



# St. Peter's February KEY

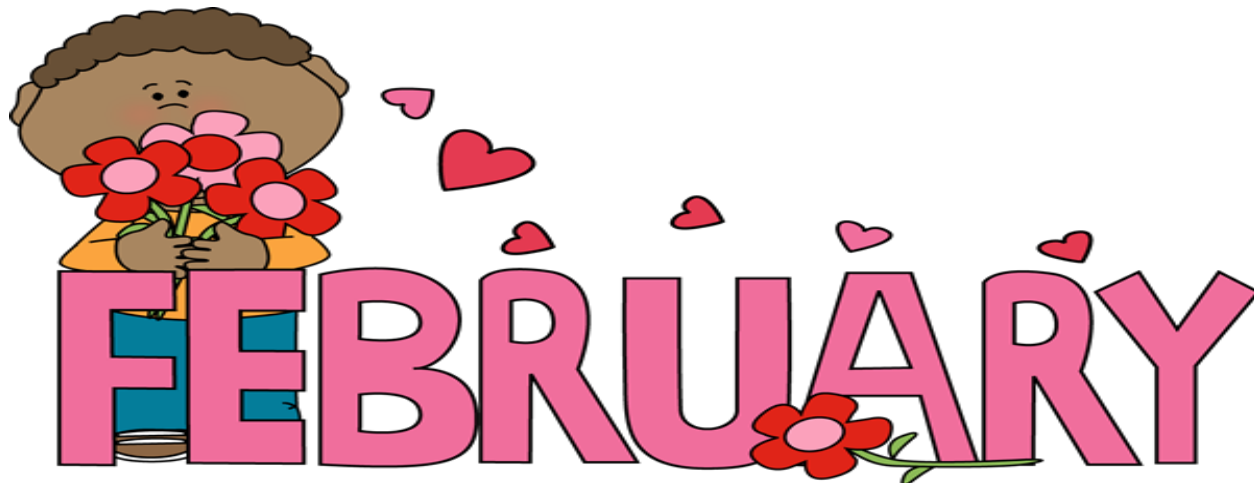
*"God Is Still Speaking"*

*Rev. Mark Milligan, Pastor and Teacher*



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## In the Life of Our Congregation ... *from the Pastor*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the Living God, our Creator; Christ Jesus, our Redeemer; and The Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier.

The season of Lent is once again upon us. We are entering the time in the church year traditionally known for its call to sacrifice. Many of us give up things as a sign of our attempt to be more pious this time of year. We often wear our sacrifices on our sleeves and eagerly anticipate when we can reply, "No thank you, I gave that up for Lent." when we are offered whatever it is we surrendered as our penance for another year of sin. It is almost as if we imagine we can buy a small bit of redemption with this act of sacrifice. I will confess that in years past I had always tried to find something to give up for the Lenten season. In recent years I have taken a different approach. Rather than giving something up for Lent I have added, or deepened, a spiritual discipline to my daily routine. This year, in keeping with my emphasis for 2018 of practicing the discipline of gratitude, I am adding the practice of creating an ABC of Gratitude each day of Lent. I was inspired to this discipline when I read about how Bro. David Steindl-Rast utilizes this method as a part of his practice of grateful living.

It is a simple way for each of us to take a few moments each day to focus on the many and varied gifts and blessings that surround us. Bro. David explains the practice:

"One practice that I use sometimes...I call The ABCs of Grateful Living: I go through the alphabet and note for each letter the first word that comes to my mind. **Then, I try to make a connection between that word and my practice of grateful living...**"

Some examples are:

A – AMAZEMENT

I mean that vibrant sense of wonder that triggers gratefulness.

B – BEAUTY

Not prettiness, but beauty as of a thunderstorm gripping my heart with a sense of mystery – this is the deepest root of gratefulness.

E – EARTH

What a gift is this planet of ours!

G – GIVING

There are three levels of giving: Giving away makes you free. Giving thanks makes you joyful. *Forgiving*, the most intense level of giving, makes you fully human.

H – HANDS and HEART

Among all the wonderful things that human hands can do, giving gifts is the noblest activity. But, as an African proverb says: "It is the heart that gives, the hands merely let go."

K – KNEELING

Gratitude makes us want to kneel from sheer delight.

N – NOW

The greatest gift of all is the present moment. All spiritual practices lead to living gratefully in the Now.

Q – QUESTIONS

I'm grateful for questions, especially unanswered ones; they keep me alert.

S – SIMPLICITY

Grateful people live simply – so that others may simply live.

T – TRUST

Life inevitably brings anxieties. If we resist anxiety because of fear – a lack of trust – we get stuck. Trust in life lets us move through the narrow passage of anxiety into a new birth.

(cont.)

From the Pastor ... cont.

X – Gratitude is an “X”

A multiplication sign: It multiplies our joy as many times as we “stop, look, and go!”

Y – YOU

We can learn to say “you” gratefully. Without you, the very word “I” would make no sense. In a love poem e.e. cummings says: “i am through you so I.”

Z – ZAP! You are it!

Now it’s your turn to play this ABC Gratefulness Game...

As you can see, this practice can help you think creatively and discover a myriad of blessings and gifts for which you are grateful. An integral part of the exercise is to make a connection between that word and you; specifically, why are you grateful for that which you have named.

This practice should only take a few moments out of your day but will surely help you realize how blessed you truly are. I would add one additional step to this daily discipline; when you have completed your ABC of Gratitude you take a few moments to thank God for all you have listed and for all the gifts and blessings which have been bestowed upon you.

I hope that you join me in this Lenten exercise of gratefulness. At the end of Lent I would like to collect the ABC’s of Gratitude people have generated to share them anonymously. Wouldn’t it be interesting to see what we find the things in our life for which we are grateful?

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Mark

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was,  
"thank you,"  
that would suffice."

-Meister Eckhart, a 13<sup>th</sup> century-

**New Member Sunday, February 11th.**

St. Peter's happenings for ALL!!

Sunday, 02/04 —KFC Youth Group after worship! We'll be having a small Super Bowl party so have them come in their favorite football team's jersey (or any sport)!

Sunday, 02/11—Women's Fellowship Bake Sale after worship service

Sunday, 02/11—Bowling Outing at Laraway Lanes @ 1:00 PM

Wednesday, 02/14—Ash Wednesday Evening service

Thursday, 02/15—An evening bible study begins and continues each Thursday evening at 6:30 PM; childcare can be provided.

## President's Report

Happy New Year! As we begin this New Year let us remember how good God is. **"You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance." (Psalm 65:11)**

To "crown" would mean the highest part, reward of victory, to fill up, to make glorious, joyful. "You crown the year"; would exemplify that God is crowning or adorning the year with goodness on the grandest scale that brings great joy, happiness, prosperity, and glory.

God crowns the year with His goodness. The entire year has been enriched with the blessings of heaven. So many things in life we take for granted. So much to be thankful for! He has blessed us with the beautiful sunshine, the glistening snowfall, birds singing, butterflies fluttering, provided us with shelter, food, a warm comfortable bed to sleep in, green grass, running water, indoor plumbing, the Earth's beauty, and His word so we may come to know Him.

If we explore the word, "drip", it means gently falling; just as the rain, snow, or dew falls to the earth. "Your paths drip", indicates that wherever God passes through the earth, He sends down refreshing rains, causing the grain to spring up, the grass to grow, the flowers to bloom, and rich abundance to fall gently along his path.

When I looked at the word abundance; it meant a considerable amount, an ample quantity, run over, to overflow and relative degree of plentifulness. Synonyms of abundance are: lot, barrel, basketful, boatload, bucket, bunch, bundle, bushel, carload, chunk, dozen, fistful, gobs, good deal, heap, hundreds, loads, mass, mess, mountain, much, multiplicity, oodles, pack, peck, pile, plateful, plenitude, plentiful, plenty, pot, potful, quantity, reams, scads, shipload, slew, stack, store, ton, truckload, volume, wad, wealth, yard.

Wow God has blessed us all, with more than our needs; a boatload full! This 2018, expect God to bless you abundantly with His goodness everyday throughout the year. And remember, **"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)**

In God We Trust,  
Becky Cleveland

President, Church Council

## Membership and Evangelism

January 2018

Dear friends,

Over the last several years this committee has taken a back seat to our Anniversary Committee. The scope is to develop and execute plans to attract, involve, and support members of St. Peter's.

Mugs for visitors, receptions for new members, selling popcorn during Car Nights are on-going activities.

Calling and Caring, while working independently, is an off-shoot of this committee.

At this time, there are no committee members. Quite frankly, after several active years and the anniversary celebrations, I have run out of ideas and am a little burned out. I am willing to participate on this committee with others but not to go it alone.

Please consider bringing your energy and creativity to this committee. I look forward to hearing from you.

Marcia Steward



### 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.

2018 dates are:

Monday 1/29
Thursday, 3/29
Monday, 4/30
Thursday, 5/31
Monday, 7/30
Thursday, 8/30
Monday, 10/29
Thursday, 11/29
Monday, 12/31



Contact Sylvia Tewes or Marcia Steward.

Rehfeldt-Meyer American Legion Post #474 in Matteson is having a Veteran's Breakfast on Sunday, February 11 from 8am - 12pm to benefit Hines VA Hospital.

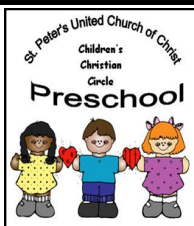
Wendy from the office will be taking donations. You can drop them off M-F, 9-1pm.

Alcohol free aftershave  
 Alcohol free mouthwash  
 Chapstick or lip balm  
 Combs  
 Crossword puzzle/game books  
 Denture adhesive  
 Denture cleaner (tablets)  
 Deodorant  
 Disposable razors  
 Word-find books  
 Hand & body lotion  
 Nail clippers  
 New undershirts (all sizes)  
 New underwear (all sizes)  
 Playing cards  
 Shampoo  
 Shaving cream  
 New sweatpants (all sizes)  
 New sweatshirts (all sizes)  
 Toothbrush  
 Toothpaste  
 New winter gloves  
 New winter hats



*Thank YOU!*





St. Peter's Preschool has jumped in to the new year learning with our friends! Everyone was excited to come back after break and see friends! It has been fun to learn about winter, penguins, and many other things. All classes are making a special winter sign for the Meals on Wheels program.

Registration for the 2018-19 school year is off to a wonderful start! Both two year old classes are full; the three year old class has four openings; and there are five openings in our four year old classes. Information about registration can be found on our website [www.stpeters-preschool.com](http://www.stpeters-preschool.com)



### St. Peter's UCC 3 yrs - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Cathy Dutro, Teacher

February sure came in a flash! But it's the month where we focus on love: love for each other, love for God and Jesus, and their love for us. This month's lessons focus on learning how to follow God's and Jesus' lessons on love.

### St. Peter's UCC 4th - 8th Grade Jennifer Stephen & T-Kay Nagy, Teachers

It's amazing how quickly time passes. It's February already—a month where love is in the air. In Sunday school this month, we will be experiencing how much God & Jesus loves us and how much they want us to love each other.

In addition to the lessons listed to the right, each month for the remainder of this school year we will be having a area of our Christian life on which we will focus. In February it will be PRAYER. Weekly there will be a discussion on the topic. There will also be handouts about prayer for the parents that will be given to the kids to bring home on many Sundays.

Just as a reminder: In January, we focused on GRATITUDE. The kids have been completing a card each week with something they were grateful for from the previous week and clipping it to a bulletin board we created. You can see these posted on the Youth bulletin board found to the right of the ladies' restroom in our classroom hallway! They will continue to do this through the end of the Sunday school year.

What we'll be  
studying in  
February 2018

2/11  
Mark 9:2-9

2/18  
Genesis 9:8-17

2/25  
Mark 8:31-38



Women's Fellowship Fundraiser  
"Sweetheart" Bake Sale Sunday,  
February 11 following  
Worship Service

Beautiful Antique Piano For Sale.  
See it for yourself in the 2nd floor  
hallway. Make us an offer! See Jerry  
Warning if you are interested.

## In our prayers...

Patricia Allen, Doris Calkins, Adam Carlson, Jeanne Every, Alice Janssen, Lindsay Johnson & Family, Kathy Milligan, Joanne Nice, Virginia Osmus, Gordon Nelson, Helen Rachford, Lois Schoen, Renee Smith, Eleanor Stewart, Brogan Stillman. Also, all service personnel, including: Kevin Rutolo, Capt. Carson Cleveland, Lt. Jr. Grade Kelsey DePorto Lopez, 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!!



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

**Please copy the above link into your browser to do your shopping. St. Peter's gets a cut of your total!!!**



## February Responsibilities ....

USHERS:	T-Kay Nagy, Sylvia Tewes
COFFEE AND...	Sylvia Tewes
Liturgist:	2.4 Ilse Vogelmann 2.18 Rachael Muenchow

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

## 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.

## GENERAL GIVING 1.28.18

Goal:	\$219,900.00
Given YTD:	11,595.76
Balance:	\$208,304.24

Whether you are a guest or member, please remember to sign the pew pads.

Happy New Year and God's Blessings from the Prayer Chain!



Please call the prayer chain with your needs and requests. We will lift them up by name and need, or anonymously. Please call the office, 815-469-2220 or Delores, 815-469-5106.

Also, please join us at the altar the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:10 am.

Delores K.



Operation Christmas Child  
 February Collection:  
 Socks of all Sizes

FOR FEBRUARY MISSIONS & MEMORIALS IS COLLECTING:

COOKIE/CAKE MIXES  
 FROSTING



**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.**

Vision Statement Ministry Team:

Cheryl Howard	Joey Sparenberg
Paul Muenchow	Lyle Tewes
T-Kay Nagy	Rev. Tom Norwalk
Helen Simpkins	Rev. Mark Milligan

February 19  
 President's Day  
 Office Closed



**Birthday Greetings:**

2/1 Araya Coglianese  
George Dalen  
Joshua Dalen  
Dale Krohn  
Raquel Schimanski

2/2 Claudia Baffo  
William Guinta

2/3 Isabella Lattz

2/5 Ben Christensen  
Jeff Gustafson

2/6 Thomas Hossbach

2/7 James Ber  
Craig Brown

2/8 Laura Batson

2/10 Jordan Bishop  
Mary Muenchow  
Elizabeth Rieder

2/11 Daniel Tewes  
Sophia Wilda

2/12 Camille Cleveland

2/13 Susan Lynch  
Steve Purucker

2/14 Corrie Lee

2/16 Thomas Bettenhausen

2/17 Denise Bettenhausen  
Muriel Long

2/18 Nathan Doogan  
Stacy Holland  
Lexx Milligan

2/20 Margaret Norman

2/21 Betty Hossbach  
T-Kay Nagy

2/23 John Schneider

**Birthdays continued:**

2/25 Lena Olson  
Ray Whittinghill

2/26 Shannon Bourke  
Jamie Kealey

2/27 Kimberly Breakey  
Jane Stone

2/28 Barbara Haack  
Wayne Hossbach

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

2/1/1964 Paul & Carol Heilstedt

2/18/1950 Edward & Marcella Tewes

2/24/1993 Lyle & Sylvia Tewes

On Thursday, February 15 we will begin our weekly Lenten series. This year we are going to be exploring the Bible. For six weeks we will learn where the Bible came from, when it was written, where it was written, who wrote it, who it was written for, and how it speaks to us today. We will develop a matrix whereby we can understand the times and places in which the books of the Bible originated. The series will introduce different methodologies and tools that can be used to study the Holy Scriptures. Our gathering will be 6:30-8:00pm in the Friendship Room. Childcare will be available if needed. If you require child care contact the office or Pastor Mark. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mark. Please make plans to join us for our Lenten journey through the rich and varied history of the Bible.





St. Peter's U. C.C.

12 W. Sauk Trail

Frankfort, Illinois 60423

815-469-2220 815-469-2875 Fax

stpetersfrankfort@ameritech.net

www.stpetersfrankfort.com

Sewing/Quilting Classes are all held in room #213.

Enter off the east parking lot entrance.

Ushers this month are:  
T-Kay Nagy  
Sylvia Tenes



S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
				1 Bible 101 10am	2	3 "Sew What" 9am
4 Worship 9:30am Communion Coffee And... K.F.C. 10:30am	5 Y&F Meeting 6pm Friendship Room	6 Open Sew 6-9pm	7 Choir 7pm	8 Bible 101 10am	9 "Sew What" 9am Council Reports Due A.M	10
11 Worship 9:30am New Member Welcome Women's Fellowship Bake Sale I.M.P.A.C.T. 11am Bowling Party, 1pm	12 Council Meeting 7pm	13 Open Sew 6-9pm	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 7pm Service	15 Bible 101 10am / 6:30pm	16	17 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8am Kup-a-Joe's "Sew What" 9am
18 Worship 9:30am Coffee And...	19 President's Day Office Closed	20 Open Sew 6-9pm	21 Choir 7pm	22 Bible 101 10am / 6:30pm	23 Sew What" 9am	24
25 Worship 9:30am Coffee And...	26	27 Open Sew 6-9pm	28 Choir 7pm			

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
 12 W. Sauk Trail  
 Frankfort, Illinois 60423  
 815-469-2220  
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 www.stpetersfrankfort.com  
 info@stpetersfrankfort.com

# FEBRUARY 2018

## NEWSLETTER

*Address Service Requested.*



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

**9:30-10:30 am** Sunday School  
**9:30 am** Worship - Nursery care provided  
**10:30 am** "Coffee and..."

### WEEKLY

**Tuesdays:** \*Open Sew, 6:00 pm

**Wednesdays:** Choir, 7pm

**Thursdays:** Bible 101, 10:00 am,

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

\*\*\*\*\*

2.3	9:00 am	"Sew What
2.4	10:30 am	K.F.C.
2.5.	6:00 pm	Youth & Family Meeting, 6pm, Friendship Room
2.9	9:00 am	Council Reports DUE
	9:00 am	"Sew What"
2.11.	10:30 am	Women's Fellowship Bake Sale
	11:00 am	I.M.P.A.C.T.
	1:00 pm	Bowling Party, Laraway Lanes - New Lenox
2.12	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
2.14	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
2.15	10:00 am	Bible 101
	6:30 pm	Bible 101
2.17	8:00 am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Kup-a-Joe's
	9:00 am	"Sew What"
2.19	All Day	President's Day, Office Closed
2.22	10:00 am	Bible 101
	6:30 pm	Bible 101
2.23	9:00 am	"Sew What"

