

# The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church  
Greenwood Village, Colorado

## December

### 2006

**1 & 2**

#### **"Beyond Scrooge"**

7:00 p.m. in the  
Worship Center

**6, 13 & 20**

#### **Advent Mid- Week Service**

7:00 p.m. in the  
Worship Center

**17**

#### **Special Neighborhood Blood Drive**

1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at  
Saint Peter

**24**

#### **Christmas Eve Services**

9:00 a.m. Communion  
Service

4:00 p.m. Family  
Communion Service

6:00, 8:00 and 11:00  
p.m. Candlelight  
Communion Service

**25**

#### **Christmas Day Communion Service**

9:00 a.m.

## Advent Season Worship

Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) is a time of preparing our hearts and homes for the arrival of Christ. It is a time of waiting and anticipating. Amid the bustle of "the holiday season" we set apart time to quietly and reverently draw near to the promise of the coming Messiah. To that end, an additional time of reflection and worship takes place every Wednesday evening during Advent, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. This year our Wednesday evening will make use of one of our favorite worship services: Holden Evening Prayer. Come join us each Wednesday between now and Christmas for this quite time of worship and inspiration.

## Christmas Season Worship

Christmas (the twelve days from December 25 to January 5) is a time of celebrating the presence and promise of Christ among us. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day begin this season, and festive worship services are scheduled:

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. – Christmas Communion Service

(4:00 p.m. is designed especially for families with smaller children)

6:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service

8:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service

11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service

### **December 25 – Christmas Day**

9:00 a.m. – Christmas Communion Service

(Service accompanied by a string quartet)

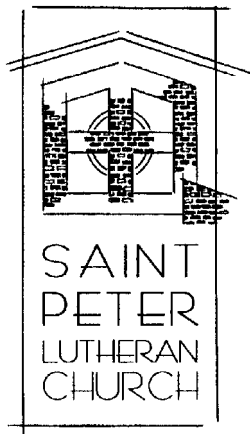
### **December 31 – The First Sunday after Christmas**

8:30 a.m. – Communion Service

9:15 a.m. – No Sunday School – Christmas Break

10:45 a.m. – Communion Service

We hope you'll join us as we enter into the ancient traditions of Advent and Christmas. May these seasons draw us nearer to God and deeper into the faith.



## Saint Peter Christmas Music Stream

Log on to Saint Peter's web site, and click on the Christmas Tree



to listen to 24-hour Christmas music, between now and the end of December. Tell a friend. Tell a neighbor. Share with them a bit of good cheer and good news.

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## StPLC Evangelism Team

Jesus calls us to be his witnesses, and to make disciples of all people. Evangelism (literally translated: "angels with good news") is simply sharing with others how our faith and our church have touched our lives. What could be simpler?

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## Christmas Music Channel

Sponsored by Saint Peter Lutheran Church  
Streamed from: [www.StPLC.org](http://www.StPLC.org)

Jars of Clay, James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, The Barenaked Ladies; what kind of church promotes this sort of music in the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas? The kind of church that wants to take the world seriously, and connect with it for the sake of the Gospel.

Research indicates that of those who tend to listen to music radio stations, some 20% of them tune into 24-hour Christmas music streams during the month of December. That is why, this year, Saint Peter's newly formed Evangelism Team has decided to stream music, greetings and brief inspirational messages from [www.StPLC.org](http://www.StPLC.org). We hope that many Saint Peter participants will listen at home or at work. Even more so, we hope that as friends and co-workers ask about the music, they'll hear a bit about our church as well.

So enjoy the music. Tell your friends, neighbors and co-workers. And don't forget to tell them a thing or two that you enjoy about our congregation.

From your Evangelism Team  
Co-Chairs: Jerry Brooks and Chris Oesleby

†

## "Ask Me Where I'll Be"

Get Your Sign on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Let your neighbors know that you'll be at Saint Peter this Christmas Eve by placing a yard sign in front of your home or office (if appropriate). Signs will be available after worship, starting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please be careful not to display the sign in any location where you don't have the owner's permission.

From your Evangelism Team  
Co-Chairs: Jerry Brooks and Chris Oesleby

†



## Year End Giving to Saint Peter

Office closed December 26-29; Gifts accepted through December 31

Many Saint Peter supporters have established the annual tradition of sharing a year-end financial gift with our ministries, and for those gifts we are deeply grateful. Gifts received by Sunday, December 31, 2006, and gifts mailed with a postmark of December 30, 2006 or earlier will be credited to the donor's 2006 giving record. Gifts received after those dates will be appear on the donor's 2007 giving record.

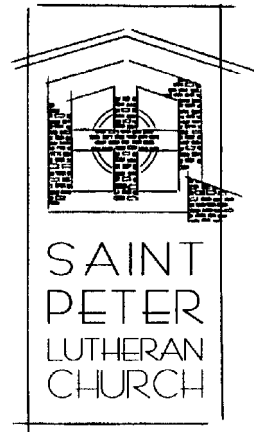
Please consider giving a year-end financial gift this year.

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From the Pastor

## The “Ask Me Where I’ll Be” Campaign

This has been a challenging year at Saint Peter. We lost some great families to moves – friends we’ll miss so much, and who contributed a significant amount of time and energy to our ministries. Their financial support was significant too, and we’re already feeling the effect of those losses! I give thanks to God when a family like that shows up at our church, but it certainly is hard to bid them farewell.



### STRONG FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There is good news, however, and we are ending the year on a strong and positive note. October and November were “Discipleship Months” for us at Saint Peter, and on November 12<sup>th</sup> we came forward to the altar and offered to God our commitments to grow in discipleship in 2007. I was touched by how many are committed to growing in these areas of our lives, and despite the membership losses we suffered this year, the first Sunday’s financial pledges were equal to what we received last year. Thank you for the ways you are growing closer to Christ, and deeper into your commitment to the ministries of Saint Peter.

### 2007 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Another sign of hope is that fourteen Saint Peter members have agreed to serve as our central leadership group for 2007, and they are already recruiting Ministry Teams and putting plans in motion to grow this congregation in 2007. It is going to be an exciting year as Ministry Teams stretch us in areas like Stewardship, Discipleship, Evangelism, and Youth & Families Ministries. If you’d like to serve in any of these areas, give the office a call and we’ll put you in touch with one of our new leaders.

### CHRISTMAS MUSIC STREAM

I am especially encouraged by the work our Evangelism Team is already doing. One of the key components of a healthy future for Saint Peter is our commitment to reach out beyond ourselves, and invite others into the life of Christ. Two initiatives are already in place to help us do that. This year, from Thanksgiving through Christmas, there will be a 24 hour Christmas music stream offered through our web site. Interspersed with the music will be greetings from Saint Peter members, and brief devotional messages from me. We encourage you to log on and listen, at home and at work, and as friends and co-workers ask you about the music you’re enjoying, tell them a bit about the congregation you enjoy.

### ASK ME WHERE I’LL BE

Finally, a Saint Peter family has given a special gift that will allow us to make yard signs that say: “Ask me where I’ll be on Christmas Eve.” We hope that each of you will consider placing one of these signs in your front yard, and sharing with your neighbors why you’ll be at Saint Peter this year on Christmas Eve.

We are indeed ending the year on a positive note. Strong financial support. Committed leadership. Growth in Evangelism, Discipleship, Youth & Families Ministries. These are keys to a strong future. Thanks be to God for the new beginnings are being made in our midst.

God’s peace to you all,  
David J. Risendal, Pastor

## Weekly Internet Devotions

Pastor Dave sends out a devotional message every Wednesday, which is usually based on the Gospel Lesson appointed for the coming Sunday, and is intended to help readers prepare themselves for Sunday worship.



If you are interested in receiving these weekly devotional messages, please send him a note to that effect at [drisendal@StPLC.org](mailto:drisendal@StPLC.org)

or check them out at [www.StPLC.org](http://www.StPLC.org).

