



# St. Peter's March **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 Brothers and Sisters,

I was recently reading the results of a survey that polled 3032 Americans ranging in ages 25 to 74 concerning a number of topics. The one which most interested me was related to their religious beliefs. The results of the survey showed that "religion is endorsed by most people in the USA, but the trend is toward an eclectic faith that doesn't demand firm conviction or frequent attendance at services ... spirituality in the U.S. is a mile wide and an inch deep." People are searching for a way to attain all the blessings of faith and a faithful life while at the same time being able to live as they want with few restrictions. They want to get all the answers from reading a self-help book, one of the phenomena which has descended upon our culture like a plague of locusts. These are the books which claim they can bring peace and joy to anyone who reads them. They want their faith to be like so much in our society: they want to get more for less. People are searching for an easy way to get easy answers.

In the past Cliff Notes were available for almost any work of literature so that a person could get the high points of a story without reading the book itself. Now, we have what I consider to be one of the other plagues on our culture: the "Dummy" series of books, books written so that the reader can get just enough information to be dangerous. Recently I was at a local bookstore when I spotted a book which made me want to scream: The Bible for Dummies. I glanced through it and it was like a "Bible-Lite"; you know, all the answers with half the knowledge. People want all the answers without out having to struggle with the Bible itself. They want the blessings of the Kingdom without having to serve the Lord.

Unfortunately for them, Christianity does not work that way. For that matter neither does Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, or any of the great religions of the world. They all require a great deal of anyone who professes to be a follower of the faith. We as Christians, are required to follow the teachings of Jesus, and this is not always easy. With each answer comes a myriad of additional questions. To make matters worse, the answers we discover are at times not the answers we wanted to receive.

Being a follower of the Risen Christ is to be one who is on a continual journey, whose path often leads to places one would rather avoid. It involves a lifetime of seeking, asking, and knocking as we struggle to serve God as best we are able. It is to live a life where we are called to follow the path of righteousness, mercy, and truth. God does require a firm conviction from us! It is essential that we grow in our understanding and spirituality as we mature in our faith. We are not members of a wimpy faith where what is easy is made to be right. We are followers of the One who was so committed to God and to Us that he was willing to die rather than serve the forces of the world. We are called to do no less.

May God bless us as we grow in our faith and serve God as we are called.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Mark



Please make plans to join us Sunday, March 25 as we celebrate Palm Sunday. This is always a wonderful service that begins with the children leading us in worship as they process in while the congregation joins their voice singing "The Palms." The service begins the observation of Holy Week, the days leading to Jesus' trial and crucifixion, culminating in the glory of Christ's resurrection on Easter. That week we will have special worship services on Maundy Thursday (March 29, 7:00pm) and Good Friday (March 30, 7:00pm). On Good Friday will also include our annual ecumenical worship service, The Cross Walk. This will begin at 12:30pm at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. I pray that you can be a part of these moving services that prepare our hearts and minds for the joys of Easter.



Pastor Mark

From your Council President:

I was looking at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalms, The Lord is my Shepherd and thinking what this has to do with the priorities of the church. Is it to feed and care for the sheep as a farmer or Shepherd and what kind of farmer or Shepherd are we? Is it worship and Sunday school, preaching, teaching and organizing that is taking up our church time? Is it the evangelism of going door to door trying to grow the church in that manner? Is it creating a temple or sacrifices to praise god? Or is it Shepherd's Table, visiting and caring for our sick, or programs for the basic human needs? Are we the Shepherd Ezekiel warned us of, the ones that eats the curds, clothes ourselves with the wool, slaughter the choice animals, but do not take care of the flock or is it the Shepherd in the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalms that feeds the flock, protects the flock from dangers, cares for the sick sheep?

I would like to thank all that came unto council this year as we address the priorities of St. Peter's church this coming year. I would also like to thank those past members of the council for all their hard work. But to do the true priorities of the church it takes more than just the council, future and past, it takes a congregation. I hope you will be the Shepherd in the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalms as we work together finding the right priorities for St. Peters.



Bruce Wille, Council President



### Youth and Family

- Our bowling event was a huge success even though the weather was not great.
- March 11 we are having our annual birthday banquet. Bring a dish and a talent to share. Sign up sheets will be available during worship service.
- Sunday, April 15, we are planning a game night right after church service. Of course we will have food and fun! Watch for more details.

### Happenings at St. Peter's this month

**Every Thursday night @ 6:30 pm**—Bible Study; childcare can be provided. If needed, notify the church office by 1:00 pm each Wednesday.

**Sunday, March 11**, following worship service—Annual Birthday Bash & Talent (?) Show!---Bring a potluck dish to pass (chicken provided) and get to know others who share your birth month. Decorate your 'birth month' table with items that reflect your birth month and maybe share a talent you have. Lots of laughs and fun while we enjoy great food!

**Sunday, March 18**, following worship service until 11:45 am---K.F.C. youth group

**Saturday, March 24**, 9:30 – 11:00 am---Easter Workshop for ages 2-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Kids in grades 4<sup>th</sup> – high school are needed as helpers so please talk with your child about assisting.

### **Easter Flowers**

St. Peter's is offering the congregation the opportunity to purchase Easter flowers through the church.

The plants will be available at a cost of \$8.00 per plant. The flowers will be delivered to the church in time for Easter Sunday. You will be able to pick your flowers up after the Easter Worship service. Please fill out the bottom and return it to the church by **March 22, 2018**.

Make checks payable to St. Peter's UCC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # of plants \_\_\_\_\_

Lily

Tulip  
(please circle one)

Hyacinth

Message you would like printed in the bulletin Easter Sunday:

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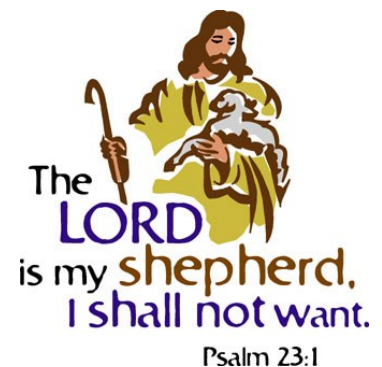
### SHEPHERD'S TABLE

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:

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.



### ***I CAN ONLY IMAGINE!!!!***

#### **A WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MOVIE EVENT**



#### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS PLANNING A MOVIE OUTING**

WHEN: SUNDAY, 03/25/18 AT 01:00 PM

WHERE: EMAGINE THEATRE IN FRANKFORT, IL

WHY: TO SEE THE MOVIE 'I CAN ONLY IMAGINE'

COST: \$8.00 (PRE-PAY BY CASH OR CHECK MADE TO WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP)

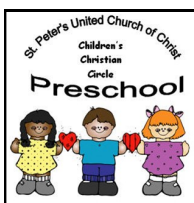
R.S.V.P: BY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

YOU MAY BE FAMILIAR WITH THE POPULAR CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN/COUNTRY CROSSOVER HIT SONG "I CAN ONLY IMAGINE" BUT DO YOU KNOW THE STORY BEHIND THE WORDS?

GROWING UP IN TEXAS, BART MILLARD SUFFERED PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF HIS FATHER. HIS CHILDHOOD AND RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS DAD INSPIRED HIM TO WRITE THE HIT SONG "I CAN ONLY IMAGINE" AS SINGER OF THE CHRISTIAN BAND **MERCY ME**. COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE HOW BART'S LOVE OF CHRIST HELPED HIM THROUGH HIS ROUGH CHILDHOOD AND THE LOSS OF HIS BELOVED FATHER.

WATCH THE TRAILER AT [I Can Only Imagine, Trailer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fgo6xs93OEw) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fgo6xs93OEw>





St. Peter's Preschoolers had a lovely February! We learned about love, being friends, and God's love for us. We wore red, pink, and hearts galore! Our special fun day was Super Hero and Princess Day-- it was a favorite for all the children! For our Kindness curriculum, we read the story "Heartprints" which reminded us how little acts of kindness throughout the day can leave a heartprint for others. We tied fleece pillows together and gave them to Silver Cross Hospital to leave our 'heartprint' with someone in need.



Registration for 2018-19 school year has been going wonderful! Our two year old classes are full; the three year old classes have five openings and our four year old class only has two openings. Information about registration or setting up a tour can be found at [www.stpeters-preschool.com](http://www.stpeters-preschool.com)

Christi Breitbarth  
Director and 4's Teacher



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

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

March leads us into the holiest season of the church year. We talk about God's love, forgiven sins, and the joy on Palm Sunday.

Speaking of Palm Sunday—the children will again uphold St. Peter's Palm Sunday tradition of processing in with palms while singing with the congregation the song "The Palms". To ensure your child gets to be a part of this exciting event, please try to have them at the classroom by 9:20. It is a moving moment seeing this procession of God's children.



What we'll be  
studying in  
February 2018

3/11  
Ephesians 2:1-10

3/18  
Jeremiah 31:31-34

3/25  
Mark 11:1-11;  
15:1-39

**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 March, it will be **LIVING A LIFE FOR CHRIST**. 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'!

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Thursday, March 29 @ 7:00PM ---Maundy Thursday service

Friday, March 30 @ 12:30 PM ---Good Friday Ecumenical crosswalk—a very moving experience!

Friday, March 30 @ 7:00 PM---Good Friday evening service

Sunday, April 1—Easter sunrise service 7:00 am followed by a pancake breakfast served by the men of the church. We then have another Easter service at our usual 9:30 am time (but no Sunday school on Easter Sunday).



## 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 get's a cut of your total!!!**



### March Responsibilities ....

USHERS: Jim Hellrung  
 David VanderLaan

COFFEE AND... Margie Norman  
 Sylvia Tewes

Liturgist: 3.11 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 2.18.18

Goal: \$219,900.00  
 Given YTD: 20,717.68  
 Balance: \$199,182.32

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

During this Lenten season we continue to lift up requests to our Lord & Savior. Please give us your requests and join us at the altar on the 3rd Sunday. Please call the office, 815-469-2220 or Delores, 815-469-5106.



Prayers and Blessings from your Prayer Chain



Operation Christmas Child  
 March Collection:  
 washcloths, bar soap &  
 headbands

FOR MARCH MISSIONS &  
 MEMORIALS IS COLLECTING:

SALAD DRESSINGS  
 SALT & PEPPER  
 SUGAR



**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  
 Paul Muenchow  
 T-Kay Nagy  
 Helen Simpkins

Joey Sparenberg  
 Lyle Tewes  
 Rev. Tom Norwalk  
 Rev. Mark Milligan

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.

**Birthday Greetings:**

- 3/1 Dan Fleck  
Megan Homann  
Eric Reeves
- 3/3 Craig Schultz
- 3/4 Benjamin Graham  
Joshua Swanberg
- 3/7 Jason Kimsey
- 3/10 Pam Melnyk  
Emmie Wieclaw
- 3/11 Angel Delgau
- 3/12 Roger Rainford
- 3/16 Mickey Boyd
- 3/17 Joyce Anders  
Ayden Bettenhausen
- 3/18 Trisha Nystrom  
Patricia Schroeder  
Barbara Srencik  
Sylvia Tewes
- 3/19 Steve Bennett  
Lois DePorto
- 3/20 Richard Lewis
- 3/22 Jade Christensen  
Sandra Donovan
- 3/23 Noah Belt  
Cheryl Ber  
Jimmy Ber  
Lois Schoen
- 3/24 Marla Bettenhausen  
Michael Hossbach  
Brad White
- 3/25 James Wahl
- 3/26 Amy Goldsmith  
Carol Heilstedt

**Birthdays continued:**

- 3/27 Jackson Boldrey
- 3/29 Sherri Bracken
- 3/30 Lauren Baffo  
Susan Jensen  
John Nystrom
- 3/31 Alexa Goldsmith  
Kayla Jandek

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

- 3/7/1981 Bruce & Jane Stone
- 3/21/1992 Scott & Denise Bettenhausen
- 3/31/2012 Eric & Annie Wilhelmi

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.



Don't forget to "SPRING" ahead  
on March 11th!  
Daylight Savings Time Begins





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 Bible 101 - 10am 6:30pm	2	3 "Sew What" 9am
4 Worship 9:30am Communion Coffee And...	5	6 Open Sew 6-9pm Y&F Meeting, 6pm	7 Choir 7pm	8 Bible 101 - 10am 6:30pm	9 "Sew What" 9am	10
11 Worship 9:30am Birthday Bash & Talent Show Daylight Savings Begins "Spring Ahead"	12 M&M Meetings 7pm	13 Open Sew 6-9pm	14 Choir 7pm	15 Bible 101 - 10am 6:30pm	16 Council Reports Due A.M	17 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8am Kup-a-Joe's "Sew What" 9am
18 Worship 9:30am Coffee And...	19 Council Meeting 7pm	20 Open Sew 6-9pm	21 Choir 7pm	22 Bible 101 - 10am 6:30pm	23 Sew What" 9am	24 Easter Workshop 9:30
25 Worship 9:30am Coffee And...	26	27 Open Sew 6-9pm	28 Choir 7pm	29 Shepherd's Table 9pm Bible 101 - 10am Maundy Thursday 7pm Service	30 Cross Walk 12:30 pm Good Friday 7pm Service	31 Holy Saturday

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
 12 W. Sauk Trail  
 Frankfort, Illinois 60423  
 815-469-2220  
 815-469-2875 fax  
 www.stpetersfrankfort.com  
 info@stpetersfrankfort.com

# MARCH 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,  
 6:30 pm through Lent

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

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3/3	9:00 am	"Sew What"
3/5	6:00 pm	Youth & Family Meeting, Friendship Room
3/9	9:00 am	"Sew What"
3/11	10:30 am	Birthday Bash & Talent Show after Worship, Fellowship Hall
3/12	7:00 pm	Missions & Memorials Meeting, Friendship Room
3/16	9:00 am	Council Reports DUE
3/17	8:00 am 9:00 am ALL DAY	Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Kup-a-Joe's "Sew What" ST. PATRICK'S DAY
3/18	10:30 am	K.F.C., Youth Room
3/19	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Friendship Room
3/23	9:00 am	"Sew What"
3/24	9:30 am	Easter Workshop, Sunday School Room
3/29	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Shepherd's Table Maundy Thursday Service
3/30	12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Cross Walk, St. Peter's Good Friday Service

