



Lent/Easter The Chronicle

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2023

EASTER SERVICES April 9: 6:15, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

St. Luke's "Charges" Into 2023

On Sunday afternoon, January 22nd, Lay Leaders, members of the congregation, and St. Luke's clergy and staff gathered in the Chapel to participate in an important meeting in the life of our church family. Known as the Church or Charge Conference, this annual gathering is held to review and evaluate the ministry of our church, receive reports, and adopt goals for the coming year.

The Charge Conference is the basic governing body of a local church and for us, includes the St. Luke's Executive Team and all retired clergy within the church. A Church Conference allows for broader participation with members having the right to attend and vote. I am happy to say that we were a little bit of both at our meeting,

continued on page 4

40th Celebration Concert featuring Mark Miller

On Sunday, March 19 at 3:00pm, the final event of our week long celebration will take place featuring the music of Mark Miller for organ, piano, choir and band. Mark is Associate Professor of Church Music and Composer In Residence at Drew University in Madison NJ, and is a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale University. He is also the Minister of Music of Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey and Composer in Residence of Harmonium Choral Society in NJ. From 2002-2007 he was Director of Contemporary Worship at Marble Collegiate Church and from 1999-2001 was Assistant Organist and Music Associate at the Riverside Church, both in New York City. Since 1999 he has traveled to every part of the country delighting congregations with the power and joy of music making. Mark received his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Yale and his Master of Music in Organ Performance from Juilliard.



Mark's compositions are sung throughout the United Methodist Church and other denominations and his choral anthems are best sellers for Abingdon Press and Choristers Guild. His works can also be found at Hinshaw Press, Hope Publishing, Pilgrim Press, and his website, markamillermusic.com His newest album, "Imagine the People of God", is available on iTunes.

The Concert is free, however, we ask our community to continue collecting Lenten donations of Laundry Pods and Towels. For more information, contact jim@stlukeshr.com.

MONDAY **SATURDAY**

MARCH 13 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
6:30-8:00pm
St. Luke's was chartered on March 13, 1983. CELEBRATE THIS DAY!
Emcee - Jack Kennedy
MUSIC
MEMORIES
MINISTRY IMPACT STORIES
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
DESSERT
SPECIAL KEEPSAKE

MARCH 18 DAY OF SERVICE
9:00am
START at ST. LUKE'S with a BLESSING

ABOVE & BEYOND
SIGN UP TO SERVE:
We Don't Waste
Denver Rescue Mission
HRCA Backcountry Basecamp
Colorado Feeding Kids
Monday Lunches Hygiene Kits
Stockings for Warren Village
stlukeshr.com

1 WEEK **4 EVENTS**

MARCH 19 WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30am (one service only)

MARCH 19 MARK MILLER CONCERT
3:00pm

SUNDAY - JOIN US!

Join us for a service of celebration of our 40 years as a faith community with special guests Bishop Karen Oliveto and Conductor Mark Miller! This service will be a holy celebration of our past, present and future with inspirational music and our puppets!

40th Anniversary Celebration Concert featuring Mark Miller with St. Luke's Music Ministers! Mark's compositions are sung throughout the United Methodist Church and other denominations and his choral anthems are best sellers for Abingdon Press and Choristers Guild.

4 SHOWS!

wesley players theatre company presents

LITTLE WOMEN
The MUSICAL
Book by SARAH REYNOLDS Lyrics by ROBERT DIXON
Book by ALICE BRIDGES Based on the novel by LOUISA MAY ALCOCK

FRIDAY March 10 - 7:00pm
SATURDAY March 11 - 2:00 & 7:00pm
SUNDAY March 12 - 2:00pm

Tickets Online \$15 each
wesleyplayers.org

Proceeds benefit Wesley Players Theatre Company and St. Luke's Mission

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8017 S. BRADWAY • HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO 80120 • 303.941.0400
MARCH 2023

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00am-1:30pm M-TH
CLOSED on Fridays

Worship services
9:30am live streamed and in person
11:00am in person

Sunday School
9:00am PreK-12th grade

Nursery available with reservation

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

Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

Nursery.....sam@stlukeshr.com

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



Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Angela Alderson.....x136
Director of Children's & Youth Music Ministries

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

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

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

Maya Opati.....x145
Director of Youth Ministry

Stephanie Kirk.....x110
Dir. of Communication & Office Administration

Taletha Pogge.....x124
Director of Finance

Jessica Shelton.....x116
Financial Assistant

Barry Curtis.....x144
Facilities Manager

Our next issue of **The Chronicle**
will be the Summer issue.
Content due May 20, 2023

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

Editor: Sharon Oliver

**This is my 185th issue
as editor!**

It is an honor to serve this community.

The Chronicle is published about 5 times per year
and is emailed to those on our email blast list,
and it can be found on the church website.

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



Rev. Michele Kaminsky
Lead Minister

Celebrating 40 Years!

Dear St. Luke's Family and Friends,

Over four decades ago, Rev. Russ Brown of St. Andrew UMC and Rev. Harold Raines, St. Luke's founding minister, found the grace and courage to wonder what it would take to start a

new church on the growing southern edge of Denver. And with the help of many others, both clergy and laity went above and beyond to charter St. Luke's United Methodist Church on March 13, 1983.

I wonder if these first members had any idea St. Luke's would become the community it is today. *Did they know 40 years later we would continue to wholeheartedly embrace the spirit of community, connection and love? Did they know these virtues would be deep enough and strong enough within us to carry us through a pandemic? Did they think we'd grow to have such an incredible and diverse music ministry? Did they envision we would be so deeply engaged in mission work helping our brothers and sisters near and far? Did they ever imagine that the Center for Spiritual Engagement and the Performing Arts Academy would be birthed here? And did they have any idea we would adopt a mission statement that says: We exist to reflect God's love, deepen people's connection to Christ and show compassion to all in a way that changes lives?*

I'm guessing they didn't know these specific things would happen, but I believe the hopes and dreams they shared with God and with each other inspired all we have become!

As we honor our 40th Anniversary, I cordially invite you to all of our anniversary celebrations!

On Monday, March 13 from 6:30-8:00pm join us for our semi-formal/business-casual anniversary event where we will have an evening full of fun and laughter that honors our beginnings, lifts up our current ministry impacts and gets us excited about going forward into the future. Following our celebration in the Sanctuary, you are invited to a decadent dessert reception in the Fellowship Hall.

On Saturday morning, March 18, we will have opportunities to do mission work in our community so we can continue to bring God's love beyond our walls in meaningful ways. See which one of these "Above and Beyond" missions you would like to participate in and plan on being there:

- We Don't Waste • Denver Rescue Mission**
- HRCA Backcountry Basecamp • Colorado Feeding Kids**
- Monday Lunches Hygiene Kits • Christmas Stockings for Warren Village**
- Backyard Gardening at St. Luke's**

And, on Sunday, March 19 at 9:30am we will have one celebration worship service to give thanks to God for the blessings of our faith community and to inspire us to live into the next 40 years. And to help us do this, *Bishop Karen Oliveto of our Mountain Sky Conference* and *special guest conductor/composer Mark Miller* will be a part of our service. At 3:00pm come enjoy a musical concert featuring Mark Miller and our St. Luke's musicians. Please plan to be filled with the love of God on Sunday, March 19 to get what you need for the week ahead and to experience the community, connection and love that is St. Luke's!

Reflecting the Love of God in Our World with Each of You, Rev. Michele



Green Thumbs Wanted!



Watch for opportunities to work in our St. Luke's gardens this Spring and Summer. If interested in helping, please contact nichole.rairigh@gmail.com. The garlic has already been planted for 2023 so we are off to the races.

Easter Lily Sales

Order your Easter lily from the Altar Team on March 19 and March 26 in the Narthex. The lilies are \$20 each. It is also possible to order online at our website or by calling the office. Names will be printed in the April 2 bulletin. Do this In Celebration of... In Honor Of... In Memory of... Plants may be picked up after the 11:00am Easter Sunday service. If you wish to donate the plant, a volunteer will deliver your lily to a nearby Hospice Center and nursing home later on Easter Sunday.





Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson
Associate Minister

40 and Fabulous!

As I enter my own 40th year, I must know by now that anytime I set out to teach our young people, in fact it will be ME who will be taught the most valuable lessons.

On Friday, February 4th, I had the great joy in spending a few hours at the SLY, Jr. Lock-in. Our 5th and 6th graders are smart, witty, talented, engaged, and HIGH-ENERGY. It was a blast and I am so grateful for the time I got to spend with our young people, as well as the parents who volunteered their time, plus our incredible staff and the adult volunteers who made the Lock-in such a success (and who are SO good at karaoke)!

As I engaged the 21 5th and 6th graders who were there that night, I began with sharing that the St. Luke's congregation was celebrating their 40th Birthday this year and so was I! St. Luke's was chartered on March 13, 1983 and I was born on December 14, 1983.

I asked the group to imagine what their lives would be like in 40 years. Their responses were that they would be 51 or 52 years old. They would be marine biologists, veterinarians, doctors, and parents. They would live in their dream homes and some would be living in Texas or in the mountains.

One young person raised their hand and said, "I know where we will all be in 40 years! We will all be right here, celebrating St. Luke's 80th Anniversary!"

Did my jaw drop? Did my heart grow two sizes? Did tears spring to my eyes? Yes, yes, and yes.

What a beautiful testimony to the foundation of faith that St. Luke's is forming in the lives of our youth people!!

In the last four decades, I have experienced the normal hallmarks of a healthy spiritual journey. I have loved the church and felt its support and nurturing love through Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, summer camp, confirmation, Youth Sundays, and more. I have also experienced times of feeling frustrated, bored, confused, and even hurt by the church and certain policies and traditions. Yet, I have returned again and again to participate in the life of the church as a college student, as a newlywed, as a transplant in a new city, and eventually (as you are well aware!) accepting a call to ordained ministry. This call will be celebrated this summer as I have been officially recommended for ordination by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Pending clergy session vote, I will be ordained on Sunday, June 25th at 9am at First UMC in Colorado Springs!

My life of faith has been a wild journey these past 40 years and I wish the same for all our young people. There will be times of challenge and growth in their faith. There will be times of deep reflection and soul-filled discernment. There will be times they feel close to the church and times they feel far away.

My hope and prayer is that in 40 years, St. Luke's has remained a warm and welcoming spiritual home for all people by adapting to the current needs of our community. At the 80th Anniversary of St. Luke's UMC in 2063, I hope there are young people present who are asked to dream about the future and see themselves as active participants in the life of a vibrant church community for the 40 years to come! I am so proud to serve a church that is using its 40th Anniversary to propel us forward toward a bright future!

Peace be with you, Rev. Liza



MY HOPE AND PRAYER IS THAT IN 40 YEARS, ST. LUKE'S HAS REMAINED A WARM AND WELCOMING SPIRITUAL HOME FOR ALL PEOPLE BY ADAPTING TO THE CURRENT NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.



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

Doing Justice

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a community, we are continuing forward together in the sacred and urgent work toward anti-racism and allyship. Micah 6:8, St. Luke's foundational scripture, frames our steadfast vision "What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God".

Guided by these words of faith and challenge, the St. Luke's Brave Spaces team, created by the Center for Spiritual Engagement in 2020, continues to invite everyone into the process of learning and community action. Over the past weeks, many of you have joined us for the MLK Jr. Parade and the Anti-Racism Legislative group. In addition, nearly 50 of you have participated in the video study *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism* with Jemar Tisbey, scholar, activist and educator. We continue to create a variety of opportunities to intentionally put our faith into action and to be part of moving humanity forward.

Thank you, St. Luke's, for your commitment of grace and courage as we expand our knowledge and humbly seek responsible, compassionate actions. Your questions, participation and engagement are encouraged and welcomed!

Sincerely, Sallie



Lenten Worship Series continues through April 2

April 2: Palm Sunday 9:30 & 11:00am

April 6: Maundy Thursday 7:00pm

April 7: Good Friday 7:00pm

The Wonder of Our Divinity

Our Epiphany worship series, *The Wonder of Our Divinity*, helped us explore how we are wholly human and holy divine, and empowered us to utilize our divine selves on a daily basis in life.



The series was kicked off on January 8 with our 15 foot Three Kings puppets who reminded us that Jesus came to us fully human and fully divine and gifted us with divinity as well. Then on January 15 we looked at the reality of being human and kicked off our Adventure Challenge where we would look for things during our week based on the sermon and then submit our photos when we completed our challenge, to be shared the following week.

On January 22 we looked at how our divine position supports our human condition so that we don't feel like being human is always an uphill battle. On January 29 we were reminded that the storms of life can't sink us because our faith will always help us find the hand of Christ reaching out to us. And on February 5 we closed out the series by recognizing that while we want to leave a small environmental footprint on this earth, our challenge is to leave as big of a Heaven Print as we can! -Rev. Michele



Samantha Leahy
Dir. of Community
& Early Childhood
Ministry

Lenten Circles

This Lent we invite you to be stretched, filled and warmed!

Join in one of our Lenten circles:

On Sundays our **Environmental Awareness Circle** group led by Ryan and Nichole Rairigh invites you to stretch your understanding of how we care for our world.

Wednesdays fill your hearts with moving blessings with Rev. Liza and Stephanie Kirk at our **Lenten Devotionals Circle** based on Kate Bowler's *Bless the Lent we Actually Have*.

Thursdays enjoy our **Soup for the Soul Circle** and warm your soul with some soup and connection.



When we gather as a body, during Lent or any season, we, like soup, nourish each other. For information on ways to connect at St. Luke's contact Sam@stlukeshr.com.

Environmental Awareness Circle

Have you ever wondered if Christians are called to care about the environment? Does the Bible say anything on this topic? Is environmental awareness more than just recycling? How can one person make a local difference? Join our circle of understanding and love during Lent to connect over and reflect on environmental awareness. We will explore Scripture, reflect on poems and articles, and brainstorm on actions we all can take.

Drop in at any of our remaining sessions March 12 or 26 at 11:00am.



United
Women
in Faith

Committed to Growth

Transitions are a way of life for all of us and certainly has been for the group of women at St. Luke's. Looking back over the years, many things have happened that hold true to that

premise. The original charter must have come just following the churches chartering date. All churches had to have an organized Unit of United Methodist Women (formerly known as WSCS, Women's Society of Christian Service.) At St. Luke's there has been many wonderful leaders and activities moving forward to provide the best possible opportunities for our community. As in many organizations the leadership gets tired and needs to take a break. Even though there have been down times, we have always been committed to the purpose of being in service for WOMEN, CHILDREN and YOUTH.

Here at St. Luke's the women have supported many local charities and our youth and mission programs. In earlier years there have been cookbooks, retreats, teas more; now Quilts of Valor, Lap Robes for Veterans, Christmas Stockings for kids and Prayer shawls to name a few. The Candlelight Dinners, Teas, Fashion shows, and other events have been enjoyed by many and supported the continual giving of time, talents and money. We have donated thousands of dollars and thousands of dollar's worth of items to local programs. We participate in District and Conference events; The Reading Program, World Thank Offering, Giving a shared portion to further the work of the National organization to insure the Legacy will continue to grow young leaders.

Currently, Itch to Stitch, and the Book Club are continuing to meet. Open to more groups if the interest is there. Our beloved Caroline Butler held Common Thread together with her devotion to friendship and fellowship. We are looking to bring this back soon.

So, from WSCS to UMW to UWF we are today, as yesterday, still committed to the wellbeing of our Spiritual and Community growth as we look forward. I am proud to be a member of St. Luke's UMC and United Women in Faith. Be part of the new growth for the future. Please contact, me, Betty Ludlam (betty.ludlam1718@gmail) or Cathy Collins (scccollins@q.com).



continued from page 1 We were fortunate to have Rev. Dr. Cathie Kelsey, representing the District Superintendent, as our presider for the conference. She is the Interim Dean of the Faculty at the Iliff School of Theology and an Ordained Elder in the Mountain Sky Conference. She immediately connected with all of us, setting a tone of respect and empathy for viewpoints and ideas shared.

Thanks in part to her encouraging words of support, this Charge Conference felt different from most I have attended. Others in attendance agreed. There was a strong sense of community and spirit and hope among us and we felt optimistic about what was ahead for St. Luke's. The energy and faith of the participants was a true blessing.

Dr. Kelsey acknowledged that our church was alive, not only in the sanctuary but out in the world. Noting that our attendance numbers are remarkably high on Christmas Eve and Cantata Sunday, compared with Easter Sunday, she encouraged us to think critically about what that means for St. Luke's. Dr. Kelsey suggested one meaning could be that our community connects more to the image of the incarnate Christ, Emmanuel, "God with us" and to a lesser extent the image of Christ suffering on the cross. Her comments sparked great conversation and gave us much to consider.

Throughout the afternoon as we focused on Sacred Business, it was apparent that St. Luke's had much to celebrate from the past year. Through giving examples of what has happened this year because of St. Luke's, we were able to highlight faithful ministry and how that had changed lives in our church and our community. Those present shared the work of Missions, Community Raisers, the Center for Spiritual Engagement, Music and Arts, and the faithful stewardship of St. Luke's members as affirmation of our

efforts to belong in today's world.

As Chair of the 2023 Executive team, I was asked by Rev. Michele to share our goals for the coming year with Dr. Kelsey and those present. I believe there is a direct link between what we celebrated from the past year and the newly established goals. The goals were well received by the Conference and included:

- St. Luke's 40th Year Anniversary Celebration – We will honor established traditions and encourage new strategies for the future.
- Community Raisers – The Exec Team will continue its support for the fellowship and revenue raising events.
- Stewardship and Budget – These are essential priorities for the St. Luke's congregation. Monthly monitoring of the budget will be an Exec Team commitment.
- Worship Service Transition – Periodic assessments will be conducted to ensure meaningful worship service components.
- Teams and Groups Under the St. Luke's Umbrella – With input from members, Lay Leaders, Clergy and staff, the Exec Team will explore ways to support and enhance ministries and programs at St. Luke's.
- Methodist Vision Initiatives – The Exec Team is committed to brainstorm ideas and initiatives that might align with the greater Methodist Church.

I walked out of the Sunday Charge Conference feeling invigorated, hopeful, and proud to be a St. Luke's United Methodist member. It was indeed, a fun and worthwhile afternoon.

As we approach the 40th Anniversary celebration of our congregation, our faith should be reaffirmed as we look at where we have been and strengthened as we look to the future. So, as you "charge" into 2023, think about attending next year's Charge Conference to see what we have accomplished this year. You will be glad you did.

Gordon Heaton, Chair – 2023 Executive Team

ST. LUKE'S IS A
"GOD WITH US"
CHURCH

Thank You for your Generous Support in 2022

The St Luke's community came together once again to help end the year with a positive balance. Because the finance team managed the finances closely, the staff helped manage their department budgets, and with your generous support, we were able to approve \$80,000 to be put towards capital improvement in 2023. St. Luke's ended the year with a net income of \$3,400. For 2023, because of your strong commitment to St Luke's, there were 209 pledge cards turned in during the stewardship campaign. This allowed a balanced budget to be approved. For 2023 the approved budget is:

Total Revenue - \$1,145,460

Total Expenses - \$1,143,736

Net Income - \$1,724.00

If you ever have questions regarding St Luke's finances feel free to contact Taletha Pogge at financedirector@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x124.



Taletha Pogge
Director of Finance



Get to Know Your St. Luke's Staff - 40th Anniversary Edition

What were you doing 40 years ago?

Michele - I was in my sophomore year of high school and just learned I would be moving to Taipei, Taiwan for my junior and senior years due to my father's job transfer, Liza - literally being knit together in my mother's womb!, Sallie - I was finishing graduate school in higher education at Iowa state university and I had just met Thomas!, Ken M. - Directing a church music program, concertizing and teaching organ, Kay - Working for a television production company where I met Ed. We married in 1984!, Angela - I was 9 and in 3rd grade, Sam - a junior in high school I was spending my Saturday nights at Skate City with friends, Sharon - Graduating from high school, Maya - I was not born, Ken F. - I was designing communications systems, Jim - I was a freshman in high school. Big glasses, band, basketball, baseball, church. Enough said. LOL! Taletha - I was in elementary school, Kelly - I was a baby

When you were young, what did you imagine you'd be doing at age 40?

Michele - I would be teaching second grade, Liza - I'd be a kindergarten teacher, Sallie - When I was young, I honestly never thought about what I'd be doing at 40!, Ken M. - (same as above!) Directing a church music program, concertizing and teaching organ, Kay - Teaching and raising a family, Angela - I knew even when I was young that I wanted to be (and would be) a teacher when I was 40, Sam - a nurse in maternity ward, Sharon - Photographer for National Geographic, studying primates in Africa and a teacher, Maya - Visiting every country in the world and being an international vet, Ken F. - I'd be doing electrical engineering, Jim - Anything outside of Tennessee. :-), Taletha - being a mom raising wonderful kids, Kelly - being a mom and taking my kids on adventures

What one word describes St. Luke's future?

Michele - Life-changing, Liza - BOUNDLESS, Sallie - Vibrant!, Ken M. - Enlightened, Kay - Unstoppable, Angela - Exciting, Sam - Blossoming, Sharon - Limitless, Maya - Bright, Ken F. - Relationships, Jim - Possible, Taletha - Community, Kelly - Family

Searching for Sabbath: The Holy Work of Rest

It was an honor to spend two consecutive Sundays in February preaching on the Sabbath. I shared that my intention was to turn



everything you thought you knew about Sabbath rest upside down! I hope I succeeded.

The topic of Sabbath is interesting, complex, and nuanced. There are historical, spiritual, and

societal implications in the notions of working and resting. I think we just scratched the surface of this topic!

If you hold onto just a few thoughts from these sermons, my hope is that you remember:

- **On the 7th day of creation God rested.** If God, the creator of the universe can rest, so can we.
- **We deserve to just be** – we do not always have to be doing, creating, producing to be valuable and worthy. God calls us valuable and worthy regardless of our work.
- **There will always be more to do.** The work is never done and society will consistently demand more and more from us. We must be the ones to make time to stop and rest.
- **Rest is resistance.** When we rest, we say no to cultures that are demanding more and more from us. We say no to systems that only see us as producers. This is powerful and empowering.
- **Sabbath was meant to be communal.** When one person stopped, every one in their household stopped. This is no longer the case, but when we pause to ask ourselves, "Who must continue to labor so that I might have rest?" we create space for us to show up in the world with renewed eyes of compassion and care for each and every member of our society.
- **Sabbath rest results in a renewed perspective** of all of creation and the entirety of the Kingdom of God.

Here are some suggested resources for more reading:

The Sabbath by Abraham Joseph Heschel (1951)

Rest is Resistance by Tricia Hersey, the "Nap Bishop" (2022)

2021 *Sojourners* article "*Rest is Holy, Not a Reward for the Productive*"

Peace be with you, Rev. Liza

General Conference Update



On February 5, we had a small gathering of folks interested in what's been going on with the UMC General Conference and the headlines about churches disaffiliating.

Monty Hoffman provided a great overview of the history of the United Methodist Church, so that we had some context for thinking about the current issue with a Wesleyan mindset. John Wesley was of the opinion that his beliefs did not need to be in line with the beliefs of those in his community. The

community, and the fellowship was more important. Wesley, in his sermon on the catholic spirit, said "Is your heart right as my heart is with your heart?...Let all opinions alone on one side and the other: only, 'give me your hand.'" Essentially, I will be in community with you, even if we agree to disagree.

Susan McIntosh gave a summary of the issue at hand, which is essentially that some congregations and pastors want to leave the United Methodist Church because they do not agree that the LGBTQ+ community should be granted the love and grace of fellowship. In 2019, there was a special session of the UMC General Conference (the governing body of the church), which narrowly passed a plan retaining hurtful and discriminatory language in the Social Principles, and increasing punishment for pastors who performed gay and lesbian marriages. It was expected that additional legislation would be presented at the 2020 General Conference to resolve the issue, but the 2020 Conference has been delayed until May of 2024. In the meantime, many churches are choosing to leave the denomination, and many of those are opting to join the newly formed Global Methodist Church (who are opposed to marriage and ordination of people in the LGBTQ+ community). The process of disaffiliation has been divisive, not just in churches leaving the UMC,

continued on page 9

Going Above and Beyond With St. Luke's Missions!

St. Luke's long, rich history of serving the community goes well beyond the church walls. This legacy continues today in so many ways. Here's a look at some of the work in which St. Luke's volunteers have been involved during the winter months, as well as a look ahead to the important work planned over the next few months.

Caring for our brothers and sisters, near and far:

Two of our many ongoing projects include the **Blue Bin** to help Veterans who are in transition housing, and **Monday Lunches** which provides 80 lunches weekly to Denver's Safe Outdoor Spaces. Please remember these projects when you go to the grocery store—pick up some canned or shelf-stable goods and drop them in the Blue Bin outside St. Luke's front door. Or pick up some peanut butter and set it in the Mission closet for Monday Lunches!

Two of our annual Christmas projects are **Christmas in the Park** and the **Giving Tree**. **Christmas in the Park** is held every Christmas Day in downtown Denver. Thank you to our partnership with AFTERHOURS Denver and the 15+ volunteers from St. Luke's. Christmas in The Park 2022

served more than 360 individuals and had more than 270 community volunteers to distribute hats, gloves, sleeping bags, coats, hand warmers, socks and warm clothing. Your generous donations of IKEA shopping bags to every individual in line and warm sweat pants and tops warmed the hearts of many! **The Giving Tree** is another long-time St. Luke's Holiday tradition.

We partnered with Integrated Family Community Services and its annual drive to collect gifts for income qualified children aged newborn to ten years old in South Metro Denver. St. Luke's came through to help twenty children with their Christmas gift wish lists, including baby gifts, assorted games, and athletic equipment. St. Luke's members contributed funds online and IFCS purchased and delivered gifts to the children. Thank you, St. Luke's, for contributing to the joy of a child on Christmas morning! Some members donated to one of our many Missions projects on behalf of loved ones by selecting a tag from the Giving Tree. *Contributions totaled over \$2,100 to benefit Honduras Abundant Life Christian School's music program, gift cards for Field Elementary School families, the Guatemala Milk Program and construction projects, HAAT Force hotel vouchers, Mondays in the Park, and Warren Village.*

HAAT Force provides severe weather motel vouchers to families, people with disabilities, pregnant women, older adults and people with animals who are experiencing homelessness in the South Metro area, and who would not otherwise have a place to go on stormy or bitterly cold nights. More detail about HAAT Force and St. Luke's generosity can be found in a separate article in this issue of *The Chronicle*.

Our connections to **Pura Vida** in Guatemala continue to strengthen. See the separate article in for additional information.

St. Luke's volunteers served **We Don't Waste** by gleaning unused food from the suites at Empower Field at Mile High Stadium after Broncos home games in October and November. Other St. Luke's volunteers worked at We Don't Waste Mobile Food Markets, where fresh food, produce and dairy products are provided for free to communities in Denver in which these items are hard to access. Still other St. Luke's volunteers work with We Don't Waste to educate the community about growing food insecurity and food waste. Learn more and register to volunteer at wedontwaste.org.

The **St. Luke's Puppet Ministry** (Josh Burget, Sarah Barnes, Jackson Foster and Steve Collins) performed *The Night Before Christmas*—from the mouse's perspective—for the Sedalia Elementary School Holiday Program in December. See more photos from the event on the St. Luke's website. Seasoned Voyagers contributed King Soopers and Walmart gift cards to Sedalia Elementary families in need of help during the Holidays. —Bruce Kirchhoff



2023 Lenten Mission



This year's Lenten Mission Project will be collecting **laundry detergent pods and new towel sets** for Missions partners Bayaud Enterprises (bayaudenterprises.org) and Showers for All (showersforall.org). Among other things, Bayaud operates a mobile laundry truck in Denver and Northglenn three days a week, providing laundry services to those who

may not have access to them. Similarly, Showers for All operates a mobile shower and laundry trailer to those living on the streets of Denver. These are absolutely critical services for those struggling with homelessness and poverty. Let's all make the Lenten Mission a record-setter this year! Please drop off your donations of laundry detergent pods and new towel sets at St. Luke's through April.

St. Luke's 40th Anniversary Celebration – A Day of Service “Above and Beyond!”

St. Luke's has always been about mission and outreach beyond our walls. What better way to celebrate our 40th anniversary than to go Above and Beyond and share the St. Luke's spirit across Metro Denver! On



Saturday, March 18, you can volunteer at any of five outreach sites in our community! Grab your family and friends and decide where you want to serve! Then visit our Above and Beyond registration website, https://stlukeshr.com/t_dayofservice.php to register and find all the information you'll need for the big day! You will be contacted following registration with more details. In some cases, you must complete a secondary registration directly with the organization where you will be volunteering. Here's a quick summary of the day's events and opportunities:

Morning Blessing: At 9:00am on Saturday, March 18, meet at St. Luke's for coffee and donuts. Pick up your Above and Beyond T-shirt and connect with your volunteer group. The clergy team will offer a prayer and blessing as you head out to serve!

- **We Don't Waste** – North Middle School Mobile Food Market, Aurora CO – We will serve at a no-cost grocery market offered to the public. 12:15-4:00pm. Meet at St. Luke's to carpool at 11:15am. *Contact: Bruce Kirchhoff*
- **Denver Rescue Mission** – We will support morning meal preparation at Denver Rescue Mission's Lawrence Street Community Center. 10:00am-12:00pm. Meet at St. Luke's for blessing and to carpool at 9:00am. *Contact: Maya Opati*
- **Highlands Ranch Community Association** – Centered at the Backcountry Basecamp, we will be clearing trails, and other activities depending on the weather. 10:00am-1:00pm. Meet at St. Luke's for blessing and to carpool at 9:00am. *Contact: Lee and Yvonne Seaman*
- **Colorado Feeding Kids** – Meal Packing Event, Denver CO This is a fun project for ages 6 and up! 10:00am-Noon. Meet at St. Luke's for blessing and to carpool at 9:00am. *Contact: Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson*
- **St. Luke's Monday Lunches** – Hygiene Kit Packing Event at St. Luke's. This is an event for ALL ages. 9:30-10:30am. Meet at St. Luke's at 9:00am for blessing. *Contact: Sam Leahy*
- **Warren Village** – Christmas Stocking making event at St. Luke's. Meet at St. Luke's at 9:00am for blessing. *Contact: Victoria Mason*
- **St. Luke's Garden** – Outdoor gardening at St. Luke's. Meet at St. Luke's at 9:00am for blessing. *Contact: Nichole Rairigh*

Missions Sunday, May 7:

This year's Missions Sunday will be May 7. Come celebrate and learn about all of our fabulous Missions Projects in the Narthex!

What's Your Favorite Mission?

Do you serve a charity, non-profit or other service organization professionally or in your spare time? Could it use more help from St. Luke's volunteers? Let the Missions Team know if your favorite organization can use a helping hand from St. Luke's! Contact Rev. Liza Stoltz Hanson or Carolyn Maddox.



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

Chancel Choir,
Worship Band,
Soul Purpose Youth Choir,
Wesley Players
Theatre Company,
Puppets



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

Grace Notes,
Men's Chorus,
Sisters of Soul



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

Tinnabulators,
Joyful Noise,
Tone Chimes,
Kidz Prayz,
Flute Ensemble



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

Brass Ensemble,
Wind Ensemble,
Ministers of Swing,
Orchestra



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

Kidz Prayz,
Tone Chimes,
Soul Purpose Youth Choir



HAAT Force Thanks St. Luke's!

HAAT Force (Homelessness Awareness and Action Task Force) provides life-sustaining severe weather motel shelter to people experiencing homelessness - families, people with disabilities, older adults and people with animals. We also provide connections to resources to help our guests achieve stability and move forward in their lives. Recently HAAT Force sent out an urgent appeal to individuals and churches throughout the community for additional financial help. This was due to a 2.5-fold increase in demand this severe weather season compared to last season. St. Luke's responded generously - 48% of all the donations received were from St. Luke's! We cannot thank you enough for your compassion and generosity! Your donations are being used immediately! -Betsy Keyack, Board of Directors

St. Luke's Generosity to People of Guatemala

As you may be aware, a group of 15 people from St. Luke's is going to Guatemala March 23-31 to foster our relationships with people in Guatemala and help build a home for a family in need of a safe and healthy place to live. The house will have two rooms plus a kitchen. Thank you, St. Luke's, for all of your burrito and craft purchases and donations, all for the cost of construction materials and labor! This project is through Pura Vida, with whom St. Luke's has worked for the past 18 years. The March 2023 team will also be visiting Pura Vida Scholarship Program students to give them encouragement. Thank you to St. Luke's members who signed up in November and December to sponsor scholarship students and to contribute to the annual Pura Vida Guatemala Milk Program! If you haven't heard, you are invited to participate more closely in the home construction project by joining the "Virtual" or non-traveling part of the March 2023 team. Being a Virtual team member will enable you to get weekly emails, photos and video of the family and the home construction, from ground-breaking through move-in celebration. Donate and sign up at puravida.org. The family for whom we are building the home is Juana, her husband Isaias, and their 8 children, ages 1 to 20. They are currently living with relatives. On behalf of Juana and Isaias, Pura Vida and the Guatemala March 2023 team, we thank you very much!

-Betsy Keyack, Guatemala Team Leader

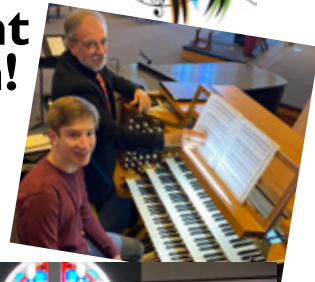
Owen Metz Offers a Brilliant Concert on our New Organ!

Many of you may recall, Owen has been busy with his freshman year at Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, majoring in Organ Performance and Mathematics.

During his Christmas break at home, he presented a marvelous and varied program on St. Luke's new Allen Digital Computer Organ.

Owen's concert included works that not only demonstrated his extraordinary gifts of musicality and virtuosity, but many of the features of our new instrument.

We wish Owen the best of success as he's back at Oberlin continuing his pursuits and we look forward to the next time he presents a glorious program for us! Perhaps this summer? Stay tuned for further updates! *Blessings, Ken Mervine*



Passion for the Passion Chorale!

As we embark on the Lenten Journey of self-reflection and relationships, we are singing a new text to a familiar melody for our Prayer Response: "We Hear the Cries of Millions".

This hymn text was written by Jann Aldregde-Clanton, inspired by the books of Micah and Amos (clearly in line with St. Luke's message!)

The familiar melody we use is more often associated with the Lenten lyrics: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded".

The history of this tune is fascinating: beginning as a rather despondent love song (by Hans Leo Hassler 1601) later paired with the religious text: "O Bleeding Head and Wounded" (by Paul Gerhardt in 1656, which was a translation of St. Bernard of Clairvaux's original sacred text).

The "Passion Chorale" tune that appears in hymnals today, was harmonized and arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach (we celebrate his 338th birthday this March).

Bach was so moved by this tune, he incorporated it five times in his monumental St. Matthew Passion. Scholars have debated the significance of "five times".....perhaps representing the five wounds of Jesus (albeit, the only Gospel to reference the "Lance of Longinus" and wounding Jesus' side, is St John's Passion account). Personally, I think Bach may have considered the "Crown of Thorns" as the fifth wound.

Whatever the case, the Passion Chorale Tune has inspired singers, composers, and congregants for centuries. As we sing this solemn and moving melody this Lent, may it bring a sense of connection to our rich religious heritage, offer solace and inspiration as we Give Thanks and Praise to our Creator. *Blessings, Ken Mervine*

490 **Passion Chorale**
Attributed to BERNARD of CLAIRVAUX, 1091-1153, Tr. HANS LEO HASSLER, 1601
 Harmonized by J. S. BACH, 1729

1. O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weigh'd down!
 2. O so - lemn brow and dear - est, In eth - er days the world
 3. What then, my Lord, hast suf - fer'd Was all for sin - ner's pain:
 4. What late groans shall I hear - now To thank thee, dear - est Friend,
 5. Be near - by when I am dy - ing, O show thy cross to me;



CSE Purpose:

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

stlukesCSE.org

A Joyful Ministry of St. Luke's

As we celebrate St. Luke's 40th anniversary, it's a joy to reflect on all the ministries our community has welcomed and embraced! I have had the honor of serving as the founder and director of the Center for Spiritual Engagement since its inception in 2010. The purpose of CSE (see above) is as relevant today as it was over 12 years ago when it began. We've served thousands of people thanks to the trust and participation of our community. Here is the message that inspired us when we first envisioned CSE: *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert!"*

Isaiah 43:19. CSE's 7 core values (*Connection, Wholeness, Authenticity, Inspiration, Transformation, Hospitality, Abundance*) integrate beautifully with the purpose of our St. Luke's community and continue to direct our decision-making and our creation of opportunities. A 75-year Harvard adult development longitudinal study named connection/relationships as the primary factor in health, wellbeing, and happiness over the course of one's lifetime. Connection is central to our purpose. Together, with care, intentionality and the guidance of the Spirit, we continue to design opportunities for all. Thank you, St. Luke's, for your shared vision of expanding faith in fresh new ways.

With Appreciation, Rev. Dr. Sallie and the CSE Team

Get CENTERED at St. Luke's this Spring!

Outdoor Adventures

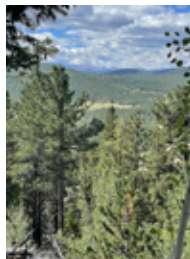
Saturday, April 22 is EARTH DAY - we have several options we are considering, depending on the weather. Make sure you are on our email list if you would like to receive details about our upcoming hikes and adventures. If you would like to be added to the Outdoor Adventure email list contact janestaller@gmail.com.

Save the Date for other Upcoming Adventures:

Fri., March 24 - Dawson Butte (snowshoeing or hiking)

Tues., May 23 - Welch Ditch Trail

Fri., June 16 - Mason Creek Trail in Staunton State Park



Brave Spaces Racial Justice Legislative Advocacy:

Join us to influence racial justice legislation in our 2023 Colorado legislature. We'll advocate for bills that address disparities in policing, climate justice, housing, healthcare, and education. On February 9, our special guest Vickie Wilhite from Together Colorado described five priority racial justice bills that address equity issues in Climate, Housing, immigration, and Law Enforcement. Special guest Joely Maddux of St. Luke's, described her experiences as a legislative activist with Brave Spaces, and how she uses her expertise in an expanded role as the legislative liaison for health advocacy at Children's Hospital. Working to change the policies and laws that continue to discriminate against and harm people of color in Colorado is a powerful way to answer God's call to "Do Justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8) We invite you to join us as we advocate for social justice during the 2023 Legislative session. No experience necessary. Contact janestaller@gmail.com



BE WELL Counseling & Consultation:

with Dr. Sallie Suby-Long – Sallie welcomes you to care for your health, healing and wellness. Sallie, a Licensed Professional Counselor, is honored to be present with you as, together, you identify creative strategies for enhanced emotional, mental, physical and spiritual wellbeing. For more information contact sallie@stlukeshr.com

Cultural Adventures Bloom in 2023! In January a group of us braved some icy weather to enjoy another unique and thought-provoking Cultural Adventure.

We traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver to view the exhibit "The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture and the Sonic Impulse." We enjoyed an opportunity to broaden our understanding and reflect upon the century-long tradition of Black Culture in the African American South. The exhibit featured a variety of genres from sculpture, painting and drawing, photography, film and music. Our February visit to Denver Botanic Garden exceeded our expectations! We explored the warm, humid air in the tropical conservatory and were amazed by the hundreds of beautiful orchids on display in the Orchid Showcase. We also enjoyed the prints, paintings and sculptures in the Melanie Yazzie: Peace Walking art exhibit.

Cultural Adventures:

Our April adventure will be a visit to an Iris Farm in the Denver area. This adventure will be planned on short notice as they are only open a few weeks during the blooming season. We are anticipating the end of April. Let us know if you would like to be kept informed of our plans. (contact renaeparra@aol.com or janet.johnston@comcast.net)



Upcoming: May Cultural Adventure: Friday, May 5th - lunch at Taste of Vietnam in Lone Tree

The Light We Carry... conversations on overcoming in times of uncertainty:

Experience includes three Tuesdays 5:00-6:00pm, April 18, 25 & May 2 –

Since our first offering of this experience filled up very quickly, a second opportunity is being offered! Self-worth comes from self-knowledge and builds confidence in who we are and the strength we have within. Join us for conversations on practices to extend the power of the light we carry. As our guide, we'll use the book **The Light We Carry** by Michelle Obama. Fee: \$35 (includes book, materials and contribution to CSE ministry). For more info or to register, Contact sallie@stlukeshr.com



Men in Community: with Bryan Hutchinson (1st Monday of the month at 5:00pm at the church and occasional 3rd Monday dinner out) – Engage in informal conversations about relevant topics and connect with other men in our community regarding everyday aspects of life... family, work, faith, challenges, transitions, goals and hopes. Join in anytime! Contact bryanrhutch@aol.com



"For me, 'Walking in Beauty' is about putting good into the world. Planting seeds, planting friendships, making connections with people outside and inside your community... the idea of 'walking' is living in a good way. Not just saying a prayer, but taking action to put good into your life, into friends and family, into everything around you."—Colorado artist Melanie Yazzie

St. Luke's Represents at MLK Parade

On Monday, January 16th 19 people from St. Luke's joined in the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King. The annual Parade (march and parade) is a walk from City Park to Civic Center Park. Thanks to all who bundled up and joined us on the momentous day. Our group is growing every year, so, we think next year, we need a St. Luke's CSE sign!



Nourish and Be Well Offered a Time to Pause

Nourish and Be Well, a day-long CSE retreat facilitated by Melinda Davidson and Sallie Suby-Long, offered a lovely invitation to begin the New Year with grace and intentionality. Melinda and Sallie created a gracious environment that embraced nature, nourishing comfort food, and the time/space to think about important life questions. The 19 women who attended this event connected in enriching ways through the activities that Melinda and Sallie facilitated, which included both contemplative and communal experiences.



The retreat culminated in a creative activity to help us all remember essential insights about coming home to ourselves.

Light & Love Service Project Delivers Warmth

Our dynamic duo Jennifer Smith and Suanne Ediger led our second annual Love & Light & Love service project. They collected items for beautiful and meaningful care bags to deliver to some of our St. Luke's friends who are not able to make it to church or who needed a little light added to their lives. Many families joined in the assembly of these bags after church on Feb. 5th and the bags were delivered the week prior to Valentine's Day. We are so grateful for all who participated in assembling and delivering these bags of love.

Thank You, Stephanie!

Stephanie Kirk, has given notice of her intention to resign from the St. Luke's staff effective April 13. Stephanie has enjoyed working at St. Luke's since she was hired in December of 2019, and has seen the staff transition through new clergy, a global pandemic, changing the service times (twice!), the hiring of a new Youth Director, and the transition of many volunteers on and off committees. In the same time frame, Stephanie has watched one of her kids finish preschool, homeschooled/virtual schooled both kids through the pandemic, supported her husband through a major career change, gained three new pets, has been receiving treatments for over a year to manage long COVID and now has a 2nd grader and a 3rd grader. With the recognition of the passing of these pivotal years, Stephanie is stepping away from the front desk to commit her time to her family and to her continued health and healing. Stephanie is very clear that she and her family will still be fully engaged with St. Luke's, the only difference is that she will not be at the front desk during the week anymore.

I have greatly appreciated all of Stephanie's work, her incredible organizational skills and her friendly reception of people in the office so much, and while I hate to see her go, I support her decision to attend to her family and to her health.

Stephanie has offered an extended period of transition as she is intentional about training a new person so this can be a smooth transition for our staff and for our community. Our Staff-Parish Relations Team has posted the position on our website and already selected a hiring team to find someone to replace Stephanie so we can have someone in place to start training on April 3. Please reach out to Stephanie when you see her to thank her for all she has done for our church, and please pray for her as she dedicates her time to her family and to her healing. And please pray we find someone just as good to replace her! —Rev. Michele



Stephanie Kirk
Dir. of Communication & Office Administration, & Music and Arts
Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeshr.com

Lay Leadership

As we celebrate our 40th year, and look beyond the next 40 years, St. Luke's Lay Leadership Team is here to represent our laity and support our community. Your Lay Leadership team is comprised of 10 lay members who serve in three-year terms representing diverse aspects of our congregation.

The purpose of Lay Leadership is to serve as your primary representative within our church community. This includes serving as non-voting members in the various working committees at St. Luke's in addition to working within our Executive Team, while partnering with our clergy and staff to fulfill the mission and vision of our congregation.

To fulfill the primary focus of Lay Leadership, it is crucial that everyone in our community is enabled to connect with the Lay Leadership team to maintain open conduits for feedback and to answer questions that anyone at St. Luke's may have.

Throughout 2023 please be on the look-out for additional communication, outreach, and engagement in addition to our annual picnic in September and ways your Lay Leaders serve during Sunday morning worship services.

If you have any questions or feedback, please email your lay leaders at layleaders@stlukeshr.simplists.com.

Additionally, here is a list of your lay leaders at St. Luke's: **Paul Kirk, Teri Burget, Eileen Law, Gail Abernathy, John Church, Mina Hall, Pam Burke, Amy Antinoro, Betty Ludlam, Jonah Metz**

continued from page 5 but within congregations and communities as well. Additionally, hateful rumors and disinformation about the process has been widespread.

Michele reiterated that St. Luke's will remain a United Methodist congregation and we will continue to be a church that values the wide spectrum of people that come together to be in community with each other. Rev. Michele asked those gathered to think about two continuums and where we considered ourselves to be. Are we "traditional" in our thinking (opposed to gay marriage and ordination), or are we progressive? Also, do we feel that we are compatible with worshipping with others, even if they don't believe the same thing, or is that incompatible with your beliefs? Throughout the history of St. Luke's, our tendency has been more moderate on the whole, with a small number of folks on the far ends of both spectrums. More than 80% of our community (and United Methodists as a whole), believe that, no matter where we fall on the Traditional-Progressive continuum, we can still be compatible with one another, and worship together.

Rev. Liza helped us look to the future, envisioning what the church should be as we continue on our spiritual journeys in the 21st century. She noted that there is a lot of opportunity to build communities of faith and support. The church may look very different in 2050 than it did in 1950, or even 2023, but the reason for the church will remain - to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. —Susan McIntosh



Maya Opati
Director of
Youth Ministry
maya@stluakeshr.com

ON THE SLY: 7th-12th grade Confirmation & More!

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I may love only what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, that I may defend all that is holy. –St. Augustine of Hippo

For the month of January our confirmation class has been visiting churches and different religious organizations throughout the Denver Metro area. Just as St. Augustine of Hippo stated in his Prayer, the Holy Spirit has allowed our current and former confirmands to grow in their love and work during this time. My prayer for this upcoming Lent season and our 40th Anniversary is to allow the Holy Spirit to move us all. Move us towards Peace, Love and Work as we each grow and stretch during this time of learning.

Join us all for Confirmation Sunday on April 16 to celebrate this journey for our youth! And visit me in my new office across from Rev. Liza in the main office of the church. *The old Youth office is now being used as a Little School office and multi-purpose space.*

Blessings, Maya

Upcoming Events:

**Join us Sundays at 9:30am & 5:30pm
and Wednesdays at 5:30pm**

- Will be heading to Ponderosa for our Confirmation Retreat at the end of March.
- We will be working with Denver Rescue Mission to feed the undeserved for our 40th anniversary.
- We are meeting with Christ Lutheran for an Epic game of Grog the 1st week of April
- Creating a SLY/LoveINC Partnership beginning in April
- Heading to Denver Museum of Nature in Science at the end of April
- Our mission trip is in Kansas City, MO the last week of June - watch for details on cost and important paperwork to fill out to reserve your spot

Contact Maya to sign up to get the SLY weekly email for all the details.



Kelly Amadeo
Director of
Little School



It was Western Weeks at Little School this January! Our 210

cowboys and cowgirls participated in a variety of western themed events like a rodeo obstacle course, "pony rides," and campfire sing-alongs while roasting marshmallows on our fire-free campfire. We are having such a great time at Little School this year.

We were so excited in December to welcome our parents into the sanctuary for our Christmas Programs. We had 210 students singing traditional Christmas carols like "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and contemporary songs like "Hallelujah, Merry Christmas." We had almost 700 parents, grandparents, families, and friends attend our in-person Christmas concert, and we had even more join us online via our live stream.

We are participating in the Universal Preschool Program! This program is a state funded program that is offering 15 hours of free preschool to ALL four-year-olds in Colorado. It is not needs based and is for all! This program is being funded by a tobacco tax that was approved by voters in 2020. It is such a blessing that many more four-year-olds will be able to attend preschool without finances being a roadblock. There has been a shift over the last few years as lawmakers and politicians are seeing the importance of early childhood education, and they are allocating funds through grants and the Universal Preschool Program to help support our youngest citizens.

Our students and staff continue to thrive at St. Luke's.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Art Show which will be available for church members to see in April! *Grace & Love, Kelly*

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2024

Plan now to travel to Israel and Palestine, October 1-11, 2024 (With the choice of an extension, *The Wonders of Petra, in Jordan, October 11-15, 2024*)

Pilgrimage Leaders: Rev. Janet Forbes and Bob Davis
Information Meeting: Sunday, April 23 at 4:00pm



This pilgrimage will acquaint travelers with the geographical, social, historical, archaeological and cultural settings of the Bible and relate the travel insights to contemporary dynamics in Israel, Palestine and Jordan. The pilgrimage will include forums on historical and contemporary themes and visits with local people. The learning process will be contextual and experiential, exploring how biblical faith relates to the context of the Holy Land in the intersection of the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. This journey of a lifetime includes roundtrip airfare from Denver to Tel Aviv, deluxe motorcoaches and guided sightseeing to the major biblical/archeological sites in the Galilee, Nazareth, Caesarea, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Qumran. Highlights of the trip will include the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the old city of Jerusalem with the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Masada (King Herod's mountaintop fortress overlooking the Dead Sea); the opportunity to renew baptism in the Jordan River, a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, and a "float" in the salty Dead Sea. Hosted by The Society for Biblical Studies (www.sbsedu.org) whose mission is: to reform biblical scholarship, to redeem pilgrimage from commercial sightseeing, and to renew the mission of the Church. Send inquiries to Rev. Janet at janetforbes@gmail.com



Seasoned Voyagers

The Seasoned Voyagers have enjoyed a great start to 2023. Hopefully you joined us for the visit to the Denver Art Museum in January for the special exhibit, Saints, Sinners, Lovers and Fools.

Did you know that paintings in 16th century Flanders were the equivalent of today's sitcoms? Who knew? In February we had a wonderful time at our Welcome Social at St. Luke's with cookies, ice cream, special sauce and Mingo! We are looking forward to March with a visit to the Colorado History Museum to visit the newly curated Sand Creek exhibit, in April to visit the special fire truck exhibit at the Forney Transportation Museum and in May to visit the Colorado School on Mines and their Geology Museum (think gems!). Stop by our table in the Narthex for more information and to sign up for these events and more. You can also check the bulletin for details. –Jim Burke



ST. LUKE'S FAMILY CAMP

Reserve Your Spot!

Family Camp 2023 is in the works!! Whether you have attended many times in the past 23 years, or you're thinking about camping with us for the very first time, we'd love to have you!

Winding River Resort is a beautiful campground with spacious campsites, fantastic amenities, and a wonderful assortment of activities for all ages. It is located between Grand Lake and Rocky Mountain National Park, and is only about 70 miles from St. Luke's UMC. Don't want to camp? WRR also offers lodge rooms, cabins, and even covered wagons—but you've got to reserve early because they are very popular!



Family Camp 2023: Winding River Resort July 20-27. Come for one day or all week! You can make campsite reservations online at windingriverresort.com. The community site for group activities will be site #12, and the Merchant family will be in site #13.

Once you've reserved your site, let me know your dates, site, contact info, and the names and ages of the people in your party. Then, based on that information, we'll plan some group activities, including potluck meals, crafts, hikes, etc. There will be a registration fee, collected at the time of camp, to offset the cost of the community site and group activities (probably approximately \$50 per family, depending on how many people attend).

Please contact Caroline Merchant if you have any questions. Caroline@merchant-us.net

EASTER FUN DAY!

Our annual spring family carnival is **SUNDAY April 2 from 12:30-2:30pm**. Please sign up to help (stlukeshr.com) or drop off cookies (wrapped in pairs) and individually wrapped candy for our Easter Egg Hunt.



We also have games, cotton candy, bouncy castle, Easter Bunny, balloon twisting, animals and more fun for the whole family! \$20/per family suggested donation. Join Us!

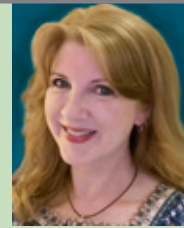
Vacation Bible School

"Hero Hotline" is **June 5-9** this year! Sign up begins April 10 at 3:00pm online. **We need LOTS of volunteers** - please sign up online now if you are interested in more information on volunteering. We need you and it's SUPER FUN! Thanks!

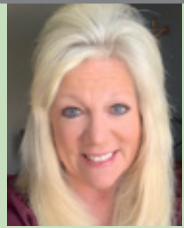


St. Luke's Kids *grace courage wonder beyond*

Welcome to St. Luke's Kids – our ministry to children birth through grade 6. *In caring for the children of St. Luke's and their families, we seek to nurture and develop faithful loving lives, modeled after the Love, Acceptance, Justice, and Hope of Jesus, through relationship and learning. We strive to create sacred spaces and experiences for children to discover and share our principles of GRACE, COURAGE, WONDER & BEYOND inspired by God's love.*



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



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

Children Celebrate "40" & Journey through Lent

Sunday School has a new check in kiosk upstairs! Thanks to Mr. Bob for building that! Children check in upstairs at 9:30am and then go sit with their families until Children's Time and then come downstairs for a Sunday School lesson and activities. We want children to get a feel for being in the church service during Lent. In PEAK Sunday School we recently made snack bags to go in the Monday Lunches for those in need and we are raising money to buy another stove for a family in Guatemala. We kicked off the Lenten season with an interactive **Ash Wednesday** experience where the kids got to discover water, earth, light and a labyrinth as they began their Lenten journey. **SLY, Jr.** kicked off the year by going bowling and we made lunches for those in need with SLY and in early February, 21 5th and 6th graders gathered for our SLY, Jr. Lock In. It was our first overnight experience since 2020! Our theme was "Celebrate 40" and we learned about this special number not only in the life of St. Luke's but in the Bible and in our every day lives! Did you know 40 means "a long time" in the Bible (Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness being tempted; the great flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights; the Jewish people wandered the desert for 40 years.) A typical human pregnancy lasts 40 weeks and 40 hours is the typical American work week, forty is the only number in English whose letters appear in alphabetical order, and "40 below," is the only temperature that is the same in both Fahrenheit and Celsius. Our next SLY, Jr. gathering is March 26 for our IKEA Scavenger Hunt! Contact Ms. Sharon to RSVP. We had an awesome turnout for **Family Movie Night** on Feb. 24 watching "Frozen 2"! **Spring Wacky Days** is March 13-15 from 9:00am-noon and will be a silly and creative time for kids on spring break! Contact Ms. Sam. Our monthly **Parent's Night Out** and our **Parent's Morning Out** programs are up and running. Contact Sam for more information.



We are SO excited about the **Children's Dinner Theater** coming up on **May 5 at 6:00pm**. Mark your calendars - all are invited! The cute musical "Come Alive" is written by our own Jana Wesson! We had 20 kids (1st-6th grade) audition and look forward to our time together rehearsing and planning this fun dinner, show and mission event. Watch for more details!





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

GRACE • COURAGE • WONDER • BEYOND

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



Grief Support Group

Many times people feel alone with their grief when a death of a loved one has occurred. Many grieverers have found that mourning in a safe place

with people who will listen to their stories and hold their feelings and pain for a little while is helpful. St. Luke's has an opportunity for you to receive support on your grief journey. Join Rev. Pat Shaffer and Stephen Leader; Nancy Abbott, for a four week support group. **We will meet Sunday afternoons March 5, 12, 19, 26 at 12:15pm by the Chapel.** Please call Rev. Pat at 720-988-5430 or email her at prshaffer04@yahoo.com to let her know you will be attending.



Stephanie Kirk
 Dir. of Communication & Office Administration, & Music and Arts
 Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeshr.com

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



*James Bacon,
 Dale Chavers,
 Kathy and Ted Dreyer,
 Gary Enloe,
 Mark Godsey,*

*Steve Gray,
 Larry Gustafson,
 Jeanne Halderman,
 Rev. Jim Harris,
 Brian Heiar,*

*Ann Kershner,
 Pam Lyons,
 Carolyn McIntosh,
 BJ Miller,*

*Jan Munoz,
 Kelli Radle,
 Mary Richards,
 Rev. Jim Ryan,*

*Dan Speedy,
 Nancy Springman,
 Arnie Van Hoosen,
 Amy Weiske*

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO:

*Kristi Amick and family on the passing of her uncle,
 Karl Schwenk*

*Terry Boucher and family and friends on the passing of his wife,
 Debbie Boucher*

David Lamoreaux and family on the passing of his sister, Nancy Duszczyk

Michelle Lamoreaux on the passing of her close friend, Mike Nowlan

Gov Lucero and the friends and family of Adam Keaveney on his passing

Betty Ludlam on the passing of her aunt, Betty Lightburn

Brian and Rachael Owens and family on the passing of their nephew,

Graham Frederick DiMartino, son of Elizabeth and Jo DiMartino

Linda Sears on the passing of her mother, Frances Regner

Joseph Thevarajah and family on the passing of his mother, Rasamany Thevarajah

WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER:

*the birth of Jackson Robert Karp to proud parents Matt and Shelly,
 big brother Leon, and grandparents Mike and Laura Richards*

*the birth of John Forrest Mezger to proud parents Ben and Elise,
 and grandparents John and Andrea Mezger*

*the birth of Carter James Struyk to proud parents Kristin and Ryall,
 and grandparents Mark and Patti Speedy*

*the birth of Owen David Tyson to proud parents Anthony and Katy,
 and grandma Victoria Mason*

the 98th birthday of Nan Woods

the birthday of Nancy Drege

the loving memory of Rev. Jim George

the loving memory of Jack Miller and Karen Herr's Grandparents

the 57th wedding anniversary of Bob and Fran West



Flowers are Celebrations of Life!

Looking for another way to celebrate a special event or honor or remember a loved one? The Altar Team invites you to help decorate our altar each Sunday with flowers. The two bouquets cost only \$40 for both. You may take the bouquets home after the 11:00 service. Vases can be returned later. Order online at our website or contact the office for more information.



Les Ludlam
Retired Clergy

More from Les: *My Hiding Place*

When I was 6, I had a “hiding place” near our farm house.

It was a place where I could go to be all by myself.

I kept my collection of rocks there; my favorite toy airplane was there.

Lots of the things that were very special to me at that time of my life were kept safely tucked away in my special hiding place.

It was in the branches of a big old Elm tree not far from our house. I could go there, climb up and look across the yard toward the barn and the fields beyond, I felt like I could see the whole world from there.

Then one day, my father told my mother that the Elm must be cut down. Insects had killed the tree and it was in danger of falling into the power lines that brought electricity to our farmhouse. I really felt bad.

When my parents told me to bring my treasures back to the house, I knew the end was coming. I cried.

About a week later, early in the morning, I heard loud noises. I looked outside and saw my father and my grandfather cutting down the tree!

First, they cut the base with a saw, then they looped a long logging chain around the trunk and hooked it to the back of the tractor. Then, father climbed aboard the tractor, put it in gear and began to pull forward. Slowly the old tree swayed and then with a loud “Crack!” it began to topple. It hit the ground with a crash and a cloud of dust.

My hiding place was gone. I couldn’t climb up to see the fields beyond our farm. I didn’t have a place to go to be alone. I cried, again.

I decided to find a new hiding place. I put a supply of roasted peanuts, my favorite food even today, and all my important things, including an extra pair of socks, into a small sack. (My mom had told me to never wear wet socks because it could put blisters on my feet.)

Then I started walking toward the woods down by the river, looking for a new hiding place.

When I didn’t appear for the midday meal, my parents began to worry. They started looking for me and almost fearfully began to look down toward the river.

They found, and followed, a trail of peanut hulls, and shortly, they found me sitting next to a huge cottonwood tree near the riverbank. They weren’t too happy with me but for some reason they just took me home and didn’t say much.

For several weeks after that, I moped around the house. Nothing satisfied me, I was ill-mannered at the table, I kept forgetting things, I tormented my little brother even more than usual! I was, in a word, a six-year-old mess.

One afternoon, mother took me out to the barn. We climbed the steps up to

the loft and she took me to a corner that had been cleared of hay. It was next to a window that looked out to the west. “You can use this if you like,” she said.

Well, I wasn’t sure; it smelled like a barn! Well... it was a barn! And it was dusty, but I decided to try. At least it was a place where I could be alone!

I took my rocks and toy airplane and other stuff up there and after a while I got to liking it. Better yet, our dog could climb up there with me! She couldn’t have done that in the elm tree.

A few months later, mother told me that the dog was going to have puppies. She said it might be nice if I used my special place as a nursery when the puppies were born. So, we built a box for her, and sure enough when her puppies were born, she stayed in it!

I would go out to my new hiding place in the barn and just sit, watching the dog take care of her puppies. My new special hiding place had become even more special!

Our hiding places are not just for escaping but for dealing with living. It is not so much about where they are or what they look like, as it is about what happens to refresh and renew us when we go there. So, find your hiding place and use it.

God bless us all, Les

