



"THE STARTER"

January 2026

Rev. Mark Harder, Minister

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Baby Baptism



Olivia Ann Kline
Parents: Sarah Gilligan, Robert Kline
Big Brother: Max Kline



It's that time of the year again, those responsible (pastor, clerk, financial secretary, treasurer, historian, moderator, session board, music, nominating, verification and membership) it's time to get your reports in. The Annual Report will be available for review on Sunday, January 18th.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
January 25, 2026
Immediately following the worship service
Followed by:
THE ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER
Please bring a dish to pass as well as your own table service.



60+ Group

Everyone 60 & over is invited to attend our next gathering on January 7th, from 5PM to 6:30PM. The evening will center around "giving" as we do a special (easy!) project for PADS & sing Christmas carols. We'll enjoy hot beef sliders & apple cider, please sign up to bring chips or a handheld dessert. Don't forget to bring a canned good for the IV Pantry.



January 15, 2026 at 10:00AM in the parsonage.



Youth Event
January 18, 2026
4:00PM – 5:30PM



Pizza Praise and Prayer
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
5:00PM





Liberty Village Service
NO JANUARY SERVICE

VBS

It's that time again. Everyone interested in helping, volunteering for this year's program, please plan to attend. EVERYONE IS INVITED. We will be brainstorming our program.

God has two thrones, one in the highest heavens,
The other in the lowliest heart.

D.L. Moody



All Church Breakfast

Enjoy breakfast and a time of fellowship.
Liberty Family Restaurant at 9:00AM.
January 31, 2026
9:00AM

Adult Sunday School

Jan. 4	Parable of the Tenants	Mark 12:1-12
Jan. 11	Signs of the End of the Age	Mark 13:1-31
Jan. 18	The Last Supper	Mark 14:12-26
Jan. 25	Crucifixion Death of Jesus	Mark 15: 21-41

Food Pantries and Illinois Valley Pads

There are donation boxes on the table for any financial donations to the two food pantries and PADS. And please do some shopping at Lily Pads. All sales help support the homeless shelter.

Sermon Series

Jan. 4	The Greatest Commandment	Mark 12:28-34
Jan. 11	Day And How Unknown	Mark 13:32-37
Jan. 18	Jesus Anointed	Mark 14:1-11
Jan. 25	Barabbas Instead of Jesus	Mark 15:1-15

Session Board Meeting Summary

The **Session Board** held its monthly meeting December 10. **Christian ED** reported that the Samaritan Purse shoe boxes were shipped. Also a Noon New Year's Eve party is planned for all ages on 12/31. Planning for VBS will begin in January. The **Diaconate** have the Christmas Eve Candle Light service planned. The **Trustees** are addressing issues that continue with the heating system (boiler). A leak has been addressed. A work day will be set for the basement to be cleaned. **Pastor** reported the 60+ group had to cancel their December gathering due to the weather. We had the privilege of baptizing Olivia Kline on December 14. Pastor will be gone January 26-30 for a Mid Winter Pastors Conference and vacation February 2-8. Dean will be in the pulpit February 8. Pastor will finish the Gospel of Mark sermon series upon his return in February and follow that with 13 weeks of Acts. **Discussion Group** will have their Christmas luncheon on December 17 at 11:30 at 4 Star Restaurant. The **Liberty Village** gathering on December 23 at 3:30 will be caroling for the residents. The **all church breakfast** will be December 20 at 9 a.m. at Liberty Restaurant. Members who are interested in filling Session Board and committee vacancies should speak with one of the **Nominating Committee** members. The next board meeting will be **January 14 at 5:00 p.m.**

The Glory of the Seasons

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us that: 'There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.' Let's think about that for a bit. Each season is glorious. The glory of summer is different from the glory of fall. And the splendor of winter is different from spring.

God takes us through different seasons in our lives; seasons of rejoicing, mourning, saying hello and goodbye, building up and tearing down. The glory of the season of rejoicing is laughter, refreshment and revitalization. The gift of the season of mourning can be profound intimacy with the Lord. Whatever the current season, it will not last. We can no more remain in one season of life than one kind of weather can last throughout the year. Life brings seasons of both mourning and dancing, times of embracing and times to refrain from embracing.

The key of course, is to remember that God is at work within us in each season. We are not always aware of what God is doing; often each season brings about change and growth. God begins the good work, sustains it and will bring it to completion.

Thank you, God for the glory of each season. May we fulfil your purposes throughout our lives. How are you growing in this season of life?



Peru Lighted Christmas Parade

Dec. 6 2025

We will be decorating at 9:00AM at Dean's shop in LaSalle. Please meet at the church 3:15PM for costumes and getting ready. Parade line up is 4:00PM. Parade starts at 5:00PM. If you're interested in participating please sign up on the welcome table. Donations of candy will be accepted!



Ken Troyan of Flutes for Vets providing Special Music

If you missed him, he will be returning December 21st with special Christmas music.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆
Piano Recitals

Dec. 13 *Faith Salander's Class* 3:00PM

Dec. 14 *Inna Chesney's Class* 2:00PM

Advent Readers

Nov. 3 *Saleen Farling, Jeremiah Farling,
Diana Dornbusch*

Dec. 7 Mike & Katie Beuster, Abby Redmon

Dec. 14 Jeanne VanSchaick, Evan Hall

Dec. 21 Jane Gabrielse, Jen Ebner, Theresa
Panicucci

Dec. 24 Jim & Diana Dornbusch

Mitten Tree

We will once again be collecting gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats for our mitten tree in the narthex. All items will be distributed to area schools.



Christmas Eve Service

We will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with candlelit filled service at 9:00PM on Christmas Eve. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.

Anne LaMott

Give people a bit of your Heart

rather than a piece of your mind.

*Every phone needs a charger,
Every car needs an engine,
And every soul needs Jesus!*

Amen!

APPLE CRISP

3# quality apples, cut in pieces

1 Cup Flour

½ Cup butter

1 Cup brown sugar

Lemon zest and juice over apples

Mix ingredients

Place in 7x7 greased pan

Bake at 375 degrees for about 30 minutes

Double recipe for 9x13 pan.



"Noon" Year's Eve Celebration

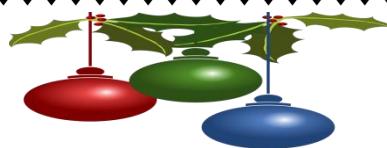
Join us December 31st at "noon" to celebrate the new year. Please sign up on the welcome table, bring an appetizer to share. Everyone is welcome!!

Carrot Cake

2 C. Flour	2C. Sugar
1 tsp. Baking Soda	1-1/2 C. Vegetable Oil
1 tsp. Baking Powder	4 Eggs
Pinch of Salt	3 C. grated raw carrots or
1tsp. Cinnamon	2 jars junior baby carrots

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil and blend. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating after each. Add carrots and blend. Add vanilla. Grease and flour pans. You may use 3 layer pans or a tube pan or 9X13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. If using tube pan, bake 1 hour. Serves 12

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING: Cream together ½ stick of butter, 4 ounces cream cheese, ½ box confectioners sugar. Add enough milk to spread easily.



Hanging of the Greens

The halls will be decked for Advent on Sunday, November 30th immediately after the worship service. Stay and hang a few ornaments. It's great fun!



5 Benefits of Daily Walks

Walking might seem simple, and you may even wonder if it's enough by itself, but it's actually very beneficial when it comes to improving your health.

Whether you're already taking daily walks for your health and mental well-being or have just been thinking about where to start, this guide will help you understand the benefits of walking and how to make it an enjoyable part of your daily routine.

1. Walking can help boost your heart health

Walking is one of the finest exercises to ensure a healthier heart and better health in general. It lowers your blood pressure, improves circulation, and can even reduce your risk of heart disease and strokes if you can manage a brisk easy walk for 20 to 30 minutes each day. Don't worry, you won't have to go too far – even just a walk around the block can help.

2. Walking is gentle on your joints

It will keep you flexible and strengthen your muscles. Walk on softer surfaces like grass or dirt when possible since it's easier on your knees and hips.

3. Clears the mind and boosts the mood

Walking is not just good for your body; it is also a great way to reduce stress and get you out of your head. Consider leaving your phone at home to really enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Take in the sunshine and listen to the birds chirp. If you're feeling social, ask a friend to join you.

4. Improves balance and mobility

It strengthens your core and leg muscles and enables you to move and maintain your coordination. Try to be really mindful of your posture when you walk. Stand tall, engage your core, and take slow and steady steps.

5. Make it an enjoyable part of your routine

Listen to music, look for new and interesting paths.

While walking may be one of the more basic forms of exercise, it's an excellent boost for seniors and retirees who are worried about maintaining their health. It supports your body, improves your mental well-being; and can be a great source of routine and joy.

Congregational Dinner



Our church family will be celebrating God's blessings with a congregational dinner on Sunday, November 23rd immediately following the worship service. Turkey and gravy will be provided. You are asked to bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert plus your own table service.



Please join us Wednesday evening, November 26th at 6:30PM as we thank our loving and gracious Lord for the bounty He continually bestows on us.





New Members
Diane Mroz, Nancy Balda



Congratulations Confirmation Class of 2025
Evan Hall
Jeremiah Farling
Saleen Farling
Theresa Panicucci
Abigail Redmon



Covenant Harbor Trip



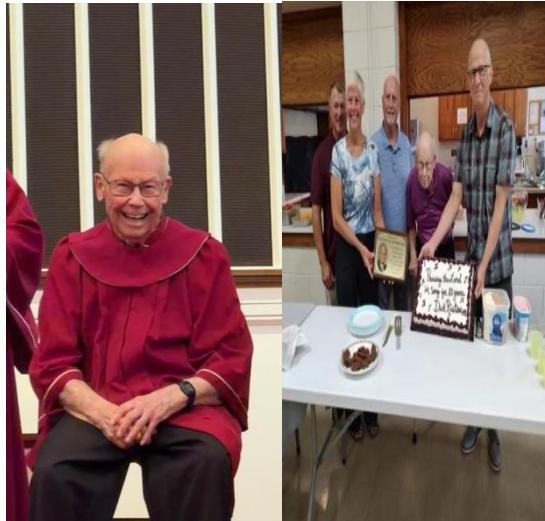
PEORIA CHIEFS GAME



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2025 Christmas in July Vendor Show



80 Years in the Choir



Father's Day Root Beer Floats



Cub Scout God and Me Award

2025 Wonder Junction VBS



VBS STAFF



VBS JUNIOR CLASS



VBS ELEMENTARY CLASS



VBS 2025



VBS PRESCHOOL CLASS



Pastor Mark Pied

Ladies Tea 2025



Peru Lighted Christmas Parade 2024



Sunday Funday



Baptism



*Olivia Ann Kline
Parents: Sarah Gilligan, Robert Kline
Big Brother: Max Kline*

I don't walk with God. I can't keep up with him. He walks with me, and waits for me every time I fall behind.



The Power of Bended Knee

Birds go to sleep on theirs perches, but they never fall off. This is because the tendons in the bird's legs are constructed so that when the leg is bent at the knee, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws refuse to let go until the knees are unbent again. The bended knee gives the bird the ability to hold on to his perch so tightly.

Isn't this also the secret of holding power of the Christian? Daniel found this to be true. Surrounded by pagan environment, tempted to compromise with evil, urged to weaken his grip on God, he refused to let go. He held firm when others faltered because he was a man of prayer. He knew the power of the bended knee, from sleeping birds we can learn the secret of holding things which are precious to us - honesty, purity, thoughtfulness, honor and character. That secret is the knee bent in prayer, seeking to get a firmer grip on those values which make life worth living. When we hold firmly to God in prayer, we can rest assured he will hold tightly to us.

*“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
Faith is when you praise God in the
storm, you trust Him in the valley,
and you follow Him in the dark.
Amen.*

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?

Agree with God
Move with God
End with God
Never Doubt God



*I Don't know much but 3 things I do.
Prayer has power
Faith moves mountains
God love never fails
Amen*



I Am the New Year

I am the New Year. I am unused, unspotted, without blemish. I stretch before you three hundred and sixty five days long. I will present each day in its turn, a new leaf in the Book of Life for you to place upon it your imprint.

It remains for you to make of me what you will. If you write with firm, steady strokes, my pages will be a joy to look upon when the next New Year comes. If the pen falters, if uncertainty to doubt should mar the page, it will become a day to remember with pain.

I am the New Year. Each hour of the three hundred sixty five days, I will give you sixty minutes that have never known the use of man. White and pure, I present them. It remains for you to fill them with sixty jeweled seconds of love, hope, endeavor, patience and trust in God.

I am the New Year. I am here – but once past, I can never be recalled. Make me your best!

Flute Day

Sue Gillio will be hosting a Flute day for her students on February 22, 2025 from 9AM-5PM. There will be a concert at 5:00PM open to everyone.

Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 9th is Scout Sunday. Cub Scout Pack 3709, who meet here in the church will be bringing in the flags and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know some of the families and scouts.



VBS Prayer Checklist

***Pray for all the planning that is being done for this year's VBS*

****Pray that we would have all the volunteers we need for a successful VBS**

***Pray for health and safety for all volunteers, church, staff, and children coming to VBS*

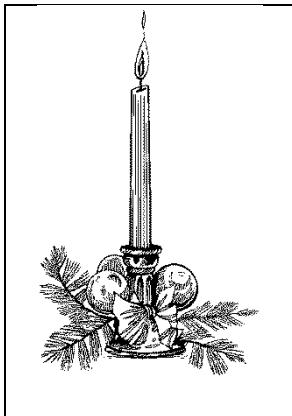
****Pray that the signup process would be smooth and easy for parents and staff**

**Pray that every day VBS would run smoothly
**Pray that all of the children coming To VBS

would leave knowing that Jesus loves them
**Pray that children will make a commitment to

follow Jesus at VBS
***Pray that new families would join the church as*

result of VBS



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with our scripture, music & candlelit filled service at 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. All are welcome!

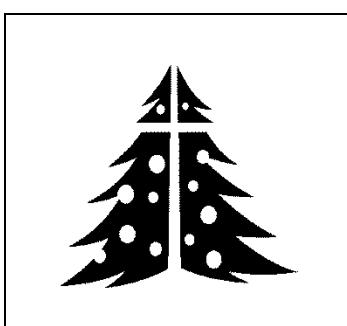


With Sincere Sympathy

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Vicki, Brianna and Evan Hall. Terry was called to the Lord's side on November 4th. Terry was an active member of our church family.

Don Walker went home to the Lord on October 27th. He had been a faithful member here since 1954.

Sandy Starr went home to the Lord on November 4th. Services are pending.

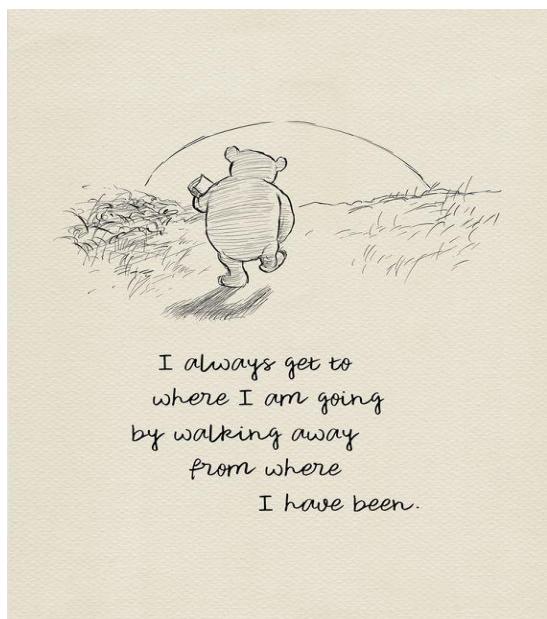


Mitten Tree

We will once again collect hats, gloves and scarves for our mitten tree. These will be distributed to area schools to keep kids warm.

Operation Christmas Child

'Oh yea of little faith.' That applied to me (Ellen) regarding the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas child. I thought it was crazy to load the narthex table up with 50 empty shoeboxes. We only filled 9 last year. Well, this week I delivered 29 to the processing center. The Lord worked through all of you bringing these gifts to over 220 million kids in 170 countries. I also want to thank those of you who donated money to cover the postage costs. What a loving congregation we have!



Prayer Cross

A prayer cross is at the front of the sanctuary. All of us know and love someone who doesn't have a relationship with the Lord. You're invited to write the 1st name of that person on a card and we will all pray for them. We'll pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to these people leading them to come to the Lord's side.

There are plenty of cards on the table. Let's all pray for those we love and care about to draw close to Jesus.



A Pencil Maker Told the Pencil

Five important lessons just before putting it in the box.

**Everything you do will leave a mark.

**You can correct the mistakes you make.

**What is important is what is inside of you.

**In life, you will undergo painful sharpening which will make you better.

**To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you.

We all need to be sharpened. May this parable encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside you.



Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us,
Choosing gratitude until we are grateful,
and praising God until we ourselves are an act of
Praise.

Richard Rohr



Fifteen Characteristics of Faith

1. Faith is a choice.
2. Faith is a step of obedience.
3. Faith is a spiritual exercise.
4. Faith is taking God at His word.
5. Faith is saying yes to God.
6. Faith is looking to Jesus for everything.
7. Faith is knowing we are never without hope.
8. Faith is what lifts us out of our circumstances.
9. Faith is not holding anything back from God.
10. Faith is being obedient even if we don't feel like it.
11. Faith is a gift from God as we read His Word.
12. Faith is knowing that everything will work out.
13. Faith is a way out of our limitations.
14. Faith is the mother of hope.
15. Faith is the road of peace.