

## November 29, 2009 ... Happy Thanksgiving & welcome to Advent!

Turning the calendar from November to December initiates the start of the season leading up to Christmas. This year our Christmas series, *The Gospel According to Santa Claus*, is intended to challenge us to "unlearn" some of the lessons we learn about Christmas from our worldly culture.

We also have a special joy to hear two of the youngest voices on our preaching team. The Teaching Elders eagerly endorse the idea of grooming the next generation of gifted communicators in our congregation, giving them opportunities to use their gifts which have been tested weekly with our college group. I will have opportunity to hear these messages prior to the congregation as part of my mentoring role in their learning.

Today we will be led by Michael Porte and on December 13, by Kory Wagonmaker. Both men are seniors at WMU.

Pointing People to Jesus!  
Jeff Porte

Members & Guests - Help us get to know you!  
Please be sure to fill out the "Friendship Register".

We would ask that all cell phones be turned off or set to vibrate so as not to disrupt our time of worship.

### Today's Morning Message

*The Gospel According to Santa Claus*

"A Prison of Tradition"

Luke 10:38-42

Michael Porte

### Next Sunday Morning

*The Gospel According to Santa Claus*

"He's Making a List...

He's Checking it Twice"

Ephesians 2:8-9

Jeff Porte

Available for purchase... cds of all the worship services.

Stop by the Visitor Center or call the church office to order a copy.

Morning messages are available for listening or downloading online at [www.centerpointkzoo.org](http://www.centerpointkzoo.org)

## 2009 Holiday Schedule

December 10, 11, 12 & 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol" - Christmas Outreach Event

Childcare provided ages 0-4 ... please call the church if childcare needed

(Refreshments and fun at The Point before and after the performance)

(6:00-6:45 p.m. and 9:15-10:00 p.m.)

Sunday, December 20 @ 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Caroling



Thursday, December 24 @ 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services



Sunday, December 27 @ 10:45 a.m.

ONE SERVICE ONLY

## congregational concerns

**Prayers For:** Pat Crawford, Jenny DeWolf, Samuel Ekkens, Dave Martin, Jim Northup, Don VanWeelden, Jerry Wynkoop

**Bronson:** Roy Taylor, Sr.

**Lakeview:** Esther Molenaar

**Recovering From Surgery:** John Blumenstein

**Birthday Congratulations:** Addie Fevig, 86 yrs. (Dec. 3).

**Anniversary Congratulations:** Henry & Betty DeVries, 62 yrs. (Dec. 3); Don & Ruth McClelland, 60 yrs. (Dec. 8).

**Wedding Congratulations:** Jerri VanBeck and Rick Remynse, united in marriage (Nov. 21).

**Sympathy Extended To:** Judith Johnson and family on the death of her husband, W. Patrick Johnson (Nov. 21).

**Please Note:** Samuel John, son of Steve & Jaime Ekkens was baptized at the Thanksgiving Eve service.

## general

### Next Week's Greeters

**9:00 a.m.**

Kathy Royle, Willie Hoogendoorn, Jim/Sheri Aman, Dave/Kris Mejeur, Bob/Judy Doorlag, Darwin/Nancy Evers

**10:45 a.m.**

Gil/Cheryl Peake, Pat/Cathy Caporossi, Mary Veld, John/Patti Vesey, Josh Tymkew

### Next Week's Nurtury Schedule:

Rhonda Novack, Logan Kincaid, Renee Wallace, Kristina Conner, Conchita Havenaar, Sue Hoeksema, Shelly/Hannah Bornamann

**Please arrive 15 minutes before worship begins so rooms are adequately staffed when children arrive. Thank you!**

### Angel Tree

Thank you for your participation in the Angel Tree project. **WE HAVE ONLY 17 ANGELS LEFT!** Please stop by the table in the lobby from 10:00-11:00 a.m. this morning to claim the last "angels". We are collecting a total of 216 presents for children of prisoners. **Presents are due back on Sunday, December 13.**

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Prayer Warriors, greeters and parking lot helpers needed for "A Christmas Carol". If you are interested in helping us welcome and host the community in any of these ways, please contact Darren Tigelaar: [dtigelaar@thirdreformed.org](mailto:dtigelaar@thirdreformed.org).
- Wendy is looking for workers to help decorate the church for the Christmas

Season. Doesn't matter if you have two left thumbs, can't make a bow, or have a fear of heights. There is a place for everyone to help. If you are interested, please call Wendy Weyenberg (685-1377) or email: [wisch@otsegops.com](mailto:wisch@otsegops.com).

- If you like snow, this one is for you...volunteers needed to snow blow and shovel the walks and entrances prior to evening meetings on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. Please contact Doug Clark at 375-4815 if interested.
- "A Christmas Carol" Nursery Workers - childcare will be provided at all 4 performances of this year's Christmas Outreach event. Workers (teens, small groups, etc.) are needed from 6:45-9:00 p.m. at each performance. Contact Miss Sue at 375-4815; ext. 109 or email: [smulder@thirdreformed.org](mailto:smulder@thirdreformed.org). Thanks in advance for helping care for the children.

**Please call the church or sign up at the Ministry Center if child care is needed.**

### Old Decorations Wanted

We need your old Christmas decorations to help transform The Point into a "Winter Wonderland"! Trees, lights, ornaments, anything you want to get rid of! Drop off any items at The Point from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday, or 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. For more information contact Trish Longfield (350-5496) or [tlongfield@thepointkalamazoo.org](mailto:tlongfield@thepointkalamazoo.org). PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY IS TO DONATE NOT LOAN ITEMS.

### Props Needed

We could use your help with some props for the upcoming Christmas musical.

- Wood coat tree
- 2 Straight back chairs
- Picnic table / benches
- Upholstered wing back chair (old)
- Tea table or round coffee table
- 3x3 old-looking table

If you have an item to loan, please contact Wendy at 685-1377 or [wisch@otsegops.com](mailto:wisch@otsegops.com).

### Bus Trip

Prime Outlet Mall at Birch Run & Bronner's  
Friday, December 4 ... 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Open to ALL AGES

Get your Christmas shopping done at the 145 stores at Birch Run and a stop at Bronner's. Cost: \$30/all proceeds benefit Youth Missions. Sign up at the Ministry Center today or contact Liz Hedges (375-4815).

### Connections Class January 17, 2010

Have you been worshiping with us and wondering how you can get better connected at Centerpoint Church? This class is intended for those considering being a member of our church ... a five-week class explaining our basic beliefs, core values, mission and vision statement, as well as information about the

various staff and ministries of Centerpoint Church. Participation in the class is required for those who want to become members but there is no obligation to join after taking the class.

The next class begins on SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010, from 10:45 a.m. - Noon and will meet in the Family Life Center (rooms 105-108). Nursery care provided.

If you are interested in membership or know someone who is thinking about it, please sign up at the Ministry Center or contact Pastor Dar Vander Wal (375-4815; ext. 103) or email: [dvanderwal@thirdreformed.org](mailto:dvanderwal@thirdreformed.org).

#### TASTE OF HEAVEN Popcorn Available

This yummy caramel corn makes a GREAT gift - and you will be helping the Student Mission Scholarship Fund! Forms available at the Ministry Center. All pre-orders are due by December 13.

#### Lost & Found

Several items have not found their way back to your homes. Please stop by the Lost & Found bin and coat racks in the hallway outside of the kitchen and claim your items today.

#### Expressions Of Thanks

Our sincere thanks for the beautiful cards, calls, and visits on the loss of my sister.

~ Hank (Nell) Kroeze

## missions

#### Donations - Ugandan Mission Team

A team headed to Uganda in December is collecting the following items for a baby orphanage (birth-age 4):

- ◆ wash cloths
- ◆ small educational toys
- ◆ children's liquid & chewable vitamins (with and without iron)
- ◆ underwear for both genders (size 2T)

Please drop items off at the Ministry Center by **December 13**.

#### Mexico Spring Mission Trip

**For ALL ages.** A team is now forming for a mission trip to a boys' orphanage in Tecate, Mexico. This is the location our High School team has gone the past two years, but this year we are opening it up to everyone. Great family mission opportunity. DATES: March 29 - April 2. Info at the Ministry Center of contact Julie Kieser @ 343-9811 or [kieserall@sbcqlobal.net](mailto:kieserall@sbcqlobal.net).

## prayer

#### HEDGE PRAYER MINISTRY

Join us for prayer every morning in the Prayer Room to pray for the needs of the church.

**Monday - Friday ... 5:00-7:00 a.m.**  
**Saturday & Sunday ... 6:30 a.m.**

1-3-7-24

God Weeks Days Hours

*Prayer* ... To Hear HIS Plans for 2010

**MORE INFO TO COME!!!**

## seniors

#### CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

#### Friday, December 4

Be sure to join us on this evening and enjoy good fellowship, a beautiful dinner, and a wonderful experience of music. Call Mary (375-4815) to reserve your spot. The cost for this event is \$22/person.

#### Women Of Grace

Just a reminder that reservations for the trip to Noel must be in by Tuesday, December 1. Call the church office at 375-4815.

## stepping stones

#### Kids' Ministry

Programs are available for 2's - 1<sup>st</sup> grade at the 9:00 a.m. service and 2's - 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the 10:45 a.m. service. Please check your children in at a Parent Pager Station. (These are located in the Nurture and Fireside Room.) The 2 & 3 year olds can be brought to their classes in the Nurture area after check-in. All 4's - 5<sup>th</sup> graders will join their families for the initial part of the service. A dismissal will be given for kids to go to their classes. Please bring your child and their check-in slip to the class, plus check your child out at a station after worship before coming to pick them up.

#### Promiseland Treasures

God's Word is a treasure and 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders are learning to hide God's Word in their hearts. Parents, remind your child to:

- ★ Bring their Bible each week to Promiseland;
- ★ Go over the 'God Time Card' with your child this week - this is a great tool for you to connect with your child and talk about what they are learning;
- ★ Learn the unit treasure verse

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>:  
Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>:  
II Corinthians 5:20

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us."

## GEMS

The girls will be singing next week Sunday, December 6, at both the 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. worship times. Contact Pam Pula (375-7441) for questions / info.

## the point

### Calling All Small Groups

Interested in a one-time serving project at The Point? Come help us decorate for the holidays or serve during the Christmas Carol production at The Point. We are looking for volunteers to help assist guests, hand out cookies, and create an awesome outreach atmosphere here for Christmas. For more information, contact Eliza or Trish at The Point (350-5496).

## women's

### Making Christmas Memories

Wednesday, December 2, 6:30-9:15 p.m., with appetizers and desserts. Sign up at the Ministry Center today or call the church office to sign up for the crafts/demo that are available this year. Cost: \$10/person...special mother & daughter rate for school age daughters (10+); adult \$10 /daughter \$5. Come for a special night of memories!

**Hurry...only 1 week left to sign up for the workshops. Come for a special night of memories!**

## worship arts

### CHRISTMAS Worship Choir Rehearsal

- Wed., Dec. 2 ... Worship Center (6:30-8:00 p.m.)

The choir will be singing at both the 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. services on December 6.

## youth

College & High School & Middle School

## COLLEGE

We meet at Applebee's on West Main every Wednesday @ 9:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please call Kory at 929-1162.

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Youth Group

NO Youth Group at The Point tonight. We will start up again next week - December 6!

### Night of Bowling

All High Schoolers ... meet at Airway Lanes @ 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13. Cost: \$8 for 2 games and shoes. Pick up is at 7:00 p.m. Bring your friends!

### Kutless Concert

Friday, Dec. 18 @ 6:00 p.m. at Southridge.  
Cost: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call 353-2700 for more info.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Youth Group

This Wednesday, December 2 @ The Point from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

## YOUTH MISSIONS

2010 Mission teams are now forming. We'll have a high school team headed to Alabama, a family trip to Mexico, and even a mission trip right here in our own city! Now is the time to join a team and jump in on fundraising! Get all the info you need at the Ministry Center today or contact Julie Kieser (343-9811) or [kieserall@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kieserall@sbcglobal.net).

## ALL YOUTH

If you like to ski, check it out! Bittersweet Ski Passes. These passes cost \$10/adults and \$12/students and save the holder 50% off lift ticket prices on weekends and holidays, and 40% on weekdays. They also save you 30% off rentals. Forms available at the Visitor Center!

For more info on any of the youth opportunities, please contact Liz Hedges at 375-4815; ext. 106 or email: [lhedges@thirdreformed.org](mailto:lhedges@thirdreformed.org).

## stewardship

### Weekly Giving November 22, 2009

General Fund	\$ 40,581.62
Designated Fund	\$ 5,579.89
"It's Not About Me"	\$ 4,036.00
Deacons Fund	\$ 475.00
Christ Followers for Change	\$ 29,456.86

### Four Year Bible Reading Week 93 November 29, 2009 11 Chronicles 1-6



**centerpoint** CHURCH

A ministry of the  
REFORMED CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

