

Hope on the Hill



Newsletter

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 12

A Letter from Pastor

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

How Did the Good Samaritan Do It?

We are living in the season of “Thanks-Giving” and “Receiving” as we live and give during the time of Thanksgiving and then Christmas. Family always first, the table laden with wonderful food and sharing stories and memories. Christmas is a time of giving more than receiving. A time to rejoice in happiness felt when gifts, no matter how great or small, touch a heart and bring a smile.

Both are times of giving and receiving which remind me of the compassion and love we share not only with family but also with those who have less or are hurting. No thanks are needed, compassion and thinking beyond self that motivates our hearts. I remember as Pastor and family, we invited and brought a lady from a nursing home who was alone for Thanksgiving. Did she “fit in” as they say...not so much, but it was the caring and connection of agape love that counts. This isn’t about some approval or getting it right, it is living as Jesus taught.

I’m sure you remember the parable of the Good Samaritan. Samaritans at the time, sometimes of mixed race were not accepted by many and often shunned. This story is why we call the Samaritan “good.”

Luke 10:30-37 ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to

Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Care was/is not just so far and no more. Acceptance is not ascertained by who the person might be. It is unreserved compassion. To the innkeeper he said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Go and do likewise says Jesus.

The Samaritan we call good, could do this because compassion and love when connected with God, knows no boundaries. Thanksgiving and Christmas

are a time to truly give thanks by letting go of anything or reason that may keep us apart. Christmas is a time to remember that God’s gift of love was born unto us and is meant to reflect that love as we share and give to each other.

There is a hymn entitled: “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” Verse 4 says: *Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word; grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou; that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany, and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.*

I remember my dad standing by the front door looking out the window waiting for his sons and family to arrive for Christmas. The gift was the joy of being safe and together. I hope Christmas brings joy and sharing wonderful stories. And if you have opportunity show this love and compassion for others...go and do likewise, as Jesus says. That is how the “Good Samaritan” did it...compassion and caring!

I hope everyone received the special mailing with devotional and schedule heading us to the wonderful gift of our Savior, Jesus!

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.

Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

www.elca.org

Prayer Concerns

Stephen (Sue Calvert’s brother, health concerns)

Kim (Sue Barger’s cousin, aggressive cancer)

Jim & Melissa Green (friends of Melanie, both diagnosed with cancer)

Shirley Seelye (health concerns, friend of Beth D.)

Lillian P., Mazie W., Garold & Deena B., Craig B.,

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

Paul Sipka (health concerns)

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

Scott S. (Melanie’s brother-in-law, health concerns)

Pete B. (Larry & Darlene’s nephew, brain cancer)

Alta Daniels (Larry & Darlene’s sister-in-law, 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

NOTE: All services will be
livestreamed to Our Savior Lutheran
Pekin YouTube Channel.



SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Worship Service



November 30
Zechariah
(Psalm 39:7)



December 7
Isaiah
(Isaiah 9:6)



December 14
Elizabeth
(Philippians 4:4)



December 21
Mary
(Isaiah 54:10)



WEDNESDAYS OF ADVENT

Light Meal 5:30 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Worship Service



December 3—"Restore Our Hope" December 10—"Keep Watch with Me"
December 17—"Fear Not!"

A light meal will be offered at 5:30 p.m., provided by TCRC (Tazewell County Resource Center) catering.

There will also be a service project each week as a part of the evening, supporting Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger, and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.



December 24—7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service



Join us as we gather during Advent!
There will be
Sunday Coffee Fellowships
after worship on
December 7, 14, & 21.



Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts for
"Shop with a Hero"!
If you are interested in doing this,
or contributing monetarily to the program,
please contact Sue Barger at
msbarger10@gmail.com
BY DECEMBER 1. Thank you!

ALL-CONGREGATION PRESENTATION

Sunday, December 14
after the worship service

Deacon Jason Fisher from the
Central/Southern Illinois Synod
will be with us for worship,
and will give an All-Church
Presentation to talk about
what he does, and
Faithful Innovation.

Join us to meet Deacon Jason
and enjoy the coffee fellowship
hosted by the Outreach/
Christian Education Committee

November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent.
Bring your special ornament from home to
hang on the tree in the Gathering Room,
and take home an ornament from
Our Savior! You may bring an ornament
anytime in December, too.



The Mitten Tree is up!
Bring mittens, gloves, and hats to
hang on the tree in the entrance.
All items will be donated after
Christmas.



MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

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



The Mary and Martha Circle's next meeting is **Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 9:30 a.m.** at the church.

On Nov. 24, Vickie & Randy Rayburn and Roberta Stiles took a delicious meal from Avanti's to the *Salvation Army Rust Transitional Center*. This meal was purchased through a grant to Vickie from Royal Neighbors. Dessert was provided by Mike Dralle from Prairie Farms Dairy.

Mary and Martha will host the Coffee Fellowship after church on **Sun., Dec. 7**. All are invited to enjoy coffee and a snack with friends for a brief respite from this busy holiday season.



What a joy to welcome new members to Our Savior!
Jack & Barb Bader, Kay Bernstein, Donna Mathews, Karen Underwood, and Sue & Bill Calvert

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

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



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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



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!



Annual Reports from each Committee are due
January 9, 2026.



Please email your report to Lori at
oslcekin1@gmail.com

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be
Sunday, January 25, 2026, after the worship service

THANK you.

Paul and Mary Sipka would like to thank the church members who have prayed for us, and have sent cards for our recovery. Mary especially thanks Mary & Lee Sorenson and Valerie Gettys for the rides to the Wednesday meetings. What a great church family we have who takes the time to really care for its members.

Lily Fleming
 318 N. Ninth Street
 Monmouth, IL 61462

lfleming@monmouthcollege.edu
 OR lilyfleming05@gmail.com



Charlie Davis
 1637 Duncannon Dr.
 Normal, IL 61761

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR DECEMBER

Please switch with someone as needed.

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
December 07	Meri	Roberta	Mark	Leo & Roberta	Sue H. & Karen	Blue
December 14	Melanie	Vickie	Leo	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Blue
December 21	Meri	Mary Sipka	Dennis	Tim & Leslie	Sue & Karen	Blue
December 24	—Christmas Eve Service—Volunteers Needed—					Blue
December 28	Dennis	Larry	Larry	Leo & Roberta	Tim & Leslie	Blue

DECEMBER FLOWER CHART

December 07	
December 14	
December 21	Poinsettias
December 28	Vickie & Randy Rayburn—In Memory of Earle & Dorothy Rayburn

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.



Jacqueline Carlene Davis (Jacque) passed away Monday, October 20, 2025. A 1970 graduate of Hamlin University in St. Paul, Minnesota, Jacqueline earned her Bachelor of Science Degree with honors in a double major of Psychology and Spanish. Her career was diverse and fulfilling, including roles as a sales representative for Maurie's Shoes in the Pekin Mall, a social services manager at Beechwood Nursing Home in Pekin, and a teacher's aide for Pekin Public Schools District 108 at Willow Primary School, Washington Intermediate, and Jefferson Primary School.

Jacqueline's personal interests included scrapbooking and cross stitch, activities she enjoyed immensely. Her commitment to community service was evident through her 20-years of volunteer work with Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Ministry on behalf of Our Savior Lutheran Church. She also led a Bible Study at the Federal Correctional Institution in Pekin. Jacqueline took great pride in teaching piano for many years to many kids in the community. Her funeral was Friday, October 31, 2025 at Preston-Hanley Funeral Homes & Crematory in Pekin. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, KS 66675.

The JAMs is now referred to as **C-JAMs**: Claire Wyman (Teresa Massey's granddaughter) has joined Jade, Audrey and Maddison!

We have decided on a Family Farm to purchase through ELCA Good Gifts. This includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training for a family living in poverty. We are also purchasing some honeybees and a water filter. So far we have collected **\$700.00**! If you would like to still contribute, please make the check out to Our Savior Lutheran Church and designate *ELCA good gifts*. Thank you very much for your generous donations!!!



We were thrilled that the girls were able to get what they wanted to purchase for the underprivileged throughout the world.



It's never too late to start reading your Bible! If you would like to start reading the Bible, there is a 365-Day Chronological Reading Plan available by the wheat cross.

More information is at www.thebiblerecap.com
Check out November's newsletter for more information!

Anniversaries & Birthdays

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

	ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 8—Mike Dralle	Dec. 26—Darlene Daniels
Dec. 12—Teresa Massey	Dec. 26—Barb Gresham
Dec. 18—Karen Underwood	Dec. 31—Lori Frampton
Dec. 19—Sharon Eggemeyer	
	

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:

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!

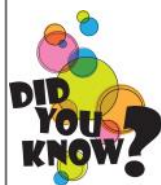


Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—please let Pastor know. And please include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!

The new defibrillator has been mounted on the wall in the Parish Hall by the drinking fountain. Thank you Mike B. for installing it.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

- **January 9, 2025:** Committee Annual Reports Due
- **Sunday, January 25, 2026:** Annual Congregational Meeting, 10:15 a.m..



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

Our Savior
Newsletter
Lutheran

If you are unable to print the newsletter at home and would like a copy, please contact the church office and one can be printed for you. ***If you would like a printed copy monthly, please let Leslie know.***

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 **Sunday, Dec. 21** at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!*

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

President	Tim Leitner	Worship & Music, Finance, Mutual Ministry	tim.j.leitner@gmail.com
Vice President	Mary Sorenson	Outreach & Fellowship, Memorials & Gifts	msorenson75@gmail.com
Secretary	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
Treasurer	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.

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



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.

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, canned soups, sugar, coffee, pancake mix, syrup

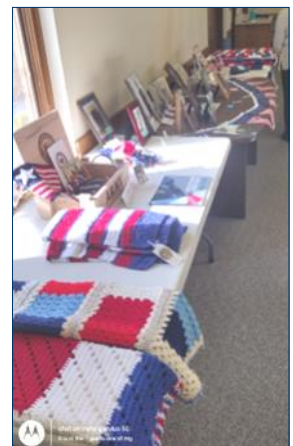


THE BLESSING ROOM/ PEKIN OUTREACH INITIATIVE

We are collecting
non-perishable food items.



Celebrating
Veteran's
Day at Our
Savior on
Sunday,
Nov. 16



DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 DECEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	ADVENT 5:30 p.m. Meal 6:00 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m. W & M mtg	10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study Advent Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m.		9:30 AM Prayer Shawls 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	ADVENT 5:30 p.m. Meal 6:00 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m. Committees	10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM All-church Presentation & Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m.		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	ADVENT 5:30 p.m. Meal 6:00 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m. Council	7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study Advent Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m.		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service			
28	29	30	31	*Aerobics has a chat group—contact Teresa, Sue B., Sharon, Karen or Melanie for last minute cancelations.		
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*				

January 2026						
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



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hope on the Hill Newsletter

