

Old Stone Church - February 2026



Welcome to February

Valentines's Day poses a dilemma for Christians. The love-themed holiday and all its commercial trappings took over store shelves on December 26th. Based on conversations and social media posts, love and relationships are on people's minds this time of year.

Saint Valentine's Day is traced to several early Christian martyrs named Valentine. The most common link is to a third-century Roman priest who was executed for defying Emperor Claudius II. Tradition holds that St. Valentine secretly performed Christian weddings when marriage was restricted.

St. Valentine is associated with sacrificial love, fidelity and faithfulness. Valentine's Day gradually merged with romantic traditions and succumbed to commercial pressures. Now Western culture associates February 14th with greeting cards, chocolates, jewelry and marriage proposals.

Yet, love is a much broader subject than just romanticism. Never assume that everyone is in a romantic relationship. There is love in families, friendships, churches and communities.

Love encourages us to love others well through generosity and forgiveness. We should make caring for people who are alone on Valentine's Day our outward focus. I suggest you consider sending homebound members a Card, letting them know their church families are thinking about them.

Valentine's Day can feel spiritually shallow because popular culture often reduces love to romantic relationships. Scripture offers a richer vocabulary that Christians can reclaim.

Despite what Hallmark, florists and chocolatiers say, we aren't required to observe Valentine's Day. Many in our congregations will benefit from biblical insights about God's love. I'll be starting a supper-time Bible study on Thursdays and I can guarantee we'll be talking a lot about Love.

~~ Pastor Randy ~~

Fellowship First Sunday

Fellowship First Sunday for the year 2026 started in January on the 25th. February will be held on February 22nd. Please join us down in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 as we enjoy homemade breakfast items and converse with our church family. We will then have our Sunday Service led by Pastor Randy.



A huge Welcome to Sara Lemen and John Fayhee who have been filling our piano opening each month. What a great joy they bring to our service. We are blessed!



Old Stone Church Winter Bake Sale

In conjunction with the Rockton Yeti Festival

Saturday, February 07, 2026

9:00 am till all goods are sold

Fellowship Hall (enter the door from the parking lot)

Everyone is welcome to stop by and purchase our homemade baked cookies, pies, cakes, muffins, brownies, fudge, bread and more. Mark your calendars and come to the Old Stone church for this fundraiser. A sign up sheet has been placed in the stairway by the parking lot door - Please take a moment to see if there is something you could make to help the Worship Support and Fellowship committees: Drop off baked goods Friday Feb. 6th during office hours, 9-12 or between 3 –5pm. Everyone is welcome. So come out and support the Winter Bake Sale: There will be goodies for everyone , young and old alike.



Old Stone Church (Marks Pizza Fundraiser)

Marks Pizza located at 615 N. Blackhawk Blvd. Rockton, IL. 61072, 815-624-1007 and email; www.MarksPizzaRockton.com

BUY a Large cheese and 1 Topping Pizza for \$18.00 and the Old Stone Church will receive a \$4.50 profit for each Voucher sold.

BUY a Large Works Pizza for \$29.00 and the Old Stone Church will receive \$5.50 profit for each Voucher sold.

See Joan Plessner at Church or call 815-222-4715 if you would like to **purchase** your Pizza Vouchers now and spread the word to your friends and neighbors. These would make a nice Birthday or Anniversary Gift for someone you know.

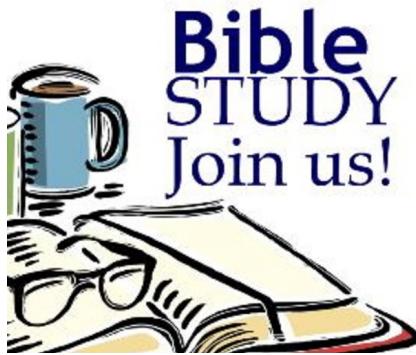
The Vouchers DO Not Expire so **BUY** these at any time during the year!

Candy Bar Sales

The chocolate bars are also an ongoing fundraiser. The cost is \$1.00 and there are 4 different types to choose from—

Bible Study :

Again we will be having a bible study starting Friday March 20th 2026 at 12:30 pm. More information in next months newsletter. Mark your calendars for the start date!



Our Daily Bread Booklets:

Our Daily Bread booklets are set out around the church for anyone who would like a copy. Don't be shy— They are great little daily reads to start your day **or** end your day.



Happy Valentines Day!

February Birthdays

- 1st- Kenneth Rudy
- 7th- Nicholas Herdklotz
- 9th-Kathi Palches
- 12th- Jenny Middleton
- 16th- Dana Williams
- 18th- Mike Bailor
- 19th- Laura Bode
- 27th- Nadine Slocum
- 28th- Grayson Bailor



February Anniversaries

- 13th- Dean & Jenny Middleton



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 Bells 6:00	3	4 Grief Group 10:30	5 No Pantry	6	7 Bake Sale
8	9 Bells 6:00	10 Council Meeting 7:00	11	12 Pantry	13	14 Valentines
15	16 Bells 6:00	17	18 Grief Group 10:30	19 Pantry	20	21
22 Fellowship First	23 Bells 6:00	24	25	26 Pantry	27	28

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Old Stone Church Staff:
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