



Hope on the Hill

Newsletter

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

A Letter from Pastor

Lament as an Act of Faith

I don't know about you, but I find that I cannot be "happy" or all things going well – all the time! Then what happens? Lament.

The first thing that comes to my mind is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane praying: Mark 14:35-36 *And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba," Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.*"

Probably and most often not facing the death that Jesus was praying about, but maybe it felt like a "death" in facing health issues, life issues, relationship issues, loneliness issues and I know you can name more.

Sometimes we ask the heartfelt question: "How long, O Lord? Will you utterly forget me?" (Psalm 13:2). Notice that Jesus is still praying and connected to God even in these times. From the cross..."My God, my God,

why have you forsaken me?" And yet, "into your hands I give my Spirit" says Jesus from the cross.

Understand clearly that doubt and anguish are not opposed to faith: DESPAIR is. St. Paul reminds us that everyone might be "perplexed, but not driven to despair." (2 Corinthians 4:8)

We are journeying through Lent and on our Wednesday worship time we will explore the various facets of "Lament." Journeying toward the idea that "lament" is not a failure of faith, but an act of faith. Jesus was praying to God and never stopped that connection.

Think about this...Over one third (50 or so) of the psalms are laments. Jesus often went off to pray, to stay connected with OUR Heavenly Father. Remember again in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus took Peter, James and John and began to be distressed and agitated...stay with me, he said and keep awake. Of course, they fell asleep. Sometimes I feel like "lament" is difficult but helpful when others can bring presence and support.

Sometimes I may feel like I'm at the end of the proverbial "rope." It helps to stay connected to one another and most of all that God is there for you! Jesus trusted all he was and will be for us, to God.

On Wednesday, February 21 in our evening worship we read from Lamentations 3:22-24 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

If you need prayers...call. If you can come and be with us either on Wednesdays or Sundays...support is here. Remember again...Lament is not a failure of faith, but an act of faith. As in the Garden of Gethsemane, we cry out to our God.

Blessings, Strength and Peace be with you,

Pastor Stephen Barnes

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD
PEKIN, IL 61554

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
Website: www.oslchopeonthehill.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study 10:15 a.m.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

www.elca.org

Prayer Concerns

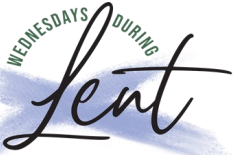
- Ken Wehr (recovering in Florida)
- Donna Fleming (Melanie's mother-in-law, health concerns)
- Dave Sanders (at Independence Village)
- Vickie Rayburn (healing from surgery)
- Carolyn (Mike Barger's sister, health concerns)
- Garold Burkholder (health concerns)
- David Aper (brother of Rita Wahl—Prayer of JOY! CAT scan shows no cancer)
- Paul Sipka (health concerns)
- Jim & Mary Kay Johnson (health concerns; Mary Kay is at The Loft in East Peoria)
- Marithaza Barger (chronic hip problems)
- Lil Marzinik (Sue Barger's mother, health concerns)
- Chad Wahl
- Lily Fleming (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.



Our **7:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Services** theme is "Holy Lament."
Thank you to Sonja Sanders who is playing piano for the Haugen Evening Prayer.



Our **9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service** theme is "Guided to the Cross."



Our **9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service** is on **March 24**.
The theme is "Guided to Humility," James 4:10



Our **Maundy Thursday Service** is **7:00 p.m. March 28**.
The theme is "Guided to Service," Romans 7:6

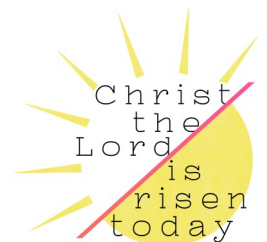


Our **Good Friday Service** is **7:00 p.m. March 29**.
The theme is "Guided to Sacrifice," Hebrews 10:12



Our **Easter Sunday Service** is **9:00 a.m. March 31**.
The theme is "Guided to New Life!," Romans 7:6

Join us for the celebration at worship and stay for the coffee fellowship!



There will be a Coffee Fellowship after the Easter worship service. Sign up on one of the sheets posted on the bulletin board.

You may wish to order a lily for the sanctuary at Easter. Easter Lilies are \$20.00 per lily. We ask that they be paid for when they are ordered or before the order is turned into the florist. Place the order form in the offering plate during the service, or mail to the church.

Orders **must** be turned in **NO LATER** than **March 4**.

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION

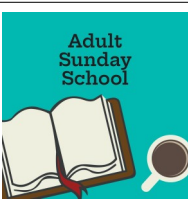


Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be
Thursday, March 21
at Pekin American Grill
7:30 a.m.



Mary/Martha Circle
meets on
Wednesday, March 20, 9:30 a.m.
at Our Savior



The Adult Sunday School class is held in the Gathering Room after the worship service. We are studying the names and attributes of God by looking up scripture and having informal discussions. We have several Bibles to choose from (including large print) or bring your own! There will be coffee available.



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!

NOTE: No Bible Study in March. We will resume in April.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, March 12,** at **9:30 a.m.** at the church.

We would appreciate any regular weight yarn donations—we have a good supply of white at this time but need some colors. Thank you!! Come join us to make shawls or lap blankets!

SUPPER OUT



Watch for information regarding the next 'Supper Out'!

The Zoom call meetings are *suspended* until we learn of more participants. Thank you!



The Mary/Martha Circle is again this year requesting items for health kits:

- 1 towel & washcloth
- 1 comb
- 1 nail clippers or file
- 1 bar wrapped bath size soap
- 1 new toothbrush (individually wrapped)
- 4-7 oz. tube of toothpaste
- 1 shampoo 6-15 oz.
- 1 disposable razor
- 1 deodorant (1.0-2 oz.)

Health  Kits

There will be a box where you can place your items—thank you!



Way to go OSLC! Matthew 25:40, in part, "Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these, my brothers, you have done it to Me."

Souper Bowl of Caring deliveries to Christian Civic Outreach (CCO):

Soup-71 cans, Peanut Butter-7 jars, Other-33 items. Total—111 nonperishables.

Thanks to OSLC from Christian Civic Outreach and those it serves.

Lee Sorenson, Outreach & Fellowship

thank you

A very late, a very well deserved THANK YOU to Darlene for making my last delivery of Angel Tree Gifts before Christmas 2023 AND then Darlene also helped me to get the new ribbons in the hymnals. A very big Blessing she was.

-Meri Arnold

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MARCH

Please switch with someone as needed.

| | LAY ASSISTANT | LAY READER | USHERS | TELLERS | COMMUNION Set up & Clean up | PARAMENT COLOR |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| March 03 | Melanie | Roberta | Mark | Tim & Valerie | Tim & Leslie | Purple |
| March 10 | Melanie | Sue | Dennis | Leo & Roberta | Lee & Mary | Purple |
| March 17 | Meri | Larry | Larry | Meri & Valerie | Linda & Sue | Purple |
| March 24 | Dennis | Mary | Leo | Leo & Roberta | Tim & Leslie | Purple |
| March 31 | Meri | Sue | Leo | Leo & Roberta | Linda & Sue | Gold |

The 2024 Flower Chart is posted—be sure to sign up for a Sunday or more!

MARCH FLOWER CHART

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| March 03 | Atkinsons—Dale's birthday |
| March 10 | Daniels—Anniversary |
| March 17 | Leitners—Juliette's 1st birthday & Leslie's birthday |
| March 24 | Sorensens—Mary's birthday |
| March 31 | Easter Lilies |

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 will only be receiving **ONE** vase of flowers; your cost will be **\$30.00.**

The Finance Committee would like to encourage donations to the Capital Improvement Fund. Recent and upcoming improvements include boiler repair, the parking lot, and tuckpointing the chimney over the library.

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL



The annual Rummage Sale will be Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27
A signup sheet will be posted to sign up to help.
Donated items may be delivered to church lounge area AFTER Easter.

- **Thursday, April 4:** 10:00 a.m. Bible Study resumes
- **Friday, April 26:** Rummage Sale
- **Saturday, April 27:** Rummage Sale

If you would like to send a card or note to Ken & Bev Wehr, here is their Florida address:

Ken & Bev Wehr
5429 Peppertree Dr. B-9
Fort Myers FL 33908-2121



Dave has a new room number:

Dave Sanders
Independence Village
Room #314
1201 W. Northmoor Road
Peoria, IL 61614



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 | |
| | |
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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: oslcpokin1@gmail.com.

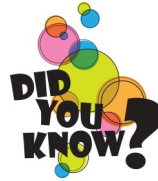
An email will be sent to all members when a prayer request is received. Members without an email address may ask that they be called when a prayer request is sent out.

► *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*)
Ensign Tary N. Voller—San Diego USN



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



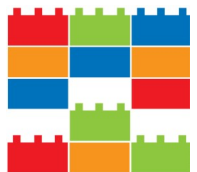
CONTACT US AT:

(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!

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!



PHILIP & ANDREW GROWTH GROUP

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 **BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27***

at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Mark McCarrell | Mutual Ministry, Worship & Music, Finance | markgmc1154@gmail.com |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Tim Leitner | Memorials & Gifts, Worship & Music, Finance, Stewardship | tim.j.leitner@gmail.com |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Valerie Gettys | Finance | swimmin@yahoo.com |
| | Meri Arnold | Christian Education | arnoldmeri9@gmail.com |
| | Leo Stiles | Property | lastiles1@gmail.com |
| | Mary Sipka | Outreach & Fellowship | sipka.mary@gmail.com |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Mary Sorenson | Outreach & Fellowship | Msorenson75@gmail.com |
| | 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.



The 2024 Annual Meeting of Our Savior Lutheran Church was held on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

All of the 2023 Council members were re-elected to the 2024 Council—thank you! Officers are again Mark, President; Tim, Vice President; & Valerie, Secretary.

New committee assignments are Meri Arnold to Christian Education and Mary Sipka to Outreach & Fellowship. Other committee assignments are listed above.



Online Bulletin

The Sunday worship bulletin is posted to our website and our Facebook page, usually by Saturday afternoon.

Our website link is:

www.oslchopeonthehill.org

The video of Pastor or Tim's sermon is within the bulletin, as are some music videos. Pastor also records the Gospel reading and the Children's message. Hope you take a look! It is also emailed to our members.

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 2024 CALENDAR

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 AM | 4 | 5 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics | 6 7:00 PM Lenten Service | 7 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 AM Finance mtg Property mtg | 11 | 12 9:30 AM Prayer Shawls 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics | 13 7:00 PM Lenten Service O & F/Chris Ed and W & M mtgs after service | 14 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 AM | 18 | 19 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics | 20 9:30 AM Mary/Martha 7:00 PM Lenten Service Council mtg after service | 21 7:30 AM Men's Group Pekin American Grill 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics | 22 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY SERVICE 9:00 AM Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 AM | 25 | 26 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics | 27 | 28 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service | 29 7:00 PM Good Friday Service | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 EASTER SERVICE 9:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM | | | | | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">April 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | April 2024 | | | | | | | 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 | | | | |
| April 2024 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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