

Advent/Epiphany

The Chronicle

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

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Join One of Our Christmas Eve Teams!

Serve Dec. 24 at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 or 9:00pm

Greeters: Welcome all to St. Luke's. Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the service. Contact Renae Parra renae@stlukeshr.com

Ushers: Assist in welcoming, seating and various duties during the service. We will need you here 30 minutes prior to the service. Contact Jay Lee jjlee1012@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

Fellowship Hall Tear-Down: Help put away chairs in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall after the 7:00pm service. Contact Ken Fong ken@stlukeshr.com



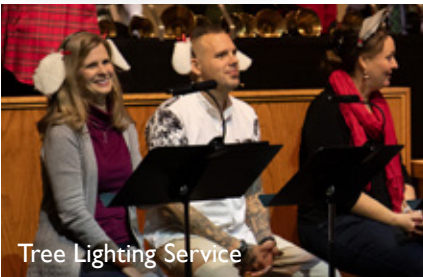
Tree Lighting Service



UMW Candlelight Dinner



Thanksgiving Food for All



Tree Lighting Service



Tree Lighting Service



Holiday Shop



ADVENT 2019
a story born again
...AND AGAIN... ...AND AGAIN...

WEEK TWO

DEC. 8 9 & 11A
DEC. 8 6P

Peace

CHRISTMAS CANTATA WHEN CHRISTMAS HURTS
A SERVICE OF HEALING & WHOLENESS

DEC. 10 11A

DEC. 11 6P

SEASONED VOYAGERS CELEBRATE! (55+)
FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

WEEK THREE

DEC. 15 8, 9:30, & 11A

Joy

WORSHIP: "A STORY OF COURAGE" (RYAN & JESSICA), CANDY CANE SUNDAY
FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DEC. 18 6P
DEC. 19 9:15 & 11:15A

WEEK FOUR

DEC. 22 8, 9:30, & 11A

Love

WORSHIP: "A STORY OF WONDER" (JESSICA)

DEC. 24 Christmas Eve SERVICES

We offer five opportunities to celebrate. Our 1 and 3pm services are designed with families and children in mind, with puppets, kids' choirs, youth choir, and youth handbells. Our 5 and 7pm services are more traditional, ft. Chancel Choir, handbells, brass, and "Silent Night." Our 9pm service features communion, soloists, and a contemplative celebration of Emmanuel.

DEC. 25 9:30A
DEC. 29 9:30A

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
WORSHIP: "THE WONDER CONTINUES" (SAM & RYAN)
WORSHIP: "A STORY OF BEYOND" (JESSICA)
CELEBRATION OF THE KINGS

JAN. 5 8, 9:30, & 11A

Epiphany

Sunday Worship Services

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

Sunday SchoolAdult, Youth & Children:
9:30am & 11:00am**Nursery**

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

Office Hours:MON-THU: 8:30am-1:00pm & 1:30-4:00pm
FRI: 8:30am-12:00pm

Church Office.....303-791-0659
 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. Schawn Kellogg.....x143
Care Pastor

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

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

Jake Smith.....x145
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

Rena Parra.....x117
Director of Servant Ministry

Rex Gradeless.....x124
Director of Finance

Kristi Pawley.....x116
Accounting Clerk

Leon Hrcsek.....x110
Building Maintenance/Custodian Fall-Spring

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

All submissions for the
February/March "Winter/Lent" issue
of *The Chronicle* are due
January 20, 2020
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com

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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

Coming in January...

Hey St. Luke's!

Yes, I get it, as I am writing this, Christmas isn't even here yet... but we are looking forward to our Epiphany worship series which will kick off on January 12, 2020! Are you ready to wonder and ask big questions together? We'll spend 7 weeks in

WONDER:

Questions That Form & Transform Our Faith.

Does it ever feel like the faith that was handed you is no longer relevant, like you can no longer believe the things you once believed? Did God stop making sense somewhere along the way? Or maybe you never lost faith but you have the sneaking suspicion that life would be more meaningful if your faith were to deepen. Perhaps we do not need a new set of beliefs, but a new way of believing, not simply new answers to the same old questions, but a new set of questions. Through the art of asking questions we encounter God and faith in new, life-giving ways. In this series you will be challenged to wonder as we explore seven questions that form and transform our faith.

I can't wait to journey with you through wonder and questions...and I can't wait to see how we encounter God and each other along the way. See you around! Grace & Peace, **Rev. Ryan**

When Christmas Hurts

A Service of Healing and Wholeness

DECEMBER 8 at 6:00pm

Perhaps you are grieving the death of a loved one or the end of a marriage or long relationship. Maybe you are struggling with health issues and depression. Christmas may even be a time when you feel particularly lonely because your family is far away. There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort and hope. Those looking for healing, wholeness and renewal are invited to participate in this time of quiet reflection with meaningful words and music pointing to Immanuel, God with us.



Stewardship Update:

Thank you so much for all of your participation and generosity during our Stewardship campaign. You heard throughout the campaign the stories of how St. Luke's is impacting lives through our various ministries. The budget goal we set in order to keep sharing our mountain top moments, and expand what we're doing even further, was a 10% increase, \$1.2M to \$1.4M.

We wanted to let you know the current status, knowing more pledge cards are still coming. As of December 1, we've received 214 cards, compared to last year's final count of 247.

If you haven't turned your pledge card in yet, you're not too late. We have a box on the Get Connected table or you can still mail them. Thanks again for the great progress towards our 2020 goal and helping us live our principles of Grace, Courage, Wonder and Beyond.



Rev. Jessica Rooks
Lead Minister of
Community Life

Through His story, we are born again... and again

Jesus' birth is considered amongst the greatest stories in history.

These stories are filled with drama and intrigue. They are filled with moments of great pain and great joy. They are filled with characters we understand and connect with. These



stories include flawed individuals who receive calls beyond their imagination. There are kings who kneel before peasants. There are messengers of God who ignite fear and imagination.

There is a baby, whose birth should not have been noticed by anyone beyond his family. And yet, his birth attracted the attention of kings and peasants alike. His birth created movement in the stars. His birth brought voice to the voiceless and hope to the hopeless. His is a birth story. And through his story, we find our own birth stories. We find our stories of grace, courage, wonder and beyond. Through his story, we are born again...and again...and again.

The following is a poem by Ann Weems in her book, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

Each year the Child is born again.

Each year some new heart

finally hears

finally sees

finally knows love.

And in heaven

there is great rejoicing!

There is a festival of stars!

There is celebration among the angels!

For in the finding of one lost sheep,

the heart of the Shepherd is glad, and

The Child is born anew

and one more knee is bowed!

As we enter into this season, hearing again the story of Jesus' birth, might we enter into the story and find our way to the manger this year. Might we find our way to the birthplace where love enters into our hearts and into our world. Might we make our way to the manger this season and be transformed by the unexpected people who join us; the unexpected people who reveal Christ's love to us. Might we enter into this story, and find new life waiting for us.

Merry Christmas to you!

Grace and Blessings, *Rev. Jessica*



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Lead Minister of
Spiritual Life
Director - Center for
Spiritual Engagement

Hearts for Honduras

CSE Cultural and Service Experience

The Center for Spiritual Engagement is excited to announce our second service and cultural trip to Honduras! On our first CSE international service trip in 2018, we had a transformational experience with our visit to the beautiful highlands of Central Honduras.

We are grateful for the opportunity to take a second group to experience this remarkable part of the world. An adventuresome group of 12 people will travel in mid February 2020 to Abundant Life Christian School. Here are some of the ways we'll be connecting with children and families during our trip.

Books for Children at Abundant Life Christian School

We have the privilege of supporting the expansion of the Library for children and teachers. We helped start the library two years ago and now will add more books to the collection! If you'd like to help fill the library, you can purchase books at our St. Luke's Hearts for Honduras table on Sunday mornings between now and mid-January. Thanks to Melinda Davidson and Nancy Abbott (who traveled on the first Honduras trip) for coordinating all the book details! Our 2020 Hearts for Honduras team will happily deliver the books directly to the children.



Fiesta Tipica

We'll join children and families in for the Abundant Life Christian School's annual Cultural Festival called Fiesta Tipica. The timing of our trip works perfectly for us to be part of this special experience highlighting the food, customs, dance, and music of Honduras.

Inspiring Music

We're taking preliminary steps to support the music program at Abundant Life Christian School. It's a natural link for our music-loving St. Luke's community to support the school in this way. More to come regarding this opportunity!

Talitha Cumi Home for Girls

We'll visit with children at a home for girls called Talitha Cumi (which means Rise Up Little Girl). Talitha Cumi supports children from the ages of 1-17 who are in need of loving care and education.

We're humbled and grateful for this opportunity to expand our connections with children, families, and schools in Central America. Our sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers and support. We are honored for the chance to reach beyond our walls and into the world.

Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
And the 2020 CSE Honduras Team!

Julie Gustafson • Larry Gustafson • Jennifer Hiltz • Jennifer Jensen • Sue Jones • Sharon Oliver • Bob Oliver • Renae Parra • Thomas Suby-Long • Mary Walker • Edee Worth



Renae Parra
Director of
Servant Ministry

Get CONNECTED

Get Connected at St. Luke's. To learn more about opportunities to get involved, contact Renae at renae@stlukeshr.com or x117

Open Minds Adult Sunday School Class



Starting January 5 (9:30-10:30am in room 210)
The Root of the Problem - Differing Views on Grace, Sanctification, and Christian Perfection in the American Protestant Movement. We share common origins, history and terminology. Why do we view things differently? We will look at the development

of these ideas in the American Protestant movement and the Evangelical, Ecumenical and Pentecost branches. We will try to understand why even when we say the same words we mean different things and how that impacts how we relate to each other.

Helpers Needed on Christmas Eve

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 to 30 minutes. A small amount of time that helps A LOT! Contact Renae Parra renae@stlukeshr.com

Storytelling Project Continues

Here's an update on our Storytelling Project (Building enhancement): Thanks to your donations, our Phase 2 of the project has replaced the carpeting in the front entry, installed the wood walls in the Fellowship Hall, purchased pub tables and stools for the donut area and purchased many more large photos for our rotating display. Coming up next,



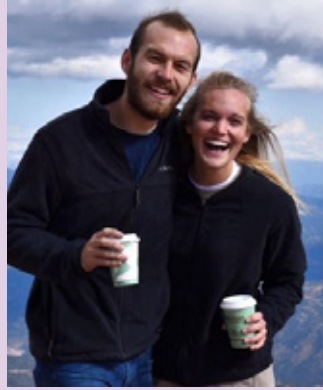
we have new lighting ready to install after the holiday greenery is removed and some beautiful new signage you will be sure to notice. The best part of this project is seeing the reactions from all of you when you see

our updated, energized space. The beautiful new paint and words in the front entry continue to spark reactions and our large photos always catch the attention of newcomers. We are assessing other projects to beautify the sanctuary and public spaces. Thank you for your support of this project. We are still accepting donations to complete our projects (please put "storytelling" on your check memo line!) See anyone on our team for more info: Rev. Ryan, Rev. Sallie, Ken Fong, Renae Parra, Kristi Pawley and Michelle Lamoreaux.

Staff Update © St. Luke's

Thank You, Hannah!

Hannah Shepperd joined our staff as the Director of



Communications and Office Administration in February 2019. In her ten months on staff, Hannah brought a fresh perspective and depth to St. Luke's communications, along with joy and graciousness to the front office.

Hannah's husband, Aaron, was offered a job outside of Spokane, Washington, and the two of them

moved to Washington in early December. This was a good opportunity for Hannah and Aaron, and even though we were sad to see them go, we sent them off with blessings. Good luck Hannah and Aaron, and we hope to see you around St. Luke's for a visit!

THANK YOU, Leaders!

As the year comes to a close, we have new leaders ready to step into our 3-year teams in January. St. Luke's staff is grateful for all the ways you are serving our community. At this time we want to give a special heartfelt thank you to leaders who are rolling off a 3-year term on our leadership teams.

Bryan Hutchinson - Lay Leader

Julie Polikoff - Lay Leader

Russ Overman - Trustees

Lee Seaman - Trustees

Sandi Thompson - Trustees

Karen Meade - Trustees

Gordon Heaton - Staff Parish Relations

Chris Marvel - Staff Parish Relations

Kelly Amadeo - Finance

Jason Mayka - Finance Team Leader

Jeff Schnackel - Finance Team

Jim Collier - Stewardship

Elizabeth Bauer - Equipping Ministry Team Leader

Ann Metz - Equipping Ministry

Lisa Heaton - Missions

Steve Stine - Missions

Lance Willoughby - Missions

Jay Lee - Head Usher

Dave Rhodes - Golf Tournament leader

Poinsettias \$25

There will be a table to order poinsettias in the Narthex on Dec. 1, 8, & 15. Please help us decorate for the Christmas season, In Honor Of, In Memory Of or In Celebration Of. Names will be listed in the bulletin.

You may take your poinsettia home after the 10:00pm Christmas Eve service. Or you may donate your poinsettia, it will be taken to a nursing home for others to enjoy.



Celebrations of Life

The Altar Team invites you to help us decorate our Altar each Sunday by Celebrating Your Life, Your Family and Your Friends. The two bouquets, designed by our floral designers, cost \$40 for both. You may request certain colors/flowers and the designers will do their best to honor that.

You may take the bouquets home after the 11:00am service and return the vases at your convenience. Call or stop into the office to reserve your "Special Flower Sunday". There are many available Sundays in January, February, and March. 2020.

New Year's Resolution?

The beginning of a new year is a good time to evaluate our life's priorities and decide what we want to do differently. One thing I would suggest is to find more time to be of service to others.

As I have gotten older, I have found out that things don't just happen, I have to be intentional about them. If I don't plan, things don't happen. The start of the year is a good time to see if you have a few hours a week or a month to become involved in St Luke's missions' projects. Our food drive, helping at Sedalia Elementary or Warren Village, giving time to We Don't Waste, or being involved in our Guatemala projects are opportunities that are available.

Methodists have made the world a better place by committing to be of service to others. As a group, we have a wide range of views on what that means. When we honor each other's visions and support each other, very creative solutions to problems are found.

We also view service to others as a means of grace, a way of understanding our relationship with God. Service can help us to see what we are called to and what is important in our lives. Please join me in being of service to others. – *Monty Hoffman*

Spaghetti Dinner Helps People Experiencing Homelessness

One of St. Luke's long-time mission partners is HAAT Force - Homeless Awareness and Action Task Force South Metro. HAAT Force, founded in 2010, provides motel vouchers to families and people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness



on severe weather nights. The Board of Directors of HAAT Force would like to express their deep gratitude to St. Luke's for hosting and supporting our spaghetti dinner fundraiser on October 25. Many thanks are due to the volunteers who helped in a variety of ways with the set-up, decor, welcome table, food, children's activities, silent auction, check-out and last but certainly not least, the clean-up. The entertainment by our really cool St. Luke's puppets and Wesley Player singers was superb and we cannot thank them enough for sharing their creativity, time and talents with us! We greatly appreciate all the beautiful silent auction donations. Thanks to all

for your silent auction bids and monetary donations! We had an unusually snowy October and the snowiest November since 1994. The spaghetti dinner helped HAAT Force provide shelter to the most vulnerable of our neighbors during the extremely active start to this winter season. Going forward, HAAT Force and its recipient families and people with disabilities continue to need and appreciate your financial support! Thank you so much, St. Luke's!!! – *Betsy Keyack*



More. We are a country of more. Sometimes it's good. My immigrant parents wanted more for us. I moved across the country to live life more abundantly. God called me across the states to find a new way and be more in my sobriety. I came to

Colorado at a year and a half sober and found FREE a few months later. I thought, "there's no way this place is what I've been seeking, for so long. This can't be where I can be Christian and a sober alcoholic at the same time." It is.

Rev. Ryan is often telling me, "you're really going big on this one." And I tell him, "I don't know what that means." But now I'm starting to get it. We really are going big at FREE. We are busting at the seams on Saturday nights. Our community keeps growing! I come to meetings during the week, which is nice, because there used to be a meeting drought in this particular part of south Denver. Now, the meetings at FREE are busy too. And...the coffee...this too is growing!

*****Yall, if you haven't had Tami's coffee, you have not experienced the reason why God gave us coffee beans. It's a spiritual experience all by itself.*****

"...because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" [1 John 4:4].

As I write this, Mercy Me is playing in the background. I think about how being in a spiritual community for addicts, loved ones of addicts, and spiritual refugees gave me the support I needed to live my best sober life. I got enough courage to share a really horrifyingly funny story at the recent Sober Open Mic Night. I got and am getting to finally love Jesus and allow Him to love me, to have that deep love relationship for which I have prayed for so long. He asked me to be more in this world. To be more of Him. To be more Love. To be more Present. To be the Gift. Through FREE, God is giving me the opportunity to be more.

Kavita J. Darji - Member, FREE

Christmas In The Park brings an assortment of new and gently used items to Lincoln Park in Denver to make Christmas day something very special to those who might not see it as a special day. In 2018 more than 700 individuals living on the streets or in shelters were given, clothing, shoes, socks, hats, gloves, coats, sleeping bags and much more. Please join us in serving on Christmas Day by contacting sam@stlukeshr.com or support by donating socks, used boots or monetary donations for IKEA bags that will be given to everyone in line to collect basic necessities. Thank you for bringing hope this holiday to those less fortunate. – *Sam Leahy*

Seasoned Voyagers Bake Sale for Sedalia Elementary Families - Thanks for Your Support!

Seasoned Voyagers hopes you enjoyed your baked goods purchased at our annual bake sale on December 1. Proceeds will be used to purchase Walmart gift cards for families in need at Sedalia Elementary School during the Christmas season. The Sedalia staff will identify the recipient families and put the gift cards in envelopes for the parents. When the office administrator heard about the proceeds of \$800, the reaction was: "WOW!!!! That is something else. Once again you are the best!" Thanks to the Seasoned Voyagers bakers and all who contributed to the proceeds! – *Betsy Keyack*

Children's Calendar Praise, Play & Prayers

(check website for full calendar)

- December 8 (SUN) - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Enjoy the Christmas Cantata 9:00 & 11:00am
- December 8 (SUN) - **SLY, Jr. CHRISTMAS PARTY** Bring white elephant gift to exchange, potluck dish to share and \$5, 5:30-7:30pm. Contact sharon@stlukeshr.com to RSVP.
- December 11 (WED) - **FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** 6:00-6:30pm. Contact Sam for more info.
- December 13 (FRI) - **Parent's Night Out** 6:00pm. Contact Sam.
- December 15 (SUN) - **CANDY CANE SUNDAY** - SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 & 11:00am
- December 18 (WED) - **FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** 6:00-6:30pm. Contact Sam for more info.
- December 22 (SUN) - **SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 & 11:00am
- December 24 (TUE) - **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** 1:00 & 3:00pm
- December 29 (SUN) - **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Enjoy Family Worship

JANUARY 2020:

- January 4 (SAT) - **Parent's Time Away** 9:00am. Contact Sam. to RSVP
- January 5 (SUN) - **SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 & 11:00am - KING SUNDAY
- January 10 (FRI) - **Parent's Night Out** 6:00pm. Contact Sam for more info.
- January 12 (SUN) - **SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 & 11:00am
- January 12 (SUN) - **SLY, Jr. JUMPSTREET!** 5:30-8:00pm: All 5th & 6th graders welcome. Contact Sharon for info. \$17 (includes pizza).
- January 21 (SUN) - **SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 & 11:00am
- January 28 (SUN) - **SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 & 11:00am
- January 31-February 1 (FRI-SAT) - **SLY, Jr. LOCK IN: "My Story is EPIC!"** All 5th & 6th graders welcome. \$25. Contact Sharon to RSVP.

FEBRUARY:

- February 1 (SAT) - **Parent's Time Away** 9:00am. Contact Sam to RSVP.
- February 2 (SUN) - **SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 & 11:00am
- February 4 (TUE) - **CMT Meeting** 6:30pm
- February 5 (WED) - **CHILDREN'S DINNER THEATER AUDITIONS** 6:30pm
- February 7 (FRI) - **Parent's Night Out** 6:00pm. Contact Sam for more info.
- February 9 (SUN) - **SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:30 & 11:00am
- February 9 (SUN) - **CHILDREN'S DINNER THEATER AUDITIONS** 10:45am



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



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

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

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

Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 & 11:00am and register online any time throughout the year. We run on volunteer help. Sign up online to serve our children. Thank you!

St. Luke's Kids
Growing with God

SLY, Jr. Christmas Party Sunday Dec. 8 5:30-7:30pm

All 5th & 6th graders welcome - Come celebrate the season with games, white elephant gift exchange, Christmas craft and more! Bring a favorite holiday dish to share and Join us! - **Mark your calendar for the SLY, Jr. LOCK IN "My Story is EPIC!" - Jan. 31!** We take over the church overnight! For more info contact Sharon and check out our children's pages on the St. Luke's website.



Candy Cane Sunday

Sunday Dec. 15 See how the Candy Cane represents the Christmas Story and take one home!

Children's Christmas Eve

Tuesday Dec. 24 1:00 & 3:00pm

"A Born Again Story" Children's Christmas Eve services featuring the Cherub's Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz, Soul Purpose Youth Choir, Joyful Noise Youth Handbell Choir and our Puppet Ministry.
Nursery offered at the 3:00pm service.

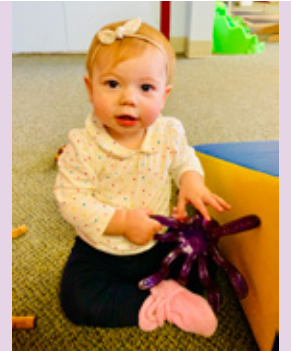
Sunday Dec. 29

No Sunday School - Enjoy Family Worship *Nursery is available.*

Epiphany & Kings Sunday

Sunday Jan. 5, 2020 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Join us as the Magi and their entourage present their gifts to the Christ child in a family worship experience featuring our Puppet Ministry.



Our Nursery

St. Luke's Nursery is a place for babies, toddlers and young children to develop a sense of trust and God's love through our caring staff. The Nursery is available this holiday season every Sunday from 9:00am-12noon for Church services and will be available on Christmas Eve at the 3:00, 5:00 & 7:00pm services. Please feel free to visit us downstairs where our youngest members begin to grow in their faith foundation.

Fall Festival FUN!

With a last minute shift of dates from Sunday to Saturday Oct. 26 we avoided a blizzard and had beautiful weather for our outdoor Fall Festival! Families enjoyed Trunk or Treats Cars, Games, Bouncy Castle, Chickens, Bunnies, Balloon Animals, Snacks, Crafts, our Pumpkin Patch and more! Big thanks to all of the volunteers who made this a success!





Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

A story born again... and again... and again...

We began our story of the 2019/2020 school year just a few months ago, and we are already planning for our story of the 2020/2021 school year! I feel like we just finished getting all of our students registered, and we are already making plans for the next school year. If you or anyone you know is looking for a faith-based preschool, we will begin taking applications on January 6th at 9:00am. Our registration paperwork will be on our website by December 16th, and forms can be emailed to kelly@stlukeshr.com no sooner than 9:00am on January 6th.

Our Christmas season is filled with so many wonderful activities. In chapel, I am teaching the children about the four visioning words of St. Luke's UMC. This month we are learning about wonder. We learned the story of St. Nicholas, and the children placed their shoes under the Christmas tree in hopes that St. Nicholas would visit us at Little School.

In addition, we celebrate the season of advent with a pancake breakfast, pajama day, a visit from Santa himself, and of course of the annual Christmas Program. Last year, 800 friends and families of Little School attended our Christmas Program. I might be biased, but it is truly the best Christmas Program there is. There are few things cuter than tiny children dressed in their Christmas outfits singing a variety of Christmas songs and playing instruments.

In January, we prepare for western weeks and our family fun night. Our western weeks align with the stock show being in town, and we enjoy turning Little School into a mini stock show. Our favorite event of the year is our family fun night. We have a bouncy house, popcorn, dance floor, crafts, face painting, sing-alongs, and more.

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

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

-Anonymous

Grace and Love,

Kelly Amadeo, Director
St. Luke's Little School

"The Wonder of Angels"

Candlelight Dinner – Dec. 3

Have You Ever Wondered About Angels? Is there an Angel in your life? Throughout our individual years I'm sure you will all agree that we have had Angels in our lives. They are those special friends that make us smile, give us a helping hand, know what we are going to say, and at times finish our sentences. And they are also the stranger that gives a helping hand.



We, the UMW have been blessed with many of those angels. They have assisted us in our events, donating their time, energy and money to our missions. On December 3, we celebrated with all our St. Luke's Angels at our Annual Candlelight Dinner. Our Mission for the evening was Judi's House, a grief support team that assists children dealing with grief. We collected gift cards from Target and Walmart for their team members to use in their support. Our St. Luke's newly formed FET team cooked a delicious dinner, and the evening was enjoyed by all attendees.

At our Candlelight Dinner we also Honored One of our Own Angels. Each year St. Luke's UMW recognizes a person who has truly embraced the mission of UMW assisting Women, Youth and Children and has answered the call to serve. Our honoree's many affirming gifts encourages Mission Work, quietly serving and working with the Itch to Stitch Interest Group of UMW. She is dedicated to her gift of quilting, sewing and working on Veterans Lap Robes, the Annual Quilt of Valor, and she helps repair new toys for Warren Village – just to name a few of her many gifts. She is a very active member of the Firehouse Quilts Organization that make quilts for First Responders in comforting children in crisis. She is thoughtful, caring, and is always willing to help or volunteer in any way possible and always, always has a smile. A financial contribution to the United Methodist Women's Mission fund celebrating women, children and youth has been given in honor of our recipient. We are so proud to present a Special Mission Recognition Certificate and Pin to **Mary Peterson.**



UMW Interest Groups: Looking to expand your participation in our community? Join in!

Book Club – Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm. Come at 6:15pm for a monthly potluck followed by our Book Club meeting at 7:00pm.

- **December** – No meeting in December
- **January 27 – Nineteen Minutes** by Jodi Picoult

For more information about book club or to receive a list of the 2020 books, contact Teri Burget, teri0962@gmail.com.

Common Thread – Friendship/Fellowship/Caring/ Sharing. First Thursday of each month, 10:00 am. 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 are welcome! Contact Fran West 303-797-7107. Check out our Facebook page – "St Luke's UMC Itch to Stitch Guild".

For more info: Visit: www.stlukeshr.com

Email: bettyludlam1718@gmail.com, **Like us on**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stlukeshrumw>



"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."

We are United Methodist Women - What do we do?

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

To simplify - we surround this above stated purpose with friendship, enjoyment, laughter, fun, food, and the satisfaction and gratification of being one of God's servants ~ God gives to us, we give to others.

We invite you to you to join our team and assist us in our mission to help women, youth and children domestically here at home, nationally around the United States, and internationally.

All of our missions "lift up and give a helping hand" in assisting women to become self sufficient; youth at risk of becoming homeless; advocates for healthy family atmospheres; assisting therapists to aid children of abuse; keeping the homeless warm.



Center for
**Spiritual
Engagement**
inspiring connection & wellbeing

CSE Purpose:

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

Take a look at our website:

stlukesCSE.org

CSE OUTDOOR ADVENTURES:

Rattlesnake Gulch Trail in Eldorado Canyon - Oct. 8 Towering granite formations and the rushing sounds of South Boulder Creek greeted us as we entered Eldorado Canyon. The Rattlesnake Gulch Trail follows an old wagon road up the south wall of the canyon to the ruins of the Crags Hotel, which was completed in 1908 and burned down mysteriously in 1913. A quarter mile beyond the hotel we enjoyed the beautiful overlook to the Continental Divide. After hiking we enjoyed delicious “potluck” snacks on the banks of South Boulder Creek.



Highline Canal Trail to Marjorie Perry Nature Preserve – Nov. 9

This hike was a lovely substitution for our planned hike to Mt. Galbraith, due to ice and mud on the Mt. Galbraith trail. (We’re rescheduling Mt. Galbraith for the spring of 2020.) We hiked approximately 2 miles to the serene nature preserve named for this remarkable western woman born in 1886. She had the foresight to protect this beautiful oasis, surrounded by Greenwood Village, for future generations of nature lovers.

For further information on this and future hikes please contact Jane or Julie. (juliepolikoff@msn.com).

Books for Honduras CSE will have a group of people traveling to Honduras in February for a second service and cultural experience! Again, we are collecting books to take to the Abundant Life Christian School to continue expanding their library started in 2018 by generous donations from St. Luke’s. We hope you will support this year’s team!

There are three ways for you to contribute.

- Take a tag or two or three from the Giving Tree and purchase the book mentioned on the tag. All of the books can be found on Amazon.
- Help purchase a set of books to use in the classroom.
- Make a financial donation and the team will purchase the books.

Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall for more information. All donations and books need to be returned by January 12, 2020. Thank you for your continued generosity!



CSE CLASSES & EXPERIENCES:

NEW in 2020:

Nourish: Wholehearted Being and Living with Melinda Davidson



Melinda will offer a unique and inspirational 2-part experience combining both an individual and group activity designed to Nourish your whole being – mind, spirit and body. By consciously slowing down, we can then begin to feel, listen and investigate to foster personal growth. The shifts, directions, and joys that we all deserve exist already well within each of us. Let’s Nourish you in the new year as we inspire wholeness of self. Included will be a 1½ hour private Reiki session and a 2½ hour group meal planning and preparation class. Cost is \$65 for both the Reiki and the cooking class! This is a small group experience you won’t want to miss so be sure to register early. For more information contact Melinda at md.md@comcast.net.

Introduction to the Enneagram - January 26, 2020 (1:00-4:30pm) Revs. Shawn Kellogg and Sallie Suby-Long will lead this introduction to the Enneagram, a powerful tool to develop self-awareness. The Enneagram can provide a “soul-map” for understanding who we are, as well as an engaging pathway for personal growth. Register with Rev Sallie (sallie@stlukeshr.com) Your \$49 registration includes workshop, materials, and snacks.

Advanced Enneagram Workshop - February 16, 2020 (1:00-4:00pm) Revs. Shawn Kellogg and Sallie Suby-Long have designed this class as a follow-on for those who have taken Introduction to the Enneagram, or have a foundation in the Enneagram. This class offers greater depth, understanding, and application of the Enneagram. We’ll learn about “wings” and personal instinct preferences, which help to define further our individuality. Register with Rev. Shawn (schawn6@hotmail.com) Your \$49 registration includes workshop, materials, and snacks.

CSE EXPERIENCES RECAP:

thrive! Renewing the Healthy Rhythm of your Life On Nov. 6th, Rev. Sallie Suby-Long and Renae Parra led a new all day retreat experience called *thrive* at the Hideaway retreat center. The focus for the day was on a Wellbeing model from the University of Minnesota and personal reflection for each person to assess where they are thriving in life and what next step they want to take to improve their overall wellbeing. The beautiful trees at the Hideaway provided the best symbolism for the day as we noticed they sway with the wind and stand deeply rooted. Keep your eyes open for another offering for *thrive* in 2020.

WHOLE: Exploring Wellness in the Blue Zones – with Sharon and Bob Oliver:

On Nov. 16th Sharon and Bob Oliver invited us into their home once again to share their knowledge about how to eat more mindfully and healthfully. They focused on 5 areas of the world (blue zones), where people live longer, happier and healthier lives. We shared a light meal and blue zone recipes and left inspired.



The Music Man in February!



Performances:

Friday, Feb. 21 at 7:00pm
 Saturday, Feb. 22 at
 2:00pm and 7:00pm
 Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2:00pm



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

Tickets will be available online or at the door!

Music & Arts News:

Christmas Cantata Join us for one of the most talked about services every year; the annual Christmas Cantata happening at 9:00 and 11:00am on Sunday, December 8th. On this magical morning, more than 60 participants, ranging in age from 6-76, join together to offer the Christmas Story through music. We hope you'll join us for this cherished and highly anticipated tradition.



Chancel Choir is Caroling! Please join meet us a Brookdale Highlands Ranch on University Blvd at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 12th for a fun half hour of caroling with the residents! We'll return to St. Luke's shortly after 7:30 to gather for cookies, Cider, and community celebration in the midst of a beautiful and often hectic Advent season! Families are welcome to join us for this fun and festive evening.

Christmas Eve We offer five opportunities to celebrate the birth of the Christ child on Christmas Eve. Our 1:00 and 3:00pm services are designed with families and children in mind; they feature our puppets, kids' choirs, youth choir, and youth hand bells. Our 5:00 and 7:00pm services are more traditional in nature featuring our Chancel Choir, hand bells, brass, and candlelit singing of "Silent Night." Our 9:00pm service features communion, soloists, and a more contemplative celebration of Emmanuel.

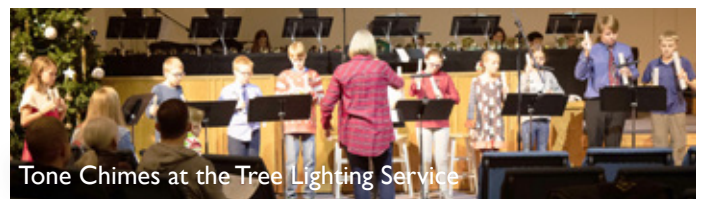
We are once again offering a full day of rehearsal for our five different Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 21st. Practicing from 9:00-10:30am are Chancel Choir, brass, and participants in the 5:00 and 7:00pm services. From 10:30-11:30am participants in the 9:00pm service will rehearse. Primary and Junior Prayz, Soul Purpose, Joyful Noise, Puppets and the participants of the 1:00pm and 3:00pm services will practice from 12:30pm-2:00pm on Saturday, December 21st. Please mark your calendars and be available for these important rehearsals to work through the gift of services offered on Christmas Eve.

Kings Sunday Sunday, January 5th will mark Epiphany Sunday; the day on which the trek of the magi is celebrated, and at St. Luke's, the journey comes to life with 15 foot tall puppets! This service brings families of all ages together to share in the triumph of the Kings' journey.

A Night of Jazz with Gabe Mervine and Friends Plan to join us on Saturday, February 1st for an evening of Jazz with Gabe Mervine and Friends! Admission is free, desserts will be served, and an evening of spectacular music is guaranteed. Please come with friends and family to enjoy a special concert offered by a local celebrity musician.

Spend Valentine's with US!

We're hosting our annual Sweetheart Dinner Dance on Friday, February 14th! Dinner will begin at 6:30pm with dancing from 7:00-9:00pm. Tickets will go on sale in January; \$5 for children under 12, \$15 for single tickets, and \$25 per couple. Music will be provided by our very own Ministers of Swing. This is a great way to support the Music and Arts Programs as well as promise your special someone a fabulous Valentine's Celebration!



Tone Chimes at the Tree Lighting Service

St. Luke's Got Talent

The variety show, St. Luke's Got Talent, that was scheduled to happen this past November has been POSTPONED until March. Our goal is to provide the best possible experience for our performers, so we want to offer a later date that will better provide opportunities for those interested in participating as well as those interested in attending.

So, if you were on the fence, this gives you time to practice and be even more excited to share your talents with us in the Spring! Look for most specific details after the new year begins, but mark your calendars now to join us on Saturday, March 7, 2020 for a night full of fun at St. Luke's Got Talent!



SLYJO at the Tree Lighting Service

Recurring & Upcoming Events!



- * **SUNDAYS SLY AM**
9:30-10:30am
Youth Room: SLY AM
Sunday School
- * **SUNDAYS SLY PM** 5:30pm Dinner (\$2)
6:00-7:30pm Youth group fun stuff
- * **WEDNESDAYS** 6:00-8:00pm
Youth Group Bible Study & FOOD!

* Mission Trips

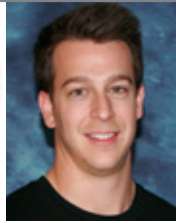
- * **High School Mission Trip: Clendenin, West Virginia!!! Trip dates are June 12-21.** Trip cost will be \$450.
- * **Guatemala 2020: The first of the SLY mission trips is open for applications!** Ask for more details! This is a yearly SLY trip at the beginning of the summer open to the youth and their parents. We have a great group going so far but there are more slots available!

* Confirmation 2020

- * **Jan. 5- Mar. 29** This is for all 8th graders or anyone in high school not yet confirmed. More details coming soon but let me know if you will be going through confirmation class this year.

* Announcements

- * **YOUTH SUNDAY - March 15:** For those of you who don't know what Youth Sunday is, this is where the youth program puts on the ENTIRE Sunday morning worship service. This is a huge opportunity for us to showcase the passion and talent that exists in the deep, dark, hidden dungeon that is the youth room. I could not be more excited to bring this service and opportunity back to the youth BUT, I need to know availability and interest in participating in this service. Whether you want to play music, share a story, do a funny skit, give a mini sermon... or (mostly) anything else...Let me know!!!
- * **Sign up for SLY dinners.** If you are willing to help with dinners in any way I need lots of help!
- * **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!



Jake Smith
Director of
Youth Ministry

Thanksgiving meal who otherwise would have gone without food. We had an amazing all youth retreat in November! Our Wednesday Bible study and fast food run has been a huge success. And, we are definitely looking forward to our annual Christmas Party!!! Starting in January we will begin our first Confirmation class of the new decade (there is still time to sign up!). There are tons of fun opportunities coming up in the new year for youth to get involved, but you have to come talk to Jake to find out about them!
Yours in Christ, Jake

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade adventures

Greetings from SLY! The Fall was full of pumpkin fun and a huge shout out is due to everyone who helped make that happen! With the Christmas season upon us you can definitely hear different versions of Christmas songs playing loudly from the Youth Room. We have also been very busy with our annual food drive where we helped provide over 500 families with a



SLY Ministry begins and ends with youth from grades 7 to 12 learning, modeling, and living out what it means to be an inclusive Christian community. We have a beautiful youth area downstairs that provides us with the space to come together as one large group or break out into multiple small groups. We learn what it means to reach out to others in love, acceptance, and joy through fun, fellowship, Bible study, educational events and mission experiences. Whether you know what you believe, are trying to figure out what you believe, or have given up on believing, you are welcome to walk with other youth on your faith journey so that we can all grow together as we discover the power of God's spirit in our lives.



Seasoned Voyagers is a ministry for our 55 and older crowd.

We do events at least once per month, often using our church bus to transport us. You can get more information or sign up for events at our table in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays. Most months we have at least one participant who is new to the group - let's keep that trend going!

The Seasoned Voyagers have been having lots of fun! Our tour at the Denver Art Museum to see the fabulous Monet exhibit was one of the highlights of our year. Please join us for our upcoming events:

- **Tuesday, Jan. 14** - Butterfly Pavilion and lunch out
- **Saturday, Feb. 1** - Nature's Educators (Birds of Prey) 10:00am in Fellowship Hall. **OPEN TO ALL IN THE CHURCH** (ages 4 and up). \$10 per family.



- **Thursday, Mar. 19** - Denver Police Museum Tour at Denver Police Department

Sign up for any of these events at our table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays.

We want to thank Les Ludlam for planning our recent Comfort Food potluck luncheon. Les has been a big contributor to our Core Leadership Team for many years. He is stepping down to make room for new leaders. If you are interested in joining the Leadership Team and helping plan some of our events, please contact Rich Krening (303-794-2540).

Each month you can optionally donate to the mission of the month that we have chosen to support.

Guatemala Trip and Burrito Breakfast Fundraiser

St. Luke's will sponsor a mission trip to Guatemala March 14-22, 2020. Cost for the trip is \$1,900, with \$250 due at the time of application. If you would like to go and have any questions, please contact Ron Miller 720-381-9452, ronmiller74@gmail.com.



During our trips our construction projects will cost a total of \$5,500 which the teams will raise, however, prior construction experience is not required. We will also spend time helping at the school in the village.

Fundraisers for the trip will be our **Annual Guatemala Burrito Breakfast that will be held on January 5, 2020.** Burritos will sell for \$4 for pre-paid and \$5 on the day of the breakfast. Pre-paid burritos can be ordered in the Fellowship Hall between services in December.



Toy Repair for Kids

A great shout out to member Pam Wiethoff! As a local Tyco distributor, she donated a large selection of Tyco toys that didn't quite pass inspection. And our Itch to Stitch angels were able to repair them in a quick turnaround for use at the Warren Village

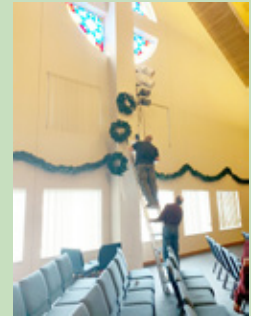


Holiday Shop! Many children will be thrilled to see a new (and fashionable) toy this holiday!

Trustees Corner:

Hanging of the Greens

Thanks to everyone who helped with getting our church decorated for this Advent season.



We had a great turnout, so we actually completed decorating a little early this year. Thanks first to the Tuesday night SA group and Sam Leahy, who moved all of our decorations out of storage so that we could start decorating right at 8:00am Saturday. And thanks to Boy Scout Troop 633, which turned out in force to help.

We did a better job last year of labeling bags and where individual decorations go, but we learned we can do an even better job of labeling for next year. For example, the Meade family volunteered to take all the wreaths and figure out where in the church each one is supposed to be hung. Next year, we'll label where they belong! We'll also provide directions on how to assemble our two large Christmas trees; in the past, they've been like jigsaw puzzles for whoever volunteered to put them together.

And don't forget: we need help to take down all the decorations on Sun., Jan. 5 after the 11:00am service!

Rev. Schawn Kellogg is back with another in her Biblical Archaeology series!

Masada: the Majesty and Tragedy of this desert fortress and the eerie finds that help tell the story
January 26, 11:00am-noon



A fortress in the Judean desert, not far from the Dead Sea, Masada was a palace site for King Herod and the site of a first-century stand-off between Jewish zealots and the Roman army. See photographs of

the archaeological artifacts found at the site that support the legend of the tragic end of its occupants. Hear more about the religious passion that animates its Jewish inhabitants and the link between Masada and Qumran community associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. To register, email schawn6@hotmail.com or renae@stlukeshr.com



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

Because of the life and teachings of Jesus, we exist to deepen people's connections with God, show compassion for all, and reflect God's love in a way that changes lives.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



PRAYER CONCERNS

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

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

<i>Tiffany Alverson</i>	<i>Ted Dreyer</i>	<i>George and June Hutchins</i>	<i>Jackie Phillips</i>
<i>Ross Barnard</i>	<i>Christy Edwards</i>	<i>Brie Katz</i>	<i>George Purvis</i>
<i>Laura Burget</i>	<i>Carrie Enloe</i>	<i>Rob Ludington</i>	<i>Brian Reamy</i>
<i>Sarah Cleary</i>	<i>Bonnie Garrett</i>	<i>Inge Verhaegen Lyons</i>	<i>David Rhodes</i>
<i>Dale Cleveland</i>	<i>Rev. Jim George</i>	<i>Dean Luallen</i>	<i>Justin Schnackenburg</i>
<i>Karen & David Corson</i>	<i>Mark Godsey</i>	<i>Jerry Lubben</i>	<i>Sam Sosa</i>
<i>Helen Cox</i>	<i>Ron Halderman</i>	<i>Lara Magyar</i>	<i>Edith Walters</i>
<i>Bill Dale</i>	<i>Warren Heaton</i>	<i>Will Maniatis</i>	<i>Amy Weiske</i>
<i>Todd Davis</i>	<i>Christian Holder</i>	<i>Katie Mueller</i>	<i>Zander</i>
<i>Kim DeVries</i>	<i>Brian Holder</i>	<i>Richard O'Neil</i>	
<i>Charlie and Diane Dokmo</i>	<i>Suzanne Humphreys</i>	<i>Bob Phillips</i>	

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Chris and Kelly Rigolini on the birth of their son, Rory
Carl & Joanne Cleveland on the birth of granddaughter, Susannah Hazel
Alaina and Jon Hovland on the birth of their daughter, Tatum Kaylee
 (grandparents Gary and Laurie Gilbert)
Andy & Val Goodstein on the birth of their granddaughter, Natalie Grace Goodstein
Bob & Jeanne Beitscher on the birth of their grandson, Lucas Quinn
John & Marge Harper on the birth of their grandson, George Eli

SYMPATHIES TO:

Linda Osborn, on the passing of her brother, Patrick O'Toole
Sam Leahy on the passing of her cousin, Yasuo Konishi
Brenda Hart on the loss of her cousin, Marjorie Carl
Ross & Natalie Barnard on the passing of Ross's father, Robert, on 10/28

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

Snow Closures

These instructions apply to St. Luke's UMC events and the St. Luke's Little School Preschool:



During the week:

St. Luke's will follow the Douglas County Schools in snow closures and delays. If Douglas County cancels school for the day, the church office will be closed. If the schools are on a delayed start, the church office and Little School will open at 10:30am. If Douglas County cancels class or is on a delayed start schedule, the continuation or cancellation of church afternoon and evening classes will be at the discretion of the group leader.

On weekends and holidays:

The church staff and group leaders will determine whether classes, meetings, and events will be held.

Information about closures of St. Luke's Little School is also available at stlukeshr.com and on Channels 4, 7, 9 and Facebook.