



# St. Peter's April **KEY**

*"God Is Still Speaking"*

*Rev. Mark Milligan, Pastor and Teacher*



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April 2018



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

**This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

These words found in Psalm 118:24 express one of the most holy days in the Christian liturgical year – Easter. It is the day we remember that earth-shaking event which defines who we are, and more importantly whose we are - the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This divine inbreaking in the lives and events of human history could have occurred only through the unimaginable power and love of God.

That first glorious Easter morn the sun rose welcoming a new era in the lives of all humanity. The new dawn ushered in a day unlike any other that had ever been, or ever would be. The darkness of the night was obliterated by the blinding light of a new and glorious morning. Radiance came not just from the sun, but also from the light of God's love made known in the resurrection of Jesus. Through Christ's resurrection the sting of death had been forever negated by the power of God's forgiving love and the promise of life everlasting.

**Hallelujah!**

It was, and is, a day for us to rejoice. We have done nothing to deserve this wondrous day, in fact our actions continually beg the question of why God would do this for us. This is the mystery of God's unconditional and steadfast love for us. We can do nothing but accept this joyous gift and be glad; glad for God's love and Christ's faithfulness. This Easter morn, and every day, let us raise our voices in ceaseless praise and thanks to God for this blessed gift.

**Christ is risen!**

Let us open our hearts and minds so that this glorious event that forever transformed the world, may live in us and continue to transform us each day of our lives. Let us, by our words and deeds, be living testaments to the power of the Resurrection as we struggle to be faithful servants of the Living God in the name of the One whose trust in God made the Resurrection a reality. Let us be Easter People!

**Hallelujah!**

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen indeed!**

**Thanks be to God!**

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Mark



From your Council President: Bruce Wille

"Risk is a big part of success. If someone tells me they want to achieve exceptional success without taking substantial risks, they aren't serious." Published on February 21, 2018 by Oleg Vishnepolsky

"The risk of a wrong decision is better than the terror of indecision." Maimonides

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." T. S. Eliot

"Take risks: if you win, you will be happy; if you lose, you will be wiser." Unknown

"If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary." Jim Rohn

"In a world that changing really quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks." Mark Zuckerberg

"Ships are safe in the harbor, but that's not what the ships are for." John Shedd

We easily take risks on stocks and horses. We should take a chance on people - that's the best risk to take, to let someone else rise to the occasion. Sometimes we simply need to let go, trust and see what happens. Some of the most beautiful things happen that way.

Do you agree ?

Let's first turn to a central passage in scripture for courage and risk taking. In Joshua 1, God encourages Joshua before the conquest of the Promised Land.

Joshua 1: 5-9, "No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

I want you to notice some things that God gives him here on this verge. They're on the verge of conquering fortified cities and armies. These are people who were not really well equipped. They were a people who were nomadic shepherds and for them to go against this kind of opposition would require an enormous amount of courage and risk. There are 3 things God gave him in this text.

The first thing God said, He reminded Joshua of His faithfulness to keep all His promises. God reminds Joshua how He had been faithful in keeping covenant and in keeping His promises with His people from the very beginning. God's saying; I've pledged to give this land to my people and I'm going to fulfill that pledge. Yet your success will not rest indeed on a military strategy or even on a well-trained army but your success will rest on the faithfulness of My promises.

(cont.)

From your Council President: Bruce Wille... cont.

The second thing that God does is He commands Joshua to meditate on His word. You cannot really take risks of obedience if your mind is not being renewed in this world. If you are not embracing an eternal perspective in this temporal world your mind will be conformed to the world system and you will not be able to go against the current culture. To obey God means that you go against the current of the culture. It is often counter cultural, counter intuitive, for us to follow these things that He commands us to do for our good. Unless we are renewing our minds with this transcendent biblical perspective, you're not going to do it and you'll buckle under the pressure and give way to the ambient call of the world. You will not be a different man. You will be a man who is conformed not transformed. Conformed not to Christ but to the image of this passing world and that will not really give you the kind of courage, the greatness, the dignity, to which you've been called. You're called to more than what this world invites you to pursue. He says; I want you to be a man of wisdom and encouragement and that you gain your insight and wisdom and stability and shalom from the word.

Besides the fact that God keeps His promises and is faithful and beside the fact that He has given us this word, this treasury so that you can begin and continue to renew your mind, He promises to be personally present with Joshua. In that promise He says; I, Myself, will go with you. I'm not just going to send you out there but I will be with you in the midst. You read this book and you discover the reality and He guides him along the way.

The point is that we have the same 3 sources of courage and risk in our lives today. If we are faithful to God and meditate on his word, God will keep his promises and all risks are possible.

Bruce

## Youth and Family

The Birthday Banquet was a lot of fun! Thanks to George for showing his talent of playing the trumpet and piano you are one awesome musician!



Next up we are having a Game Party April 15 immediately following church service. So bring your games and be ready to play. Committee members will be bringing Crock-Pot appetizers if you would like to bring a snack of some sort please feel free but you do not have to.

Youth Family committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 6pm. Everyone is welcome our next meeting is April 2nd at 6pm in the Friendship Room.

Co-chairs Cheryl Miller & Brenda Sparenberg



## Come Join Us An Opportunity for Service to Others

**Who:** Anyone capable of purchasing, cutting, pinning, ironing or sewing fabric.

**When:** Monday, April 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** St. Peter's UCC Friendship Room and Sew What Room

**Why:** Women's Fellowship will be making colorful pillowcases for the organization Ryan's Cases for Smiles ( <http://Caseforsmiles.org>). They are one of the few nonprofits helping children cope with the stress and emotional impact of treatment for cancer and serious illnesses.

Participants can purchase colorful 100% cotton fabric (1/3 yd. for the border and 3/4 yd. for the Case) pre-wash it and bring it to the event. (See other side for specifics)

If you are unable to purchase your own material you may donate \$8.00 and we will buy the goods for you.

The evening of the event we will need people to cut, pin, and sew the projects. "Sew", see you do not have to be an expert seamstress to participate.



(Detach and return to Cathy Dutro, Sylvia Tewes, or the Church Office by Sunday, April 8, 2018)

\_\_\_\_\_ will attend the event. I would like to cut, pin, or sew that evening. (Circle your preference.)

I will bring my own pre-washed fabric.



I will donate \$8.00 (Cash or check to Women's Fellowship)



### Pillowcase Guidelines

- \* Use only 100% cotton fun/novelty prints! (No flannel, please.) Pillowcases for teen boys and girls are always needed. Please, no glitter or skulls.
- \* Pre-wash your fabric in cold water with unscented detergent (All Free and Clear is a good choice) dry it without fabric softener, iron it, and bring it to the event.
- \* We will cut, pin, and sew the cases that evening.
- \* They will need to be washed again in the unscented detergent and ironed on a clean surface, by healthy individuals and packed in a quart or gallon ziplock bag. They will be delivered to Top Shelf Quilts for distribution.

We will have fun while helping kids feel better to heal better. Please consider joining us for this worthwhile project.





### 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, 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.



### Game Day

Who: Families, Couples, and Singles of All Ages

When: Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> Following Worship

Where: Fellowship Hall

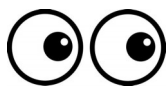
What: Bring your favorite card, board, or dice game to enjoy playing with other attendees.



Youth and Family Ministries will supply pop and some snacks, but you are welcome to add your favorite snack to the table.



Lincoln-Way East  
Music Department  
Proudly Presents:  
The Hunchback of Notre Dame  
April 27 and 28 at 7:00 pm  
April 28 at 1:00 pm  
April 29 at 3:00 pm  
Tickets at [LWEMUSIC.org](http://LWEMUSIC.org)



Did you notice the new planter box on the front porch? Three more of these beautiful boxes are on their way soon—compliments of amazing woodworking skills of Joey Sparenberg. The previous ones that were skillfully made by Milt Batson had seen better days after decades of use. Be sure to give Milt & Joey thanks for sharing their gifts w/us.



## COME CELEBRATE 'CINCO DE MEOW' WITH US!!!

Most of you have heard of Cinco de Mayo, but have you heard of Cinco de Meow?

On Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the KFC youth group will be hosting a Cinco de Meow celebration after church to raise funds for the PAWS pet shelter. Come enjoy

Mexican-inspired foods—all available for a small monetary donation. If you can, please consider bringing some much-needed cleaning supplies for the shelter: dryer sheets, liquid laundry detergent, Dawn detergent, hand sanitizer, paper towels, large garbage bags, or spray bottles (See full wish-list below). All donations will help this worthy cause.



So join us on May 6<sup>th</sup> after service to celebrate and help God's furry creatures!!

### I Have Done Something

I looked at all the caged animals in the shelter...the cast-offs of human society.

I saw in their eyes love and hope, fear and dread, sadness, and betrayal.

And I was angry.

"God," I said, "this is terrible! Why don't you do something?"

God was silent for a moment, and then He spoke softly,

"I have done something," he replied. "I created you."

-- Author Unknown



### Wish List

#### Cleaning Products

Bleach  
Dryer Sheets  
13 gal Garbage Bags  
Large Garbage Bags  
Liquid Hand Soap  
Liquid Laundry Detergent  
Pine Sol  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper

#### Office Supplies

White/Colored Copy Paper  
Postage Stamps  
Pens  
Envelopes (Large, Small)  
Large Rubbermaid Containers  
All Gift Cards are always welcome. We particularly like Gas Stations, Staples, GFS or any popular shopping destination (i.e. Target, Walmart, Kohls)

### Supplies for the Animals

#### Dogs

Evangers Canned Food  
Science Diet Dry Food (Puppy, Maintenance, Lamb and Rice, Small Bites, etc.)  
Buckle Collars of all sizes  
4 foot and 6 foot Nylon Leashes  
Kongs

#### Cats

KMR Kitten Formula  
Purina Friskies Canned Food (no fish)  
Science Diet Dry Food (Kitten, Maintenance, Light, Senior, etc.)  
Kitty Toys

#### Bedding

Twin and Full size Blankets  
Bath Towels



*Thank You!*





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

**4th - 8th Grade**  
**Jennifer Stephen, Teacher**  
**T-Kay Nagy, Teacher**

Easter is the first Sunday of April which is also a Family Worship Sunday. We hope your family enjoys this holy holiday together!

### **3 years to 3rd grade:**

April provides an opportunity to discuss with the children to see how God is an active participant in their lives. The resurrection as well as Jesus being our 'shepherd' are a couple of the lessons being addressed this month.

We also realize that April brings with it the start of outdoor sports activity opportunities for some of the children. While being a part of a sports team teaches children much, Sunday school class offers the children an opportunity to be a part of God's team for life. Please try to ensure their attendance at Sunday school as much as possible. Thanks!

### **4th-8th grade:**

In addition to the lessons listed to the right, each month for the remainder of this school year we will be having an area of our Christian life on which we will focus. In April, it will be JOY and how being joyful is different from being happy. Weekly there will be a discussion on the topic. There will also be handouts or take-home items to help the youth remember what they have learned.

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 classroom hallway! They will continue to do this through the end of the Sunday school year. Please join us in adding to the 'Board of Gratitude'!

What we'll be  
studying in  
April, 2018

**April 8**  
Acts 4:32-35

**April 15**  
Acts 3:12-19,  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7

**April 22**  
Acts 4:5-12,  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:8-15

**April 29**  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 15:1-8



### **Women's Fellowship Spring Bake Sale**

This year the Women's Fellowship has decided to hold a bake sale, as their yearly fundraiser, on Sunday, April 22nd. The bake sale will be held in the fellowship hall following the worship service. It will be a wonderful time to purchase cakes, pies, cookies, candies and all sorts of delicious treats!

We will need all kinds of bakery items donated for this sale. Anyone interested in sharing some of their favorite baked items is asked to drop them off in the church kitchen on the morning of Saturday, April 21st, between the hours of 9-11 am, or just bring them before church on the 22nd.

So mark your calendars and prepare yourselves to enjoy a sugary feast!





## In our prayers...

Adam Carlson, Alice Janssen, Lindsay Johnson & Family, Virginia Osmus, Kathy Milligan, Gordon Nelson, ,Helen Rachford, Lois Schoen, Renee Smith, Eleanor Stewart, Brogan Stillmann, Richard Walsh. 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 get's a cut of your total!!!**

**April Responsibilities ....**

USHERS: Rachael Muenchow  
 Bruce Wille

COFFEE AND... Stacy Holland

LITURGIST: ????????????

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.**

Vision Statement Ministry Team:

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

**GENERAL GIVING 3.18.18**

Goal: \$219,900.00  
 Given YTD: 37,465.20  
 Balance: \$182,434.48

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

Greetings from your prayer chain:

We invite you to contact us with your prayer requests. We continue to lift up needs, requests and praise.

May Jesus's gift of salvation bring you peace. Happy Easter



Please call the office, 815-469-2220 or Delores, 815-469-5106.



Operation Christmas Child April Collection:

Brushes, Combs & Headbands

FOR APRIL MISSIONS & MEMORIALS IS COLLECTING:

SPRING CLEANING SUPPLIES

**After the Winter God Sends the Spring**

Springtime is a season of  
 hope and joy and cheer -  
 There's a beauty all around us  
 to see and touch and hear ...  
 So no matter how downhearted  
 and discouraged we may be,  
 New hope is born when we behold  
 leaves budding on a tree  
 Or when we see a timid flower  
 push through the frozen sod  
 And open wide in glad surprise  
 Its petaled eyes to God ...  
 For this is just God saying,  
 "Lift up your eyes to Me,  
 And the bleakness of your spirit,  
 Like the budding springtime tree,  
 Will lose its wintry darkness  
 And your heavy heart will sing."

For God never sends the winter  
 Without the joy of spring

~HSR



**Birthday Greetings:**

- 4/1 Addison Bishop
- 4/2 Arianna Gravitt  
Michelle Nagy  
Terry Schroeder
- 4/3 Brigid McGarry  
Gordon Nelson  
Ryan Winnie
- 4/4 Luke Edmondson  
Thomas Sobczynski
- 4/5 Milton Batson
- 4/6 Zachary Rivard
- 4/7 Ethan Belt  
Zoey Brown  
Sawyer Krusemark  
Henry Schwiesow
- 4/8 James Boldrey
- 4/9 Carol Nayden
- 4/10 Joanne Nice
- 4/11 Kathleen Hess
- 4/12 Brooke Becker
- 4/13 Karine Krusemark
- 4/14 Kyle Gravitt  
Norman Hossbach
- 4/15 Courtney Whittinghill
- 4/16 Charlotte Cleveland
- 4/18 Jeremy Diaz
- 4/22 Tiffany Trauscht
- 4/24 Mark Zaker
- 4/25 Cynthia Kurucar

**Birthdays continued:**

- 4/26 Cheri Mooney  
Virginia Osmus
- 4/27 Karen Kratzenberg
- 4/28 Steven Scarbro, Jr.

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

- 4/8/2010 Henry & Kathleen Schwiesow
- 4/13/1991 Paul & Mary Muenchow
- 4/22/2000 Stephen & Jane Senesac
- 4/27/1991 Andrew & Tracy Gissler
- 4/28/1979 Phillip & Kathleen Hess, Jr.
- 4/30/1949 John & Norma Jean Schneider
- 4/30/1994 Mark & Kay Eaton

**A Very Enjoyable Women's Fellowship Movie Outing**

In the afternoon on Sunday, March 25, seventeen (17) lovely ladies of St. Peter's, ranging in age from early 30's to mid-80's, went to see the movie "I Can Only Imagine". This moving film about how a singer/songwriter for the contemporary Christian band Mercy Me found Christ & how his faith sustained him through years of abuse at the hands of his father caused there to not be a dry eye in the house! Thanks to Cathy Dutro for suggesting & planning this memorable outing!

**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.


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

2018

S U N	M O N	T U E	W E D	T H U	F R I	S A T
1 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 7:00 am Easter Breakfast Worship 9:30am Communion Coffee And...	2 Y&F Meeting, 6pm	3 Open Sew 6-9pm	4	5 Bible 101 - 10am	6	7 "Sew What" 9am
8 Worship 9:30am Coffee And...	9 M&M Meeting, 7pm	10 Open Sew 6-9pm	11 Worship & Music Meeting 6pm, Friendship Room	12 Bible 101 - 10am	13 "Sew What" 9am Council Reports Due A.M	14
15 Worship 9:30am Coffee And... I.M.P.A.C.T. 11am	16 Council Meeting 7pm	17 Open Sew 6-9pm	18	19 Bible 101 - 10am	20	21 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8am Kup-a-Joe's "Sew What" 9am
22 Worship 9:30am WF Bake Sale K.F.C. 10:30am Earth Day 	23 Women's Fellowship Meeting, 6:30pm, FR	24 Open Sew 6-9pm	25	26 Bible 101 10am	27 Sew What" 9am	28
29 Worship 9:30am Coffee And...	30 Shepherd's Table, 9am KWIL - N. Peotone, 9:30am					

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# APRIL 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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

April 1	7:00 am	Easter Worship
	8:00 am	Breakfast Served by the Men of St. Peter's
	9:30 am	Easter Worship
April 2	6:00 pm	Youth & Family Meeting, Friendship Room
April 7	9:00 am	"Sew What"
April 9	7:00 pm	M&M Meeting, Friendship Room
April 11	6:00 pm	Worship & Music Meeting, Friendship Room
April 13	9:00 am	"Sew What" Council Reports DUE
April 15	11:00 am	I.M.P.A.C.T.
April 16	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
April 21	8:00 am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Kup-a-Joe's
	9:00 am	"Sew What"
April 22	10:30 am	WF Bake Sale, Fellowship Hall
	10:30 am	K.F.C.
	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Earth Day</i>
April 23	6:30 pm	Women's Fellowship Meeting, Friendship Room
April 27	9:00 am	"Sew What"
April 30	9:00 am	Shepherd's Table
	9:30 am	KWIL - North Peotone UCC

