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### **St. Luke's Recognized as a 100 Top Hospital in the Nation**

**Boise, ID (April 7, 2008)** – St. Luke's Boise/Meridian Medical Center was named a *Thomson 100 Top Hospitals National Benchmarks for Success* award winner by Thomson Healthcare on March 17, 2008.

St. Luke's medical centers in Boise and Meridian are the only Idaho hospitals ranked with other Thomson 100 Top Hospitals National Benchmarks for Success award winners such as Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Poudre Valley Hospital. Further, St. Luke's is one of only 15 hospitals nationwide to have received this award five times or more since the award's inception in 1993.

"We credit this accomplishment to our employees, our volunteers, the physicians who practice at St. Luke's, our volunteer boards, and to the people in our community who trust in and support St. Luke's," said Gary Fletcher, CEO, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian.

Rising costs, patient safety, and access to care are challenges faced by health care consumers and providers, employers, and third-party private and governmental payers. "As a full service not-for-profit community hospital, St. Luke's understands the unique and vital role we play in the communities we serve, and we are committed to meeting the highest standards and providing the best care to everyone who comes through our doors," said Fletcher.

This commitment to safety and quality is most recently reflected in Thomson Healthcare's naming St. Luke's a 100 Top Hospital. The designation means St. Luke's ranks well above the top 90 percent on hospital-wide performance when compared with 3,000 of its national peers (Teaching Hospitals).

"With determinations based solely on objective statistical analyses, each Thomson 100 Top Hospital is recognized nationwide as a high performer clinically, operationally, and financially," said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president of Thomson Healthcare Performance Improvement and 100 Top Programs. "Earning its fifth 100 Top Hospitals award is evidence of St. Luke's strong performance in clinical care, patient safety, operational efficiency, and financial stability."

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

This year, Thomson Healthcare estimates determined that if all Medicare inpatients received the same level of care as those in the 100 Top Hospitals across all categories:

- More than 120,000 additional patients would survive each year.
- More than 138,000 patient complications would be avoided annually.
- Expenses would decline by an aggregate \$6.2 billion a year.
- The average patient stay would decrease by more than half a day.

“By adhering to the highest standards, St. Luke’s is able to not only provide the expert, compassionate care for which we are known, but to do so in a fiscally responsible manner,” added Fletcher. “This is imperative for a not-for-profit hospital that reinvests every net dollar to best care for and serve our communities.”

Thomson Healthcare is the leading provider of decision support solutions that help organizations across the health care industry improve clinical and business performance. More information about Thomson Healthcare and the 100 Top Hospitals studies is available at [www.100tophospitals.com](http://www.100tophospitals.com).

### *About St. Luke’s:*

St. Luke’s is Idaho’s only locally governed, not-for-profit health system. The system offers a full continuum of care through its four hospitals and more than 30 outpatient centers and clinics. 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 need regardless of their ability to pay. With a mission “To improve the health of people in our region,” St. Luke’s provided \$187 million (including capital) in community benefit during its 2007 fiscal year. The hospitals of St. Luke’s have earned numerous national awards and recognition for excellence in patient care.

St. Luke’s Boise Medical Center is a 369-bed community hospital that was founded in 1902. St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center is a 152-bed community hospital that began providing a full range of hospital services in 2001. St. Luke’s Boise and St. Luke’s Meridian are both designated as a Magnet hospital, the gold standard for nursing excellence. For more information about St. Luke’s, visit [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).

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