



## Hope on the Hill

Newsletter

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5

A Letter from Tim

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Hello OSLC family,

With the recent sporadic rain and sunshine, the world around us is a lot greener. We are starting to see the crop of pretty yellow, volunteer flowers popping up (dandelions). But also it is good to see leaves on our raspberry plants, after a winter of them being a cluster of sticks. Spring is here and change is obvious. Early April we changed our purple Lenten paraments to our white Easter ones which will remain until Pentecost, May 24.

As human beings, we also change, not normally tied to seasons but rather triggered by a large range of reasons. Recently, I have received emails from a former classmate reminding we have our 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion this year. Pondering that makes me realize how much I have changed in those years. I know that is true of all my classmates, though with not seeing most of them since graduation, I only remember them how they were so long ago.

God made us as people who will continue to change over time, and our Holy Scripture gives us so many accounts of individuals who change throughout their lives. Moses, Peter

and the apostles, and one of the more significant examples, Paul. Paul changed from persecutor of Jesus' followers, a major figure in the early work of spreading God's Word. Paul also left a legacy of letters, authored and attributed, which have given so many people guidance in their lives.

We not only change ourselves but we can help others change. This is seen in the work of Homeboy Industries. This story came in a recent email from them: *Oscar Lopez spent years cycling through juvenile halls, camps, county jail, and prison. It felt like the only path available to him.*

*"During my last prison term, being separated from my son made me realize I needed to change and become a present and responsible father," Oscar shares.*

*When Oscar walked through the doors of Homeboy Industries, he immediately got to work. He earned certifications in e-commerce and community health. He completed internships. He built skills and direction, one step at a time. In 2025, it paid off. He secured stable housing and regained custody of his son. He closed his DCFS case and completed probation early.*

*Today, Oscar is focused on being a*

*present father and a positive part of his community. He's building a stable future for his family. This type of transformation is what happens when we walk alongside people. It's what happens when someone gets a real chance.*

Unfortunately, or maybe thankfully, we do not experience the flash of light that knocks us to the ground as what happened to Paul. Sometimes we need help from others, who are patient, caring and willing to give us a second chance.

And those moments help us to also be patient, caring, forgiving to someone who needs our help.

As Paul writes in Ephesians: *I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, <sup>3</sup>bearing with one another in love, <sup>4</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: <sup>4</sup>there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

God's Peace,

Tim

### OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

2223 SHERIDAN ROAD  
PEKIN, IL 61554

[www.oursaviorpekin.org](http://www.oursaviorpekin.org)

**Pastor: Rev. Stephen Barnes**

Email: [barnes.stephen9@gmail.com](mailto: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

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



For Pentecost Sunday, May 24, Pastor is looking for someone who can say the Lord's Prayer in a language other than English. Maybe you can help? Ideas are Spanish, American Sign Language, Norwegian....if you can help or if you know someone who can help, please let Pastor or Tim know. Gracias/Tak!

You may wish to wear **RED** on  
Sunday, May 24  
as we celebrate Pentecost!



# NEWS & EVENTS

## Prayer Concerns

**Family of Kay Bernstein** (Passed away) April 17)  
**John** (Mike's cousin, diagnosed with cancer)  
**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., 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*



## **OUR ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE IS**

**Friday, May 15**  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 16**  
8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### ***Rummage sale setup will be:***

*Wednesday, May 13 3:00-7:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, May 14 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*

Arrangements to have the Hope Chest pick up any unsold items will be made for Monday, May 18.

The designated charity this year is **Hope of Hope/Center for Prevention of Abuse**, which is in the process of building a Shelter House for battered and abused women and children in Pekin.



*Welcome*  
OUR GUEST SPEAKER

## **ALL-CONGREGATION PRESENTATION**

**Sunday, May 17**

after the worship service

Join us to meet a representative from

**Kyle's Care At Home**,

a home health care service in Pekin.



We will also have a coffee fellowship hosted by the Outreach/Christian Education Committee

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

- **June 6-20:** Pastor & Judy on vacation

# MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, May 12**, at **9:30 a.m.** at the church.

We are displaying patriotic blankets April 26 at church and then donating to The Honor Flight. We always appreciate yarn donations—red, white, & blue, plus other colors as we continue to work on regular blankets also.



## Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be **Thursday, May 21**  
Creve Coeur Family Restaurant  
620 S. Main, Creve Coeur  
**7:30 a.m.**



Mary and Martha Circle's next meeting is **Wednesday, May 20, 9:30 a.m.** at the church. We will set up a committee to provide dinner for the Salvation Army in July. We will go out for lunch after this meeting, the last one until fall.

Also, we are **hosting Church Women United on May 8, 10:00 a.m.** at Our Savior. Twenty to 25 women are expected to attend this event.

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!



Kay Charlene Bernstein, 85, of Peoria, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on April 17, 2026. Kay grew up on the south side of Peoria and attended Manual High School. She worked various jobs in the area, with her longest service at Methodist Hospital. Despite several attempts at retirement, it did not suit her and she continued to work until the time of her passing. A true free spirit, she later moved to Colorado, where she met and married her husband, Matt Bernstein, on December 22, 1998. The couple enjoyed several years in the mountains near Pikes Peak where they shared many outdoor adventures.

Kay embraced life fully by buying her first Harley-Davidson at 63 and even flying a small-engine airplane, despite having to sit on books to see over the controls. She was a proud member of Peo-Taz A.B.A.T.E. and had a lifelong love for animals. Kay was a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pekin.

She is survived by her husband, Matt; her sons, Keith (Stephani) McElyea and Scott (Keelie) McElyea; her stepson, Joe (Traci) Bernstein; and seven grandchildren; Jarod, Alec, Brayden, Ashly, Kaitlyn, Sarah and Draven. She was preceded in death by her stepson, David Bernstein. Memorial contributions may be made to TAPS at <https://tapsshelter.org/donate/> or PCAPS at <https://www.peoriacounty.gov/1034/Donations>



## There is still time for you to be a part of the 2026 Synod Assembly!

The meeting will be by Zoom, **June 6, 2026, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Voter orientation by Zoom will be May 28, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

Tim will be attending as the male delegate; one female delegate position is available. Please Let Pastor or Tim know if you would like to take part!

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



**OUR COLLEGE STUDENT'S ADDRESS**

# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MAY

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

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
<b>May 03</b>	Melanie	Vickie	Mark	Meri & Valerie	Sue H. & Karen	White
<b>May 10</b>	Meri	Sue B.	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	White
<b>May 17</b>	Tim	Larry	Larry	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	White
<b>May 24</b>	Dennis	Mary Sipka	Bill	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Red
<b>May 31</b>	Meri	Roberta	Mark	Leo & Roberta	Sue H. & Karen	White

## MAY FLOWER CHART

<b>May 03</b>	The Calverts—41st Anniversary
<b>May 10</b>	
<b>May 17</b>	Rita Wahl
<b>May 24</b>	
<b>May 31</b>	

***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.**



**There are several opportunities to help at Our Savior!** The *Worship & Music Committee* would like more help with communion set up/clean up. Two members, or couples, meet, usually on Saturday before the Sunday that they are assigned, and prepare for communion. Pastor or Tim place the wine carafe & communion trays on the altar on Sunday morning. Following the worship service, your team will clear the altar and clean & store the communion items. Training and printed instructions are provided. Please contact Tim if you are interested in learning more!

The *Finance Committee* is asking for additional tellers. Tellers work in pairs and gather the offerings after the worship service to work on in the church office.. It usually take approximately 30 minutes to complete what needs to be done. One of the tellers drops the bank bag off at Busey Bank on Veteran's Drive when done. This is a confidential position. You will work with experienced tellers to begin with. We have had one volunteer come forward—thank you!

### **Property Committee Updates**

-Thank you to Bill Calvert for cutting the poison ivy vines growing on the big tree near the entrance, and Leo for applying brush killer on the vines.

-Waiting on parts to fix the outdoor sign.

-Mike has spent much time with Fritch Heating & Cooling; they cleaned the air condition unit on the roof. The committee met with their boiler expert to discuss heating and air conditioning options for the church.

-After nearly 20 years of being the Property Chair, Chris McCarrell is stepping away from the committee. Huge thank you to Chris for all she has done for Our Savior!! She says in the minutes: "It has been an honor to work with everyone that has been on the Property committee throughout the years. I am amazed how knowledgeable and willing everyone has been to help this church."

-A *Chairman* is needed for *Property Committee*



# Anniversaries & Birthdays

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Sue Calvert—May 4
Paul & Mary Sipka—May 25
Scott & Teresa Massey—May 26
Lee & Mary Sorenson—May 31



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 15—Nancy Atkinson	May 26—Cassie Baal
May 16—Stella Gettys	May 29—Sonja Sanders
May 16—Mayson Baal	



## 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!**



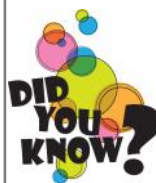
**Reminder:** If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—*please* let Pastor know. And *please* include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!



**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!



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, May 27 at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!***

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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

***Thank you to those who donated the Easter Lilies that looked so lovely in our sanctuary:***

Bill & Sue Calvert—In memory of loved ones  
 Elsa Keas—In memory of Bill Keas and Carolyn Murphy  
 Leo & Roberta Stiles—For all our blessings  
 Stella Gettys—In memory of loved ones  
 Linda Tanner—In honor of all members unable to attend worship services  
 Pastor & Judy Barnes—In memory of loved ones  
 Larry & Darlene Daniels—In memory of our parents  
 Donna Mathews  
 The Fleming Family—In memory of Donna and Dick Fleming & Jack & Hilvie Gross



# MAY 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
						1	2 9:00 AM— 12:00 PM DKG (Roberta)																																																
3 <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 9:00 AM  Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.	4	5 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	6 7:00 p.m. Outreach/ Chris Ed	7 10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	8 10:00 AM Church Women United at OSLC	9																																																	
10 <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 9:00 AM  Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.  	11	12 9:30 AM Prayer Shawls  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	13 6:00 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. W & M  <b>RUMMAGE SALE SETUP</b>	14 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast  10:00 AM Bible Study	15 <b>RUMMAGE SALE</b> 8-5  	16 <b>RUMMAGE SALE</b> 8-1  																																																	
17 <b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 9:00 AM  All-Congregation Presentation 10:15 a.m.	18	19 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	20 9:30 a.m. Mary/Martha  7:00 PM Council Meeting	21 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast  10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	22	23																																																	
24 <b>PENTECOST WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 9:00 AM  Sunday Bible Study 10:15 a.m.		26 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	27	28 10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	29	30																																																	
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\*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

