



Hope on the Hill

Newsletter

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

A Letter from Pastor

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Out of the Ashes and Into the Arms of Jesus

March 5th begins our 40-day Journey through Lent and as always it begins with Ashes...Genesis 3:19 "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." All is said not to dimish hope, but to reaffirm that this is a reminder - we are not alone, and Jesus born into our world walks with us. Ashes is simply another way to find connection that even in our sinful nature we are made clean by the love and sacrifice of God in and through His Son.

How often we shrink our world being concerned about our daily bread, i.e. those things that keep us afloat even in the pressures of work, world and worry. Losing track that God continues to call us by name and even in our sinfulness, never turns away.

There are two passages I would like to share with you and you might connect with during your Journey through Lent.

The first is the story of Lazarus. You know that story which

is found in John 11. It starts out simply saying, "Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha." Ashes come into play for Lazarus does die. Mary and Martha both say, "Lord, if you have been here our brother would not have died." Jesus makes the needed connection... "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." Even so, Jesus weeps and for a while, Lazarus is given life. But our connection is even beyond death there is life! Do we live in that hope during this Lenten season and beyond?

The second story is about Mary Magdalene at the tomb. This is also found in John chapter 20. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early on the first day of the week. Saw the stone rolled away thinking someone had stolen the body. Angels and unrecognized Jesus ask her... "Woman why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Not until Jesus spoke her name... "Mary!" did she know. A good Lenten question for you and me...whom are

we looking for? Is Lent a journey of hope or simply a time getting ready to work in the garden? An eternal connection for us as Jesus speaks your name as well.

Lent, we begin with the Ashes of Genesis but understand Jesus walks with us even unto death, for he is the Resurrection and the Life, and we conclude the with celebration of the empty tomb knowing death is overcome with the promise of life eternal!

Let's journey together this Lenten season and celebrate the joy of Easter on April 20th.

Wednesdays of Lent all begin at 7 p.m. using the Haugen Evening prayer as Sonja plays for us. Sundays will use the theme of "Savior, Servant, Friend." Let's stay connected in hope this Lenten Season!

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: oslcpkin1@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 wars

Jacque D. (health concerns)

Sandy Brooks (health concerns)

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

Craig B., Chad W., David A., Marithaza B.

Paul S. (failing health)

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

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

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

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



On **Ash Wednesday, March 5**, we begin our 40 day journey toward Easter. Our service will be at **7:00 p.m.**

Our Sundays of Lent worship services begin at 9:00 a.m.

- March 9: Jesus our Healer
- March 16: Jesus, Listener
- March 23: Jesus our Encourager
- March 30: Jesus our Protector
- April 6: Jesus our Comforter

Holy Week Services:

- April 13: Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), 9:00 a.m.
- April 17: Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
- April 18: Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Celebration Worship, 9:00 a.m.



Midweek Lenten services will be at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays of Lent.

- March 12: 'Sight'
- March 19: 'Sound'
- March 26: 'Scent'
- April 2: 'Touch'
- April 9: 'Taste'

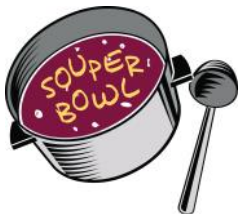


Mary/Martha Circle is collecting items for **Health Kits** again this year. A box is under the coat rack for your donations. Thank you for your help!

Listed 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.



OSLC participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring again this year. Collected for the Christian Civic Outreach were donations of 41 cans of soup, 11 cans of vegetables, and 28 other items (80 items total). Thank you!!

-Outreach & Fellowship

The Memorials & Gifts Committee has designated \$400.00 for books for the church library. Since there was water damage in the library, books had to be discarded.



If you have suggestions for devotional books, resource books, books to read, etc., please contact Melanie, Darlene, or Leslie.



Remember to set your clocks forward so you will be on time for church on **March 9!**

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.



MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

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



Pastor Barnes leads the
Thursday Morning Bible Study each week.

Note: This group will 'pause' until after Easter.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, March 11**, 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, March 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



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

The Chosen

For the first time ever, the greatest story ever told is being presented as a multi-season show. Primarily set in Judea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series depicts the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people who meet him. The first four seasons of The Chosen cover Jesus's ministry, his interactions with disciples, and his public ministry.

Season 1-Jesus begins to build his group of disciples; Jesus performs his first miracles, including turning water into wine; Jesus meets with the Pharisee Nicodemus; Jesus launches his public ministry after revealing himself to a Samaritan woman.....and more!!

Season 2-Jesus's fame grows, which causes tension among the disciples; introduction of Simon the Zealot, the disciples traveling to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Tabernacles, where Jesus performs miracles and facings growing hostility from religious leaders. The disciples struggle with their own doubts and shortcomings as they try to fully comprehend Jesus' message and teachings.

Season 3-Jesus commissions the Apostles to preach and perform miracles; Jesus returns to his hometown, Nazareth; Matthew's estrangement from family; Jesus feeds thousands with loaves and fishes and walks on water. And much more!

Season 4-focuses on the final year of Jesus's ministry, beginning with the death of John the Baptist; Jesus faces increasing scrutiny and hostility from the religious leaders, particularly the Sanhedrin, as his ministry gains momentum; Judas' motivations and internal conflict become more apparent as he grapples with his loyalty to Jesus while considering the practical implications of Jesus' teachings. The season ends with Jesus getting on the donkey and people starting to wave palm branches.

This series, The Chosen, is available free on The Chosen App, several streaming services or on **4 DVDs at the Our Savior Lutheran Library!** Check it out today! Consider watching the first 4 seasons during Lent! Season 5 will be shown in segments in March in theaters; available elsewhere later.
Melanie Fleming

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MARCH

Please switch with someone as needed.

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
March 02	Meri	Larry	Larry	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	White
March 09	Melanie	Sue B.	Dennis	Meri & Valerie	Lee & Mary	Purple
March 16	Tim	Roberta	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Linda & Sue H.	Purple
March 23	Dennis	Mary Sipka	Mark	Tim & Leslie	Lee & Mary	Purple
March 30	Melanie	Sue B.	Leo	Meri & Valerie	Tim & Leslie	Purple

MARCH FLOWER CHART

March 02	Tim & Leslie Leitner—Juliette Leitner's 2nd birthday
March 09	
March 16	
March 23	<i>The 2025 Flower Chart is posted— be sure to sign up for a Sunday!</i>
March 30	

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.



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.

Greg Ranney from Pekin Outreach Initiative spoke to Our Savior after the worship service on Sunday, February 16.



Highlights included:

- over 1400 snack packs a week for are prepared and distributed for students in Pekin, Rankin, and South Pekin Schools.
- Goals are set for those they help and they create a schedule for completion.
- There is a social worker on staff to help with paperwork, etc.

We very much appreciated all the insight he provided for us!

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Let the rain come and wash away
The ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
Held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and
Fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us
whenever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that
we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness
of the sun melt our selfishness.
So that we can share the joys and
Feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun
Be so strong that we will see all
People as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain,
Bring forth flowers
To surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts
To reach upward to heaven.
Amen.

Rabbi Harold S. Kushner
submitted by Roberta S.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Darlene Daniels—March 12
Charlie & Jacque Davis—March 21
Bruce & Gayle Gettman—March 29



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1—Dale Atkinson	March 24—Bennett Baal
March 18—Leslie Leitner	March 26—Mary Sorenson
March 22—Charlie Davis	



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:

- 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!

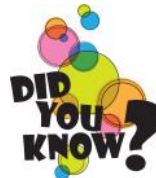


CONTACT US AT:

(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 APRIL

- Wednesdays April 6—Midweek Lenten Service, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 13—Passion Sunday
- Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 18—Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday

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!



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.**

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 by **Wednesday March 26** at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

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



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.

MARCH 2025 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
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2 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM	3	4 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	5  7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	6 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	7	8 																																																	
9 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM	10	11 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawls 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics 7:00 PM O&F/Chris Ed	12 7:00 PM Lenten Service 7:45 PM Finance	13 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	14	15																																																	
16 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM 10:15 AM Worship & Music Meeting	17 	18 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	19 9:30 AM Mary/Martha Circle 7:00 PM Lenten Service 7:45 PM Council	20 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	21	22																																																	
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Fasting and feasting

During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Hope on the Hill Newsletter

