



**St. Peter's December KEY**  
*"God Is Still Speaking"*  
*Rev. Mark Milligan, Pastor and Teacher*



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December 2019

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## From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the One whose birth brings hope, peace, love, and joy to the world, and to the One who sent the blessed child to a world in need.

Burt Bacharach wrote a song a few years ago claiming, "what the world needs now is love, sweet love." I am of the firm belief that what the world, and all of humanity needs most is hope, sweet hope. There seems to be a serious shortage of any positive expectations of what the future holds for us as a society, a culture, or a world. We are held captive by many evils in our world: violence, drugs, materialism, poverty, racism, narcissism, a paucity of morals, just to name a few. We feel that there are forces outside ourselves which control our future. We begin to have the notion that we are isolated and abandoned; it is easy to give in and give up. We need to keep in mind that we are not the first society or time in history to face these concerns. As a matter of fact, about two thousand years ago the Hebrew people were facing many of the same dilemmas. It was in the midst of having many of the same feelings of hopelessness and despair (like those prevalent in our society today) that God chose to break into history through the birth of Jesus.

The Hebrews were a people held captive by forces outside their control, just as we are today. The forces may be different, but their grip of domination was just as powerful then as now. The people of first century BCE Palestine were looking for something, or someone, to enter into the events of their day and free them from the captivity which was part of their daily lives. They were feeling abandoned and forgotten when that miraculous birth occurred. In the moment that the blessed Child came bursting forth from Mary's womb and drew His first breath of life, in that specific instant in time, the world had a reason for hope and reassurance. The world would never be the same; there would always be hope and promise.

The trouble is, we don't always recognize that the hope which was bestowed to all people by that Child's birth centuries ago is still alive for us today. In our society of technological marvels and "miracles" we too often search for our hope in creations of our hands and minds. We succumb to the notion that our hope and salvation is possible only when we can control all aspects of our lives and world. We sometimes forget that the only true hope for today remains the hope which was quietly ushered forth that cold night so long ago in a small village in a distant land, when a baby was born to a poor father and mother in a barn.

During this holiday season let us remember that no matter how insurmountable the problems of life and the world may seem there is always hope. As we read the scriptures, both Old and New Testament, may we be filled with the hope and promise God gave to all creation that special night. Then, let us go out into the world, into a society crying out for hope, and share our message:

### **THERE IS HOPE!**

"For to us child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."



Isaiah 9:6-7

(cont.)

***From the Pastor... cont.*****THERE IS HOPE!**

"Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

Luke 2:10-14

From Kathy and I to all of you; May you have a joyous and wonderful Christmas and a blessed and hopeful New Year.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Mark & Kathy



3 year olds - 3rd Grade - Cathy Dutro  
4th-8th Graders- Jennifer Stephen

As you can see from the column on the right, we utilize some class time in December to practice/present the Christmas program and to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Christmas program takes place during church service on Sunday, December 08<sup>th</sup>. While we usually do not have Sunday school on the first Sunday of each month, children in grades 2 - 8 will be having practice during worship on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. We also have a full rehearsal on the Saturday prior to the program, Saturday, December 07<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 - 12:30 for 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 3-year olds through 1<sup>st</sup> grade will practice Saturday, 12/07, from 10:15-10:35. The program this year is entitled "Joy Story." This program has minimal speaking parts which the older children will do and is based on the Star Wars & Toy Story movies. It has a couple of 'updated' carols and some sing-a-longs with the congregation. As is tradition, the 3-year olds through first graders will be singing 'Away in a manger'—always a hit!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Happenings at St. Peter's in celebration of Christ's birth

Saturday 12/07, 09:30 – 12:30 am --Christmas program practice for children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 3-yr olds through 1<sup>st</sup> graders will practice at 10:15 for about 20 minutes.

Sunday 12/08—During worship service, the children will present their gift of a Christmas program, "Joy Story."

Sunday 12/08—Immediately following service, there will be a cookie sale and craft boutique. Donations of cookies can be dropped off on Saturday, 12/07 from 9:00 – 12:00 or Sunday morning.

Tuesday 12/24 --Christmas Eve services at 6:30 pm & 11:00 pm.

What we'll be studying in December, 2019

**December 1**

Family Worship  
Christmas Program  
Practice for 4th-8th  
grade students  
ONLY

**December 8**

Christmas Program

**December 15**

Matthew 11:2-11

**December 22**

Matthew 1:18-25

**December 29**

No Class  
**Happy New Year!**



*Words from your council president, Darrell Stephen*

If you're like me, you can't believe that it's December already. 2019 is almost in the books. What an exciting year it has been! I truly believe that 2019 was a very good year for St. Peter's.

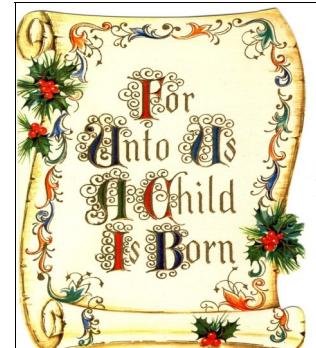
I know it seems like everyone has such an active and busy life these days. I am no exception. There never seems to be enough hours in the day to get what we need to do accomplished. But I can't think of a better way to help fill some of your time than attending activities here at St. Peter's. We have so many great things going on this month. I hope you can find time and join us for some of these events.

The first Monday of the month, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, finds the women of St. Peter's celebrating the season at the Women's Fellowship Christmas party. Frankfort Brass Band will be presenting their holiday concert here at St. Peter's on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The next day, Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, our youth will be entertaining us with their Sunday school Christmas program, "Joy Story." They have been working very hard and I'm sure it will be something that you won't want to miss. Immediately following that program, we will be having our famous cookie sale and craft boutique. If these events don't get you in the holiday spirit, I'm not sure what will!

The next Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Peter's will be hosting the Lincoln-Way East Madrigals. Their performance will take place immediately following our regular worship service. They will begin about 10:30 a.m. And then, of course, we will have our two services on Christmas Eve. The services will be at 6:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. It is such a wonderful evening in our beautifully decorated sanctuary, hearing the story of the birth of our Savior, and concluding by singing *Silent Night* by candlelight, with the last verse sung in German, the language of our church's founders.

My wish is that this holiday season is a healthy and meaningful one for each and every one of you. I hope that, even with the busy lives we lead, we can find the time to remember and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and the glorious birth of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,  
Darrell



**What's going on in Frankfort?**

December 5 6:30 pm

Village of Frankfort's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony  
Downtown Breidert Green

December 7-8 10:30 am

34th Annual Christkindl Weekend  
Downtown Frankfort

December 13 12:00 am

Midnight Madness



### Christmas Poinsettia's



Again this year we will be ordering poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service. The beautiful vibrant red poinsettia's will be available for \$9.00 per plant.

The plants will be available to take after the 11:00pm service on Christmas Eve.  
If you wish to place an order for Christmas Poinsettia's please complete the order form below.

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Plants Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid

Order placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Orders can be placed in the offering plate or given to the church office.

Questions: Call the church office at 815-469-2220

**LAST DAY TO ORDER --- DECEMBER 13, 2019**



**FAMILY HARVEST SUNDAY. THANK YOU.  
WE ARE BLESSED.**



As a safety precaution, all exterior doors, EXCEPT FOR THE SANCTUARY doors will be locked at 9:45 am on Sunday's.

COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 12/16

KEY ARTICLES DUE 12/20



Welcome Home Major Steven Krippel.  
Thank you for your Service



## SHEPHERD'S TABLE

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday or Thursday of the month, St. Peter's cooks and serves lunch at Shepherd's Table, Joliet. We invite our congregation and friends to join us in this humbling service to our community.

2019 dates: Monday, 12/30

Contact Sylvia Tewes or Marcia Steward.



St. Peter's Preschool is grateful and blessed for the families we serve and the opportunity to teach our little ones every week! We began November with a field trip to the Children's Farm in Palos. It was one of the best field trips we have ever been on! While the weather was a little chilly, we explored where all the farm animals lived, got to pet a few, and even took a hayride!



We enjoyed our Thanksgiving parties and the four year old classes also had a kid-friendly, traditional Thanksgiving feast. We hope all those members of St. Peter's have a Thanksgiving Day that is blessed with family, food, and love!

Christi Breitbarth  
Director and 4's Teacher  
St. Peter's Preschool



**In our prayers...**

*Adam Carlson, Clarence & Bev Carlson, Steve Comstock, Margaret DeLaughter, Kay Fredin, Alice Janssen, Lindsay Johnson & Family, Gordon Nelson, Charlotte Pfuhl, Helen Rachford, John Schneider, Renee Smith, Eleanore Stewart, Brogan Stillmann, Bruce Stone, Ed Tewes, Dick Trevarthan, Richard Walsh. Also, all service personnel, including: Kevin Rutolo, Capt. Carson Cleveland, Major Jodi Krippel, Major Steven Krippel, Private Minor, Mstr. Sgt. John Fowler. All anonymous needs and requests. Thank God for all answered prayers!*

**PASTOR MARK'S E-Mail:**  
**Email: mmmrev@att.net**



"LIKE" us on Facebook!!

**Membership and Evangelism**

At St. Peter's, we "mug" our visitors and guests! The coffee mugs, new and improved, are back!

On Sundays, please help the ushers identify guests and visitors who will, in turn, receive a mug courtesy of St. Peter's.



CARDS AND NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT CAN BE SENT TO LINDSAY JOHNSON AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

LINDSAY JOHNSON  
Y20859  
P.O. BOX 1000  
LINCOLN, IL 62656

**Vision statement of St. Peter's United Church of Christ:**  
To become an open, loving, and welcoming community striving to reflect God's love for all creation.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

MONDAY - FRIDAY, 9AM - 1PM

**Attendance:**

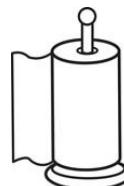
11/3	74
11/10	93
11/17	107
11/24	74

Blessings to you as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May His Love surround you always. Merry Christmas from your prayer chain.



Please join us on the 3rd Sunday at the altar before service, or call the office, 815-469-2220 or Delores, 815-469-5106 so we can lift those in need up in prayer.

FOR DECEMBER MISSIONS & MEMORIALS IS COLLECTING:



PAPER TOWELS  
NAPKINS  
DISH CLEANING SOAP



Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
Every 3rd Saturday of the month!!

**LUMES**

8:00 am



Come for good food,  
lively conversation and friendly fellowship!!!

**December Responsibilities****USHERS:**

Rachael Muenchow,  
Bruce Wille

**COFFEE AND...**

Worship & Music Ministry

**LITURGIST:**

12/1 Evan Sparenberg  
12/15 Jim Hellrung  
12/22 Paul Muenchow

**SAVE THE DATE**

**WHAT:** Lisa Kristina Holiday Open House  
**WHERE:** 846 N. Maple, Chicago Heights  
**WHEN:** Friday, December 13 @ 6:00pm - Midnight  
**WHO:** All our friends and family  
 Come dressed in your finest holiday garb, bring a dish to share and a joyous holiday spirit as we gather for an evening of festive food and merriment.

**Birthday Greetings:**

- 12/1 Britt Cleveland  
 12/3 Kaile Rudy  
 12/5 Larry Eisenbrandt  
     Payton Lee  
 12/6 Liane Bergmann  
 12/7 Carol Bracken  
 12/8 Nancy Bennett  
     Corey Johnson  
 12/9 Amy Lasley  
     Yvonne Piepenbrink  
     Ilse Vogelmann  
 12/10 Margaret DeLaughter  
 12/13 George Kratzenberg  
 12/14 Scott Bettenhausen  
 12/15 Lynne Doogan  
     Bruce Stone  
 12/16 Paul Heilstedt  
 12/18 Annie Flowers  
     Alice Janssen  
 12/19 Kristin Basham  
 12/21 Madeline Hellrung  
 12/23 Calvin Muenchow  
 12/24 Krista Frank  
 12/27 Crosby Cleveland

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

- 12/3/2005 Geoff & Jennifer Lucas  
 12/5/1999 Steve & Kim Comstock  
 12/16/1967 Bill & Lynne Doogan  
 12/18/1965 Larry & Joanne Nice  
 12/27/1970 Jim & Stacy Holland  
 12/28/1957 Donald & Lois Cranfill



Don't forget to "give" and "get" at the same time!!!  
 Remember to Support St. Peter's with your  
 Amazon Smile Order!!!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2924265>



12/16 Paul Heilstedt

12/18 Annie Flowers  
 Alice Janssen

12/19 Kristin Basham

12/21 Madeline Hellrung

12/23 Calvin Muenchow

12/24 Krista Frank

12/27 Crosby Cleveland



Women's Fellowship Cookie Sale  
 Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
 following worship. Come fill a tray  
 with a great variety of delicious baked  
 goods & save yourself some time  
 baking!

If you'd like to bake and donate cookies &/or candies,  
 please drop them off on Saturday, 12/07 ('flag pole'  
 door open 9:00 ~ 12:00) or before service on  
 Sunday, 12/08.

The "Sew What" ladies will also be  
 having a craft boutique. Come by  
 and get some beautiful  
 Christmas gifts.



"Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind;  
 teach us to be patient and always to be kind."

~ Helen Steiner Rice~

**St. Peter's U. C. C.**  
**12 W. Sauk Trail**  
**Frankfort, Illinois 60423**  
**815-469-2220 815-469-2875 Fax**  
[stpetersfrankfort@ameritech.net](mailto:stpetersfrankfort@ameritech.net)  
[www.stpetersfrankfort.org](http://www.stpetersfrankfort.org)

**Ushers this Month:**  
**Rachael Auenschow**  
**Bruce Ville**  
**Coffee And...  
Worship & Music Ministry**

Sewing/Quilting Classes are all held in room #213.  
Enter off the east parking lot entrance.



**2019**

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
1 Worship 9:30 am Communion Coffee And... 10:30 am Clear Altar	2 Women's Fellowship Christmas Party 6:30pm	3 Open Sew 6:30-9pm	4 Choir, 7pm FFBB Practice 7pm	5 Intermediate Quilting 9am Compassionate Life Class 7pm	6 Frankfort Brass Band Concert 6:30pm	7 “Sew What” 9am
8 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program Cookie & Sewing Boutique Sale after Worship, 10:30 am	9 Open Sew 6:30-9pm	10 Choir, 7pm	11 M&M Packing, FR Compassionate Life Class 7pm	12 Intermediate Quilting 9am Lisa Kristina Open House 6pm-Midnight	13 “Sew What” 9am Poinsettia Orders DUE Council Reports Due A.M.	14
15 Worship 9:30am Madrigals Coffee And... 10:30 am Youth Group 10:30 am	16 Council Meeting, 7pm The Music Connection Sanctuary	17 Open Sew 6:30-9pm	18 Choir, 7pm	19 Intermediate Quilting 9am Compassionate Life Class 7pm	20 Lisa Kristina Open House 6pm-Midnight	21 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8am <b>LUMES</b> “Sew What” 9am
22 Worship 9:30am Coffee And... 10:30 am	23 KEY ARTICLES DUE	24 Christmas Eve 6:30pm Service 11:00 pm Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27 Lisa Kristina Sanctuary 11:30-1pm	28
29 Worship 9:30am	30 Shepherd's Table, 8:00am Lisa Kristina Violin Recital	31 New Year's Eve				

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
12 W. Sauk Trail  
Frankfort, Illinois 60423  
815-469-2220  
815-469-2875 fax  
[www.stpetersfrankfort.org](http://www.stpetersfrankfort.org)  
Email: [stpetersfrankfort@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersfrankfort@gmail.com)

# DECEMBER 2019

**SUNDAYS**—(Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of the month.)

**9:30-10:30 am** Sunday School  
**9:30 am** Worship  
**10:30 am** “Coffee and...” First Sunday only during the Summer

**WEEKLY**

**Tuesdays:** \*Open Sew, 6:30 pm

**Wednesdays:** Intermediate Quilting, 9am  
Compassionate Life Class, 7pm  
Choir, 7 pm

\* All sewing/quilting classes are held in room #213 off of the east parking lot

**December at a glance (other than mentioned above):**

Sunday	12/1	9:30 am	Worship, Communion
Monday	12/2	6:30 pm	Women's Fellowship Christmas Party
Saturday	12/7	9:00 am 6:30 pm	“Sew What” Frankfort Brass Band Concert, Sanctuary
Sunday	12/8	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship, Sunday School Christmas Program Cookie & Sewing Boutique
Friday	12/13	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Poinsettia Orders DUE Council Reports DUE “Sew What” Lisa Kristina Open House
Sunday	12/15	10:30 am	L-W East Madrigals
Monday	12/16	7:00 pm	Youth Group Council Meeting
Saturday	12/21	8:00 am 9:00 am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Lumes “Sew What”
Monday	12/23	9:00 am	KEY Articles DUE
Tuesday	12/24	6:30 pm 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday	12/25	All Day	Merry Christmas, Office Closed
Thursday	12/26	All Day	Office Closed
Friday	12/27	All Day	Office Closed
Sunday	12/29	10:30 am	Lisa Kristina Violin Recital, Sanctuary
Monday	12/30	8:00 am	Shepherd's Table
Tuesday	12/31	All Day	NEW YEARS EVE

