



# Hope on the Hill

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

## A Letter from Pastor

### Epiphany and Sticky Notes



I use sticky notes (Post-it notes) all the time! Remember this appointment...don't forget to check your calendar...make a phone call to that person...I must be

available at this time, etc.

Then, there are those things we all forget and need reminders. Where did I put my keys...where did I put my glasses (sometimes on my head!)...I walk into a room and blank on why I came into the room and stand there trying to remember the reason. I have left home for church, and forgotten keys, lunch, or some special item I wanted for the day and left it on the kitchen counter. I know you have all been there and done that! Depending on how busy or distracted your mind is and maybe running late and you have jumped ahead mentally, leaving behind the moment needed. I always keep a note pad by my bed to write down things I want to remember, for I know soon, I will be saying, "what was it I wanted to remember?!"

This may seem a strange way to start my newsletter article, but I wanted also to remind you of Epiphany. A time to remember the reason Jesus was born

unto us. Epiphany means manifestation or realization or new meaning for something. In this case Epiphany is a time we begin to understand God's love born unto us and how this gift changes how we live and remember each day. Each week until Lent we hear stories of how grace, forgiveness and faith should be made real in our lives because of Jesus.

Too often our mental "sticky notes" are only about what I don't want to forget day to day. We miss how God is trying to get our attention to make a difference in how we should live every day.

Do you remember the story of the boy Samuel? Chapter 3 of 1st Samuel. *Samuel, a boy under the high priest Eli was sleeping and then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he ran to Eli thinking it was him. It took several times before Eli realized that God was calling Samuel and told the boy to say: "speak, for your servant is listening."*

You are also a child of God and God continues to speak to you as well. So, I have a challenge for you during this Epiphany season! Take those sticky notes (Post-it notes) and put them around your house with these phrases: *1. Speak Lord for your servant is listening. 2. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 3. The Lord is my shepherd, I*

*shall not want, he makes me to lie down in green pastures. 4. God is my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 5. Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you. 6. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! 7. I lift up my eyes to the hills - My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. 8. The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.*

Use your "Post-it notes" and stick those remembering phrases of God's presence around the house during Epiphany and maybe beyond. Yes, don't forget your glasses and daily needs along with your keys but also use these biblical phrases to bring comfort and remembrance, that every day the love of God is fulfilled for you in Jesus. And don't forget where you put them!

Valentines Day is coming on the 14<sup>th</sup> so don't forget those persons you love! Also, March 5<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday.

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.**

**Sunday School 10:15 a.m.**



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

www.elca.org

### Prayer Concerns

Prayers for all those affected by the wildfires in California

**Stella G.** (broken arm, doing well at home)

**Jacque D.** (health concerns)

**Sandy Brooks** (health concerns)

**Lillian P., Mazie W., Jim J., Garold & Deena B.,**

**Craig B., Chad W., Paul S., David A.**

**Donna F.** (Melanie's mother-in-law, health concerns)

**Scott S.** (Melanie's brother-in-law, cancer)

**John P.** (Melanie's brother-in-law, severe diabetes)

**Pete B.** (Larry & Darlene's nephew, brain cancer)

**Carolyn** (Mike Barger's sister, health concerns)

**Russ & Jackie B.** (Mike's brother & sister-in-law, health concerns)

**Marithaza B.** (chronic hip problems)

**Lil M.** (Sue Barger's mother, health concerns)

**Lily F.** (OSLC College student)

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



# NEWS & EVENTS



No updates. You may wear a mask if desired but masks are not required at Our Savior at this time.



At our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025, two new council members were elected: Vickie Rayburn and Teresa Massey. We recognized outgoing council members Leo Stiles and Meri Arnold. Our Constitution was updated as recommended by the ELCA, and changes were made to the constitution so it is in line with our current procedures. The 2025 Budget was approved.

At the council reorganization meeting afterwards, officers and committee assignments were determined. Our Council President is Tim Leitner; Vice President is Mary Sorenson, and Secretary is Valerie Gettys. Mary Sipka and Mark McCarrell continue on council. See page 6 for council committee representation.

Installation of the Council will be Sunday, February 2 during the worship service.

## SUPPER OUT



TOGETHER

A 'Supper Out' has been planned!  
Sunday, February 23  
6:00 p.m.  
Avanti's in Pekin  
A sign up sheet will be put up.

Mary/Martha Circle is collecting items for **Health Kits** again this year. A box is under the coat rack for your donations.  
Thank you for your help!

Listed below are the items needed.

## HEALTH KITS



- 1 towel & wash cloth
- 1 comb
- 1 nail clipper or file
- 1 bar of wrapped bath-size soap
- 1 four-seven oz. tube of toothpaste
- 1 shampoo, 6-15 oz.
- 1 disposable razor
- 1 deodorant, 1.0-2 oz.

Living Lutheran

**GREAT NEWS!** The publication *Living Lutheran* (formerly The Lutheran) is back in publication, on a quarterly basis. The cost is \$19.95 per person per year **OR** \$17.00 per year if a Congregation has 10 or more members sign up for it. A sign up sheet is posted in the Gathering Room.

**Our Savior will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring which collects *non-perishable* food for charity now thru the NFL Super Bowl on February 9. The donations will go to Christian Civic Outreach. The Soup Caldron is in the Gathering Room.**



The Outreach Committee would appreciate having more helpers for the outdoor OSLC sign. Currently Melanie & Linda are maintaining it but would like to share the responsibility. Thank you!

# MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



## Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be **Thursday, February 20**, at Creve Coeur Family Restaurant 620 S. Main, Creve Coeur **7:30 a.m.**



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!



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, February 18**, at **9:30 a.m.** at the church. We would appreciate any regular weight yarn donations. Thank you!! Come join us to make shawls or lap blankets!



The Mary and Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, February 19, 9:30 a.m.** at OSLC. We will be discussing the book "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. *All women are welcome!*



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



Villas of Hollybrook  
**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

Villas of Hollybrook  
**Barb Gresham #30**  
2720 S. 14th Street  
Pekin, IL 61554



At our Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 5, we enjoyed singing, fellowship, coffee & goodies, and made two crafts!



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



# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR FEBRUARY

Please switch with someone as needed.

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
<b>February 02</b>	Tim	Roberta	Mark	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Green
<b>February 09</b>	Dennis	Mary Sipka	Larry	Meri & Valerie	Linda & Sue	Green
<b>February 16</b>	Meri	Sue	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Green
<b>February 23</b>		Larry	Larry	Tim & Leslie	Linda & Sue	Green

## FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART

<b>February 02</b>	
<b>February 09</b>	The Bargas—Mike & Sue's birthdays
<b>February 16</b>	The Barnes—Wedding Anniversary
<b>February 23</b>	
<i>The 2025 Flower Chart is posted—be sure to sign up for a Sunday!</i>	

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.

You can call the office if you would like to sign up for flowers on a Sunday.



The dates for the annual rummage sale have been set:  
**Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17.**  
Proceeds will go to the Pekin Outreach Initiative.



thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations on Monday, Jan. 6.

**Thanks to everyone who helped organize and host the luncheon following the funeral of Dave Sanders.**

We received a Christmas card from Family House thanking us for our continued support.

OSLC Members, The following cold weather gear was delivered to Christian Civic Outreach on Monday, January 6:  
Gloves and Mittens: 42 pairs; Hats and Ear Muffs: 11; Scarves: 3; Socks: 2 pairs; **Total: 58 units**

Thanks to all who donated to this and other projects in 2024.

*-Lee for Outreach Committee*

- “When you love someone, you love the whole person as he or she is, and not as you would like them to be.” —Leo Tolstoy
- “You don’t love someone because they’re perfect; you love them in spite of the fact that they’re not.” —Jodi Picoult
- “Love ... is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses.” —Ann Landers
- “We love because God first loved us.” —1 John 4:19 (NCV)


*from www.churchart.com*



# Anniversaries & Birthdays

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Wayne & Susan Foss—February 8
Pastor & Judy Barnes—February 17
 ANNIVERSARIES

February 4—Gayle Gettman	February 15—Paul Sipka
February 7—Sue Barger	February 29—Mike Barger
February 8—Dennis Eggemeyer	



### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

- Petty Officer **Robert Murphy** (3rd Class)—(nephew of the Dralles)
- 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!

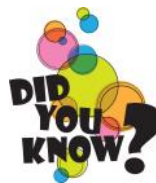


**CONTACT US AT:**

**(309) 346-2600**

**If you have a ministry need, please call the Church office.**

**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!



Committee and Council minutes are posted by the church office. Check out all the hard work our members are doing!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH

- **Wednesday, March 5: Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.:**
- **Wednesdays, March 12, 19, & 26: Mid-Week Lenten Services, 7:00 p.m.**

**Newsletter DEADLINE**



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 want a printed copy monthly, please let Leslie know.**

If you have information you want to be in the next 'Hope on the Hill', please email Leslie Leitner at [leithaus@gmail.com](mailto:leithaus@gmail.com)

**by Wednesday February 26**

at [leithaus@gmail.com](mailto:leithaus@gmail.com). Thank you!

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

<i>President</i>	<b>Tim Leitner</b>	Worship & Music, Finance, Mutual Ministry	tim.j.leitner@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>Mary Sorenson</b>	Outreach & Fellowship, Memorials & Gifts	msorenson75@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Valerie Gettys</b>	Finance	swimmin@yahoo.com
	<b>Mark McCarrell</b>	Finance	markgmc1154@gmail.com
	<b>Teresa Massey</b>	Property	tam42@comcast.net
	<b>Mary Sipka</b>	Christian Education	sipka.mary@gmail.com
	<b>Vickie Rayburn</b>	Worship & Music	tabycat1128.vr@gmail.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.



**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. We would like to create a Digital Production Team.

*Clip art in the newsletter is from www.churchart.com*

### **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, can soups, sugar, coffee, pancake mix, syrup**



#### **CHRISTIAN CIVIC OUTREACH (CCO)**

♥ There is a collection crate by the coat rack for items for CCO.

♥ Paper products and cleaning supplies are always needed.

**Special Needs: jackets, jeans, socks, macaroni & cheese, canned fruit.**

# FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <i>Installation of Council</i> <b>9:00 AM</b></p> <p>Sunday School 10:15 AM</p>		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>9:00 AM</b></p> <p>Sunday School 10:15 AM</p>		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	6:15 PM Finance Mtg  7:00 PM O & F, Chris Ed, Worship & Music Meetings	10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>9:00 AM</b></p> <p>Sunday School 10:15 AM</p>		9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawls  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	9:30 AM Mary/Martha Circle  7:00 PM Council	7:30 AM Men's Breakfast  10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
23	24	25	26	27	28	
<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>9:00 AM</b></p> <p>Sunday School 10:15 AM</p> <p>SUPPER OUT 6:00 PM</p>		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		

March 2025						
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					