

Hope on the Hill



Newsletter

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 9

A Letter from Pastor

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Let Love Be Genuine

Did you ever wonder what “genuine” really means? Is it like fake leather as opposed to real leather? Is it manufactured gems as opposed to let’s say, “real diamonds?” Is it a person who says all the “right things,” but where their heart is or how they relate to another person is very different?

As we are coming to another year of worship life, community life, life shared both inside of Our Savior and outside, what does it mean to “let love be genuine?” This is our opportunity to let love grow and become more real as we relate to each other, help each other and reach out to others who might need our help.

Think of this fall season as the beginnings of another time we can grow in breaking down barriers, helping and healing those who are hurting and making our faith community stronger as we are more “genuine” in our loving.

Yes, we have our opportunities for ministry inside...

like Puppets for Jesus in September and other ministries through the year, but can we turn the “inside” to an “outside?” Romans 12:9-13 says:

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. ¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

In 1 Corinthians 13:7 says: “Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” This is our faith and our belief in action and helps us stand upon the genuine love that Jesus taught and died for us all. The Meet and Greet we had the other Sunday was enjoyed and you could feel the “genuineness” of love.

Other All Sunday School Presentations will involve Lutheran

Social Services; The Cookie Giveaway Project and Love’s Farm and more to come. These are just the learning and sharing times of what makes love for others “genuine!” We will hear from the Pekin YWCA and Pekin Library!

Why? Because Jesus clearly reminds us that we are to “build one another up in love.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*

As you can tell I am excited about the genuine possibilities as we grow together this fall and beyond. Our Savior is a church of loving and caring people. Let us discover together all the possibilities of “genuine love” not kept... but given away!

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



REMINDER: Fritch Heating & Cooling will be doing an upgrade to our HVAC thermostats this fall.

There will be two ‘Zones’, one for the Parish Hall and one for everywhere else. There will be 8 sensors throughout the building. Fritch will set up the programming for the usual times the church is used. *For other, unscheduled events, there will be an app.*

When an event is planned outside of the regularly scheduled ones, someone who has the app will have to be notified so they could adjust the temperature. Those who will have the app on their phones is still to be determined. It may also be on the office computer.

Prayer Concerns

Ed Henry (Dennis's brother-in-law, health concerns)
John (Mike's cousin, in palliative care)
John (friend of Vickie & Randy Rayburn, health concerns)
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 affected by war, heat, floods, earthquakes
For those unemployed, homeless, and suffering from addictions in our community

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



NEWS & EVENTS

Help us celebrate Tim's Retirement!!

After 38 years in the IT Department at OSF Healthcare in Peoria, Tim is leaving his badge and work laptop behind!

We are excited to move into this new phase of life. Our celebration is on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, so we know you may not be able to come, but our kids & their families are planning to be at the party!

HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT!

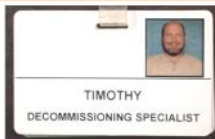
WHEN: Saturday, September 5, 2026

WHERE: Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2223 Sheridan Road, Pekin

TIME: 12:00—2:00 PM Lunch & Open House

WHAT: Avanti's sandwiches, chips, drinks, and a celebration cake

NO GIFTS PLEASE



Questions? Contact Leslie 309-696-9040

Welcome
OUR GUEST SPEAKER

ALL-CONGREGATION PRESENTATION

Sunday, Sept. 20

after the worship service

Puppets for Jesus!

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



The **Meet and Greet Coffee Fellowship** on Sunday, August 16, was enjoyed by all! This was a chance for everyone who attended to participate in a "Getting-to-know-you" time. There were Table Topics to share during each 10 minute visit between members.

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, Sept. 17
 Main Street Family Restaurant
 620 S. Main, Creve Coeur
7:30 a.m.



**The Mary/Martha Circle will
 meet Wednesday, Sept. 16,
 9:30 a.m. at the church.**

During the summer the Mary/Martha ladies provided dinner to the Salvation Army's Life Center. Eleven frozen pizzas, desserts from Beth and Judy, and fruit from Melanie were delivered on July 27. In August seven ladies attended the WELCA Summer Gathering in Bartonville. They enjoyed a program on the history of Peoria, a quilt activity, a small duty-free market, an inspiring service, and a delicious lunch. It was a morning of good fellowship.

All ladies of OSLC are invited to meet with the Mary/Martha Circle on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Quilt Dedication—Sunday, August 30



Thank you to all of our lap blanket creators, all yarn donations received, and our tag makers--Vicki Rayburn and Nancy Atkinson. The 37 blankets will be delivered to the Church Women United meeting on Sept 11th for their delivery to nursing homes and the Patriotic ones to The Honor Flight organization. Crocheters, knitters, and quilters are always welcome at our monthly meetings!

Members of the Prayer Shawls group include Roberta Stiles, Melanie Fleming, Sue Barger, Vicki Rayburn, Darlene Daniels, Arlene Conaghan, Maddison Baal, and Nancy Atkinson.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, Sept. 8** at **9:30 a.m.** at the church.

YARN NEEDED!!
ALL colors, any type,
usually 4 ply

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!



SUPPER
Out

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Kuchie's on the Water

6:00 p.m.

A signup sheet is posted.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

"Experience Blessings at the Table"

Friday, Sept. 11, 9:30 a.m.

Grace United Methodist Church,
 601 N. 4th St., Pekin

Shannon Saal from the Pekin Township will be the speaker. There will be a collection of lap robes and layettes.

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.

Northern Conference

Sunday, Sept. 20, 1:30-6:30 p.m.
 Bethel Lutheran Church
 200 Colona Avenue, Bartonville
 Registration closes Aug. 31



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

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.

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 Pastor if you have questions.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

DATE	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
Sept. 06	Meri	Vickie	Mark	Meri & Valerie	Mary Sipka & Karen	Green
Sept. 13	Melanie	Sue B.	Bill	Donna & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Green
Sept. 20	Meri	Larry	Larry	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Green
Sept. 27	Dennis	Mary Sipka	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Mary Sipka & Sue C.	Green

SEPTEMBER FLOWER CHART

Sept. 06	The Leitners—Tim is Retired!
Sept. 13	Charlie Davis in memory of Jacque
Sept. 20	
Sept. 27	

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.



Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.

from www.churchart.com

LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

- **October is Stewardship Month.** Watch for a mailing with more information.
- **Sunday, October 25:** Reformation Sunday



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

Garold Burkholder #26
Villas of Holly Brook
2720 S 14th St, Pekin, IL 61554

Deena Burkholder
2009 Hollyhock Street
Pekin, IL 61554

Lily Fleming
318 N. Ninth Street
Monmouth, IL 61462
lfleming@monmouthcollege.edu
OR lilyfleming05@gmail.com

Mazie Wankel
C/O Reflections Memory Care
1717 N. Main St.
Morton, IL 61550



Anniversaries & Birthdays

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bud & Sandy Brooks—September 12

Mike & Courtney Dralle—September 29



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 19—Maddison Baal

Sept. 21—Garold Burkholder

Sept. 20—Rita Wahl

Sept. 27—Pastor Barnes



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!



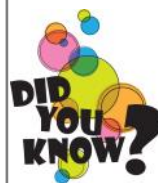
Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—*please* let Pastor know. And *please* include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!



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, Sept. 30** 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.

- Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*
- Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*
- Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*
- Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*
- Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*
- Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



from www.churchart.com

SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																										
		1	2	3	4	5 Leitner Party 12:00-2:00 PM																																										
SEPTEMBER 2026																																																
6 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM	7  Labor Day	8 9:30 AM Prayer Shawls 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	9 6:00 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. W & M mtg OF & CE mtg	10 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	11  9:30 a.m. Church Women United at Grace Methodist	12																																										
13 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM	14	15 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	16 9:30 a.m. Mary/Martha 7:00 p.m. Council	17 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	18	19																																										
20 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM PUPPETS FOR JESUS Coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM Dinner Out 6:00 PM	21	22 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	23	24 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	25	26																																										
27 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM	28	29 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics*	30		October 2026 <table><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr></table>		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	31
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	31																																										

*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

