



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018

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Join One of Our Christmas Eve Teams!

Come serve Dec. 24
at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
or 10:00pm

Greeters: Welcome all to St. Luke's. Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the service.
Contact Lisa Phillips
lisaphill4@aol.com

Ushers: Assist in welcoming, seating and various duties during the service. We will need you here 30 minutes prior to the service. Contact Shawn Slade
shawnsnade@gmail.com

Candle Bin Team: It takes a quick moving team to replace and repair our small candles between services. Help immediately after one of our services for 20-30 minutes. Contact Renae Parra
renae@stlukeshr.com

Parking Lot Attendants: Help direct traffic in our lot for the 3:00, 5:00 or 7:00pm services.
Contact Sandi Miyaki sandi.miyaki@realtor.com

Fellowship Hall Tear-Down: Help put away chairs in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall after the 7:00pm service
Contact Sandi Miyaki at sandi.miyaki@realtor.com



Sunday December 17

CANDY CANE SUNDAY.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
Moments of Awareness (Rev. Jessica Rooks) LUKE 1:39-56

Wednesday December 20

FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL.....6:00-6:30pm

Friday December 22

LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS.....9:00 & 11:00am

All are welcome to see our Little School children "shine" as they perform for their families. Christmas spirit at its best!

Friday December 22

ADVENT STUDY.....12:00-1:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Sunday December 24

MORNING SERVICE.....9:30am

(NO CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Questions with Revs. Jessica & Ryan

Experience **MANGER MOMENTS** through one of our services of carols and candles:

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

Children's Christmas service featuring the Puppet Ministry, Cherub's Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz Children's Choirs, Soul Purpose Youth Choir, and Joyful Noise Youth Handbells. Suitable for all and delightful for young children.

TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm

Carols service featuring the Chancel Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, and Tinnabulators Handbell Ensemble. A peaceful and inspiring time to welcome the holy Christ.

COMMUNION.....10:00pm

A reflective, contemplative Communion service featuring Soloists and Organ.

Sunday December 31

WORSHIP.....8:00, 9:30, 11:00am

(NO CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL) (Rev. Ryan Canaday)

Sunday January 7, 2018

EPIPHANY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION & CELEBRATION OF THE KINGS...8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Join us as our 15 ft. tall Magi puppets and their entourage present their gifts to the Christ child in a family worship experience. (*Burrito breakfast to benefit Guatemala missions.*)



Musical Moments!

From the delightful Tree Lighting and Children's Christmas Pageant on Nov. 26 to "Christmas on Broadway" merriment on Dec. 2 to our magnificent Cantata with over 150 performers, Advent connections are happening all around us!



Giving at the Edge 2018

As our year is drawing to a close, please remember to satisfy your 2017 commitment before December 31st. We are currently approximately \$50,000 behind budget for our pledged and unpledged giving. We need your help in making this another breakeven year for St. Luke's.

Giving at the Edge. We appreciate the great response to our stewardship campaign but our pledges for 2018 are still behind 2017 and less than the amount needed for our operating budget. *If you have not turned in your commitment card, we encourage you to do so immediately* or send an email with your intentions to sheri@stlukeshr.com. It is so important for you to share with us your estimate of giving for 2018. Our biggest task in preparing a budget for 2018 is trying to figure out how much money we will have to work with next year so that St. Luke's can continue all of our wonderful programs and outreach activities and do so within a balanced budget. Please keep in mind that when you inform us of your intentions for giving in 2018, you are not making a legal commitment and we understand that your plans may change, but any information we can get about your intentions is better for our budgeting and planning purposes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

continued on page 2

Sunday Worship Services:

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

Sunday School:

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

Nursery available for:

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

Mon.-Fri. Office Hours

9:00am-12:30pm & 1:00-3:30pm

Church Office.....303-791-0659

Fax.....303-470-5615

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

Little School Office.....303-791-1982

**Staff:**

Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x132
Lead Minister of Spiritual Life

Rev. Ryan Canaday.....x112
Lead Minister of Worship & Missional Life

Rev. Jessica Rooks.....x109
Lead Minister of Community Life

Rev. Shawn Kellogg.....x143
Care Pastor

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

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

Stephanie Kirk.....x111
Children's & Family Ministries Coordinator

Dave Laurvick.....x114
Director of Youth Ministry

Amy McMullen.....x119
Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

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

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

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

Kim DeVries.....x110
Office Administrator

Leon Hreck.....x110
Building Maintenance/Custodian

Sheri Henry.....x124
Director of Finance

Kristi Pawley.....x116
Accounting Clerk/Music & Arts Admin. Assistant

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

All submissions for the next issue
of *The Chronicle* are due

January 20, 2018

Editor: Sharon Oliver

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The *Chronicle* is published 6 times per year
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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. Ryan Canaday
Lead Minister of
Worship &
Missional Life

Welcome 2018

More Grace. Less Fear

Greetings my brothers and sisters!

A new year will soon be upon us. So let's talk about fear for just a moment. Fear is a good thing. We need fear. Fear has kept the human race alive and kicking for many generations. But let's be honest, if fear is in the driver's seat; if fear is constantly making all of the decisions, then we have a problem. Author and speaker, Elizabeth Gilbert, has the perfect scolding for fear:

"Fear: I recognize and respect that you are part of this family, and so I will never exclude you from our activities, but still—your suggestions will never be followed. You're allowed to have a seat, and you're allowed to have a voice. But you are not allowed to have a vote. You're not allowed to touch the road maps, or suggest detours. You're not allowed to fiddle with the temperature. Dude, you're not even allowed to touch the radio. But above all else, you are absolutely forbidden to drive."

Again, fear isn't a bad thing, but the problem with fear is it loves to take control; it loves the driver's seat. Fear needs a good master. You will always need to keep an eye on fear and hold the reins tight.

Some of you will be happy to see 2017 in rear-view mirror, exactly where it belongs, right? For you, 2017 was marked by pain, loss, violence, political unrest, and a host of other negatives. For others 2017 was a year of excitement, celebration, and success. And still for others, it was simply another year. Whatever 2017 was for you, let's just agree to keep moving forward. And let's just be honest: if fear is boss, then it's really difficult to gain forward momentum. Fear loves to remind you of the past and keep you in the past. Fear loves to tell you "DON'T"—"Don't take that step into that new thing...stay where it's comfortable, where you can predict the next move, the next turn, the next day. You know what else fear loves to tell you? "STOP!"—"Stop moving away from the shore! You don't know what's out there. Besides, you don't even know if you can't handle it once you get there."

But grace is different than fear. Grace says: "Keep going. Of course you don't know what's out there, you've never been. And yeah, you're gonna stumble along the way; you're gonna get wrong at times, but keep going. You were made for more." God goes with you every step of the way. God is always going ahead of us, pulling us forward, to step into the new day—even when you wondered if a new day was even possible. The Scriptures are full of stories about people who are waking up to a new day. They're full of stories about people who believed that "this is just the way it is, and nothing new is ever going to really happen"—from Abraham to Jacob, from Paul to Peter, I mean these stories are endless—but then grace comes along and God says to them: "Yeah, but have you looked over here? Have you seen this? Wake up! There's a new thing happening and you don't wanna miss it!" God is always calling us to take that step forward—even when you don't know what that next step holds, or if it holds at all.

Know this: fear will be shouting the entire way: "DON'T...STOP!" Meanwhile grace will whisper: "Let's keep going...we got this."

More Grace. Less fear. Here's to moving forward in 2018! Grace & Peace, *Rev. Ryan*



Sheri Henry
Director of Finance

cont. from page 1 You Still Have Time For Year-End Tax Planning. To give you credit for your donations in 2017, we must receive them on or before December 31st or must be postmarked on or before December 31st. Keep in mind that some of the methods you may choose to use for your donations may take time for processing.

Pick and Choose Your Method Of Giving. We have many ways for you to make your giving to St. Luke's easy and convenient. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions. In addition to cash and checks, we offer online credit card transactions, stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts. If you need any assistance, please give me a call or email me at sheri@stlukeshr.com. I will be glad to assist you.



Rev. Jessica Rooks
Lead Minister of
Community Life

Angels Still Appear

The following is a Christmas poem titled, 'Angels Still

Appear', by Ann Weems, in her book, *From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light*.



*Angels still appear to those
ready to receive blessings
in spite of the barren
impossibility of their lives.*

*Elizabeth still recognizes Jesus
and calls him Lord,
receiving him to her heart,
in spite of the distraction
of her own blessing.*

*Blessings still come
to those who believe
that nothing is impossible
in the hand of God.*

*Mary still gives birth,
not just every Advent,
Mary still gives birth
each day to this Child
who advents into hearts,
unexpectedly and forever.*

*Herods still live who
would kill this Child,
but Mary and Joseph
still flee into the desert,
and the night,
to protect the One
given into their keeping.*

*Doors still slam in the
inns of the world,
Herods still plot to kill,
deserts and darkness
still threaten our safety,
but God still lives.*

*In spite of war and terror,
Mary gives birth
to the Prince of Peace.
In spite of hunger,
Mary gives birth
to the Bread of Life.
In spite of lost sheep,
Mary gives birth
to the Good Shepherd.
In spite of hearts
pregnant with hatred,
Mary gives birth to LOVE.*

*It is not done!
It is not done!
It is not done!
The birthing is not over.
The blessings continue.
Angels wait in the wings!*

Each year Christmas reminds us that it is not done – God is still at work in our world. The Christ Child is still seeking a room, or a stable, or a manger, or a heart to enter into. Angels still appear to those of us ready to receive the blessing of Christmas.

I hope that we will watch for the star, listen for the angels, and ready our hearts for this birth that awaits each of us. May Christ be born in you anew this year!

Grace & Blessings, *Rev. Jessica*



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Lead Minister of
Spiritual Life

Connection in Honduras

"I am about to do a new thing. Now it springs forth..."—Isaiah 43:19

Less than a year ago, in a *Chronicle* article, I wrote about the possibility of a group from St. Luke's traveling to Honduras to offer service at Abundant Life Christian School. Thanks to the openness and generous spirits of many, this vision is unfolding! An adventuresome group of 12 people will travel in early February 2018 for this initial St. Luke's Center for Spiritual Engagement /Abundant Life Christian School collaboration. It seems one connection has led to another and then another! Here are some of the things that have been happening:

A New Library and Books for Children

We have the privilege of supporting the creation of a new Library for children at Abundant Life Christian School. The building itself is well underway and now we will begin filling the library with books! If you'd like to help, you can make donations for the purchase of the books and supplies requested by the school and we'll deliver them in person! (see details in the article below).

Cultural Festival

We'll join children and families in Yamaranguila for their annual Cultural Festival. The timing of our trip works perfectly for us to be part of this special experience!

Memorial Hummingbird Garden

We've been invited to help create a memorial hummingbird garden on the school grounds. The teachers and school staff are excited to have a beautiful place where children, teachers, and families can enjoy nature and a peaceful place. Our very own Janet Johnston, who is a talented birder, will guide us in this effort along with the founder of "Beaks to Peaks" a Honduran outdoor exploration organization.

Talitha Cumi Home for Girls

We'll engage with children at a home for girls called Talitha Cumi (which means Rise Up Little Girl).

And, this is only the beginning! There are more connections that are unfolding—we're humbled and grateful for this opportunity. We'll continue to share our stories with you in the weeks ahead. Our thanks to everyone for your prayers and support of this "new thing" that God is doing through our St. Luke's community.

With gratitude,
Rev. Dr. Sallie and CSE Honduras Team



Giving Table for Honduras Library As we journey deeper, one of the trip's highlights will be supporting the Abundant Life Christian School (ALCS) and, in-particular, delivering books to fill their new library/resource room. Abundant Life Christian School is dedicated to serving all children regardless of economic or social conditions. They are intentional to search for new ways to show God to their students in every class, every day. Abundant Life Christian School seeks to lead, inspire and care for every student in both their academic needs as well as their spiritual needs, in addition ALCS provides school supplies, medical care, meals at school, and a bilingual education that will open university and career opportunities for students that will change Honduras from the inside-out!

Here is how you can have a direct hand in helping to grow the Abundant Life Christian School...one book at a time! The Honduras service team will be bringing books, that have been identified by the ALCS educators, to fill their new library/resource room. The Honduras travel team will host a Giving Table between now into mid-January. If you are moved to support our book and school supply drive we gratefully appreciate your monetary gift donation. Our team will then order the books and supplies online and deliver to the school. We invite you to visit the Giving Table in the Narthex, from now until mid-January, to learn more about the Abundant Life Christian School.



by Rev. Les Ludlam
(retired)

More from Les: Changes in Life's Direction: One Day at Mobil (Part 2 of 3)

About six months after, the sale of the Colony Project to Exxon USA and the project termination party, I was at my desk in ARCO's offices, when the phone rang. It was a totally unexpected call from a human resources department staffer at Mobil Oil Corporation's offices in Denver. As I put the telephone down, I thought in amazement, "They really want me! They are starting their own oil shale project!"

I met with the Mobil HR rep for breakfast the next morning to verify what they wanted to do and confirm my interest. A week or so later, there was a whirlwind interview trip to New York City. There were meetings with Walt, the Mining Division VP, and Jerry, the Synthetic Fuels Division VP; the Executive Vice President they reported to, and with Mobil's Human Resources personnel. I received a job offer the next day; a week later I accepted it. I reported to work at Mobil's offices on 17th Street on a Monday morning. Late in the day, the Denver Human Resources department received a telephone call saying that an important telex would be sent from the New York City headquarters the next morning. The telex arrived on Tuesday and it brought a shock!

The Synthetic Fuels Division VP announced the hiring of a manager from Mobil's refinery in New Orleans to head up Oil Shale Development Programs, the project I thought I had been hired to manage! A quick trip to the personnel department brought a dark realization! They too were equally upset! "What happened?" I asked. The explanation was not pleasant! I was told, "unofficially," that the two VP's had been apparently vying for status in the company and the Oil Shale project was seen as a vehicle for gaining influence. The head of the Mining division, and the executive who had hired me, had apparently tried an "end run" by quickly putting together an experienced staff. But the other VP had won out by opting for recruiting proven employees from within the company!

"What will we do?" I asked. "We'll still do a lot of the work," was the reply, "we just won't be in charge." "But that's not what I was hired for!" I said. After a pause came the reply, "I know." I was stunned and needed to clear my mind, so I said, "It's eleven-thirty already, I need to get out and think about this for a while." ... "Sure, I understand, go ahead."

I left the building and began walking around downtown Denver. I was angry for letting my ego blind me, for I had seen some warning signs when I interviewed in New York, but had chosen to ignore them. I had placed so much emphasis on this job and its status, I had blinded myself and given in to flattery. How could a two-headed entity work? Now I faced an unsatisfactory job or the possibility of no job at all! Almost without thinking I began to pray as I walked around downtown Denver. "God, I don't know what to do! I don't know what to do!!! I'm helpless! I don't know what to do!"

I had paid no attention to where I had been walking but suddenly realized I was in front of the Security Life Building, where I had worked the previous Friday. As I looked up toward the floor where my old office was located, words came to me, quietly and with no fanfare, not from someone's voice, but seemingly from nothing - "Why don't you ask for your old job back?"

I stood at the entrance to my old office building, struggling with what to do. What would they say? How will they react? What will I do if they say no? What will happen to Betty and the kids?

I took a deep breath, went inside and took the elevator up to my old office. My former secretary, Rose Howard, was having her lunch sandwich at her desk. She looked up in surprise when I walked up; she quickly gathered herself and said pleasantly, "Les, what are you doing here? I explained what had happened. "Oh, my!" She exclaimed, "What are you going to do?"

I said, "I want to ask Mr. Bond for my old job back!... Can you help me get in touch with him?" With the efficiency of one who is familiar with and well-connected with every informal communication network in the company, Rose not only found our division President, Hi Bond, she was able to get a note delivered directly to him in his meeting! It said, "Les Ludlam needs to talk to you." Mr. Bond called me back, asked what I wanted and I explained to him about what had happened. "Well," he asked, "what do you want me to do?" "May I have my old job back, as if I never left?" "Well, that's quite a request!" He paused. The silence weighed a ton! "Hmmm, Let me see what I can do, sit tight and I'll get back to you."

I sat as tight as I have ever done for about two hours, there in my old office, pondering what I had just done. At about 2:30 in the afternoon the phone rang on my old desk. I jumped! Then I picked up the phone. "Hello" "Les, This is Bond..." There was a lump in my throat. "OK, It's being taken care of, report back to your old office tomorrow morning and it will be as you were off ill or crazy or something." He paused for a second, then continued, "Matter of fact I think you were a little crazy!"

You may call what happened a product of common sense; you may call it luck; you might even call it divine guidance! Whatever it was, it was truly life changing! And this turned out to be a whole new beginning for my family and me...

God bless us all. -Les (To Be Continued)

"Drop In" Adult Classes:

CHRISTIAN CONNECTION - The Christian Connection class is a group that is on a journey of spiritual discovery. Our path is navigated through a wide variety of topics and authors, such as: vulnerability with Brene Brown; the controversial works of Marcus Borg and John Shelby Spong; the contemporary views of Rob Bell, Diana Butler Bass and Parker Palmer; as well as social justice works such as Father Gregory Boyle's mission with gang's in LA. WE often like to bring best-selling books into our class. Come join the journey with us! All are welcome.

Time/Place: Sundays 9:30am Room 212

Contact: Ron and Suzanne Humphreys
rbumphreys@comcast.net

OPEN MINDS - A class that works to strengthen faith journeys through studies of religion, philosophy, science and history. Past studies include Methodism, Bridges Out of Poverty, God and Empire, and The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross. All are welcome.

Time/Place: Sundays 9:30am Room 210

Contact: Raina Powell 303-795-8457
rainapowell@aol.com

GAP GROUP - Discuss spiritual topics. No preparation required. Drop in. All are welcome.

Time/Place: Wednesdays 6:30pm Room 122

Contact: Bob Oliver boboliver@pcisys.net

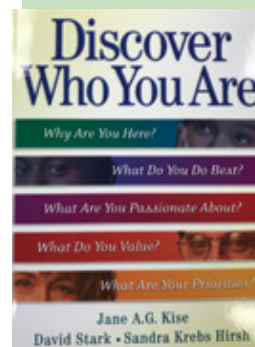
GENEALOGY 101 - Who is my great-grandfather and where did he come from? Learn the basics for your start in researching your family tree.

WESLEY WRITERS - All types/styles of writers are welcome. We currently have a poet/music writer, historian, memoir writers, and story tellers.

Time/Place: 2nd Saturdays 10:00am Room 206

Contacts: Sylvia Brady 303-955-0457
joysyl@comcast.net and Les Ludlam
303-451-5141 lludlam@wyoming.com

Sign Up for Short Term Classes:



Discover Who You Are (formerly Servant by Design) Led by Renae Parra and Tami Canaday. Learn your Purpose, Gifts, Values, Personality Type and more and how to use them for a fulfilling life. Lessons and learnings can be applied to your family, work, church and community. Come discover how

God uniquely created YOU. To sign up contact renae@stlukeshr.com or tncanaday@gmail.com.

Time/Place/Cost: Sundays 11:00am-noon, Starting January 21, Cost apx \$17 for book

Check the Fellowship Hall in January for class sign-ups. Also see the Center for Spiritual Engagement page in this issue for additional class listings.

Fall Semester with Sedalia Elementary a Fruitful One!

St. Luke's 7th school year in relationship with Sedalia Elementary School got off to a great start! Over the summer, Vacation Bible School and Seasoned Voyagers collected a tremendous amount of supplies for the Art program and purchased 250 sketch books - one for each student. At the first of the school year, some St. Luke's volunteers met with the new principal. He expressed appreciation for our involvement with the school. His top priorities are reading, reading, reading and reading!

Over the past few months we have had several volunteers working with students on reading and math: Carleen Krening, Sharon Oliver, Janet Johnston, Kay Oscai, Betsy Keyack, Teri Burget and Jennifer Torres. And several others are working to get connected with teachers. In addition, St. Luke's people provided an "amazing, de-lish" meal for the teachers during parent-teacher conferences, thanks to Caroline Butler, Anne Bennett, Carleen Krening, Pam Kuhn, Debbie Boucher, Linda Aughenbaugh, Teri Burget, Betty Smith, Kris Reif, Sharon Oliver and Kay Oscai. Feeding of the 5000 raised over \$900 worth of King Soopers gift cards for Sedalia families. The Seasoned Voyagers bake sale on December 3 netted \$702 for Walmart gift cards for families at the school. Finally, St. Luke's people have donated books, underwear, Kleenex, toothbrushes, water bottles, socks, markers, crayons and Box Tops for Education.

Last summer, Sedalia Elementary was awarded the US Department of Education Green Ribbon School Award, which recognizes schools for "reducing environmental impact and costs, improving health and wellness of students, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education." Only 45 schools nationwide received this award in 2017. Some staff and teachers went to Washington, D. C. to accept the award. The school curriculum heavily involves the students in extensive recycling of both trash and recyclable materials, composting school lunch scraps, a water-saving school garden, chicken coops (the students sell the eggs), and reducing energy use.

Way to go Sedalia Elementary! And big thanks to St. Luke's and our volunteers who bring our core value of "relational" to life by giving their time, support and love to foster these extra special connections with our Sedalia family.



Renae Parra
Director of
Servant Ministry

Get **CONNECTED**

Get Connected at St. Luke's.

To learn more about opportunities for you to get involved, contact Renae at renae@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x117

Christmas Eve: The Gifts of Helps & Hospitality!

Any of you who have taken the Spiritual Gifts class at St. Luke's knows that Helps and Hospitality are two of the most prevalent gifts in our community. This is a good thing, especially when it comes to Christmas Eve Services! Check out the list on the front page to see how you can help participate this year to help our church services run smoothly on Christmas Eve. Part of being a welcoming church is being prepared to handle large quantities of visitors!

Christmas Blessings to all of you!

2018 Guatemala Mission Trip Fundraiser & Christmas Tags

St. Luke's will sponsor a mission trip to Guatemala from March 17-25, 2018 as we build a home for a needy Guatemalan family. Fundraising for the trip will be the Burrito Breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018 with last chance for pre-paid burrito sales on Sunday Dec. 17. Pre-paid burritos will be \$4, and \$5 on the day of the January breakfast. A student scholarship sponsorship is also available for children in rural Guatemala desiring to continue their education but are unable to for financial reasons. We are currently sponsoring children in all grades of elementary, middle, and high school. Schooling is just not affordable for most rural village residents.

Christmas Tags On The Giving Tree

A \$12.50 donation 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. Please make checks payable to St. Luke's UMC with "Guatemala Milk Program" on the memo line. Donations are needed by December 24.

One water filter costs \$40 and provides a family with clean drinking water, increases family health while saving money for medicine and firewater to boil water. Please make checks payable to St. Luke's UMC with "Guatemala Water Filter Program" on the memo line. Our SLY team will distribute the filters next summer. Donations in any amount are appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Miller (720-381-9452, ronmiller74@gmail.com).

NEW! Monthly Potluck Following the 11:00am Service - Next Dec. 31



Join us for Potluck Fellowship. All are Welcome! Last Sunday of the month in the Fellowship Hall after 11:00am worship service. Bring a side dish or dessert and a few dollars towards main dish. Questions? Rev. Pat Shaffer or Renae Parra.

The InBetweeners' group will be enjoying the month December with their family activities. But mark your calendar for Sunday, January 14 at 12:15pm. We will be meeting at the Urban Egg (by Salsa Bravo on Broadway, just north of the church) for brunch/lunch. We will catch up on the holidays and plan activities for the "Winter" months. Hope to see you in the New Year! Contact Sandi Thompson for more info: silyp@comcast.net



Children's Ministry News

Praise, Play & Prayers

CHILDREN'S CALENDAR:

(check our website for full calendar)

- Dec. 17 (SUN) **CANDY CANE SUNDAY** & Special **PEAK (K-4th grade) 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL** "Christmas Messengers" Group Cooking Fun!
- Dec. 20 (WED) - 6:00pm: **Family Advent Devotional**
- Dec. 24 (SUN) - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** Children's Christmas Eve Services 1:00 & 3:00pm
- Dec. 31 (SUN) - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** Enjoy Family Worship
- Jan. 6 (SAT) - **Parent's Time Away** 9:00am. Contact Sam for more info and to RSVP.
- Jan. 7 (SUN) - **KING'S SUNDAY PEAK (K-4th grade) 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins 3-week lesson "Jesus is Baptized"
- JOYTREK 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL** "Jesus is Born"
- Jan. 7 (SUN) - 5:30-8:00pm: **SLY, Jr.** (5th & 6th grade) Trip to **Jump Street**
- Jan. 12 (FRI) - **PARENT'S NIGHT OUT** 6:00pm. Contact Sam for more info
- Jan. 14 (SUN) - **JOYTREK 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins 3-week lesson "John the Baptist"
- Jan. 26 (FRI) - Jan. 27 (SAT) - **SLY, Jr. LOCK IN!** - 5th & 6th grade overnight event. 5:30pm to 8:00am. More info to come.
- Jan. 28 (SUN) - **PEAK (K-4th grade) 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins 4-week lesson "Calling the Disciples"
- Feb. 9 (FRI) - 6:45pm: **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

EASTER FUN DAY is Mar. 25
CHILDREN'S DINNER
THEATER is May 4
SUMMER VBS is June 25-29

Christmas in the Park 2017

LET'S BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER & HOPE TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

We are collecting cold weather items - **Hats, Gloves, Scarves & Hand Warmers** - to be distributed on Mondays as the weather turns colder. Please drop donation in the bin marked "Christmas in the Park." We plan to bring Christmas cheer and hope to folks each week as we countdown to Christmas. We are also accepting **monetary donations** for the IKEA bags used on Christmas Day. If you are interested in serving on Christmas Day in the Park contact **sam@stlukeshr.com** for more information.

Holiday Shop

St. Luke's Holiday Shop was once again a wonderful event where children discover the joy of giving. Thank you to our volunteers, Children's Ministry Team & United Methodist Women for volunteering as shopper helpers and gift wrappers. Your time and generous support helped to make our shop successful. The holiday shop allows a low key shopping experience for children that connects their hearts to simple traditions with more memories and less overwhelm. Thanks to all who supported the holiday shop tradition! And this year we combined shopping with Family Movie Night and kids were able to shop and then enjoy popcorn and "The Polar Express" afterwards in their pj's. All proceeds from the shop will support volunteer lunches during Vacation Bible School. Last year our holiday shop donated leftover games and toys to Children's Hospital and this year we adopted a family to provide toys under their tree Christmas morning. Adding a sprinkle of kindness to others!



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



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



Stephanie Kirk
Children's & Family
Ministries Coordinator

St. Luke's Kids
Growing with God

Children Connect to Advent!



Our St. Luke's children have been sharing their stories, their faith and their gifts this joyous holiday season. It started with a fun **SLY, Jr. Service Day** to fill over 450

Thanksgiving dinner boxes (SLY, Jr. went down with SLY to Highlands UMC to put the boxes together - see photo on pg. 10), and the SLY, Jr. had a great **Christmas Party** (making each other into Santas, decorating snow globes and sharing gifts) and collected toys for Warren Village. SLY, Jr. will go to Jumpstreet on Jan. 7 and our annual lock in will be Jan. 26! Our littlest preschoolers all the way up to our 6th graders helped kick off Advent with the **Tree Lighting Service** - that included our impromptu **Christmas Pageant**. What a joyous event! Rev. Ryan, Rev. Sallie & Rev. Jessica portrayed 3 Bethlehem animals (a donkey, a mouse and a sheep), Cherubs and Youth Choir sang and along with our fabulous youth bell choir guided us to the manger. Thanks to all who helped make that event happen. Our **Family Advent Devotionals** have been a beautiful pause during the week to remember the meaning of the season and our **Holiday Shop** was a big hit as always! And Sunday School has been inspirational with the lighting of our Advent candles and learning about this glorious season. Don't miss out on our **Children's Christmas Eve services!** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to ALL!

Connections at Wind Crest

Advent invites us to allow waiting and anticipation to be the attitude that enables us to recognize daily opportunities to a deeper connection to others. On Saturday, Dec. 2 Rev. Schawn Kellogg and Sam Leahy shared an Advent devotion hour with many of our friends and residents of Mill Vista at Wind Crest retirement center. With scripture, reflections, stories and song we welcomed the season of Advent. As we ended our time together we anointed with Frankincense oil and started the sacred journey of preparing our heart for the manger. A special thank you to Hope Bergen for accompanying on the piano. And our SHINE group of young families has gone to Wind Crest to share stories and crafts. We look forward in the new year to the many ways we can strengthen our connection to our community of friends at Wind Crest.



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

Gratefulness Abounds!

We often teach the children the importance of giving instead of receiving and being grateful for what we have. At Little School, we participate in a variety of services that involve collecting items for those in need. However, it is often difficult to teach children the meaning of grateful and thankful. Those are, after all, abstract terms to young children. Families often gather around the table on Thanksgiving and Christmas and ask each member what they are grateful for. Some children give blank stares, some say they are thankful for their toys, and some say things like they are grateful for alligators, which can make any mom and dad wonder what they are doing wrong. There are things you can do to help your child learn what it means to be grateful. One of my favorite activities is giving children five pieces of paper a week. Each week day, ask your child to write a thank you on the piece of paper. If parents do this with them, children quickly learn how thankfulness works. For example, a child may write, "Thank you, Brody, for pouring milk into my cereal." Another may write, "Thank you, Evelyn, for playing on the swings with me today." Eventually, children realized that what they are often most thankful for are the people in their lives and not so much the material items.

Looking for a one-day program for your 2.5 year old?

Little School is opening up a special Fridays only 2.5 year old program starting in January. Children must be 2.5 years old by January 1st and be fully potty-trained. Please email kelly@stlukeshr.com for more information. This class is filling quickly.

December and January are very busy times for our Little School Family. We joined each other in Fellowship Hall for a Thanksgiving Feast in November. We celebrated St. Nicholas Day on December 6th and 7th. The children leave one shoe under the Christmas Tree at Little School when they attend Chapel with Ms. Kelly. When they return from Chapel, St. Nicholas has delivered special treats into their shoes. We also have a fun pajama day (yes, that's me on the right!), pancake breakfast, and even a special visitor makes a stop at Little School to hear what the children all want for Christmas. Lastly, our favorite activity of the season is our Christmas Program. Our wonderful music teachers, Ms. Laura, Ms. Sheri, and Ms. Michele, create a Children's' Christmas Program that leaves hundreds of adults with sore cheeks from smiling. There is nothing better than watching preschool-age children sing Christmas songs. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season full of love, faith, and thanksgiving.



From our Little School Family to Yours,
Merry Christmas! Grace & Peace, **Ms. Kelly**

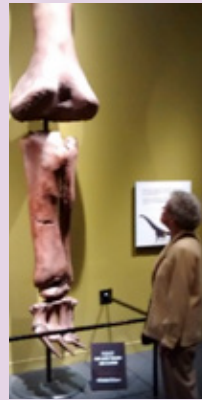
"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."

-Mr. Rogers



Seasoned Voyagers

We are a ministry for ages 55 and up; most Sundays we have a card table set up in the Fellowship Hall area where you can get information on our upcoming activities and tours. Stop by to say hello, pick up a flyer or to sign up for something fun.



Our October tour of the Water Recycling Plant still has us talking - what an educational experience! It was amazing watching the water go from dirty to clean! We also enjoyed a fantastic day at the Museum of Nature and Science in November. Many of us attended the IMAX "Conquest of the Skies" and we would highly recommend it. Thanks to all who participated in our December Bake Sale! Proceeds were \$702 and enabled us to purchase Walmart gift cards for families in need at Sedalia Elementary. And we had a blast at our Christmas celebration on Dec. 12 with a delicious potluck lunch and a fun

mystery party. And we enjoyed Ed Law and Roger Adcock as our musical entertainment!!

JANUARY: We have started sign-ups for our tour of the National Ice Core Laboratory. Thursday, Jan. 4 we will meet at St. Luke's at 9:00am. We had to schedule this months in advance so don't miss the opportunity! The cost is \$5 (for the church bus) and you will need money for lunch afterwards. But, the tour itself is free. The lab is a facility for storing, curating, and studying meteoric ice cores recovered from the glaciated regions of the world! Please bring a Photo ID since this is at the Federal Center.

FEBRUARY: We are planning a guest speaker to come to St. Luke's on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 10:00am. Come hear insight on scams and fraud and learn how to protect yourself. No charge; free will donations encouraged.

MARCH: On Mar. 11, Sunday a meal and the play, "Something's Afoot" at the Littleton Town Hall Theater.

CONVERSATIONS with the Pastors: The first Tuesday of each month a 2:00pm we meet at the church and one of our pastors spends an hour or more with us discussing whatever we want to talk about. Bring your questions or curiosity. This is a great way to get to know more about our pastors, church and Methodism. We sponsor this event, but it is open to anyone in the church to attend.

MISSIONS: Did you know that each month the Seasoned Voyagers also has a Mission Focus? In the past few months we have collected money for UMCOR sustainable well water projects and collected goods to help stuff the Christmas Stockings for Warren Village. Our mission for December is to help ourselves. You may not be aware that when we go on field trips we pay for current and retired pastors to go as our guests. At the Christmas pot luck, we will have a free-will basket for you to donate funds for this purpose to show our love and appreciation for our pastors! Upcoming Missions for 2018 will be HAAT Force, collecting Diapers for the Love Inc. Diaper Drive and supporting UMCOR during their once a year drive to support their administrative costs.

If you have questions about Seasoned Voyagers or would like to join our planning team, contact Rich Krening (rkrening@msn.com) or stop by the Seasoned Voyagers table on Sundays. To be added to the email list to receive updates on Seasoned Voyagers activities, send your email address to Renae Parra (renae@stlukeshr.com) and she will add you to the list.



Beautiful centerpieces by Peggy Fretz



UMW Candlelight Dinner Bliss - "A Holy Night"

On Dec. 5th, 100 women celebrated Christmas with the Annual Candlelight Dinner. Ladies began their Advent season in the candlelight ambiance and soft lights of a Christmas by enjoying a delicious dinner catered by our fantastic Fellowship Events Team, elegantly served by our wonderful men of St. Luke's. They enjoyed the sounds of the seasons provided by St. Luke's Brass Ensemble, directed by Chris Rigolini. The theme for the evening, A Holy Night, offered a time for celebration

of family, friends, happiness, giving and the Holy Moments they will experience during the Advent season. Our Mission recipient was Prison Fellowship Ministries "Angel Tree". Our UMW women provided gift cards to Walmart, Target and Kohl's that were used to purchase gifts to ensure the children of the incarcerated in Colorado are

remembered at Christmas by their parents and Santa.

Please Help The UMW of St. Luke's invite you to join our Executive Leadership Team for 2018. Qualifications: A desire to make a difference by helping to fulfill our mission helping women, children and youth. A desire to grow spiritually, to form new friendships and to have fun! No previous experience is necessary! Contact umwinfo@stlukeshr.com.

Save the Dates:

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING AND GIVING OF OUR TIME:

Jan. 20 – UMW District Mission, Mentoring & Celebrations, Castle Rock UMS

March 20 – 2018 Spiritual Day, Castle Rock UMC

April 29 – Spring Tea Celebration

United Methodist Women enhances your Spiritual Journey, supports you in Friendship and Fellowship, keeps you in Prayer, satisfies Mission Needs, and supplies you with Renewal. Let us be a part of your journey. If you would like to join us at any of these events, please contact umwinfo@stlukeshr.com

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS UPDATE:
We took 280 filled stockings over to Warren Village. Thank YOU St. Luke's! Look for a full recap in our next issue.



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

Interest Groups of UMW

Join an Interest Group at any time. Want something different, let us help. Email us umwinfo@stlukeshr.com.

Book Club ~ Fiction/Non-fiction/Informative/Fun. Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm (potluck 6:15pm) For more information about book club or to receive a list of the 2018 books, contact Cathy at sccecollins@q.com.

- January 22 – "Hillbilly Elegy" by J. D. Vance
- February 26 – "Finding Gobi: A Little Dog with a Very Big Heart" by Dion Leonard

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

Itch to Stitch ~

Projects of Crochet, Knitting, Sewing, Quilting donated to Charities. All skill levels welcome. Focusing on lap blankets for Veteran's Hospital and Nursing Homes. Meets 1st & 3rd Saturday, 10:30am-1:00pm in downstairs Youth Room. (No meetings in December, June or August) All skill levels welcome. Contact: Fran West - 303-797-7107. Check out Our Facebook page !!! - "St. Luke's UMC Itch to Stitch Guild"

An Evening of African Spiritual Music - Jan. 21



St. Luke's Faith and Justice Team and the Music Ministry invite you to experience dynamic and timeless Gospel music sung by the Spirituals Project Choir from the University of Denver Lamont School of Music. The mission of the Spirituals Project is to "preserve and revitalize the music and teachings of the sacred songs called 'spirituals', created and first sung by enslaved Africans in America in the 18th and 19th centuries". The goal is to provide education about these songs and to insure this music is passed to future generations as an art form and as a tradition unique to the African American community.

Join us Sunday, January 21, 2018

© 6:00pm in the Sanctuary to enjoy the music of the Spirituals Project Choir and learn about the role these spirituals played in the lives of these enslaved people. The performance will be followed by a reception where you will have the opportunity to meet some of the performers and introduce yourself to some of our United Methodist neighbors from Scott UMC in Denver who have been invited to join us.

Helping the homeless veterans in our area find shelter and food...

The Renaissance Center has a pantry that is currently empty. If everybody brought one small bag of groceries every week, we could fill up their pantry



again. The blue barrels by the front door will help us accomplish that task. This will be a weekly

delivery project if we can step up and fill those barrels and my vehicle!

—Dave Laurvick

CSE SPIRITUALITY & WELLNESS SPEAKER SERIES:



"BUILDING SPIRITUAL MUSCLE" with Chris Wilterdink – Tuesday, February 20, 6:30-8:00pm

Many of you will remember Chris as a former Youth Director at St. Luke's. He is now Director of Young People's Ministries Program Development in the U.S. for

Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church. We are excited to welcome him back to St. Luke's as he offers an entertaining and informational event that will appeal to our youth, as well as the adults who support them! Chris shares the following as a preview of the evening: "Physical growth and maturity is easy to see. Spiritual growth and maturity? Not so much. Join me to explore stories of spiritual transformation and come away with tactics you can use to challenge yourself to grow. We'll look beneath the surface to reveal what is happening to our spiritual selves, even when we aren't paying attention. We'll celebrate all that we are and all that we can be by putting language to what we are already doing, so that we may start to recognize more of the divine in ourselves." TICKETS GO ON SALE JAN. 28: Purchase your tickets (\$10 each plus \$1 processing fee) through St. Luke's website at stlukeshr.com. FREE Admission for Youth. Tickets also will be sold in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. Childcare available with 24 hr. notice to sam@stlukeshr.com. Contact renae@stlukeshr.com for more info.

SAVE THE DATE: Our next Speaker Series event will be April 17 – "Spiritual Journeys in This Interfaith World"

CSE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES:

We've had another great year of Outdoor Adventures, racking up the miles and the memories of Colorado's wild spaces. 2017 offered a few Colorado surprises along the way. We began our year in March with a planned Snowshoe Hike at Elk Meadow Park near Evergreen. Unfortunately the snow did not cooperate, so we hiked in the warm sunshine in this lovely Jefferson County Open Space. In April, our hike in Matthews/Winters Park was cancelled due to rain – a first cancellation in our five years of Outdoor Adventures. We also had to cancel our May hike at South Mesa Park near Boulder, this time because of a late May snow storm! In June, surrounded by swirling mists, we hiked to the top of Evergreen Mountain. In July we discovered magnificent wild flowers along the loop trail in Dawson Butte. On August 20 we celebrated our 5-year anniversary with a Pot Luck Picnic and Paddle Boarding at Chatfield Reservoir. Our September outing was led by Jack Warner, past president of the Colorado Archaeology Society. Jack provided a fascinating Archaeology Experience in the Ken Caryl Valley. We enjoyed Colorado's colorful fall foliage at Castlewood Canyon in October, and we concluded our 2017 Outdoor Adventures hiking through the varied ecosystems in Matthews Winters/Park near Morrison. We are blessed with so much beauty here in Colorado, much of it within an hour's drive of St. Luke's. We're planning another exciting year of Outdoor Adventures for 2018, and we hope you'll check out our website at www.stlukescse.org to learn more about our plans. All are welcome to join us.

CSE CLASSES AND EXPERIENCES:

We came to listen and were profoundly moved each week by the personal opening of hearts that revealed the sacred places within. Simple Truths led by Tami Canaday and Sam Leahy just completed their 4 week session engaging each week in matters that touch our hearts – suffering, being real, awareness & abundance based on *The Book of Awakenings* by Mark Nepo. **Check back in 2018 for more Simple Truth sessions beginning in the new year.** "To love by admitting our connection to everything is how we stay well" -Mark Nepo

Morning Yoga with Gargi:

Thursday Morning Yoga with Gargi resumes Jan. 11 (9:00 – 10:15am) in the Chapel. (No classes Dec. 28 and Jan. 4) Gargi invites us to turn off our mind chatter, and tune into our bodies. All abilities are welcome; drop in once, and you'll want to come as often as your busy schedule allows. Suggested donation \$12/class. (renae@stlukeshr.com).

MORE CLASSES coming in early 2018:

**WHOLE: Eating for mind,
body & spirit** with Sharon
& Bob Oliver. Jan. 24 & 31 at
6:30pm. Start the new year off
with mindful ways to look at food.

Spirituality 101 facilitated by
Bryan Hutchinson. This will be a
discussion class based on the NY
Times Bestseller "*The Untethered
Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself*"
by Michael Singer.

The Wisdom of You facilitated
by Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long and
Renae Parra - Using the power of
story and reflection, we will listen
and share - affirming who we are
and celebrating the wisdom of our
journey.

Conscious Cooking led by
Melinda Davidson - learn how
cooking and effortless entertaining
are rooted in gracious space and
hospitality. Melinda shares her
techniques and tips to inspire you
to create this space for connection
in your own home.

Reiki Levels I and II Classes with Reiki Practitioner Suzanne Rainey.

To register contact renae@stlukeshr.com or sallie@stlukeshr.com



CSE Mission: Our purpose is to foster
healing and wholeness of mind, body and spirit
through experiences that inspire wellbeing. We
invite all to join us! Visit stlukescse.org



Wellbeing & The "Feel Great" Checklist

As we move into the beginning of the year,
you may enjoy this checklist for feeling great.
Take extra care to prioritize these things...

- Healthy relationships, with family, friends, loved ones, and colleagues.
- Meaningful ways to spend your days.
- A healthy creative and spiritual life.
- A healthy mental and emotional life.
- A healthy lifestyle that supports your physical health with good nutrition, regular exercise, and adequate sleep.

*"The willingness to accept
responsibility for one's own
life is the source from which self-
respect springs." -Joan Didion*

As you begin each day in Advent and the
Christmas season, you may wish to center
yourself in the grace of the Spirit by lighting a
candle and saying this prayer:

*Radiant Creator, awaken
me to your presence.*

*Light of All Lights,
kindle love in my heart.*

*Spirit of Illumination,
guide my path today.*

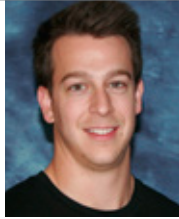
-Amen



Dave Laurvick
Director of
Youth Ministry



Amy McMullen
Assistant Dir. of
Youth Ministry

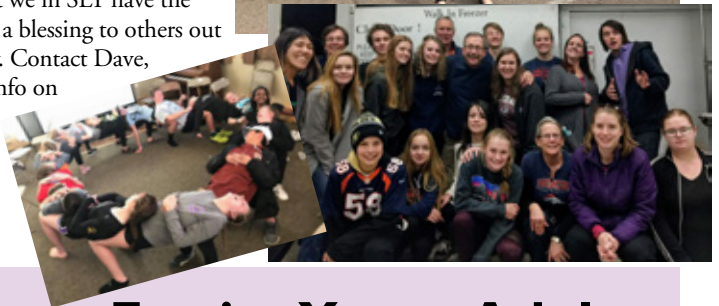


Jake Smith
Assistant Dir. of
Youth Ministry

ON THE SLY: Holiday Blessings

In November, the youth, partnering with SLY, Jr. and other volunteer groups put together Thanksgiving boxes for 450 families and had food left over for several food pantries! Thanks to all who donated (especially Little School - you rock!) and to those who went down to Highlands UMC to assemble the boxes (see team photo at right.) And we filled lots of college care boxes for our (ex-SLY) friends getting ready for finals. We started off December with a fabulous SLY retreat led by Amy and Jake and reflected on much to be thankful. We also partnered with the Methodist church from Boulder for food gleaned after the Bronocs game for We Don't Waste. We are so grateful that we in SLY have the opportunity to be a blessing to others out in the community. Contact Dave, Amy, or Jake for info on how you can help us help others.

***Yours in Christ,
Dave, Amy
& Jake***



Upcoming Events!

- ✧ **Dave's Christmas Wish List:**
PAPERWORK for Confirmation,
Jr High Mission Trip: July 8-15, 2018
(current 6/7/8 grades) and
Sr High Mission Trip: June 17-24, 2018
(current 9/10/11/12 grades)
- ✧ **Parents - An opportunity!** An anonymous donor has set up a matching fund challenge for the Guatemala YOUTH trip Scholarship fund. They will match dollar for dollar up to a total of \$1,500. See Dave if you can help this happen. We've set a target of Dec 31 to hit the goal.
- ✧ **Sunday December 17**
9:30-10:30am SLY AM in the youth room: Life Lessons from the New Testament
5:30pm SLY PM Dinner - Suprise Entree night. Sign up online to bring food.
6:00-7:30pm **White Elephant Gift Exchange**
Bring a wrapped gift...silly or serious (no more than \$10)...and let the opening and gift stealing begin!
- ✧ **Wednesday December 20**
5:30-6:30pm Homework Hour
6:30-8:00pm "Holy Grounds - Coffee/Cookies/Conversation" Your time - your topic - your discussions!!
- ✧ **Sunday December 24**
NO SLY AM OR PM - Regular worship service at 9:30am, Christmas Eve Services at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, and 10:00pm
- ✧ **Wednesday December 27**
NO SLY WEDNESDAY
- ✧ **Sunday December 31**
NO SLY AM OR PM - Regular worship services at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am
- ✧ **SUNDAY AMYOUTH** - We REALLY wants more youth to lead/co-lead/team with an adult leader for SLY AM - Let us know you are interested
- ✧ **January 26/27/28 - YLC:** Youth Leadership Conference
- ✧ **Mission Opportunities:** See Dave if you are looking for community service hours !!
- ✧ **Jeremy's Africa Blog:**
coloradoboyinlesotho.wordpress.com
- ✧ **Sign up to receive our emails and Check stlukeshr.com and click on "Youth" or "SLY" for up-to-date info on programs, activities, opportunities and more!**



Festive Young Adults

The St. Luke's Young Adults has had quite a festive and full few weeks! Between a holiday party, zoo lights, a brewery night out and our first ever Frinds-giving feast, weekends have been jam packed with food, friends, and fun this fall. Nothing quite compares however to our annual tradition of volunteering as balloon handlers at the Denver Parade of Lights! This year, not only did we switch up colors to get fancy red sweatshirts, but we got to be in charge of the brand new snowman balloon! We certainly looked like pros out there as we got to twirl that big snowman around! Of course we still have our usual events going on. Our new bible study series: Living Your Best Life has been a hit! We currently meet the second Friday of the month but may look into adding more dates to the schedule! And of course we can't leave you without an update on everyone's favorite trivia team.. Victorious Secret! This smart bunch got third in the playoff tournament and made it into the championship! Only 16 teams from across the state make it so we felt kinda cool! We'll skip the discussion on how the championships went (i.e. poorly), but know that you can still find us every Tuesday at Lodos for a little trivia and a lot of fun!

Stay Awesome Ya'll - Jake & Amy



Faith, Justice and the “Dreamers” – What Does It Mean to You?

In last month's *Chronicle* you were introduced to the new Faith and Justice Team at St. Luke's. Its purpose is to create space for learning, dialogue and discernment about how our faith and love for God call us to be involved in our world. Its goal is to help us explore how we as individuals and a community live into God's justice, based on Biblical principles of love, compassion and forgiveness.

There are many issues and concerns in our world both near and far. One current topic that United Methodists around the country are discussing is the situation of the so-called “Dreamers,” young people who were brought to the US “illegally” when they were children and are now also “undocumented” immigrants.

Until recently, a program called DACA was in place to allow these young undocumented people to stay in the US for 2 years and obtain a work permit. Every two years they could apply for a renewal. This program has been suspended by Presidential order and about 800,000 immigrants will be subject to deportation once their DACA permit expires. One source estimates that 97% of the Dreamers are either in school or working. They are, for example, Denver school teachers, employees of Fortune 500 companies, military service people, a United Methodist pastor and small business owners.

This raises a number of questions for us as members of a faith community. How do the justice and grace aspects of our faith call us to respond to these questions?

- Should a person of faith speak their opinion regarding governmental policies and laws?
- Should we first uphold the law and then seek to improve it where needed?
- Should we support “civil disobedience” in order to change policies and laws?
- Should there be “amnesty,” which many say could encourage more people to break the law?
- Should these young people stay in the country when they came “illegally” and use our resources such as health care, education, scholarships, in-state tuition and economic supports?
- Should people be punished for something they had no say in?
- What could happen to a young person who moves to a country where they may not know the language and with which they have no experience? Should the law take precedence?
- Are these immigrants contributing to or draining the economy and should that factor into what should be done? How much are they paying in taxes?
- What if a “Dreamer” has children they may have borne since they have come to the US?
- What if we compare the “Dreamers” to loved ones who went through years of time and hard work to come to the US “legally?”

We have love, compassion and forgiveness as values for living into God's justice. You could also add integrity – how does my faith and relationship with God call me to respond?

As we are writing this article, efforts are underway to include the DREAM Act and CHIP Renewal to the budget that will be passed this month. If you feel strongly, one way or another, this is an opportunity to share your ideas and opinions. If these efforts are achieved, the March 5 deadline is no longer relevant.”

The Faith and Justice Team invites you to become more informed on this issue if these young “Dreamers” speak to your heart. Betsy Keyack (bkeyack@att.net) can guide you to a variety of resources from different perspectives. She can also connect you with opportunities to meet immigrants and hear their stories.



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



Kristi Pawley
Music & Arts
Admin. Assistant/
Accounting Clerk



*This Christmas may hope warm your heart,
love warm your family, and the Holy Spirit
warm all mankind. May the harmony of
Christmas stay in your heart all year round
and may the Lord send blessings of comfort
and joy to you and your family.*

Happy Holidays from Music and Drama!

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

St. Luke's Wesley Players production of *Christmas on Broadway* on Dec. 2 was a great way to kick off the Advent season! The audience enjoyed cookies, drinks and festive holiday songs from Broadway shows such as *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Elf the Musical*, *White Christmas* and many others. We had a big turnout (around 500 folks!) in our Fellowship Hall venue and had to add chairs all the way to the Sanctuary doors for the afternoon performance. This was a wonderful intergenerational event with 40 singers from age 8 to 75 along with a spectacular artistic, hospitality and instrumental crew. We appreciate everyone who participated in and came out to see the two shows and donated to UMCOR's Hurricane Relief. Thank you St. Luke's for your talent, your Christmas spirit and your generosity!!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the next WESLEY PLAYERS SHOW:

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Fri., Mar. 2 © 7:00pm • Sat., Mar 3 © 2:00 & 7:00pm • Sun., Mar 4 © 2:00pm





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

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

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



The Gathering -
Jan. 7, 2018 2:00-4:00pm

**Would you like to learn more
about St. Luke's UMC?
Come to The Gathering.**

- Welcoming ALL to a deeper connection with our community
 - Gather to meet new friends and staff
 - Enjoy great conversation
 - With an option to Celebrate Membership
- RSVP office@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659 x110

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Kim DeVries
Office Administrator

PRAYER CONCERNS

Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x132,
leave a note with Kim at the front desk, or email sallie@stlukeshr.com

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

<i>Rose Coryell</i>	<i>Mac Merchant</i>	<i>Kimberlee Trembath</i>
<i>Sarah Dunlap</i>	<i>Richard O'Neill</i>	<i>Annie Van Hoosen</i>
<i>John Heaton</i>	<i>Parker Patierno</i>	<i>Matt Ward</i>
<i>George Hutchins</i>	<i>Paul Peterman</i>	<i>Bonnie Williams</i>

SYMPATHIES:

Denise Anderson on the December 3 passing of her mother, Judy, in Arizona.
Kristi Fredericks on the passing of her father in November.
Dorothy Lindahl on the passing of her husband Bruce on December 4.
Leigh Ramsey on the passing of a friend and colleague in late November.
Fran and Bob West on the passing of their close friend, Susan Baak, in November.
Dawn Zilch on the passing of her mother in November.
Colleen Cassell on the passing of her husband, Gary, in November.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Paul and Kristen Northrop on the birth of their son, Lucas Hammond, born November 11. Grandparents are Peter and Susan Northrop.

***Don't you be
afraid, for I
am with you.
Don't be
dismayed,
for I am your
God. I will
strengthen
you....*** —Isaiah 41:10

Trustees Corner

Safety and Security at St. Luke's

The Trustees, Ushers, and Life Safety Team are responsible for safety and security at St. Luke's. They have put in place various plans and procedures related to suspicious persons, fires, evacuations, and medical and other emergencies. Input to these plans have been provided by law enforcement, security experts, and medical professionals. Safety and security on Sunday mornings is an obvious priority, and ushers provide an important service to the congregation every week. We also make sure that during the week safety measures are in place. To practice our procedures, fire drills and lock down drills are conducted on an ongoing basis on Sunday mornings and throughout the week (e.g. for Little School), and we provide CPR/first aid training. If you see anything suspicious or that might require attention, please speak out! We appreciate everyone's eyes and ears. You may contact any member of staff, the pastors, trustees or ushers.