



Hope on the Hill

Newsletter

A Letter from Pastor

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Fishing and Faith!



I thought I might share just a bit of vacation time up north! Unfortunately, the weather was much like here...cold, raining and windy, which made fishing not so good! But did have one really good day where my choice of lures worked and we caught a fishing basket full of nice sized Crappies!

Now, I want to put together fishing and faith. I have been fishing with my dad since I was little and gradually learned lures that might work and how the weather, etc. fit in. Having said that, no matter how much faith I might have in what I use for a lure and when I fish and where I

know the weed beds are, does not relate to catching fish! Sometimes the fishing basket is just as empty as when I got into the boat. Faith and fishing work much the same way in that we might understand what we believe and how God might ask us to live, but the plan of God for you and me is always changing. Now, I will say that my grandchildren loved fishing and 3-year-old Benjamin was thrilled with the fish he caught off the dock! But as we all grow up in what we think we know, there will always be times when fish are not biting. Much the same as we live out our faith and life changes come our way.

Do the many empty casts stop me from fishing? No. And living out our faith even when times may be difficult is knowing that we continue casting much like the disciples who caught nothing all night and the risen Christ asks them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat for a catch.

Faith in Christ is not some spiritual self-help program to fine-tune your life or a psychological trick for feeling better about yourself. No, biblical faith is a trusting relationship

with Christ. Trust that the God who called Abraham to wander off into the unknown, the God who wrestled with Jacob through the night, the God who sent Jesus straight into the jaws of death – that this God is still calling, still commanding. Faith means obeying before the map is drawn. (using a fishing term) It is to continue casting into the promise that faith is lived out each time, and the joy of knowing that God in Christ is with you!

I get into the boat to fish each time, not knowing whether I will catch any fish, but assured that faith and fishing go together. Always know in life, it is your strength of faith that keeps you casting and fishing in all your life circumstances. The only thing that I do each year is make sure my line is fresh and what holds my lures to the line is a “fishing knot” that will hold. Although, I will tell you, on occasion, that I have hooked a fish more than my line would hold. But that was joy also! The disciples were amazed by the great number of fish when they cast their nets on the other side of the boat. We also should keep “fishing” for we know that we are giving who we are to others and for others.

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.



www.elca.org



Summer Worship, Summer Joy

Even in the relaxed pace of summer, God is at work! Our Sunday services continue to be a source of joy and encouragement—join us each week for inspiring worship and meaningful community.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer of Joy for Mazie Wankel turning 100 years old on June 25!

Steve (Bev's brother, recovering from heart surgery)

Christine Massey (Teresa's sister-in-law, passed away June 16)

Ed Henry (Dennis's brother-in-law, heart surgery)

John (Mike's cousin, diagnosed with cancer)

John (friend of Vickie & Randy Rayburn, health concerns)

Kim (Sue Barger's cousin) cancer, doing well

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)

Rick Turner (Sue Calvert's nephew-in-law, stroke)

Lillian P., Nancy A. 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 war

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

NEWS & EVENTS



OSLC went to the Chiefs game!

We didn't get any pictures, but great weather, great seats, a double header because of the rain the night before.....unfortunately, the Chiefs lost both games to the Dayton Dragons. Thanks to Lee Sorenson who procured the tickets for the game.



Traveling this summer? The ELCA's "**Find a Congregation**" tool helps you locate a local worship community. You can search by zip code for more accurate information.

Go to www.elca.org to find the tool.



Welcome
OUR GUEST SPEAKER

ALL-CONGREGATION PRESENTATION

Sunday, July 12

after the worship service

Our own **Lily Fleming** will be here to talk about her trip to Germany and Poland in June!

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

The Property Committee at Our Savior Lutheran Church is seeking someone willing to be the committee chairperson. You would not be expected to do the work. We would like someone to, with the help of the committee, write the meeting agendas, do the year-end report and do the budget.

We would also like to have more people willing to help with the jobs.

Thanks,
Property Committee

(Please talk with Pastor, Tim, or Mike B. if you are interested)



MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, July 16
Creve Coeur Family Restaurant
620 S. Main, Creve Coeur
7:30 a.m.



The Mary and Martha Circle will set up a committee to provide dinner for the Salvation Army in July. The next meeting will be in **September**.



About 25 people enjoyed the brunch at Sangalli's Court Street Steakhouse in Pekin on June 14 following the worship service. Everyone seemed pleased with the food & service. Many thanks to Meri for coordinating this event!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, July 14,** at **9:30 a.m.** at the church.

We always appreciate yarn donations—red, white, & blue, plus other colors as we continue to work on Honor Flight and regular blankets.



The **Adult Sunday Bible Study** will **NOT** be meeting over the summer.

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!

From our Central/Southern Synod: 2026 SYNOD DAYS

This a day of worship, learning, fellowship, and relationship-building for all generations in each of the six conferences of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod.

Each synod day includes:

- Cross-generational worship
- Activities for children and families
- Shared meal
- State of the synod video
- Q&A with synod staff
- Mission moments from each conference
- Four "Spirit Lab" workshop options (each person may choose two)

Spirit Lab workshops

The Foolishness of Trying to Save Your Church: Letting Go So We Can Go!

Led by Bishop Greg Busboom

Jesus Journeys and Faithful Field Trips

Led by Deacon Jason Fisher, Director for Evangelical Mission

Body Building with Love: Tools for Adaptability

Led by Pastor Kristen Schmid, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Communities

Here I Am, Send Me!: A Vocational Workshop

Led by Pastor Amy Zietlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Transformational Leadership

Northern Conference

Sunday, Sept. 20, 1:30-6:30 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church, 200 Colona Avenue, Bartonville

Registration closes Aug. 31

Registration

The cost is \$10 per adult (18 and over), \$5 for youth (3-17), and free for children under 3, capped at a total of \$25 per family. Registration is open now at CSIS-ELCA.org/synoddays26.

If your schedule conflicts with your conference's Synod Day, you are welcome to attend another conference's day. Synod Days are open to ALL in our synod, not just those who participated in the Synod Assembly.



FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY
2026 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Days

All members are invited to attend our Synod Day on Sunday, September 20, from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran church in Bartonville.

Contact Tim if you have questions.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR JULY

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

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

JULY FLOWER CHART

July 05	The Bargers—Jared, Josh, and Ame's birthdays
July 12	The Leitners—Celebrating America
July 19	
July 26	

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.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST

- **Sunday, August 16**—Meet and Greet Coffee Fellowship

From the Outreach & Fellowship/Christian Education Committee:

Due to the heat, decreased attendance, and increased expenses, it was decided to not have the Bubbles & Chalk event this year.

Happy
100th
birthday to
Mazie!!



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

New email address for Mike & Sue Barger:

msbarger2@gmail.com

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**

Anniversaries & Birthdays

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Wes & Amanda Johnson—July 13



JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 01—Chris McCarrell

July 15—Scott Massey

July 05—Jared Barger

July 23—Audrey Hackward

July 06—Josh Barger

July 23—Jade Hackward

July 07—Sandy Brooks

July 24—Nick Fleming

July 08—Ada Dralle

July 31—Meri Arnold



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!



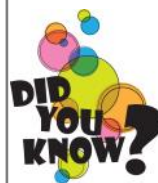
Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—**please** let Pastor know. And **please** include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!



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!



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, July 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.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL: SHELL A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes.

Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.



from www.churchart.com

JULY 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																								
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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
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