yet complex. One thing I know for sure is that

being fully present right here and right now



matters. Not only does this encourage peacefulness, it also ensures that we don't miss out on the actual day-to-day moments of our lives. Even as I write this, I smile because I know the practice of being

present can be rather challenging for me. I have a strong tendency to look back and wonder or to look forward and think about what's next.

Thank you, all, for offering who you are to create remarkable experiences and to offer your intentional presence. You inspire me! Our Fall season has been filled with many opportunities in our St. Luke's community. I'm grateful for the spirited energy, creativity and generosity that fills St. Luke's and extends to our broader community. I love the team work that centers us in meaningful ministries and that stretches us to see beyond what is familiar to new learning and partnerships and presence.

Now, in this full and sacred season, my hopeful and sincere intention is to experience the authenticity of being right here, right now. To be present. To trust that God is present. To offer presence. To notice what is beautiful, difficult, inspiring, heartbreaking, authentic, concerning, joyful, and true. To welcome all of it. To feel all of it. To invite time and expansiveness of spirit that lovingly welcomes our own souls and the souls of others. To take a breath and notice what is. To feel a whole range of emotions without judgement but rather with curiosity and acceptance.

The words of this blessing seem to invite presence. It was shared by friends who generously offer presence that is kind and unwavering. I hope these words may bless you, too, as we embrace this season of light and love with everything it brings.

*"May the sun bring you new energy by day.
May the moon softly restore you by night...
May the breeze blow new strength into
your being.*

*May you walk gently through the world
and know its beauty all the days of your life."
-Apache Blessing*

Gratefully, Rev. Dr. Sallie

Quilts of Valor: Janet Fethke & Bob West

This year, two Quilts of Valor were presented in worship on Sunday, November 9. These beautiful quilts were created over 5 months in monthly meetings. Half-a-dozen St. Luke's Itch-to-Stitch members worked on these quilts, sorted through red, white, and blue patterned fabrics, created a design, and did the piece work. The machine quilting for both quilts was generously donated by a local quilter. Thank you to Itch-to-Stitch for this important ministry!



Quilt of Valor Recipient - Janet Fethke: After completing nursing school in 1964, Janet felt called to serve her country after a recruiter visited her graduating class. Alongside her roommate, she decided that joining the military "sounded like a good idea"—a choice that would shape her life. She entered the United States Air Force and began a career of service that lasted four and a half years. Stationed first in Biloxi, Mississippi, she not only fulfilled her duties as a nurse but also met Bill Fethke, the man who would become her husband. Later, her service took her overseas to Tokyo, Japan, where her family grew with the birth of a daughter. After leaving the Air Force, she continued her vocation by working as a school nurse in several elementary schools. She helped raise three grandchildren, two of whom lived with her for most of their childhoods. Her home has always been a place of stability, love, and guidance. St. Luke's has been grateful for the leadership and support of Janet and Bill Fethke and their family for well over 30 years. Our Music and Arts Ministry has greatly benefitted from this veteran and her family.

Quilt of Valor Recipient - Bob West: First Lieutenant Bob West served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1968, entering through ROTC at Mississippi State University. Choosing to volunteer rather than be drafted, he embraced the discipline and honor of military service during a pivotal time in history. His training began at Aberdeen, Maryland, followed by Fort Lee, Virginia, where he joined a class of 100 officers preparing for assignments. Though Vietnam was a possibility, his path led him to the New Cumberland Army Depot in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. There, he worked in the International Logistics Center, overseeing shipments, making important connections, and ensuring supplies reached their destinations around the world. After his discharge, he returned to Mississippi State to earn his master's degree, completed reserve duty, and eventually moved to Colorado. He built a successful 30-year career in insurance while continuing to live out the values of discipline, honor, and service instilled by the Army. At St. Luke's, we are blessed to have not only his presence in the choir, as well as his reliable volunteer work at Love Inc, but his steady leadership as a Stephen Ministry leader for many years and now a SOUL Minister.



HAAT Force Thanks YOU!

Thank you to all at St. Luke's who supported HAAT's Fall Fundraising campaign and silent auction! Since 2010, HAAT Force (Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force) has been providing severe weather motel vouchers to people experiencing homelessness in the South Metro area. With your help over the years, HAAT Force has blessed our unhoused neighbors with life-sustaining safety, comfort and dignity during snowstorms and bitter cold. When HAAT Force guests come for their motel vouchers at Spirit of Hope UMC, they are offered hospitality and a hot lunch. With the help of community partners, they are also given frozen dinner meals, and non-perishable breakfast items and snacks, hygiene items, baby formula, diapers, pet food and for longer motel stays, non-perishable lunch items. When you support HAAT Force, "you are feeding a child, supporting a parent, warming the heart of someone who has felt forgotten, and reminding them that their community cares. Our clients are so thankful to receive such thoughtful care...we are THANKFUL FOR YOU!"

HAAT Force welcomes volunteers, too! Contact jhall@haatforce.org.

Women in Faith!

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

At St. Luke's we strive to meet these goals with all we do in the three interest groups that meet monthly and our annual gathering of all women and teen girls.



United Women in Faith

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



Thanks to everyone that participated in our recent Fall Bake Sale. We took in a little over \$1,000 dollars from generous donations. The money has been distributed to our youth and four local agencies.

We have also committed \$200 to the Guatemala Milk Project above and beyond the Giving Tree Donations. This is the only distribution that gets made in March and the St. Luke's team will be part of the distribution process to these families.

Interest Groups:

Common Thread: 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. Contact Betty Ludlam

Itch to Stitch: 3rd Saturday at 10:00am. Contact Victoria Mason vlm23@q.com

Book Club: 4th Mondays, contact Teri Burget, teri0962@gmail.com We start with a potluck at 6:15 and begin the discussion on the book at 7:00pm. We do not meet in December. Upcoming books:

- 1/26 **Book Club for Troublesome Women** by Marie Bostwick
- 2/23 **Lady Tan's Circle of Women** by Lisa See
- 3/23 **Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY 31, 2026 - District Mission and Mentoring gathering at Green Mountain UMC. More information will follow.

FEBRUARY 21, 2026 - Noon to 3:00pm - All Women and Teen Girls invited for Soup and Salad lunch with special guest. Speaker and topic TBA

Keep checking the United Women in Faith link on the St. Luke's website or contact Betty Ludlam at betty.ludlam1718@gmail.com for more information.



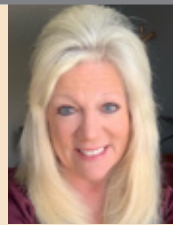
Melissa Graham
Director of Finance

financedirector@
stlukeshr.com

Finance Update: Giving Gratitude

Thank you for your giving this year. You can view your current gifts & pledge amounts on their Servant Keeper Member Portal: <https://giving.servantkeeper.com/stlukeshr> Did you know you can track your giving to St. Luke's through our online donor portal Servant Keeper? As we near the end of 2025, we invite you to view your giving statements online. All your giving to St. Luke's, even a check in the mail, is recorded in Servant Keeper. And you can view it at any time. You will need to create an account with Servant Keeper first, if you haven't done so yet. To create your account, go to: <https://giving.servantkeeper.com/stlukeshr/member/login/signup> and enter the email address you use to receive church communication. **If anyone has questions about their giving statement or pledge amounts, they can email Jessica Shelton, our financial assistant directly at jessicas@stlukeshr.com.** If you have any login questions or issues, please email Melissa - financedirector@stlukeshr.com

The 4th Annual Silent Auction raised \$3,901.22. Special thank you to ALL of our auction donors. We really appreciate their support of St. Luke's with the time and effort they put into making their creative fun baskets, services, pictures, activities and other creative gifts. The auction would not have been a success without the generosity of everyone involved. We look forward to doing it again next year.



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community
& Early Childhood
Ministry

sam@stlukeshr.com

Community and the Holidays

As we approach this holiday season, let's remember that the most meaningful experiences come from the moments we share with others. Whether you're continuing long-standing family traditions, creating new ones, or finding ways to give back to your community, your presence, and efforts will leave a lasting impact. The holidays are more than just a series of celebrations—they're a time to reconnect, give thanks, and build a foundation of unity that will carry us into the new year with a sense of purpose and hope.

Here at St. Luke's we offer many ways for folks to be in community especially during the holidays. Please look to our Advent calendar and our Get Connected center in the Narthex for events that will bring JOY to your holiday season and into the new year.



Pub Theology continues to be an awesome opportunity for faith and fellowship! This fall we leaned into conversations

around the table. We talked about our shared common ground in October and in November we talked about a Christian theology of the Table - a place where it seemed that Jesus preferred to share in community. **We will take December off, and return in January with guest speaker, our District Superintendent, Rev. Jessica Rooks.**

Keep an eye out for confirmed dates and locations!



Potluck & Board Game Nights

Once a month, you're invited to Game Night at St. Luke's! There's potluck dinner and fellowship at around 5:30, and then games get going around 6:30. You can bring a favorite

board, card, or social game to play, and there is an extensive library of games each time. There is always at least three different games to join, from the complicated and involved to the simple and silly. mjfr0g

Unplug and join us at our monthly Potluck and Board Game Night! Winter dates are: Saturday, January 31 • Friday, February 20 • Friday, March 27. Bring a potluck dish to share. Board games and cards will be provided but if you have a favorite game, please bring it!

Sponsored by the Lay Leader Team.



Seniors at St. Luke's

Seniors at St. Luke's offers ample activities and events for those active 55 and older adults within our community.

In September Vern and Eileen Coy led a beautiful scenic drive to experience the leaves changing colors. This annual **leaf peeping** excursion ended with a delicious lunch at Beau Jo's.

History, hauntings and happy hour collided at the historic Highlands Ranch mansion as we embarked on the **Spirits with Spirits Tour** in October. We followed guides through dimly lit rooms and shadowy hallways, hearing real accounts of strange happenings and paranormal encounters collected over the decades. A spooky time was had by all!

In November we offered a **flower arranging class** led by our very own floral designer extraordinaire

Lisa Weddel open to everyone in the church. All went home with a one of a kind centerpiece for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our **Seniors Dining Group** groups gather monthly to enjoy a meal out together. Sharing a meal is a fundamental human activity that strengthens relationships and provides an opportunity to enjoy a new or favorite restaurant with a group, creating shared memories. Join us!

Men's Social Breakfast Club This men's group meets on the last Monday of each month at 7:30am at the local Village Inn. Contact Steve Stine at ssstine@zivaro.com

Join us on the first Tuesday of every month with **Conversations with the Pastor** in the Chapel to meet with a pastor for an open forum discussion and to ask questions. No subject is off limits. Open to everyone.

For more information on our senior events and activities check out the website or email sam@stlukeshr.com.



Meet Our Lay Leaders

Lay leaders encourage discipleship, listen to the congregation, share information with clergy and church leaders when needed, answer questions and focus the broad ministry of the church.

Susan McIntosh: Susan is one of three Co-Lay Leaders for the Mountain Sky Conference. She serves on the Board of Directors for the General Board of Church and Society (ask her about the Social Principles!), and was a delegate to the two most recent Western Jurisdiction Conferences, helping to elect Bishop Kristin Stoneking. The team is currently focusing on ways to re-engage the laity at all levels. As a former teacher and agile coach, she is always finding ways to create a more just and compassionate world.



Karin Wesson: "Hi! My husband, Scott, and I have been at St. Luke's since 2001. This community has been a big part of our lives, with fellowship, friendship and support throughout the years. If we have not met, please come introduce yourself. I would love to make a connection!"



Lunch Mission Gratitude

by Kristin Foster Cooking is an area I have never felt confident in. I am the person who brings fruit to a party. Yet, ironically, my heart yearns to help people who are hungry. Before moving to Colorado I was involved in Meals on Wheels (the delivering part), feeding families who lived in churches (I signed up for the beverages and sides), and helping students get meals during the summer and holiday breaks (again, the delivering part). Thankfully, when we moved to Colorado over 14 years ago, we joined St. Luke's and the church gave me an opportunity to feed people without having to be a chef. I started out purchasing peanut butter and jelly for lunches for people in need and making these simple paper bag meals during an evening service conducted by Rev. Brad Laurvick. Sam Leahy and I began delivering meals to downtown Denver when Rev. Ryan Canaday became our pastor. Our lunch crew has changed over the years, but the mission has stayed the same... feeding the hungry. I am grateful for the generous people I have met over the years making these lunches. I am also grateful to Rev. Jerry Herships who spearheaded this amazing mission and taught me that "putting more love in the world" is how I want to live this life.



Fall 2025 Sermon Series Recaps

Journeys of Hope: Exodus

During the month of September, Sunday morning messages during worship focused on the story of Exodus. We followed along as God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush and told him to go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the people go. We then traveled with the people out into the wilderness on a roundabout way. And then we commiserated with the people as they asked "Is The Lord among us or not?" God responded with food and water to assure the people The Lord was indeed with them, as God assures us that God is with us.



Journeys of Hope: People and The Land

In October, we focused Sunday morning messages on the story of who gets to live where. This month we were particularly sensitive to the history of native peoples and the loss of land. Rev. Matt Franks, lead minister of Castle Rock United Methodist Church, joined us as a guest preacher on October 12th. Rev. Franks is a member of the Cherokee Nation with Sac and Fox heritage.



Sacred & Holy Moments

November is a month of tradition during Sunday morning worship at St. Luke's. The four Sunday of November each have their own theme that makes each sacred (The fifth Sunday of November is part of the season of Advent.) On the first Sunday, we marked All Saints Day when we remember loved ones who have passed from this life to the life eternal. This service was marked with special music, candle lighting, and a special sung communion liturgy from Dr. Jim and Rev. Sallie. The second Sunday was Veterans' Sunday, where we presented two quilts of valor and had special music from the kids choir. The third Sunday started a new tradition at St. Luke's: Christ The King Sunday. This is a day when we seek to understand what it means to follow Jesus and seek the Kingdom of God that is so different than our worldly kingdoms. The month concludes with Thanksgiving Sunday when we express gratitude.



Guatemala March 2026 - Burritos, Milk and Scholarships

Our team from St. Luke's is getting ready for our March 2026 trip to Guatemala through Pura Vida. The entire congregation is part of this mission! The team's primary focus will be fostering our relationships with friends, partners and families in Guatemala.

While in Guatemala, we will be doing the following:

- Helping with home construction for families in great need. These homes provide safety and dignity for our brothers and sisters in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. Our recipient families this year are Lucia, with children ages 22, 15, 13, 11 and 9 and Angelica, with son aged 4 (see photo). To help raise funds for home construction, we will again be selling homemade burritos! We will be taking pre-paid orders after worship services and online. Burritos can be picked up on January 4, Three Kings Sunday.
- Helping with the distribution of the annual Guatemala Christmas Milk. Every year, St. Luke's collects donations to purchase bags or canisters of powdered milk, each of which makes 5 gallons of milk for a family. This helps provide months of vital nutrition to chronically malnourished children. Milk is not commonly available in the Western Highlands due to the expense. You can donate to the Christmas Milk on our St. Luke's December Giving Tree.
- Visiting Pura Vida Scholarship Students. Pura Vida's primary mission is education of children and youth. Through Pura Vida's tremendously life-impacting Student Scholarship Program, we are provided the opportunity to financially support (sponsor) students so they can get an education, from grade school through high school and even beyond. It costs \$48 a month for K-12 students. Student sponsors are greatly impacted by the relationships that they enjoy with their students. See www.puravida.org for photos and information on students who need sponsors and how to sponsor a student!

These are great opportunities to make a difference in the lives of families in Guatemala! Thank you, St. Luke's for this 20-year relationship through Pura Vida and all your support! HAAT Force Thanks You!



WPTC 26th Season! **Annie & Kringle Magic** ... and **Shrek** on the way!

Wesley Players Theatre Company (WPTC) is so grateful to St. Luke's UMC and our supportive friendships with so many here!

Our cast, crew and orchestra for *Annie* numbered over 75, but there were countless other volunteers who make all of our productions the best they can be. We performed our production of *Annie* for more than 1,000 enthusiastic audience members who expressed that they loved the message of overcoming our own personal hardships through creating better lives for those around us.



Live theatre always results in a few stories to tell, here are a few of them: Our dear Caleb Heaton, lifelong member of St. Luke's, was planning to play Oliver Warbucks in the show. Unfortunately, being a singer is an athletic endeavor, and he suffered an injury as many athletes do. Because of this he was unable to complete his role, and Matthew Izmirian stepped in as his understudy with 10 days to go before the show! We are so grateful to Matthew for filling the role of Daddy Warbucks so well. And Caleb was awesome as our vocal musical director. And thanks to a large matching anonymous donor pledge, *Annie* was our biggest donation show thus far!



In November, our latest Mountainville readers theater adventure, *Mr. Kringle Goes to Town*, offered so much holiday Hallmark-worthy fun! Jack Kennedy writes the hilarious and heartwarming scripts and the actors each bring multiple roles to life and Rev. Calob made his WPTC debut! We raised over \$1500 to distribute amongst 3 different mission organizations and WPTC!

SPRING SHOW: Auditions for *Shrek* are Dec. 13 & 14 and the performance is Feb. 26-Mar. 1, 2026! Mark your calendars!

We always welcome volunteers—front of house, props building—whatever job you like, we will find a place for you! wesleyplayers.org



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

**Chancel Choir,
Worship Band,
Soul Purpose
Youth Choir,
Wesley Players,
Puppets**



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

**Grace Notes,
Men's Chorus,
Sisters of Soul**



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

**Tintinnabulators,
Joyful Noise,
Tone Chimes,
Kidz Prayz,
Cherubs,
Flute Ensemble**



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

**Brass Ensemble,
Wind Ensemble,
Ministers of
Swing, Orchestra**



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

**Kidz Prayz,
Tone Chimes,
Soul Purpose
Youth Choir**



Musical Light Shines this Advent Season

As we begin every Church Year with the Four Weeks of Advent (a season of waiting, longing, anticipation, and preparation) we are called to meditate and pray on themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. Our Music and Arts ministry team has been working with the Clergy and all of our music ministers in planning and preparing services that reflect the personal, communal, and global messages of The Season.

Each Sunday of Advent, we light the Advent Wreath Candle: May our closing words to the sung response give us pause for "Bring hope to the world, Bring Peace to the Earth, and fill us with Love's pure Light!" As the glow of the wreath increases, so may our light (in prayer and action) bring Comfort and Joy.

We hope you all can attend some (or all) of the Liturgies and Advent/Christmas/Epiphany events. **From all of us in Music & Arts,**

May all your Holy-Days be filled with Health, Harmony, and Happiness!

Looking ahead:

Please mark your calendars for January 18 at 3:00pm - our second (perhaps annual)

Handbell and Organ Concert

"By Request": Showcasing the extraordinary talents of our Tintinnabulators and Joyful Noise Ringers and the colorful array of sounds from our magnificent Organ.

A tribute to MLK and JRR Tolkien (*The Lord of the Rings*) will be part of the program as well as a new work by Canadian Composer, Denis Bedard! Stay tuned for further details.

We welcome you! For more information on our Music & Arts ensembles, email or talk to Dr. Jim, Kay, Chris, Angela or me.

—Kenrick Mervine

November Marked 25 Years of Wesley Players!

The "unofficial" birthday of Wesley Players was Nov. 17, 2000, when the first of two performances of *Godspell* was presented in the then-new Sanctuary kicking off our first season. Twenty-five years is something to celebrate, of course, and celebrate we did... throughout 2025.

We presented *Mary Poppins* in late February, and that big stage musical drew sellout crowds and outstanding performances for all ages. The show was directed by WPTC Artistic Director Roberta Hamilton-Griggs. *The Dining Room* followed in April, making use of the more intimate space of the Performing Arts Academy (PAA), and the show was reprised in July in the Historic Elitch Theatre in Denver. This moving drama expanded our company and its reach. We brought back a favorite "small musical," *Dear Edwina*, in June, performed in the Fellowship Hall. And in October we started our 26th season by returning to the Sanctuary for the musical *Annie* and wrapped up 2025 with *Mr. Kringle Goes to Town*, a readers theater adaptation written by Jack Kennedy and performed at PAA.

Of course, we couldn't be successful without the incredible partnership that endures with St. Luke's. Thanks to the clergy and the entire church leadership team for their whole-hearted support of theater and community, and to the larger St. Luke's membership for many years of support. **We are thrilled to be able to sponsor 7 solar panels for the church!** We look forward to our next big musical, *Shrek*, Feb. 26-March 1, and a new year of "creating community, one show at a time."



CSE Purpose:

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

stlukesCSE.org



Counseling & Consultation with

Dr. Sallie Suby-Long –
Licensed Professional Counselor

Sallie welcomes you to care for your health and wellbeing and is honored to be present with you as together you identify creative strategies for enhanced emotional, mental and spiritual wellness. Her approach is individualized, respectful and compassionate as she supports you to navigate change and challenges, identify new possibilities, and develop approaches for greater fulfillment. Sallie is a Licensed Professional Counselor and holds a PhD in education with an emphasis in psychology, a Master of Arts in spiritual care, and a Master of Science in human development. For a conversation to explore your hopes and goals, contact Sallie.

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

CSE Offers Spiritual Engagement to ALL

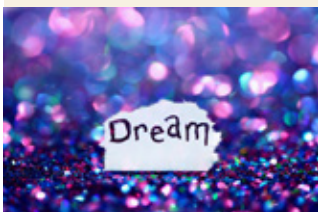
Join us for any upcoming event - email Sallie@stlukeshr.com for more information.

Coming Up in 2026!

Vision Boards Class

Saturday, Jan. 10 - 10:00-11:30am

What dreams have you been putting off waiting for the right moment? Waiting for the kids to be raised, the husband to retire, the grandkids to come along,



the economy to get better... etc. We all make excuses for our

fears, for the right time, for enough money. Now is the time to put yourself FIRST... and no, this is NOT a selfish act. Energy flows where attention goes. Our Vision Board class will help you recognize your dreams, your goals, your desires for the future. Join us for this energizing and eye-opening class and see how it impacts your new year! No previous experience necessary; no artistic talent required! Class will be led by Diane Lindsay and Renae Parra. Fee \$10; supplies provided. Contact Renae at RenaeParra@aol.com to reserve your spot.

Thursday Morning Yoga

with Sharon Oliver in the Chapel

Thursdays starting Jan. 22

9:15-10:00am

Men in Community

with Bryan Hutchinson The experience engages participants in informal conversations about relevant topics and offers a chance to connect with other men regarding everyday aspects of life... family, work, faith, challenges, transitions, goals and hopes. You are welcome to join in anytime! **We meet 1st & 3rd Mondays at 5:00pm.**

Watch for...

- **Wellbeing Sessions** including a **NEW Drama Wellbeing Workshop**
- **Outdoor Adventures**
- **Cultural Adventures**
- **Brave Space Offerings** including **MLK Parade & Creation Care Opportunities**
- **Classes, Retreats, and more!**

15-Year Anniversary Thanks!

Thank you for celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Center for Spiritual Engagement with us in September. This ministry has been led by Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long since its inception. We are so blessed to have this ministry at St. Luke's. If you missed seeing our 15 year video during church, you can find a link to it on the home page of our website. Take a look and see how many people you recognize! Thank you to Sharon Oliver for the creation of this piece of visual art. Our thanks, also, to Melinda Davidson and Jennifer Smith for the beautiful, natural decor they created in the Fellowship Hall. They generously provided the delicious cookie bars and fruit kabobs we served at our celebration. Many of you remarked about our beautiful new team name tags. Thanks to Michelle Lamoreaux for getting us those and for making our anniversary bookmarks. A very special thank you to our team lead, Renae Parra, for overseeing each detail of the event! We are grateful to our entire CSE team for years of dedicated and thoughtful ministry. They have made a remarkable difference in our community through offering their talents, wisdom, and generosity of spirit as they live the CSE purpose: to foster healing and wholeness of mind, body, heart, and spirit through experiences that inspire connection, wellbeing, and service to our community.



In honor of our 15th anniversary and to express our gratitude, we decided to present some special gifts to our St. Luke's community. CSE purchased the new furniture in the hallway to the Chapel and also pledged the purchase of 10 solar panels for the St. Luke's *Let There Be Light Solar Project*.



We celebrate our community for the excellent partnership we have been privileged to share over the past 15 years and we look forward to all that is ahead for the CSE ministry!

Following is a list of our CSE leaders; they bring their hearts, deep wisdom, and faithful commitment to all they do! **Thank You!**

CSE Leadership Team:

Melinda Davidson, Suanne Ediger, Lisa Heaton (2025 Lay Liaison), Janet Johnston (Cultural Adventures), Michelle Lamoreaux, Sharon Oliver, Renae Parra (Team Lead), Julie Polikoff (Outdoor Adventures), Jennifer Smith, Jane Staller (Outdoor Adventures), and Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long (Director)

Brave Spaces Social Justice Team: Audrey Elling, Kathleen Hart, Betsy Keyack, Julie Polikoff, Jane Staller, Sharon Oliver and Sallie Suby-Long

Brave Spaces Creation Care Team: Cathy Collins, Bob Oliver, Susan McIntosh, Caroline Merchant, Sharon Oliver, Nichole Rairigh, Ryan Rairigh, Thomas Suby-Long, and Sallie Suby-Long



CSE Fall Recaps

Peaceful & Bright CSE hosted a beautiful evening on Dec. 9 to help center us during the busy Christmas season. The peace and light of the chapel, the welcoming decor, the delicious homemade cookies, the meaningful readings that reflected the many emotions of this season, and the lovely and transcendent holiday music from Sandy Larson on the piano brought both depth and lightness connecting every part of the evening.

Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run

The annual Healing Run commemorates the Sand Creek Massacre and provides spiritual healing for the Cheyenne and Arapaho people and their allies by following the route of the attacking soldiers from the massacre site to Denver. The Brave Spaces team in partnership with our St. Luke's community contributed over \$1500 to help sponsor Native American elders and descendants who participated in the run. Our team also had the meaningful experience of preparing and helping to serve breakfast to the runners and support team on Sunday morning, Oct. 26. Following the breakfast, we gathered at the Capitol to witness the closing ceremony and to hear the music, history, vision and prayers offered by elders and descendants.

Fall Cultural Adventures

Eight of us enjoyed lunch at Haveli Indian restaurant in September. October's



Cultural Adventure was an unplanned tie-in to the sermon series *People & The Land*. We met at the American Museum of Western Art and participated in an engaging tour led by a passionate volunteer who helped us look for the historic significance, cultural practices, and emotional depth in day-to-day western life, Native American life, and landscape. November brought a time of great conversation and incredible food as we tried the Sahara Moroccan restaurant which has been in the Centennial area for thirty years.

Relationship Enrichment

Thanks to Carl Cleveland for leading another session of this wellbeing class this fall. Carl guided participants in a 4-week course leveraging his 20 years of family and workplace systems expertise. Attendees explored how to create more purposeful relationships for family, friends and the workplace through a myriad of topics. The class covered the impact our family of origin, birth order, personality type can have on how we relate to others, and how to maintain healthy boundaries to foster positive connection.

Fall Yoga Our fall yoga sessions with Sharon were sacred times with a focus on renewal, rejuvenation, hope, letting go, and gratitude. Sharon begins every session with a beautiful theme and devotion. We all loved some of the new background music she played featuring Native American flute music which was inspired by the church's focus on Indigenous People. One new participant remarked "I've never had a yoga session quiet my soul—in addition to getting the kinks out." We are all so grateful for these continued classes and the time to build community. [cont. on pg. 10](#)

Brave Spaces What Can I Do? Series - Wow!

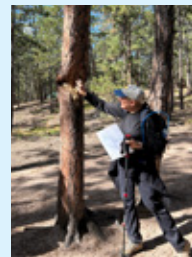
CSE's first 3 sessions of the *What Can I Do* series exploring current issues that are part of our United Methodist Social Principles were covered in previous issues of *The Chronicle* this year and they included Immigration, LGBTQIA+, and Church & Government and our last 3 topics are covered below. Brave Spaces had an informative, inspiring, and active 2025!

Homelessness - Our Neighbors in Crisis: We launched our month-long focus on Homelessness on September 8 with an excellent panel that included Tiffany Marssitto and Deputy Mike from Douglas County's HEART program, Tammy Slipher, an outstanding advocate for our unhoused neighbors with leadership roles at Change the Trend, Arapahoe County Food Security Coalition, and HAAT Force. Our featured speaker was Tonya Rodriguez, who shared her experiences of being unhoused and the sources of support she has uncovered. We also learned about some of the Myths about homelessness. We distributed a Resource Guide for more Learning and Action. We also included two "field trips" to local organizations that serve our unhoused neighbors and offer volunteer opportunities, and a documentary screening.



- **Bridge House – Sept. 18:** We visited Bridge House, a holistic "Ready to Work" program that includes paid transitional work, housing, and case management over a 9-to-12-month period for adults experiencing homelessness. CEO Melissa Arguello-Green explained the program and gave us a tour of their new facility in Englewood.
- **Giving Heart & HAAT Force – Sept. 25:** We provided lunch for guests of Giving Heart, a faith-based, drop-in resource center that serves individuals experiencing homelessness. Giving Heart provides essential resources, community, and support services. We also visited HAAT Force, which provides severe weather motel vouchers, resource navigation, and case management for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Beyond the Bridge – Oct. 29:** The Brave Spaces Team sponsored a special showing of the documentary film, *Beyond the Bridge*. Over 90 community members attended, representing at least seven different faith communities, and three counties, and included elected officials and representatives from numerous nonprofits that serve our homeless community. After viewing the film that offered various solutions to homelessness, we broke into small groups to have serious conversations about what could work for us in our communities and the importance of collaboration.

The Land Tells the Story - Indigenous Peoples: October was filled with opportunities to commemorate Indigenous Peoples and particularly their relationship to the land. Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes shared her knowledge and personal stories of the indigenous peoples of the Rocky Mountain Region and explained how Methodists were involved in the tragedy of the Sand Creek Massacre. Rev. Calob Rundell talked about growing up and living on the land near the Sand Creek Massacre site and how this shaped his experience of native peoples. This session inspired our Outdoor Adventures team to offer a hike at Fox Run Regional Park to view the Ute Indian Prayer Trees. Rev. Janet shared the history and stories of these trees "culturally modified" by the Ute for navigational, burial, and spiritual purposes.



Environmental Stewardship - Points of Light: St. Luke's Creation Care team hosted our final session on Nov. 3rd. The program continued our exploration of the UMC Social Principles, this time focusing on caring for creation. People in our own St. Luke's community have created many points of light in caring for creation, and new opportunities continue to unfold. Our guest speakers, all members of St. Luke's, shared their unique stories and gifts to our St. Luke's community. Ryan Rairigh helped lead the effort to secure St. Luke's commitment and funding for solar panels. Cathy Collins, an environmental engineer, has invested her professional expertise in many ways to support St. Luke's environmental programs. Alan Babcock was instrumental in building We Don't Waste to promote food equity in the Denver Metro area. Nichole Rairigh is a master gardener, who has a passion for teaching others about environmental stewardship. Bob Oliver educates people about food choices that promote the wellbeing of creation. Caroline Merchant is a creative environmental steward who practices and teaches others about recycling and composting strategies that make a big difference. Debbie Miller is a leader with Renewed Treasures, a ministry that supports people and the environment. Susan McIntosh serves with the Mt. Sky Conference to foster transformative change grounded in our UMC Social Principles. The program concluded with Dr. Jane Goodall's final message to the world, emphasizing individual action as a source of hope.



Josey SeEVERS
Director of
Youth Ministry
josey@stlukeshr.com

ON THE SLY: Pumpkin Success! 7th-12th grade

It has been such a full fall in our youth ministry. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Pumpkin Patch fundraiser a success! Besides this month-long festive effort, the youth also got to learn some skills from our Itch to Stitch group here at St. Luke's. The youth learned how to sew on buttons, make basic hem stitches, and

create tie-knot fleece blankets to donate to the Children's Hospital. Youth painted and carved pumpkins, helped put together 300 Thanksgiving meal boxes with SLY, Jr. and other local churches, attended a corn maze at Chatfield Farms, and started a series on Movies & Theology - watching *The Hunger Games* and exploring what it has to tell us about courage, life, and goodness. Their takeaways from this first movie were: "Mercy is an act of rebellion when

mercilessness is expected. Mercy is the only thing strong enough to stop cycles of violence. Hope is a dangerous thing to people who oppress others." **Join us for SLY - our Youth Ministry for 7th-12th grade. Email me for more information. Here for you, Josey**



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



Season of Light!

Little School was full of energy as we welcomed the harvest season and the season of light! This year, we are once again honored Native American Heritage Month by

exploring the history and stories connected to the first Thanksgiving. Our classrooms had a variety of engaging activities, and if you're looking for meaningful resources to use at home, Project Archaeology, The Smithsonian, and PBS all offer wonderful child-friendly materials connected to this theme. We kicked off the season with one of our most beloved traditions—the Little School Halloween Parade! The children had a fantastic time walking through the church, collecting treats from our church staff, and celebrating afterward with festive classroom parties. See if you can figure out what church staff dressed up as in the pictures below!

Supporting the whole child remains at the heart of what we do. This month, Suanne Ediger, our Speech Pathologist, completed hearing screenings, and the Littleton Lions Club provided vision screenings. Dental screenings are planned later this school year. We are grateful to partner with these professionals to support healthy development in all areas.

As we enter the Advent season, we are joyfully preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth. During chapel, the children will learn about St. Nicholas and the Nativity story. They'll enjoy pancake breakfasts made by Barry Curtis, our Maintenance and Safety Director, and receive a special visit from Santa. Children will place their shoes under the Christmas trees in hopes that St. Nicholas fills them with treats, shop for loved ones at Ms. Sam's annual Holiday Shop, and perform at our treasured Christmas Singing Concert—which typically welcomes nearly 800 attendees! This season is always filled with joy, and the children's excitement is truly the highlight of our year. Whatever holidays you celebrate, we wish you a beautiful and peaceful season of light.

If you know a child who is seeking a preschool home for the 2025–2026 school year, registration opened for current families on Dec. 1st, and for new families on Jan. 12th. More information is available on our website.

Grace and Love, Kelly Amadeo



CSE Fall Recaps - continued Outdoor Adventures

September 18 was a perfect early fall day for our hike in **Mount Falcon Park**. We hiked the Castle and Walker's Dream trails that took us to the never-built site of a Summer White House. We learned about John Benson Walker, a successful entrepreneur who once owned Mount Falcon and most of what is now Red Rocks Park. We enjoyed beautiful views of the high peaks to the west and Red Rocks and metro Denver to the east. We finished our trip with our traditional tailgate. We had a large group at **Sandstone Ranch** on a cool October morning. The gambel oaks were in brilliant colors and the rock formations and views left us in awe. This is the first hike led by Dave and Julia Murrow and we appreciate how they made everyone feel welcome and kept our large group together. In addition to the gorgeous scenery, we spotted a small group of deer and one of our groups saw a bald eagle fly directly over their windshield on the car ride home. November brought a picture perfect fall day for our final Outdoor Adventure of the year. Abby Anitino led her first hike for us at **Spruce Mountain** in Larkspur. We hiked Eagle Pass Trail and Loop which includes the steep service road down to the fabulous meadow below the mountain. Abby added a creative touch to the devotion and we all took a turn at a small art project during our peaceful break. Also along this hike, we spotted numerous prayer trees (Ute culturally modified trees.)



We plan to start hiking again in March 2026. If you would like to join our email list to keep informed about next year's hikes, please reach out to janestaller@gmail.com

Fall Wellbeing Class: The Power of Authentic Connection

Our class this fall was inspired by the book *You Don't Have to Do It Alone: The Power of Friendship* by Mark Nepo. We gathered in community for conversation about what makes us feel more connected to people and how to grow and deepen our friendships and relationships. Dr. Vivek Murthy, previous Surgeon General, made a bold statement about loneliness being an epidemic and great health concern in the United States. He suggests having deeper conversations with people. We shared wisdom on ways to have these conversations and meaningful relationships.

St. Luke's Kids

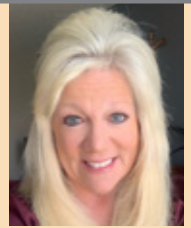
grace courage wonder beyond

Welcome to St. Luke's Kids – our ministry to children birth through grade 6.

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



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



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

Christmas PUPPET Show

Silas Angel - the Christmas Curmudgeon

Dec. 14 at 4:00pm

A musical fun story from our Puppet Ministry for the whole family.

Fall & Advent Joy!

Sunday School is going great on Sunday mornings as we continue to explore Bible stories, share our joys and concerns, pray together and discover God's love and presence in our own lives. We've made tabernacles, harvested the church garden, and we also incorporated **music** into our Sunday mornings and are loving having Ms. Kay there to lead the 1st-6th graders in Christmas music! And **Cherubs** PreK-K singers are meeting on Sunday mornings at 11:00am and having an awesome time. We both sang in the Tree Lighting service!

In October we celebrated our annual gifting of Deep Blue Bibles to 3rd graders **Bibles** with 6 recipients. Watch for our **Kids Bible Study** coming January 11, 18 & 25 at 11:00am for 3rd-6th grade. Let's get to know our Bibles! October fall break discoveries are what **Wacky Fall Break Days** were all about! This program offers children the opportunity to keep school rituals and routines intact and form social connections outside their classrooms. Students enjoyed bible stories, crafts, music movement and lots of time outdoors. Thank you to Ms. Nancy and Ms. Trudy for supporting this program. We look forward to our next Wacky Days during spring break 2026.

We had beautiful weather for our annual **Fall Festival** at the end of October! We had so much fun with our 'trunk or treat' and festival activities and over 300 people attended the festivities. Thanks to all who helped with crafts, games, face painting, tattoos, balloon animals, food, animals (chickens, ferrets, snakes, lizards and bunnies!) and more! And in November we welcomed 3 new **Acolytes**! Congrats to Zoey, Josie & Emryn! **And thanks to Victoria Mason, we now have brand new Acolyte vestments!**

SLY, Jr. has had a great start to the 2025-2026 school year with our kick off event, then a trip to the Corn Maze with SLY, then helping with Feeding of the 5000 and the Pumpkin Patch, and a big group of us went to fill Thanksgiving Bags at the annual Food for All event in November and had an amazing Christmas Party! We work and play hard and enjoy giving back to others. Watch for Crazy Science Night in January and our Lock In in February!!

COMING IN JANUARY

KIDS BIBLE STUDY

Sundays Jan. 11, 18 & 25
11:00-11:40am
3rd-6th grade
Get to Know Your Bible
with Ms. Sharon



Nothing fills your heart full of hope more than children and we moved into Advent with a joyful hope-filled **Recital, Tree Lighting Service and Christmas Pageant** with our special shining STAR wands. Watch for our **annual Holiday Shop Dec. 14 10:30-11:30am and Candy Cane Sunday on Dec. 14!** Welcome Advent! Jesus is the Light of the World!





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.*



Turning Sunlight into Stewardship

This fall, St. Luke's voted to move forward with a solar

project that will place a solar array on our south-facing roof, reduce our carbon footprint, and lower our electric costs over time. At our Church Conference on Oct. 19, attendees voted unanimously to approve the project—a powerful expression of shared commitment and hope. Thanks to your generosity, we have already exceeded our initial \$250,000 fundraising goal, with more than \$255,000 donated and pledged. We've signed our contract with LIV Solar to do the installation and are now completing the process for a \$250,000 loan. Installation is scheduled to be completed before July, helping us live out our call to care for God's creation and support our ministries for years to come. Thank you for your support!



Kit Campbell
Office Administrator
office@stlukeshr.com

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



Pam Allen,
Jane Ashby,
Jean Bennett,
Ira Benton,
Greg Boyer,
Carla Brown,
Sally Cleary,
Marilyn Curtis,

Grace George,
Betty Halderman,
Kirk Hall,
Rev. Jim Harris,
Lennon Krantz,
Autumn L. Winder Lusk,
Suzanne Lustie,
Doug Lyons,

Jon Metz,
Roxie Morris,
Fred Munoz,
Jan Munoz,
Ann Newton,
Austin Raap,
Greg Sanek,
Bodie Shoffett,

Brian Snyder,
Ron Springman,
Mike Stephens,
Mary Twinem,
Lisa Weddell,
Jay Wilson,
Duane Wilterdink,
Bob and Debbie Wright

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

The Mayka family on the passing of Becky's mother, Bev Furns.

Friends and family of Karly Haugen on her passing.

The Hart family on the passing of Brenda's sister-in-law, Joyce Schiller.

Teri Burget on the passing of her stepfather, Roger.

Janet Johnston and family on the passing of her mother, Eleanor Shirk.

The McMullen Family on the passing of Lori's father, Delmere Eugene Noxon.

Family and friends of Don Pascal on his passing.

Joely and Sam Maddux, family, and friends on the passing of Joely's husband, Steve Maddux.

WE CELEBRATE & OFFER CONGRATULATIONS:

To Denise and Theodore Nickless, and big sister Ruby Torres, on the birth of baby boy Theo.

To Karl Krantz on the birth of granddaughter Elizabeth Claire Byrnes (parents Catherine and Adam Byrnes).

On the arrival of Rumi Thomas, born Oct. 8 to proud parents Sarah and Keah Kalantari and grandparents Rev. Sallie and Tom Suby-Long!

To parents Jeff and Carrie Kuykendall on the birth of their daughter Natalie Mae, and to grandparents Lori and David McMullen and aunt Amy McMullen.

To grandparents Bessie and Mark Bartling and parents Kelsey and Bryan on the birth of Kai Julius Bartling Yasukawa.

To the Babcock and Kirk families on the birth of Reina JoLee to proud parents Mike and Kristen Babcock.

On the birth of Laurel Arna Sokol-Fong to parents Kristine Fong and Ethan Sokol and grandparents Ken Fong and Betsy Keyack!

ALTAR FLOWERS GIVEN:

By Brian and Elizabeth Bauer in celebration of their family.

By Steve Stine in memory of Nancy Stine, 1940-2001.

In honor of Christina and Steve Manthey's 43rd anniversary.

In loving memory of Roxann Browning, mother of Laura Richards and grandmother of Beth, Shelly, and Scott.

Happy 10th Heavenly Birthday to Ellie Grace Meier.

In honor of Jim and Pam Burke's wedding anniversary.

By Brian and Elizabeth Bauer in honor of Brian's parents.

By Patti Speedy in celebration of Mark and Patti's 40th wedding anniversary in September, and for blessings and celebration of Dan Speedy and Sam Gillette's wedding!

By Ted Dreyer in memory of Judy Dreyer.

By Karen Herr in celebration of her and John's 37th wedding anniversary.

By George and Suzanne Ward in celebration of their daughter Leyton Emma's 11th birthday.

In celebration of Ed and Eileen Law's 30th wedding anniversary.