



Hope on the Hill

Newsletter

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

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Living the Resurrected Life!

Yes, Easter is upon us! But this is not just a day. This is not just a once-a-year festival until life returns to normal...whatever "normal" is!

Christ has claimed his resurrected life; will we claim ours? Sometimes I wonder if we, much like our stores, the day after, the shelves have changed to move us on into spring! If we celebrate the day, but forget to see who we are by faith differently for the empty tomb fills our hearts with new life and a different way of seeing our world, then what does it mean to be followers of Jesus?

I must admit that growing up, Easter was the "full" worship, the fancy Easter Breakfast and (yes) a sermon that was longer than I liked! So, I have a lifetime of living in the faith, but I always ask.... how do I live and relate to others as Jesus is alive in my heart? In John 20:1-18 (verse 11) Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. Angels appeared and asked, why are you weeping?

Then two points: Mary asked where they may have taken the body and laid him? Jesus, our risen lord asked the same question... "Woman why are you weeping? "Supposing him to be the gardener," asks where have you taken him? Jesus speaks her name... "Mary!" And recognition comes to her... "Rabbouni!" (teacher)

What is our recognition that Jesus is alive and the Spirit guides and asks us to live that resurrected life? Is it a friend you talk with? Is it someone from church you worship with? Could it be a stranger who offers a faith-filled vision of your life? Is it in your devotional and prayer life? Jesus, our Risen Lord will call out your name! Christ has claimed his resurrected life; will we claim ours? I guess it comes down, much like Mary Magdalene at first...what are you and I looking for?

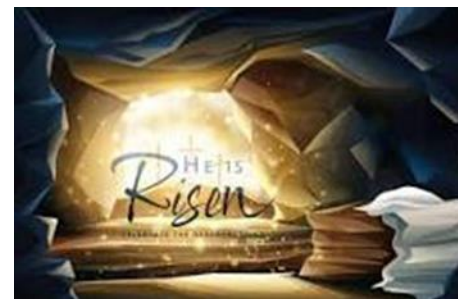
I want to wish everyone a very happy and blessed Easter. I also want to you know Jesus calls your name because the Resurrection continues in you, each and every day!

Let me close with a prayer:

God, giver of the blessed one, Jesus, we delight in knowing that death gives way to new life, that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. May the fact of resurrection fill us with new zeal to live with fresh confidence and fabulous joy. Amen.

Blessings to you as Jesus calls your name every day! The stone has been rolled away and new life is yours in Christ!

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

Celebrating Creation — Earth Day, April 22

April offers a beautiful reminder of God's handiwork. Earth Day encourages us to care for creation with gratitude and stewardship. Consider small steps — reducing waste, planting something new or enjoying the beauty of God's world with fresh appreciation.

from www.churchart.com



NEWS & EVENTS

Prayer Concerns

Vicki R. (health recovery)
John (friend of Vickie & Randy Rayburn, health concerns)
Kim (Sue Barger's cousin, aggressive cancer)
Sandy Brooks (health concerns)
Paul Sipka (health concerns)
Scott S. (Melanie's brother-in-law, health concerns)
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)
Lillian P., Mazie W., Garold & Deena B., Chad W., Marithaza B., Chad Wahl, Craig B.



For those unemployed, homeless, and suffering from addictions in our community
For those affected by weather
For those affected by war

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



Holy Week

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.



There will be a celebratory post-worship event on Easter Sunday, April 5 following the worship service. A sign up sheet has been posted so you may indicate what you will bring to share. –Outreach & Fellowship



The Mary/Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, April 15, 9:30 a.m.** at OSLC. The hostess will be Karen Underwood. We will hold a short business meeting and then proceed to fill the bags for Health Kits instead of doing our usual Bible lesson. We will be hosting Church Women United on **May 8** and will plan for this event. We thank the congregation in advance for their help in providing items for the

Health Kits. We will be turning them in to the CWU committee at their May meeting at OSLC to be distributed throughout the community.



The *Prayer Shawl Group* would like to remind everyone that we continue to work on two different projects. We continue to make lap shawls for our church and the Church Women United group to deliver to area facilities, and we also make patriotic lap shawls for the Honor Flight veteran program! We would appreciate donations of red, white, or blue yarn, or any color yarn—thank you!!



Our annual Rummage Sale will be **Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16**

Rummage sale setup will be May 13 & 14.

Please, no donations before Sunday, April 19.



MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, April 16
 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, April 14,**
 at **9:30 a.m.** at the church.



The Mary and Martha Circle's next
 meeting is **Wednesday, April 15,**
9:30 a.m. at the church. More
 information is on page 2.



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!



We were delighted to have Deacon Jason Fisher at Our Savior on Sunday, March 15. He
 is a DEM, a Director for Evangelical Mission, and a Deacon of Word & Service. Deacon
 Jason helps teams from communities of disciples (churches) with 'Faithful Innovation',
 training for discipleship practices for guiding with teams of 3-5 people. They get together
 and work to Listen, Act, & Share.

Deacon Jason spoke about Discipleship Practices training to follow the Holy Spirit &
 Jesus. He shared 'FAIL' is: 'First Attempt In Learning.' We all thoroughly enjoyed
 listening and learning what he had to share with us. Many thanks to him for visiting
 Our Savior!



Pastor & Judy, along with Mazie's nieces
 Karen & Sandie, visited Mazie recently.
 Karen lives in Hillsboro, Illinois, where
 Pastor has served. Sandie lives in
 Michigan. Pastor said it was a nice visit.
 Thank you Meri for sharing these pictures.



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 APRIL

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

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
April 05	Meri	Roberta	Leo	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Gold
April 12	Dennis	Vickie	Mark	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Gold
April 19	Meri	Mary Sipka	Bill	Leo & Roberta	Sue C. & Sue H.	Gold
April 26	Melanie	Larry	Larry	Leo & Roberta	Tim & Leslie	Gold

APRIL FLOWER CHART

April 05	Lilies for Easter
April 12	The Bargas—Marithza's birthday
April 19	The Leitners—Sofia's 7th birthday
April 26	Vickie Rayburn—25th Anniversary

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.

Have you wondered if our live stream has an impact? We can answer that with a **‘Yes!’**

Some statistics on our YouTube page about views are:

Christmas Eve 2025—34 views
 January 11, 2026—40 views
 Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 15—21 views
 Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18—21 views (Midweek Feb. 25 not live streamed)
 Midweek Lenten services: March 4—12 views; March 11—3 views; March 18—8 views
 Sunday services: March 8—20 views; March 15—17 views; March 22—18 views



So, yes, doing this is having an impact! If you are unsure if you would be able to help start & stop the live stream, here are the simple directions we have put by the computer in the banner room:

Before the service, go into the video/banner room.

TO START THE LIVE STREAM:

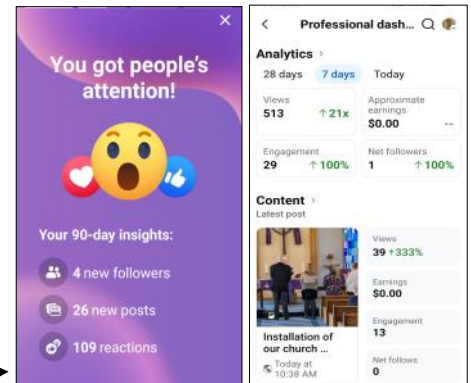
- 1. Turn on the white power strip.**
- 2. Wait for the sanctuary to appear on the monitor.**
- 3. When the prelude begins:**
 Press the **‘On Air’ button**, top right-hand corner, marked with a red sticker.

AFTER THE SERVICE:

- 1. Press the ‘Off’ button** right under ‘On Air’ button. This will end the live stream.
- 2. Turn off the white power strip.**

It is not necessary to stay in the room as the camera is directed at the altar.

Also, some January graphics & info from our Facebook page are here →



LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

- Friday, May 8:** Church Women United at Our Savior
- Fri. & Sat., May 15 & 16:** Rummage Sale

Anniversaries & Birthdays

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Mark & Chris McCarrell—April 16

Vickie & Randy Rayburn—April 28, 2001



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 4—Lily Fleming (21!)

April 18—Bev Wehr

April 4—Tim Leitner

April 19—Sofia Olivos

April 7—Craig Brooks

April 23—Roberta Stiles



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

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 Marzinik (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!



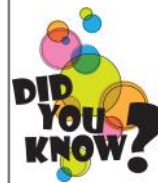
Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—*please* let Pastor know. And *please* include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!



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
Wednesday, April 22
at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

President	Tim Leitner	Worship & Music, Finance, Mutual Ministry	tim.j.leitner@gmail.com
Vice President	Mark McCarrell	Finance, Memorials & Gifts	markgmc1154@gmail.com
Secretary	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
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

Men's clothing is always needed.

There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! *There's something better coming.*

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. *There's something better coming.*

Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." *There's something better coming.*

APRIL 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				 MAUNDY <i>Thursday</i> 7:00 PM Maudy Thursday Service	 GOOD <i>Friday</i> 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE 9:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m.			9:30 AM Mary/Martha 6:00 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. OF/Chris Ed Meetings	10:00 AM Bible Study resumes 6:00-7:00 PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.		9:30 AM Prayer Shawls 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	9:30 a.m. Mary/Martha 7:00 PM Council Mtg	7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		
26	27	28	29	30		
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*		

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



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