

Hope on the Hill



Newsletter

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

A Letter from Tim

Our Lenten Journey

Growing up in a Catholic home, Lent meant two things: Friday fish-fries at the K of C Hall and giving up something during Lent. That second item hasn't changed for part of my family. I got a text on Tuesday in my 'sisters' chat asking what everyone was giving up for Lent. One sister responded--'texting'; she is the one who texts least. Another said smoking and the third said meat, which neither one smokes or eats meat. I was asked 'do Lutherans give up stuff for Lent?' I said I gave up 'giving things up' and try to be more generous, and kinder.

For my Lenten journey the last few years, I've tried different daily devotions. I counted the Lenten pamphlets on my bookshelf; 18 of them. I have used a book gifted from Sharon Foss, titled 'Our Hope for the Years to Come', words by Martin Marty and photos by his son, Micah. This book is laid out so each day you read a short thought, ponder words

from a hymn, read a short scripture passage and ponder a photo, either the interior or exterior of a church. Doing this takes you from Ash Wednesday to Easter, when you finish the book.

This year I took a different route. I'm reading through two different books: 'Alphabet of Faith' by Walter Brueggemann and 'Forgive Everyone Everything' by Fr. Gregory Boyle (Homeboys Industries). Brueggemann's book takes a letter of the alphabet for the focus of a written prayer (example: A is for Academia, B is for Barth, C is for Covenant). Each prayer is packed with words to ponder and pray, and in some cases to look up the meaning as in 'I is for Irenic'. It is work to read it but well worth it. Fr. G's book is a much easier read as far as vocabulary but emotionally it is challenging and just as thought provoking.

Knowing we are all different, there is no one perfect Lenten devotional, but I strongly suggest you explore the many options available or

make up your own, anything that will challenge you and cause you to take time to ponder the love in the world that comes to us during this time of Lent. Love divine, given in grace by our God.

Lenten Blessings,

Tim

Psalm 89:1-2

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. ²I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.



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 was held on Sunday, February 1 after the worship service. Thirty-two members were in attendance.

Committee Annual Reports, Pastor's Report, and the President's Report were presented and discussed. Pastor's report stated "it has been a good year of growth and sharing life and ministry together." And as President Tim Leitner said, "As a congregation we continue to remain active and vibrant, stable, strong, financially healthy throughout this past year and we are growing." We had 4 baptisms and celebrated 7 new members. Pastor conducted 8 funerals.

Mary Sipka and Tim Leitner will continue on council for another three year term, and Meri Arnold is returning to council.

We adopted the 2026 Budget.

The Council Reorganizational Meeting was held immediately after the annual meeting. Committee assignments and officers are listed on page 6 of this newsletter.

NEWS & EVENTS

Prayer Concerns

John (friend of Vickie & Randy Rayburn, health concerns)
Kim (Sue Barger's cousin, aggressive cancer)
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)
Craig B. (dental issues)
Lillian P., Mazie W., Garold & Deena B., Chad W., Marithaza B., Chad Wahl, Sandy Brooks



For those unemployed, homeless, and suffering from addictions in our community

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

LENT SHARED AT OUR SAVIOR

- **Midweek Lenten Services: 7:00 p.m.**
March 4, March 11, March 18, & March 25

March Sundays of Lent

- **March 1**
- **March 8**
- **March 15:** Deacon Jason Fisher at OSLC
- **March 22**
- **March 29:** Palm Sunday

Holy Week Services

April 2: Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
April 3: Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.
April 5: Easter Celebration, 9:00 a.m.

Welcome
OUR GUEST SPEAKER

ALL-CONGREGATION PRESENTATION

Sunday, March 15

after the worship service

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

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



Our 2026 Lenten banner
Micah 6:8



From the Lenten mailing:
Lent is a season when we look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son on the cross. Though we seek to walk in faithfulness, O God, the tempter's wild wilderness sets traps along our path. Strengthen your living word with us, that we may remain true to Christ, our way, our truth, our life. Amen.



March 8

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, March 19
 Creve Coeur Family Restaurant
 620 S. Main, Creve Coeur
7:30 a.m.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group
 will meet on **Tuesday, March 10,**
 at **9:30 a.m.** at the church.



The Mary and Martha Circle's next
 meeting is **Wednesday, March 18,**
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!



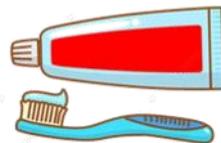
The **Adult Sunday Bible Study** is held on Sundays after the worship service in the
 Gathering Room. Everyone is welcome—the coffee is always on!



*The Mary/Martha Circle of the Women of the ELCA are
 again collecting items for health kits. A box is under the
 coat rack.*

We will be collecting through March.

- 1 hand towel & wash cloth
- 1 comb
- 1 nail clippers or file
- 1 bar wrapped bath size soap
- 1 new toothbrush
(individually wrapped)
- 4-7 oz. tube of toothpaste
- 1 shampoo 6-15 oz.
- 1 disposable razor
- 1 deodorant (1.0-2 oz.)



The Annual Meeting of
 Church Women United

will be Friday, March 13, 10:00 a.m.
 at the St. Joseph Parish Center
 303 S. 7th St.

The Program is Maureen Naughtin,
 from the YWCA Coalition for Equality

As we spring forward into a
 new season, may we also
 step into the fresh grace
 God provides each day.
 Though we may have lost
 an hour of sleep, we gain time together in His
 presence—a reminder that His mercies are new
 every morning.



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 MARCH

Please switch with someone as needed and let the office know.

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
March 01	Dennis	Larry	Bill	Meri & Valerie	Sue H. & Karen	Purple
March 08	Meri	Vickie	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Sue C. & Karen	Purple
March 15	Tim	Sue B.	Larry	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Purple
March 22	Meri	Mary Sipka	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Purple
March 29	Melanie	Roberta	Mark	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Purple

MARCH FLOWER CHART

March 01	The Leitners—Juliette's 3rd birthday
March 08	The Stiles—Rick's birthday
March 15	The Daniels—Wedding Anniversary
March 22	
March 29	The Flemings—Lily's birthday

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.

Our speakers (Chris & Trisha) on Sunday, Feb. 15 were from the **Tara Beeney Blessing Room**. The Blessing Room, located at 515 S 3rd St in Pekin, IL, is a community outreach ministry of New Life Fellowship providing free clothing, household items, and resources to those in need.

Tara Beeney was an East Peoria Police Department veteran, who passed away in 2010, and left behind a legacy of community service when she donated the original building in Pekin, on Derby St., that would become Tara Beeney's Blessing Room. They use the current building with the help of the Pekin Outreach Initiative. They also work with area churches, the Midwest Food Bank, and have received donations from the new business in Pekin '5 Below'. They are not associated with the Hope Chest but do work with them.



When clients come in for food, they have them fill their own bags so there is no waste.

They are open for bringing donations on Mon.-Fri., 11-2. There is a donation bin that can be used M-F, 11-7.

The interior of The Blessing Room has been reworked so each room has a different purpose, such as children's clothes & toys, men's clothing, pictures, etc. They rotate the clothing donations seasonally.

They always need men's clothes. They do not take large furniture or knives.

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

• **Holy Week Services**

April 2: Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

April 3: Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.

April 5: Easter Celebration, 9:00 a.m.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Darlene Daniels—March 12

Bruce & Gayle Gettman—March 29



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 01—Dale Atkinson

March 22—Charlie Davis

March 18—Leslie Leitner

March 24—Bennett Baal

March 20—Kay Bernstein

March 26—Mary Sorenson



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!



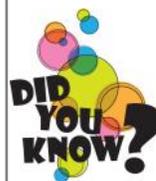
Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—***please*** let Pastor know. And ***please*** include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!



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!

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 March 26 at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

<i>President</i>	Tim Leitner	Worship & Music, Finance, Mutual Ministry	tim.j.leitner@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Mark McCarrell	Finance, Memorials & Gifts	markgmc1154@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Vickie Rayburn	Worship & Music	tabycat1128.vr@gmail.com
	Meri Arnold	Christian Education	arnoldmeri9@gmail.com
	Teresa Massey	Property	tam42@comcast.net
	Mary Sipka	Outreach & Fellowship	sipka.mary@gmail.com
	Valerie Gettys	Finance	swimmin@yahoo.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.

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

Men's clothing is always needed.



Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax

from www.churchart.com

MARCH 2026 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service</p> <p>7:45 p.m. W & M Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service</p> <p>7:45 p.m. Finance and OF/Chris Ed Meetings</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>All-Congregation Presentation 10:15 a.m. Deacon Fisher</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Mary/Martha</p> <p>7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service</p> <p>7:45 p.m. Council Mtg.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobic</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>PALM/PASSION SUNDAY Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*</p>	HOLY WEEK			

April 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		

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



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hope on the Hill Newsletter

