

Hope on the Hill



Newsletter

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

A Letter from Pastor

“With What Shall I Come Before the Lord”
Micah 6:6-8

With our Annual meeting on January 25, Our Savior will begin another ministry and life journey as we share our faith, hope and love together. Looking back at 2025 we shared baptisms, new members and support from all our members! Looking ahead we will dream of what could and can be with budget approved and members volunteering to share and serve in our life together.

What God Requires

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
“He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God.

On February 18 we will begin our Lenten season with Ash Wednesday. One of my favorite passages is above from Micah. In our crazy and seemingly sometimes uncaring world, to “do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with our God” is a focus for us to keep as the Body of Christ at Our Savior as we move forward in 2026!

I pray that you will be able to join us for our 7 p.m. Wednesday services of Lent as well sharing the Lenten worship on Sundays. On Sundays—February 22, March 1, 8, 15,

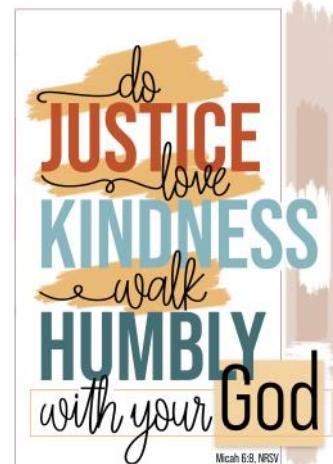
and 22—the theme is “With What Shall I Come Before the Lord”, Micah 6:6-8.

Palm Sunday is March 29 followed by Maundy Thursday, April 2 and Good Friday, April 3.

Then on April 5 we celebrate the gift of salvation and life with God in our Easter gift.

Blessings to you as we look forward to growing in grace and our faith. I also look forward to warmer weather!

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.



www.elca.org

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be
Sunday, February 1
after the worship service.

(postponed due to the weather)

The Council Reorganizational Meeting will be held immediately after the annual meeting. Officers will be chosen and committee assignments made.



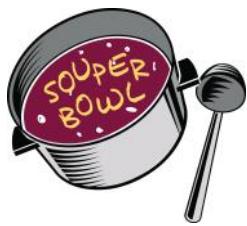
NEWS & EVENTS

Prayer Concerns

Family of Barb Gresham (passed away January 4)
Kim (Sue Barger's cousin, aggressive cancer)
Lillian P., Mazie W., Harold & Deena B., Craig B., Chad W., Marithaza B., Chad Wahl, Sandy Brooks
Paul Sipka (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



OSLC will once again participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Bring soup and other nonperishable foods to church **through Sunday, February 8** (the date of the NFL Superbowl.) Items will be given to a local charity.



An After Worship Brunch at the Pekin Avanti's is scheduled for Sunday, February 8.



Our Ash Wednesday Service is at 7:00 p.m., February 18.

February 22—First Sunday in Lent

Wednesday, February 25—Midweek Lenten Service, 7:00 p.m.

Welcome
OUR GUEST SPEAKER

ALL-CONGREGATION PRESENTATION

Sunday, February 15

after the worship service

A speaker from *The Blessing Room* in Pekin will be here.

Join us to learn about one of the places in Pekin Our Savior supports and enjoy the coffee fellowship hosted by the Outreach/Christian Education Committee

We thank Sonja Sanders for playing piano for the Holden Evening Prayer Service during the upcoming Midweek Lenten Services.



Barbara Jo Gresham passed away at 10:02 a.m. Sunday, January 4, 2026 at Carle Health Pekin Hospital.

Born on December 26, 1941 in Peoria to Robert and Dorothy (Slonneger) Beenders, she married Steven Henry Gresham on July 27, 1963 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Washington. He died on October 9, 2021 in Pekin.

Barbara was a graduate of Illinois State University in Normal, where she earned her bachelor's degree in education. She dedicated her career to teaching, retiring from the South Pekin Grade School. Throughout her career, she also taught in Washington, Delavan, San Jose, and at Rankin School in rural Pekin. She was a devoted member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pekin.

Memorial contributions may be made to Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2223 Sheridan Road, Pekin, IL 61554.

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, Feb. 19

Creve Coeur Family Restaurant
620 S. Main, Creve Coeur
7:30 a.m.



The Mary and Martha Circle's next meeting is **Wednesday, February 18, 9:30 a.m.** at the church.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, Feb. 10, 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!

Parishioners—Way to go with the donations to Pekin Outreach Initiative. They were delighted to see the Mitten Tree donations as they have had a strong demand for winter clothing and wraps, and these fit right into what they needed!

Also, the 12 days of Christmas donations were a multitude of good nonperishable food items!

Matthew 25:34-36

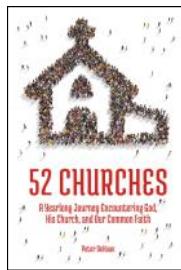
Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'



Thanks from Lee, Outreach & Fellowship Committee

NEW BOOK IN THE LIBRARY:

52 Churches: A Yearlong Journey Encountering God, His Church, and Our Common Faith (Visiting Churches Series)



Ever wonder what it's really like to visit a new church? This honest journey through 52 churches in 1 year reveals the beautiful diversity and troubling divisions within American Christianity. When Peter DeHaan set out to visit a different Christian church every Sunday for an entire year, he expected to learn about worship styles. What he discovered was far more profound...

Thank you Melanie for this suggestion. There is still \$79 left in the library books fund.



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.

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



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 FEBRUARY

Please switch with someone as needed.

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
February 01	Meri	Roberta	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Sue H. & Karen	Green
February 08	Melanie	Vickie	Mark	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Green
February 15	Meri	Mary Sipka	Bill	Tim & Leslie	Sue H. & Sue C.	White
February 18 (Ash Wednesday)					VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
February 22	Dennis	Larry	Larry	Leo & Roberta	Tim & Leslie	Purple

FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART

February 01	
February 08	The Bargers—Mike & Sue's birthdays
February 15	The Calverts—Memory of Steve's 80th birthday
February 22	



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

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.

A lapel pin was found in front of the church before Christmas. It says "Moose Magic" (relating to the Moose Club.) I have it if someone would like to claim it.

—Mike Barger

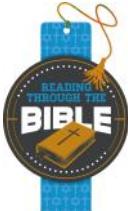


On December 28, 2025, we celebrated the baptism of Amanda Seelye and her daughters Jade & Audrey



LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

- **Midweek Lenten Services:** March 4, March 11, March 18, & March 25
- **March 15:** Deacon Jason Fisher at OSLC
- **March 29:** Palm Sunday



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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Wayne & Susan Foss—Feb. 8, 1986

Pastor Stephen & Judy Barnes—Feb. 17



Feb. 04—Gayle Gettman	Feb. 15—Paul Sipka
Feb. 07—Sue Barger	Feb. 29—Mike Barger
Feb. 08—Dennis Eggemeyer	



We missed the birthday of **Sue Hale, January 18**—apologies!
Hugs & Happy birthday!

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!



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!

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 Feb. 19** at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!



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.**

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/@oursaviorlutheranpekin1287streams>

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.

Quotes about Love

"No matter what sin we have committed, no matter how terrible it may be, God loves us."

—Billy Graham

"Love is perhaps the only glimpse we are permitted of eternity."

—Helen Hayes

"Love is the river of life in the world."

—Henry Ward Beecher

"This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really love; the more they give, the more they possess."

—Rainer Maria Rilke

"A heart set on love will do no wrong."

—Confucius

"There is a net of love by which you can catch souls."

—Mother Teresa

FEBRUARY 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING 10:15 a.m.	2 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	3	4	5 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	6	7 
8 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m. After Worship Brunch @Pekin Avanti's	9 9:30 AM Prayer Shawls	10 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	11 6:00 p.m. Finance mtg 7:00 p.m. Committee meetings	12 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	13	14 
15 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM All-Congregation Presentation 10:15 a.m.	16 	17 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	18 9:30 a.m. Mary/Martha Circle  7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	19 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	20	21
22 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Church Council Meeting 10:15 a.m.	23 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	24	25 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service	26 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	27	28 

*Aerobics has a chat group—contact Teresa, Sue B., Sharon, Karen or Melanie for last minute cancellations.



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY
2026