

Hope on the Hill

Newsletter

VOLUME I, ISSUE 3

Pastor's Letter

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Is it enough to listen to the Bible?

Do not merely listen to the Word, but remember and “do” the Word.

James 1:23-25 ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[a] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

I look at old pictures of myself and exclaim – “surely not!” I had hair, was thinner and many less wrinkles had invaded my face – yet! Even now, when getting ready in the morning, yes, I use a mirror to shave, etc. But in many ways my eyes have become unseeing of not just the physical features, but what’s going on “inside.”

Oh, we can take time to be more reflective, especially when life either emotionally or physically is not going well. Usually, we grow inured (means numb) to the person standing before the mirror. In the love of family and friends we might get a view of how others perceive us and hopefully lift us up to share strengthened

relationships.

I suppose there could be the idea that forgetting what we look like in the mirror may make the day go better or be positive? But I think like Jacob at the Jabbok river wrestling all night with a “man” and wouldn’t let go, there is confession going on. Jacob cheated and stole Esau’s blessing. Jacob swindled Laban and ended up with both Leah and Rachel. Now there is confession, who are you really, Jacob? (*Genesis 27-32 if you would like to read the whole story*)

Who are YOU really, as we wrestle many nights within ourselves, struggling to see our relationship with God and others. James makes it clear that hope, faith and change come as we put the Word into practice and do not forget the minute we close our Bibles.

God’s Word is meant to be a “living word” inside of us and guide our view of self and life. It’s like buying that Barbeque grill, opening the box, quickly seeing the directions and saying, “I can do this.” “I can do this,” until you get down to the last missing nut or something doesn’t fit.

God’s Word is meant to “fit” our living or maybe cause us to “wrestle.”

Either way it has to be more than just a morning mirror time! Especially right now as the world is struggling and we can lose ourselves in the chaos. Especially right now as we cannot come together in community as easily or as much as would like.

Live each day with the Word! That could be a great refrigerator phrase. Don’t forget that God created us in His image, in His likeness and love was born unto us in Bethlehem. So each day is about God’s persistent and steadfast love for you and me. We are free because of God’s love and sacrifice in Jesus our Lord! Remember the verses from 1 Corinthians 13:12-13 *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

Peace, Pastor Barnes

Thank you for your faithfulness and community as we move forward through these unclear and often difficult times. Jesus says, I am with you always, even unto the close of the age!

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD
PEKIN, IL 61554

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Barnes
Email: barnes.stephen9@gmail.com

Church Office: (309) 346-2600
Gerry Reynolds, Secretary

Church email: oslcpekin1@gmail.com

Website: www.oslchopeonthehill.org

**Sunday Worship
Service 9:00 a.m.**
Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

A reminder for all of us:

Please be sure to let Pastor know about committee meeting times & dates. Use this email: barnes.stephen9@gmail.com or contact him on his cell phone. It would also be helpful to include him on committee emails. Thank you!!

This is also the best way to contact him with personal requests and needs.

Per the Christian Education Committee, the Adult Sunday School class *may* resume on September 20, the third Sunday of September, depending on pandemic restrictions and the interest of members. The All-Congregation educational programs are *on hold*, probably until after the beginning of 2021.

NEWS & EVENTS

REMEMBER:

- *Wear a mask
- *Watch your distance
- *Wash your hands

COVID-19
UPDATES

*Worship Services continue on **Sundays at 9:00 a.m.** We are happy to say they are well-attended! We also celebrate that Lillian played the prelude August 23 on the electric piano! We have missed hearing her play.*

Our aim is to minimize the risk for all that wish to attend these worship service. Only attend if you feel comfortable coming to church during this time. *We do ask that you wear a mask entering the building and during the service.* There will be masks available in case you do not have one. There will be hand sanitizer at several locations.

We are having worship in the **Parish hall**. Chairs are spaced out in order to maintain distancing. We ask that you sit in family/household units during worship. Communion is not being celebrated yet, but see the information below. The bulletin is being projected onto a screen. We are speaking together, but not singing.

We are still posting the Sunday bulletin to our website and our Facebook page. We are filming Pastor on Thursdays, not during the Sunday service.

We will continue to monitor the virus situation and make changes as needed or required. We appreciate your patience, support and prayers as we continue to meet together for worship.

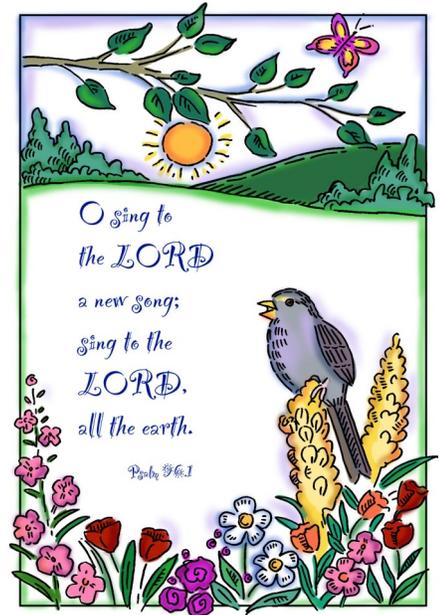
Communion Update: The Worship & Music Committee has been working on plans for safely preparing and celebrating Holy Communion at Our Savior. We plan to implement several procedures that SAM Tim Leitner used when he was at Immanuel Lutheran in Lincoln, IL in August. During communion, you will be able to pick up your own wafer and communion cup. We are tentatively planning on Sunday, September 13 as our first worship service with communion.

If you are interested in being a part of the communion preparation team please contact Tim Leitner. Many thanks to Mary & Lee who have volunteered already. Pastor or Tim will show you what is involved with this important duty.

Prayer Concerns as of August 23, 2020

Deena Burkholder (treatment for cancer)
Leonard Bina (Mary Sorenson's uncle, injured when a garage door fell on him)
Family of Brandon Clor (friend of the Sorensons)
Joan (Keas) Johnson (health concerns)
Prayers for all those with COVID-19
Betty Barnes (Pastor Barnes' mother, on hospice)
Nichole (Barger's niece, health concerns)
Doretta Godby (Elsa's sister, suffered a stroke)
Phil Bolam (Cancer treatments)
Gus Marzinzik (health concerns—Sue Barger's father)
Lil Marzinzik (Sue Barger's mom, health concerns)
George Sipka (Teresa Massey's father; health concerns, & guidance in caregiving for his wife, Teresa's stepmother)
Ron Garber
Chad Wahl
Craig Brooks
Ryan Montgomery (Gerry Reynold's son)

(Contact Gerry with any additions, deletions, corrections or updates)



The Outreach & Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to make updates to the our sign at the entrance. This is visible to passing motorists on Sheridan Road. Contact Lee Sorenson, or the church office, if you can help with this! Thank you—you can make a difference! And thanks Melanie & Lily would for offering to be a part of this team.

This committee & the Property committee are looking into replacing the sign, as it is in bad shape (broken plexiglass, broken parts, screws rusting and some not working.)

Anniversaries & Birthdays

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Phil & Beth Dralle—September 22
Mike & Courtney Dralle—September 29


SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 10—Jacque Davis	
Sept. 20—Rita Wahl	
Sept. 21—Garold Burkholder	
Sept. 27—Pastor Barnes—his 70th!	

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.

Our Synod has connected churches in the Synod with other churches, creating "Sister Congregations". Our sister church is St. John's in Bluffs, Illinois (near Jacksonville, IL).



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands. www.elca.org

"Faithing Forward"



Rooted in Faith Forward in Hope

Prayer Chain at Our Savior

Call the Church office with your prayer request 346-2600 or [email oslcepekin1@gmail.com](mailto:oslcepekin1@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.



CONTACT US AT:

(309) 346-2600

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

We continue to pray for those in the Military:

Petty Officer **Robert Murphy** (3rd Class)—(nephew of Phil & Beth Dralle); **Nick Marzinzik** (Air Force Reserves, Mike & Sue Barger's nephew); **Ensign Tary N. Voller**—San Diego USN (Doris Voller)



We will continue to post the Sunday bulletin to our website and our Facebook page. There are links within the bulletin to great music, and Pastor or Tim's spoken sermon. Be sure to check the website tab:

'News & Events'—'Sunday Service Material' and keep an eye on your email!

<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/index.php/news-and-events/sunday-service-material/>

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Our Savior
Newsletter
Lutheran

If you have information you want to be in the next 'Hope on the Hill', please email Leslie Leitner by Sunday, Sept. 20

at leitner@grics.net. Thank you!

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL			
President	Leslie Leitner	Worship & Music, Memorials & Gifts	leithaus@gmail.com
Vice President	Leo Stiles	Property, Memorials & Gifts	lastiles1@gmail.com
Secretary	Melanie Fleming	Christian Education	melaniefleming@comcast.net
Treasurer	Garold Burkholder	Finance & Stewardship	gburkholder21@comcast.net
	Steve Gresham	Property	gramg95@comcast.net
	Meri Arnold	Worship & Music	arnoldmeri15@gmail.com
	Dennis Eggemeyer	Outreach & Fellowship	dle_61554@yahoo.com
	Pastor Barnes	Pastor	barnes.stephen9@gmail.com

September	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION SETUP	PARAMENT COLOR
Sept. 6	Meri	Roberta	Ken or Mark	Steve & Barb	—	Green
Sept. 13	Dennis	Dennis	Ken or Mark	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Green
Sept. 20	Tim	Roberta	Ken or Mark	Leo & Roberta	Mary & Lee	Green
Sept. 27	Melanie	Melanie	Ken or Mark	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Green

SEPTEMBER FLOWER CHART



September 6	
September 13	
September 20	Phil & Beth Dralle—47th Wedding Anniversary
September 27	Pastor & Judy Barnes—Pastor's 70th Birthday

Reminder: There are meetings & other events occurring at Our Savior, so remember the 3 'W's'! (Wear a mask, Watch your distance, Wash your hands.)

We continue to stay steady financially. Thank you for mailing your offerings to Our Savior. Please continue to do so if you opt to not attend worship services—thank you!!



Online Bulletin

A laptop for the church has been purchased and is in use. Many thanks to Lily for being our 'person-in-charge' of working the bulletin during the service (& Melanie for being her sub.)

Thanks also go to Ken Wehr—he has reset the timer for the lights in the foyer, and replaced the lock on the supply closet by the secretary's office so the cart with the laptop and the projector can be locked away when not in use. He has also turned on the air conditioners in the Parish Hall on Saturday nights, in order to cool it down for Sunday's service. **HOWEVER**, it would be nice to have more volunteers to do this brief but important duty on Saturdays while the hot weather continues. **Please contact Ken if you are able to help!** Thanks.

The theme of our Stewardship Program this year is

"Psalm 23: My Cup Overflows"

Stewardship Sundays will be October 4, 11, and 18.

More information will be coming!

October 25 is Reformation Sunday.

SEPTEMBER 2020 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	7:00 PM Outreach Comm.	10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM <i>Please Wear Your Mask</i>	Labor Day 	6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	10:00 AM Finance 1:30 PM Property	10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	 WE WILL NEVER FORGET PATRIOT DAY	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM <i>Please Wear Your Mask</i>		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	7:00 PM Council Meeting	10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM <i>Please Wear Your Mask</i> Sunday School 10:15 AM		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
27	28	29	30			
WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM <i>Please Wear Your Mask</i> Sunday School 10:15 AM		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics				

October 2020						
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

Christian Symbol: Cross Crosslet

This cross is formed of four smaller Latin crosses joined at their overlapping bases. The cross as a whole represents the spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the earth. This cross is often used in connection with missions.



Activity Page



from www.newsletternewsletter.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 RIGHT NOW include: cereal, canned fruit, bottled juice, peanut butter, can 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.

CURRENT SPECIAL NEEDS: CRACKERS, CEREAL, BLANKETS, & SOCKS

"Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith."

—Henry Ward Beecher

—STAYING—

CONNECTED