

January 2010

The Messenger

I Have Seen Jesus—WOW!

Such was the exclamation of an old man, whose only desire in this life before dying was to see the Savior. What do you want to see? As we approach the heart of winter, I invite you to explore the heart of Simeon—that old man whose prayer was answered when he saw Jesus (Luke 2).

Had he been off sailing the Mediterranean or hanging out at a local bar, he might have missed the moment. But Simeon truly was living for the moment of seeing Jesus. He was hanging out at the Temple. He put himself in a position to be blessed. Luke 2:25 says he was “*righteous and devout.*”

We are headed for a month I prefer to skip. It is easy to hide indoors during the month of January, but then you might miss out on some things God would like to show you. Make the most of this month. Put yourself in a position to be blessed. Where can you put yourself that you might see Jesus?

This month we will be talking about how you can find/create a small group that fits your style. Small groups are great places to see Jesus. We will also give opportunity for you to be part of a statewide venture to expand ministry thru scholarships to students preparing to become pastors/teachers and planting new churches. All of this will help you position yourself to see God’s powerful presence!

God wants to show you things that will “knock your socks off” but you have to be looking. Let’s make this a great month in which we not only seek to stay warm, but give God opportunity to heat things up! Simeon was not disappointed—neither will you be.

Simeon . . . took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

*²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.*

³⁰ I have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared for all people.

*³² He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!” (Luke 2:28-32)*

May this be a month of great God sightings!
Blessings,

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Rev. Jeffrey Heimsoth
8990 Church Rd.
St. Johns, MI 48879



Phone: 989-224-3178
Fax: 989-224-8962
church@stpeterriley.org
www.stpeterriley.org

Festival of Human Lights/Festival of Lights

"From east to west, from shore to shore. Let every heart awake and sing. The holy child whom Mary bore, the Christ, the everlasting king." I recently came across this verse from an unfamiliar hymn. It brought to mind the message we at St. Peter wanted to share with our community as we celebrated the Festival of Lights. Our goal was to provide for those in need, and at the same time share the Good News—the birth of the Christ, "the everlasting King". Many of you graciously served this year through your time, service, and monetary donations. As phone calls were made and gifts delivered there were many thanks given for your generosity. How awesome to hear words of thanks as those served saw God's hand caring for them. Heartfelt comments were made recognizing God's provision at just the right time!

The Festival of Lights was a celebration! Great family activities, terrific food, and awesome fellowship with singing carols and sharing the Gospel message with our neighbors. Our worship leader, Brian Massey, was a great blessing. He made our closing celebration more than music—he made it about worship. Over 100 St. Peter Volunteers helped to shine the light throughout Clinton county. We were able to serve over 40 families!

Special thanks to those who served as committee chairs. Many phone calls were made and hours of service put into planning so that the Festival would run smoothly and successfully.

Festival of Human Lights: Rita Hollis, Brian Bloom, Susan Bourdon, Sue Yelden, Diane Hart, Sue Gabriel, Jennifer Scott, Sandy Lockwood.

Festival of Lights: Pastor, Diane Thurston, Paul and Tracy Dunn, Christine Billips

Many serving made this year's festival an awesome blessing!

Thank you from your festival coordinator,
Nancy Heimsoth

**The young adult Sunday school group will be meeting on January 3rd at 9am in Pastor's office.
Due to the great discussion we have had the last few months, we are starting earlier!**

Our Gang

We all want to be part of a group. It means a lot to be part of a group that is pulling for you, challenging you, cheering you on. It doesn't necessarily matter what the group does—just to be part of it. BUT what if your group includes others like you who have a common interest? Maybe you want to study the Bible (very valuable), quilt, read a book, mentor a group of kids, etc.

Our desire in small groups is to bring people together for the sake of building friendships and growing in an appreciation for all God is doing in our lives. What will it take for this ministry of connecting people to be successful? It will take a few stepping forward to take responsibility for creating a group. Maybe you are one of those people. Call the church office for more information!

Principal's Page

School News and Events for the New Year

Monday, January 4—School resumes

Monday, January 18—No School-Martin Luther King Day

Sunday January 24 (11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)—Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Outdoor Education.

Students of the month for November were Cooper Schultz in Mrs. Kidders class, Jeffery Smith in Mrs. Aves class, Adam Cloutier in Mr. Asiala's class, and Jacob Davis in Mr. Bremer's class. We congratulate these students on being good examples for others to follow.

The Thrivent Matching gift program has ended as of December 31. There will be a temporary program in place from January 15, 2010 to June 30, 2010 in which we will be eligible for "challenge grant" of up to 20% of the average of the funds that we have raised in the past. To qualify we will have to raise twice as much as the grant. We will be getting more information soon as to how large of a grant we will be eligible for.

Have a blessed New Year!



Captive Free to Perform at St. Peter Lutheran Church

On January 7th, we are hosting Captive Free, a music ministry team sponsored by Youth Encounter. Youth Encounter is a Christian organization that partners with Christian communities to strengthen their youth ministry. Youth Encounter sponsors several national/international ministry teams. Each team is composed of 4-6 young adults who commit to travel the globe for a year sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Captive Free is a talented team of four young adults offering a Christian, youth-oriented musical ministry. The Spirited Captive Free band members perform in hundreds of churches as well as schools, youth events, assisted living homes, detention centers, and prisons as well as Christian youth conferences across the country. **They will offer a FREE concert at St. Peter Lutheran Church on Thursday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m.**

Incorporating Christian music, drama, puppets, and testimonies, Captive Free reaches out to people of all ages and tastes. They charm wide-eyed toddlers with puppets and sing-a-longs and challenge young and old with insightful skits and faith sharings. Grab your family and friends and join us for an evening of faith-encouraging family fun and fellowship as we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In addition to the Thursday evening concert, Captive Free members will work with Jr. Youth Wednesday at OASIS, lead Chapel for our day school on Thursday and lead a school assembly on Friday.

Hosting this musical ministry team is part of our school mission project. Not only is it an event to help ignite and connect kids to Christ but also to expose them to various mission opportunities. Youth Encounter offers much more for youth. For information go to <http://www.youthencounter.org>.

Youth Encounter's team ministry is costs approximately \$20,000 per individual! Each team member must raise \$10,000 for him/herself. We will help by having a free will offering at the program or you can provide items for their personal needs: postage stamps, gas cards, envelopes, thank you cards, oil changes, and shampoo/conditioner. Donations are being collected in the church office.

News & Announcements

Ladies Aid News

Twenty more quilts were sent to RAVE. Our Christmas donations have been sent as follows: International Student Ministry (\$25), RAVE (\$25), Special Education Ministry (\$25), Shared Pregnancy (\$25), Bethesda (\$25), Lutheran Homes of Michigan (\$25), the Erbers (\$100). Our quilt that was created by our ladies was presented to our seminary student, Eric Rapp, and his family at the late service on November 29. They were also given a plate of cookies and a Ladies Aid cookbook.

The Advent brunch was attended by 75 ladies, all of which enjoyed the event. Thanks to the committee of :Jeanette Mehney, Diane Thurston, Judy Boettger and Kathy Bond. The collection from the Advent Brunch after expenses was \$173,(this will be given to the LWML Mite Box Collection) and also \$120 from the cookbook, cutlery, & bazaar items were sold.

At the St. Mary's Bazaar, we brought in \$830 (our highest total ever). Thanks to everyone who donated baked goods and craft items.

November Mites

\$31.89



Youth News

Super Bowl Sub Sale – The youth will once again be selling sub sandwiches the weekend of February 6-7. There will be order forms in the bulletin in mid-January. The proceeds will assist youth attending next summer's mission trip and other youth activities. Think about it—you can help people just by eating a sandwich!

Youth Team Meeting – On Sunday, January 3rd the adults and youth of the leadership Youth Team will be meeting following late service in the youth center. Current members of the team are Deb Ruff, Erika Brown, Tammy Hartner, Kim Sperry, Laurie VanBeelen, Zack Werner, Evan VanBeelen and Mark Werner with more being added each month!

Mission Trip Sign up – It may seem like next summer is far off, but it is time to make plans for our 2010 summer mission trip already! During the week of **July 17 – 23** middle school and senior high youth will serve in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Once again we are going through the organization Youthworks! who plans all the arrangements from ministry sites to lodging, to food, and worship. Once in Harrisburg we will meet up with youth from other churches to serve the community in various ways. **A \$60 registration fee is needed by January 10th** to hold your spot. While the cost per person for the week will be around \$425, the actual cost to each participant is less than \$200. The experience is open to current 6th through 12th graders; additional adults are also needed. St. Peter Lutheran Youth has sent over 100 people on mission trips over the last 5 years! The fund raisers will offset the cost to make it an affordable experience.

Computer Printer Cartridges – Send in your used computer printer cartridges to the church office. The youth ministry sends them in to recycle in addition to raising a little money. The support of few people recycling last year brought in \$250. You can make a difference to our planet and the youth by bringing in your used cartridges.

Youth Service Event – Middle School and Senior high students are needed to help set up and serve at the Cabin Fever event on Sunday, January 10th. We will set up the gym following Sunday School. Contact Mark Werner if you can help.

News & Announcements

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who worked at the soup kitchen & giving Room. We had 29 people from St. Peter and 2 from Christ Lutheran. We served about 96 people a menu of: spaghetti, vegetables, salad, garlic bread, pineapple and cake & cookies for dessert. Everyone was appreciative of the food and the articles in the giving room.

Our next scheduled dates for the soup kitchen are March 13 and December 11, 2010.

Hope to see you all then, Diane Hart

Memorials & Gifts

In memory of Keith Sillman To Faith, Family, Forever	\$20
In memory of Walt Pytlowanyj To Faith, Family, Forever	\$20
In memory of Joan Schmitzer To Faith, Family, Forever	\$40
In honor of Ethel Flegler To Faith, Family, Forever	\$1000
In memory of Marcella Kloeckner To St. Peter Ladies Aid	\$50

Change of Address

Jeremy & Abi Heimsoth
503 Lambert Dr.
St. Johns, MI 48879

If you have any change to your address or phone number, please contact the office. Thanks!

Thanks to Ed Mikula

When you see Ed, please give him a smile and hug for printing personalized Christmas cards that were enclosed with the Giving Tree presents. The cards were signed "St. Peter Lutheran Church" and personalized for each family.

—Baker Street Bible Study

Thank You

I wish to thank Pastor and all the members for their prayers and visits, cards and well-wishes. I give praise to our Lord for bringing me this far and the great lesson of patience.

May He bless you all,
Linda Davis

From Heather Scranton

Dear Members of St. Peter Lutheran Church,
Thank you for allowing us to use your space for the spaghetti dinner. Thanks to everyone who participated. You are a truly a loving and generous group. I am overwhelmed by your generosity and feel blessed to live in such a caring community. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate all that you have done for me.

Thank you!
Heather Scranton

Thank you

I want to thank the men who worked on my car and changed the oil. While our timing is never perfect, God's timing always is. Nominating me for an oil change indeed came at the right time. I didn't know when I would be able to get it done, and the change oil light was constantly reminding me that it needed to be done. It was with deep appreciation and joy that I received the news that I had been nominated to have my car's oil changed. Again thank you, and may you have God's joy and peace at this Christmas time.

Events & Opportunities

All the animals have been corralled and the chickens are hatched! We are still quite busy gathering clothes & food to take care of everyone.



2nd Annual Cabin Fever Breakout

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, January 10
11:30 a.m.

Please join us after late service for an afternoon of food, fun and entertainment!

We could use some help painting scenery. If you are interested, please contact Virginia Davis at 517-669-3275

Save the Date!!!

On Sunday, February 21st the Fellowship Team will sponsor an afternoon of games. Please keep this date open. We will give more information as we develop the event! It will be a great family outing!

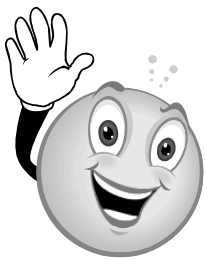
Sanitizing Saints

We are looking for 12 individuals, families or small groups willing to serve by adopting specific rooms, areas, windows, etc for one month each year. Please contact Christine Billips at 224-0270 or the church office at 224-3178 if you are interested or have questions.

Friendly Faces Wanted!

We are looking for people with a friendly smile and a warm handshake to sign up as greeters. You will only be committing to greet a couple of times a year or more often if you choose. If you are interested, please contact Sandy Lockwood at 517-669-7531

February Greeter's Schedule



Date	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
February 7	Keith & Lorna Kirschenbauer	Tom & Julie Johnson
February 14	Dale & Connie Martens	Doug & Sarah Asiala
February 21	Roland & Marilyn Kloeckner	Tom & Michelle Gorby
February 28	Ralph & Olga Matteson	Steve & Kim Kidder

If you are unable to greet on your scheduled Sunday, please find a substitute and let the church office know. We will then print the correction in the bulletin.

January 2010

GREETERS:

03	Dave & Marcia Bremer	8:00
	Nancy Heimsoth & John Burgess	10:30
10	Bill & Cindy Horman	8:00
	Jacob & Julie Horman	10:30
17	Mark & Chris Grennell	8:00
	Bruce & Kathy Bond	10:30
24	Lyle & Shirley Huguelet	8:00
	Norma & Bruce Fitzpatrick	10:30
31	Lynn & Joann Webster	8:00
	Shirley Hayes & Albert Smith	10:30

ELDERS:

03	Louis Shellito
10	Howard Heyboer
17	Jeremy Heimsoth
24	Jim Mehney
31	Brian Bloom

ALTAR GUILD:

Michelle Gorby & Renee Schmitzer

ALTAR FLOWERS:

03	OPEN
10	Gladys Boak
17	OPEN
24	OPEN
31	OPEN

COOKIE MAKERS:

03	Rita Hollis
10	Kathy Bond
17	Ann Shellito
24	Tammy Hartner
31	Roxanne Jesko

COFFEE MAKER:

Fitzpatrick

ACOLYTES:

03	Joel Werner & Kaleb Brunner
10	Emily Hartner & Mikayla McNamara
24	Kaytlyn Asiala & Ashley Terpenning
31	Taylor Klein & Alicia Stock

USHERS:

Early *Frank Hart Team*
(Eric Hathcox, Ralph Matteson, Ron Schrader)

Late *Tom Johnson Team*
(Jim Fyvie, David Schrader, Mike Schrader, Tom Sperry)

Saturday

03	Harry Schaub
10	Lyle Auten
17	Harold Anderson
24	Mark Witt
31	Henry Wagner

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
01	Karly Henning	10	Jerry Pacholke	23	Kevin Gibbons, II
	David Vanek	11	Alicia Stock		Jacob Hoover
	Randy Sillman		Jeremy Heimsoth	24	Roger Gregory
02	Roberta Grounds		Bill Horman		Marty Woodbury
	Pamela Martin	12	Molly Gabriel	25	Lyle Huguelet
	Norma Jolley	13	Wayne Sperry	26	Ben Hayes
03	Connie Martens	14	Robin Lyon	27	Emily Peterson
	Jennifer Taylor		Ilene Gibson		Harold Witt
04	Tracy Mohnke	15	Anna Jesko		Kevin Gibbons
	Karen Speerbrecker		John Mehney	28	Emily Hartner
	Michelle Henry	17	Scott Flegler	29	Eric Fitzpatrick
	Jeff Smith	18	Marilyn Richmond	30	Patrick Parish
05	Rev. David Erber,	19	Marilyn Richmond	31	Dorothy Ashenfelter
	(TIM missionary in Nigeria)	20	Al Schmitzer		Melissa Arthur
06	Rhonda Dedyne		Robert Barber, Jr.		Albert Flak
08	Andrew Flegler	21	Ellen Jesko		Ross Baltimore
	Judy Marten		Barbara Mestemaker		Roxanne Jesko
	Matthew Kennedy		Fred Stock		
			Kajsa Stock		