

Hope on the Hill



Newsletter

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 9

A Letter from Pastor

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love



See if you can read the words on the armor of the saint from Ephesians 6:10-18! The first verse says: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God!*

Then at the end it says: *Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.*

A unique way for me to begin...right!? But I was thinking, here we are at edge of another year for living, growing and learning of how we can better know our Lord Jesus and live in this rapidly changing world. Honestly, I worry that we need to cling more closely to Jesus and the grace, truth and forgiveness that we are given. We are not meant to face this world on our own. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son for you and me! We need to soak up this love, learn this love, not just for ourselves, but to share with others.

So, I pray continually for you all that the “armor” above will be a part of your life and bring joy and energy each day!

Let’s face this fall in faith and energy, knowing that God in Christ Jesus walks with us.

Here is just a bit of Psalm 139!

Psalm 139:13-14

New International Version

¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Have a growing and grace filled fall with your faith rejoicing in your heart. I know the armor looks good on you!

Peace,
Pastor Stephen Barnes



Your works are
wonderful,
I know that
full well.
Psalm 139:14

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.
Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.



www.elca.org

Prayer Concerns

Family of Jim Johnson (joined the Church Triumphant Aug. 19)
Jim & Melissa Green (friends of Melanie, both diagnosed with cancer)
Lee Sorenson (recovering from pneumonia)
Mary Sipka (recovering from broken arm)
Jacque Davis (health issues)
Bill Fleming (upcoming knee replacement August 29)
Peg Miller (health concerns, friend of Beth D.)
Sandy Brooks (health concerns)
Lillian P., Mazie W., 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)
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 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 September or she can take a new photo of you. *And please let Melanie know about **any corrections or additions**.*

ALL-CONGREGATION PRESENTATION

Sunday, Sept. 21

'Puppets for Jesus'

will be here! Join us for fun and fellowship after the worship service.



God's Work, Our Hands is a motto and a service initiative of the ELCA that is designated in September every year. The purpose is to demonstrate God's love and compassion through tangible acts of service, strengthening communities and building relationships.

Since every year it seems to hit on the weekend of the Pekin community celebration of the Marigold Festival, many of our committees focus on the

theme of "God's Work, Our Hands" throughout the year. What does this phrase *"God's Work, Our Hands"* mean to you?

To some it may mean visiting shut-ins, sending cards, helping with our rummage sale, volunteering at a food pantry, or donating to charity resale shop. It may mean cooking for a neighbor, visiting a prison, or teaching a child. Maybe it is a faith-based charity to which you donate.

Please look for and add to the poster in the Gathering Room! Write it on a Post-it note and stick it on the poster! No need to sign it! Write something you do, or something you'd like to do in the next year! Write a couple of words, or fill the Post-it with a paragraph! Please take as many Post-its as you need. We want to fill this poster and encourage each other to notice God's work in action.

If you have one of the "God's Work, Our Hands" tee shirts from several years ago, please wear it on September 7! OR wear a shirt from another favorite charity if you have one. Let's show each other how we interpret "God's work, Our Hands!" ~Outreach & Fellowship and Education committees



Melanie has been meeting with Maddison Baal and Jade and Audrey Hackward for almost a year. We call it Sunday School but they usually can't meet on Sundays. We meet sometimes Tuesday or Thursday...so we decided to change the name to **JAMS**, short for *Jade, Audrey, and Maddison School*. The girls are wanting to raise money for ELCA Good Gifts and they have chosen chickens, pigs, and community garden with honeybees as their projects! Take a look at their posters and watch for more information and collection days in the coming weeks! Thanks from **JAMS**!



MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, Sept. 18
Creve Coeur Family Restaurant
620 S. Main, Creve Coeur
7:30 a.m.



We are trying something new! **Sunday, September 14:**

BRUNCH AFTER CHURCH,

10:30 a.m., at the

Pekin Country Club

310 Country Club Dr.

*We will be ordering off the
brunch menu. There is a sign up sheet.*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group
will meet on **Tuesday, Sept. 9,**
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!*

The Mary and Martha Circle will meet
Wednesday, September 17, 9:30 a.m.
at the church. All women are invited!



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!



The **Adult Sunday Bible Study** is held on Sundays after the worship service
in the Gathering Room. Everyone is welcome—the coffee is always on!

James Johnson, charter member of Our Savior Lutheran, passed away on August 19, 2025.
He married Mary Katheryne McDaniels on August 28, 1943. Jim served in the Armed Forces
during World War II. He was a life member of the Pekin Elks Lodge # 1271. Jim enjoyed
hunting, fishing, boating, trap shooting, archery, golf, working in his shop, yard work and
playing banjo. Jim was proud to have received the very first Eagle Scout Certificate in the
city of Pekin with Boy Scout Troop # 66. Memorial contributions in honor of Jim may be
directed to Our Savior Lutheran Church of Pekin, 2223 Sheridan Road, Pekin, IL 61554 or
the Greater Peoria Honor Flight, P.O. Box 5072, Peoria, IL 61601.



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

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



**OUR
COLLEGE
STUDENT'S
ADDRESS**

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 SEPTEMBER

Please switch with someone as needed.

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
September 07	Tim	Vickie	Dennis	Leo & Valerie	Sue H. (& Arlene)	Green
September 14	Meri	Roberta	Mark	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Green
September 21	Dennis	Sue B.	Leo	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Green
September 28	Melanie	Mary Sipka	Dennis	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Green

SEPTEMBER FLOWER CHART

September 07	
September 14	
September 21	Rita Wahl—To the Glory of God
September 28	



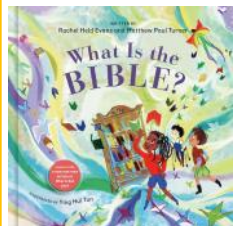
You can call the office if you would like to sign up for flowers on a Sunday.

We continue to stay steady financially. **Thank you!!**
You may wish to mail your offerings to Our Savior if you cannot attend worship.

The Worship & Music Committee is asking for additional volunteers to do Communion Setup/clean up. This would typically be once a month or so. This is a very important 'behind-the-scenes' job. Please contact Pastor or Tim if you are interested—training included!

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

A new book in the church library for children:



Children have been wondering about the Bible for centuries. What do all these long-ago stories have to do with each other—and with me? This whimsical and lyrical book, inspired by the work and ideas of the late Rachel Held Evans and completed by her good friend Matthew Paul Turner, explains that the Bible is a big library of amazing stories about God, the world, and Jesus. When you read those stories, you will understand the world differently—and you can make the world different too. *What Is the Bible?* is a spectacular journey, guiding children to see how God's story and our own lives are delightfully intertwined. Kids and parents alike will see that God's story is big enough to be found all over the world and close enough to find in our own hearts.

Additional new items in the church library: The Chosen season 5 DVD "The last supper".

-The Chosen follows the lives of Jesus' followers in 1st century Judea. Now all 5 seasons are available in the library. The 6th season is being filmed now.

-A book "I Have Called You by Name" by Jerry B. Jenkins...this is a novel based on the first season of The Chosen.



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.

A Prayer for Autumn's Arrival



Lord of all seasons, as the leaves change and the days grow cooler, help me embrace the rhythm of your creation. Teach me to let go of what I no longer need and to trust your timing in every part of life. Thank you for the beauty of autumn—for crisp mornings, golden trees, and the promise of harvest. May this season deepen my gratitude, renew my spirit, and draw me closer to your heart.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

from www.churchart.com

The 'Get to Know Each Other' coffee fellowship on August 10 was a great success. Almost 30 attended and had a good time sharing.
Thank you Mary Sorenson for leading this event.



Anniversaries & Birthdays

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bud & Sandy Brooks—September 12

Mike & Courney Dralle—September 29



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 10—Jacque Davis

Sept. 21—Garold Burkholder

Sept. 19—Maddison Baal

Sept. 27—Pastor Barnes

Sept. 20—Rita Wahl



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:

UPDATE FROM BETH: My nephew Robert Murphy has completed his commitment in the Navy & is currently “mustering out”. Thank you for including him in your prayers these past 8 years. 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!



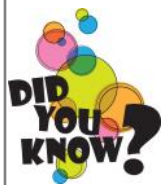
Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—please let Pastor know. And please include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!



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!

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

- October is **Stewardship Month**—more information will be coming your way. Matthew 6:21—Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will be also.

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, Sept. 24** 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.



SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
	1  <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	2 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	3	4 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	5 	6																																										
7 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM	8	9 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawls 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	10 6:00 PM Finance Mtg 7:00 PM Committee Meetings	11 PATRIOT DAY 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	12	13																																										
14 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Rally Sunday BRUNCH @ Pekin Country Club 10:30 AM	15	16 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	17 9:30 AM Mary/Martha Circle 7:00 PM Council Meeting	18 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	19	20																																										
21 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM PUPPETS FOR JESUS 10:15 a.m.	22	23 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	24	25 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	26	27																																										
28 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.	29	30 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics			<div>October 2025</div> <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></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table>		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	31	
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