



NEWS RELEASE  
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## **St. Luke's Recognized as Top 100 Hospital**

*--National Study Chooses Nation's Best Hospitals Based on Performance--*

**Boise** – St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Centers combined have been named as a Top 100 Hospital by Thomson Reuters.

St. Luke's was included in the 2008 Thomson 100 Top Hospitals National Benchmarks study released March 30, which recognizes the nation's top hospitals based on organizational performance. St. Luke's is the only Idaho hospital to make the list.

"It's an honor to be named a Top 100 Hospital, but recognition and awards only tell part of the story," said Gary Fletcher, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian CEO. "We're fortunate to have a dedicated group of employees, physicians, volunteers and community leaders who give freely of their time and expertise not in pursuit of accolades, but because we believe everyone in our community deserves the highest standard of medical care."

This is sixth time since 1993 that St. Luke's has been recognized as a Top 100 Hospital. St. Luke's received the honor for three consecutive years from 1993 to 1995 and then again in 2004 and 2007. In November 2008, St. Luke's was also recognized as a Thomson Reuters Top 100 Hospital for Cardiovascular Care.

St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Centers are part of the four-hospital St. Luke's Health System – Idaho largest not-for-profit health care system. In 2008, St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Hospitals provides more than \$12.5 million in free or reduced-cost health care to thousands of community members.

"At a time when we're facing unprecedented economic challenges and more and more Idahoans are struggling every day to make ends meet, it's critical that people not lose access to health care," Fletcher said. "St. Luke's isn't immune to

the economic challenges, but we remain committed to providing health care to everyone regardless of their ability to pay.”

St. Luke’s was chosen as a Top 100 Hospital after a study that evaluated the performance of 3,000 short-term, acute care and non-federal hospitals in these nine areas: mortality, medical complications, patient safety, average length of stay, expenses, profitability, cash-to-debt ratio, patient satisfaction and adherence to clinical standards of care.

Public information from Medicare and Medicaid was used to determine the top 100 hospitals.

If all hospitals delivered care comparable to the Top 100 Hospitals, the study estimated that:

- More than 107,500 additional patients would survive each year.
- Nearly 132,000 patient complications would be avoided annually.
- Expenses would decline by \$5.9 billion a year.
- The average patient stay would decrease by nearly half a day.

“The 100 Top Hospital Winners raised the bar again this year, delivering a higher level of reliable care and greater value for their communities and payers,” said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president for performance improvement and 100 Top Hospitals programs at Thomson Reuters.

For more information about the Thomson 100 Top Hospitals National Benchmarks for Success study, visit [www.100tophospitals.com](http://www.100tophospitals.com).

### *About Thomson Reuters*

The Healthcare division of Thomson Reuters produces insights, information, benchmarks and analysis that enable organizations to manage costs, improve performance and enhance the quality of healthcare. For more information, go to [www.thomsonreuters.com](http://www.thomsonreuters.com).

### *About St. Luke’s Health System*

St. Luke’s is Idaho’s only locally governed not-for-profit health system. With four hospitals and more than 30 outpatient centers and clinics, St. Luke’s provides patients unmatched care in specialized medical fields including cancer, heart and vascular, obstetrics, women’s services and children’s health care. St. Luke’s 7,170 employees, 970 member medical staff, and more than 850 volunteers are committed to delivering the highest quality care to those in medical need regardless of their ability to pay. The hospitals of St. Luke’s have earned numerous national awards and recognition for excellence in patient care. For more information about St. Luke’s, visit [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).