



Hope on the Hill

A Letter from Pastor

Hello Family of OSLC!

A favorite hymn:

"Listen, God Is Calling"

Refrain:

Listen. Listen, God is calling,
calling and inviting.
offering salvation,
good news for all.

Jesus comes to save us,
hear the good news.

Jesus comes to teach us,
hear the good news.

No one is forsaken,
hear the good news.
No one is forgotten,
hear the good news.

God is still creating,
hear the good news.
God is still redeeming,
hear the good news.

A familiar hymn, yet often some people may become what I used to call "tone deaf" to God's voice in their life! The wonderful thing is that it takes no "ear training" other than prayer and seeking the presence of God's Spirit in your daily living. Maybe it is in your devotions or maybe in a conversation with another person.

Read again the verse that says:

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

No one is forsaken, hear the good news. No one is forgotten, hear the good news. Too often we allow the buzz and din of this world and maybe the problems we are facing to drown out the still small voice of God's Spirit known in Jesus.

In John 10: 3-4 ³*The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.* ⁴*When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

How do you recognize and relate to the voices in your life? Maybe friends, parents, children, spouses, or someone else special. I suppose there might be voices you don't want to hear or even dreams that cause sleepless nights, but what about the strength of voices that connect and care for you? I can remember my mother saying to me – "Stephen are you listening to me?" Of course, I would fib and say.... sure! And I really wasn't. Just maybe Jesus in our heart is speaking and says – "are you listening to me?" How might you answer?

Listen with those "spiritual ears"

to part of Psalm 121:1-3

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?*

²*My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

³*He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

Every Sunday morning when I reach Our Savior to prepare for Sunday worship, I spend time sitting in the quiet of the Sanctuary and listening to what the Spirit might say to my heart. It is "spiritual ear training" that helps when the day gets underway. How about you? How does your day begin or maybe how does your day end? God continues to call you and me EVERY day; we just need to sharpen our spiritual ears!

August is upon us, and we are looking forward to growing in Christ through Bible Study, Worship, Prayer and other classes. August is also the beginning of our "Pick a hymn" Sundays through September!

God continues to call, help us listen to His voice as the Spirit walks with us!

Peace,

Pastor Stephen Barnes

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD
PEKIN, IL 61554

www.oursaviorpekin.org

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Barnes

Email: barnes.stephen9@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Lori Frampton

Church Office: (309) 346-2600

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Monday—Friday

Church email: oslcpekin1@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.



www.elca.org

Prayer Concerns

Flood victims in Texas

Gayle G. (fell, injured knee)

Jacque Davis (health issues)

Peg Miller (health concerns, friend of Beth D.)

Sandy Brooks (health concerns)

Lillian P., Mazie W., Jim J., Garold & Deena B.,

Craig B., Chad W., Marithaza B., Chad Wahl, Sandy Brooks

Paul S. (failing health)

Donna F. (Melanie's mother-in-law, health concerns)

Scott S. (Melanie's brother-in-law, cancer)

Pete B. (Larry & Darlene's nephew, brain cancer) & **other members of the Daniels family** with health concerns

Carolyn (Mike Barger's sister, health concerns)

Lil M. (Sue Barger's mother, health concerns)

Lily F. (OSLC College student)

Please contact Pastor or the Church Office with any additions, deletions, or updates



NEWS & EVENTS

In August & September, Melanie will be updating the OSLC Directory. If you like your current picture, no action is needed. If you would like a different picture, please submit it to Melanie in August or September. *And please let Melanie know about **any corrections or additions**.*



The Outreach & Fellowship Committee is planning a special Coffee Fellowship on **Sunday, August 10**, after worship. This will be a chance for everyone who attends to participate in a “Getting-to-know-you” time. There will be an opportunity for you to rotate through & talk to various people! Watch for more details.

Take a look at our Little Free Library outside on the church entrance driveway. If you take a book it does *not* need to be returned to the little free library. If you want to donate a book there is a collection crate under the coat rack at church for book donations. Please do not donate oversize books.



Mark your calendar for **August 28**, the next time we will be going to the Chief's game. In addition to the standard Thursday special prices for hot dogs and soft drinks, there will be fireworks after the game! There will be a signup sheet posted.

Thanks

Many thanks to Larry & Darlene for hosting a “Pop-up Fellowship” on Sunday, July 6!

(and thanks Lily & Melanie for the pics)



‘Team Weed’ met July 11—we are grateful for all of the help. Many thanks to Scott, Teresa, Mike and Ken for all the work they have been doing.

Our 5th annual ‘Chalk and Bubbles’ event was Wednesday, July 23, 6:30-8pm. Pictures have been posted to Facebook!

Update on the CCO building from Meri Arnold:

The church across the street from The Salvation Army in Pekin have had a “Blessing Room”. They now have a lease with Pekin Outreach Initiative for the CCO building. This is what I have learned:

Contact people: Danny, the director. Office hours are Wed., Thurs., and Fri.

Chris, co-director. Office hours are Mon. and Tues.

Starting Monday July 7th – hours will be Monday – Friday 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Needs: Non- perishable items, clothes and household items. All items to be dropped off during business hours.

NOTE: There is still a box under the coat rack at Our Savior to place donations.

A name change will occur in the future and all items are free to those who are in need.

We are working on having someone come to OSLC in October or November for our All-Congregation Presentation & coffee fellowship to provide more information and answer any questions. This group is associated with the New Life Fellowship Church.

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, August 21
Creve Coeur Family Restaurant
620 S. Main, Creve Coeur
7:30 a.m.



The Mary and Martha Circle will not meet again until September.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, August 12**, at **9:30 a.m.** at the church.

Our group is branching out to make *lap blankets* for the upcoming veteran **Honor Flights** in addition to our current lap blanket projects. Any donations of red, white, blue yarn, and **any** other colors of yarn is appreciated. *Thank you!*

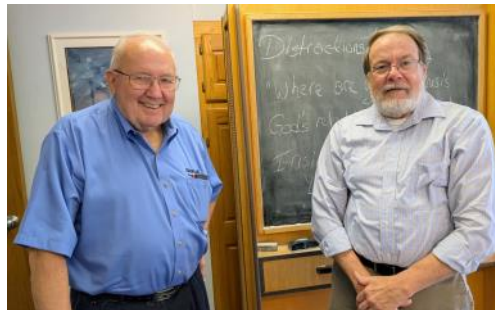
Pastor Barnes leads the **Thursday Morning Bible Study** each week. The group begins at **10:00 a.m.** and goes until 11:30 a.m. You are welcome to come whenever you can—there is always room for more!



What a joy to have members of the Maki family worship with us on Sunday, July 20



Cheryl, Beth D., Kim



Lee, Mike B.



Marcia & her daughter Evelyn
Bev & Ken W.

Villas of Hollybrook
Lillian Pinkston Room 39
5301 W Everett Dirksen Pkwy
Peoria, IL 61607

Jim Johnson would love to have visitors!
You can also send him a note:

Jim Johnson
2425 Delaware St.
Pekin, IL 61554



Villas of Hollybrook
Barb Gresham #30
2720 S. 14th Street
Pekin, IL 61554

Jacque Davis
The Arc of El Paso
555 E. Clay St.
El Paso, IL 61738

Home Address:
Jacque & Chuck Davis
1637 Duncannon Dr.
Normal, IL 61761



Mazie Wankel
C/O Reflections Memory Care
1717 N. Main St.
Morton, IL 61550

Lily Fleming
318 N. Ninth Street
Monmouth, IL 61462
lfleming@monmouthcollege.edu
OR lilyfleming05@gmail.com

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR AUGUST

Please switch with someone as needed.

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
August 03	Meri	Roberta	Mark	Leo & Roberta	Linda & Sue	Green
August 10	Dennis	Mary	Larry	Meri & Valerie	Tim & Leslie	Green
August 17	Melanie	Sue	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Green
August 24	Meri	Roberta	Leo	Tim & Leslie	Linda & Sue	Green
August 31	Dennis	Mary	Mark	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Green

AUGUST FLOWER CHART

August 03	
August 10	The Stiles—50th Wedding Anniversary
August 17	The Flemings—Bill & Melanie's Anniversary
August 24	
August 31	

You can call the office if you would like to sign up for flowers on a Sunday.

We continue to stay steady financially. **Thank you!!**

You may wish to mail your offerings to Our Savior if you cannot attend worship.



Please note: We only receive ONE vase of flowers; your cost will be \$30.00.



We have purchased new nonfiction books for the church library! We will feature a few each month—here are three books that you may wish to check out:

Strength to Love by Martin Luther King Jr.

In these short meditative and sermon pieces, some of them composed in jails and all of them crafted during the tumultuous years of the civil rights struggle, Dr. King articulated and espoused in a deeply personal compelling way his commitment to justice and to the intellectual, moral, and spiritual conversion that makes his work as much a blueprint today for Christian discipleship as it was then.

Red State Christians: Understanding the Voters Who Elected Donald Trump by Angela Denker, a Lutheran Pastor

Readers will get an honest look at the Christians who gave the presidency to the unlikely candidate of all time. From booming, wealthy Orange County megachurches to libertarian farmers in Missouri to a church in Florida where the pastors carry guns to an Evangelical Arab American church in Houston to conservative Catholics on the East Coast--the picture she paints of them is enlightening, at times disturbing, but always empathetic.

The Light We Give by Simran Jeet Singh

As a boy growing up in South Texas, Simran Jeet Singh and his brothers confronted racism daily: at school, in their neighborhood, playing sports, and later in college and beyond. Despite the prejudice and hate he faced, this self-described "turban-wearing, brown-skinned, beard-loving Sikh" refused to give in to negativity. Instead, Singh delved deep into the Sikh teachings that he grew up with and embraced the lessons to seek the good in every person and situation and to find positive ways to direct his energy.

To check out materials, there is a clipboard for you to jot down your name, the title of the book, when you checked it out, and then when you returned it.



We are grateful that:

- ♥ Attendance at worship continues to stay around 39-42
- ♥ Attendance at Thursday Morning Bible Study is staying steady with 10-12 regular participants
- ♥ Our finances are staying strong



Anniversaries & Birthdays

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Leo & Roberta Stiles—August 8, 1975!
Bill & Melanie Fleming—August 18



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 13—Kolbe Baal	
August 13—Virginia Duttarer	
August 23—Michelle Sarantakos	



PRAYER CHAIN AT OUR SAVIOR

► ***If someone needs prayers, is going into the hospital, or needs a visit—PLEASE LET PASTOR KNOW!*** His email is: barnes.stephen9@gmail.com. You may also call the church office: 346-2600

Call the Church office with your prayer request: 346-2600 or email: oslcpekin1@gmail.com.

An email will be sent to all members when a prayer request is received. Members without an email address may ask that they be called when a prayer request is sent out.

► ***Please let Lori know if someone can go off the prayer list—call or email, or fill out one of the blue cards in the pews in the sanctuary. Thank you!***



We continue to pray for those in the Military:

Petty Officer **Robert Murphy** (3rd Class)—(nephew of the Dralles)

Nick Marzinzik (Air National Guard, Mike & Sue Barger's nephew)

Josh Barger (Navy Reserves, Mike & Sue's son)

Greg Sorenson (Navy Reserves, Lee & Mary's son)

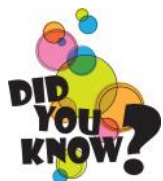
We continue to work on ideas for the 'Philip and Andrew—Come & See' initiative to work on the life and ministry of OSLC. Contact Pastor, or any council member, with an idea you would like to try!



CONTACT US AT:

(309) 346-2600

If you have a ministry need, please call the Church office.



Committee and Council minutes are posted by the church office. Check out all the hard work our members are doing!

Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—please let Pastor know. And please include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

- **Sunday, Sept. 7**—God's Work, Our Hands day
- **Sunday, Sept. 21**—'Puppets for Jesus'
- **Sunday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.**—Supper Out at Kuchie's on the Water

Newsletter DEADLINE

If you have information you want to be in the next 'Hope on the Hill', please email Leslie Leitner at leithaus@gmail.com **by Wednesday, August 27** at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

<i>President</i>	Tim Leitner	Worship & Music, Finance, Mutual Ministry	tim.j.leitner@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Mary Sorenson	Outreach & Fellowship, Memorials & Gifts	msorenson75@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Valerie Gettys	Finance	swimmin@yahoo.com
	Mark McCarrell	Finance	markgmc1154@gmail.com
	Teresa Massey	Property	tam42@comcast.net
	Mary Sipka	Christian Education	sipka.mary@gmail.com
	Vickie Rayburn	Worship & Music	tabycat1128.vr@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sharon Eggemeyer	Finance	sjemh@yahoo.com
	Pastor Barnes		barnes.stephen9@gmail.com



Our Savior Lutheran Value Statement

We spread God's word – joining with Jesus to heal our broken world.

Our Savior Lutheran Guiding Principles

- We follow Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- We pray eagerly to strengthen our commitment and relationship with God.
- We act boldly based on an abundant picture of God's love.
- We listen to our neighbors to truly know their joys and sorrows.
- We work as God's hands – serving the needs of our community and the world.
- We love to tell the story of Jesus and His love.



Watch the livestream of our worship services! Our YouTube page is:

<https://www.youtube.com/@oursaviorlutheranpekin1287/streams>

The link to our live stream YouTube page can be found on our Facebook page and on our website. Our website is **www.oursaviorpekin.org**.

The videos can also be viewed after the service.

Please contact Tim Leitner if you would like to know more, or would like to get involved with this outreach. We would like to create a Digital Production Team.

Clip art in the newsletter is from www.churchart.com

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:



Center for Prevention of Abuse

The women & children who seek shelter and safety at House of Hope appreciate your support. There is a collection crate by the coat rack for House of Hope.

Special needs include: cereal, canned fruit, bottled juice, peanut butter, canned tuna, can soups, sugar, coffee, pancake mix, syrup



PEKIN OUTREACH INITIATIVE

After 50 years, as of May 1, 2025 Christian Civic Outreach ended their operations. However, the Pekin Outreach Initiative is continuing the work of CCO! Our Savior will continue to support this organization.



AUGUST 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
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3 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM	4	5 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	6	7 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	8	9																																										
10 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Property Mtg after worship	11	12 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawls 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	13 6:00 PM Finance Mtg 7:00 PM Committee Meetings	14 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	15	16																																										
17 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM	18	19 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	20 7:00 PM Council Meeting	21 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	22	23																																										
24 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM	25	26 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	27	28 10:00 AM Bible Study Chief's Game 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	29	30																																										
31 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM					<div> September 2025 <table> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr> <td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
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OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hope on the Hill Newsletter

