

The Hilltopper

Our Savior Lutheran Church



December 2016

“From heav’n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev’ry home!
Glad tiding of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:

To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth.”

From Heaven Above
ELW #268
Martin Luther



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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD
PEKIN, IL 61554 (309) 346-2600

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

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday
9:30 am— 3:30 p.m.
*Pastor’s office hours are subject to change—
please call ahead*

Church email: oslcpekin1@gmail.com
Website: www.oslchopeonthehill.org

Secretary: Gerry Reynolds
Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. 9-12

Hilltopper Editor:
Leslie Leitner
Email: leitner@grics.net



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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PASTOR’S PAGE from the Pond – Turtle, that is!

From Romans 8:24-25: *“For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

I was reflecting upon *hope* as the turtles of Turtle Pond scurry about (in a slow turtle way) preparing for the months of winter. Food stored in the back of their homes on the “food rocks.” A fresh bed of Cattails laid out for that long winter nap. Shining their shells in Maple Tree Mud flats, like cleaning house until till next spring. Zebedee, old beyond knowing, will gather the turtles together one last time to pray, sing and give thanks for the symbolic way in which, like our Lord Jesus, new life is the hope of the empty tomb after the long winter months are done and the turtles will emerge to a waking world. This is the hope that moves the turtles ahead. This is the hope that beats in their hearts and is shared with the younger turtles.

What hope is seen in you as you prepare for winter and prepare to wait patiently during Advent? Advent is not just about trees and lights and presents. It is also about the hope that beats within your heart because of the celebration now and the celebration that is yet to be. Christ Jesus has come and will come again! The excitement in our children is wonderful as they dream of gifts that may be under the tree on Christmas morn. Even so, remember to celebrate the gift of Love that God has already given in Jesus and continues until we all share that hope fulfilled.

May you make wonderful memories with family and friends waiting and preparing in Advent for the gift of Christmas shared. Celebrate the hope that is in you!

Peace,

Pastor Stephen D. Barnes



Holy
IS HIS
NAME.

LUKE 1:49

HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live and Love



Special Services in December



Advent Services In December
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

This year's mid-week Advent Services theme is:
 "Comfort and Joy".

December 7: *The angel of the Lord visits Joseph*

December 14: *The angel of the Lord visits Mary*

December 21: *The Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service*

Advent is a season of hope, and Christmas a season of joy, but not everyone feels hopeful or joyous. Grief, illness, loneliness and loss are magnified. Even those not struggling with these feel stress from the preparations and expectations of Christmas time.

The Longest Night /Blue Christmas service provides a time for solace in the frenetic days of this season. We come together seeking healing and sharing emotions that are often out of place during the holidays. On this the darkest day of the year we yearn for the return of light and hope.



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service
9:00 a.m.

Education Special Sunday
 Once each month, we will have an **All-Congregation Presentation** after the Sunday Worship Service. Here is more information about December's presentation:

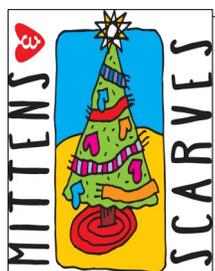
December 11—Christmas Carols
 Dr. Jim Rimington will be here with a Quartet to share Christmas Carols—and there will be a Sing-a-Long!!

HYMN SING



Home to Church/Church to Home Ornament Exchange

Bring an ornament from home to place on the tree in the Gathering Room, and take the ornament for this year to your home. (Your ornament can be taken home after Christmas.) This year's gift is a Manger ornament, "From Heaven Above".



We will have a Mitten Tree for you to decorate with new *mittens, stocking caps, and scarves*. Please hang items on the tree in the entryway. After Epiphany, the items will be donated to Christian Civic Outreach. Thank you Mary Sorenson for heading up this project.

Christmas Caroling!!
 Sunday night, December 18, is scheduled for Christmas Caroling. The tentative time to meet is 6:00 p.m.

Join Us for Caroling



There will be **Coffee Fellowships** during Sundays in Advent. There is a *signup sheet* for anyone who would like to *host one*. The Mary/Martha Circle has signed up for Nov. 27, & Sanders/Sorensons for December 11.

Confirmation Class is being offered on one Sunday a month. **The next class is scheduled for Dec. 4, 2016.** Class periods will be 10:15-11:30 a.m.

Reminder: No Sunday School classes on Dec. 25, 2016 and January 1, 2017.



Our new special **All Saints Day Banner** was on display on Sunday, November 6, to honor those who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday

Angel Tree Ministry

The Angel Tree is now in the Gathering Room. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for those who would like to participate. Our congregation has once again been provided with the names of a dozen local children whose mother or father is incarcerated somewhere in our nation's State or Federal prison systems.

When you agree to sponsor a child with one or two gifts, you will be given all the information you need to purchase the appropriate gifts, plus the gift tag to attach to the gift when wrapped.

If you are unable to sponsor a child but would like to participate, we can always use more people to deliver the gifts, and monetary donations to the church designated for "Angel Tree" will be gladly be received.



Our Savior's Annual
Epiphany Party
will be *Sunday, January 8,*
at 6:00 p.m.
Coffee & Dessert will be served.
Hope you can come!

New to us: "**Pew Card**" to replace the current attendance form.

This pew card will eliminate one piece of paper currently included in the Sunday Bulletin. Copies of the pew card will be placed in the holder on the pew backs which also holds offering envelopes.

The card will be used to record any changes of address, phone number or email; or for specific prayer or hymn requests. Visitors will also be encouraged to fill one out.

A good time to review the form is during the Prelude, which is being played to help you prepare for the worship service.

All who attended the presentation by Mike Barger's cousin, who was a missionary in Brazil, enjoyed a very interesting talk. Our Savior received a very nice thank you note:

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for giving us the privilege of sharing our ministry in Brazil with you.

We trust you were blessed as much as we were.

Thank you for your love and care.

God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

In His Love,

Larry & Ruth Lipka



The **Mary Martha Circle** will not meet in December.

The next meeting will be **January 18, 2017, 9:30 a.m.**, at the church. Hostess will be Elsa Keas. Topic Leader will be Susan Thomas. The study guide is "*Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith.*" All women of Our Savior are welcome!

Please contact one of the Nominating Committee members if you would like to serve on council. We currently have 8 council members; 3 have finished their terms. The congregational council can be from seven to nine people, so we will be looking for at least 3 members to join council.

Your committee members this year are: Barb Gresham, Mary Sorenson, Leslie Leitner, Darlene Daniels, Mark McCarrell, and Dave Sanders.

Thank you for considering this important position!

REMINDER: Please turn in your committee's Annual Report to Gerry *by the end of December.* The preferred method is by email, or bring it to her on a flash drive. Thank you!



FLOWER CHART FOR DECEMBER

December 4	Leo & Roberta Stiles—Grandson Evan's 6th Birthday
December 11	Available
December 18	Poinsettias
December 25	Available (& Poinsettias)

REMINDER: When you take your flowers home, please leave the green plastic insert in the wooden vase. The inserts are used by The Greenhouse to transport our flowers, and are very costly to replace.

To sign up for flowers on the altar for a specific Sunday, please fill out the flower chart by the front entrance or call the church office.

To pay for your week The price for weekly flowers is now **\$25.00 for 2016**. Please place your check for \$25.00 in the offering plate, or mail it to Our Savior. Thank you.



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.

A list of current needs is posted in the Gathering Room and near the church office.

➔ **Special needs now include: Cereal, Diapers of all sizes, Peanut Butter, Canned Tuna, Canned Fruit**

Hand mixer

Laundry detergent and dish soap

Iron/ironing board

Pillows

Full/Twin/Crib sheets

Full/Twin size blankets

Full/Twin size comforters, mattress pads

Shower curtain, curtain holders

Pots and pans

Lamp

Your generosity is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact Leon Edwards at 309-272-2919 or Gary at (309) 691-0551.



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.



**If you have a ministry need,
you may wish to call the
church office:**

(309) 346-2600



We also continue to pray for our college student, **Emily Foss** (Bradley University); and those in the Military:

Petty Officer 1st Class **Josh Barger**
(Navy, San Diego, CA)

Nick Marzinzik (Air Force Reserves,
Mike & Sue Barger's nephew)

Ensign Tary N. Voller—San Diego USN,
Helicopter Pilot (Doris Voller)

*We always thank
GOD for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Prayer Concerns



- Chad Wahl**
Cheryl, Alan and Mitchell
Ruth Roach (*health issues*)
Gus (*Sue's father, serious health concern*)
Caleb (*Mike and Sue Barger's nephew*)
Doris Hambleton (*sister of Marilyn Whittington—health declining*)
Cathy and Kenny (*dealing with some rough times*)
Nancy Lietz (*mother-in-law of Anne Dralle Lietz—Multiple Myeloma treatment*)
Amy Lietz (*sister-in-law of Anne Dralle Lietz—had surgery for breast cancer & is doing well*)
Darlene Smith (*friend of Lillian Pinkston—serious health concerns*)
Connie (*Family of Connie—Sue's Aunt*)
Family of Jerry Sczinski (*Friend of Lee Sorenson, personal and medical issues*)
Darryl Humble (*friend of Lee Sorenson who is experiencing complications following a recent surgery*)
Ruby and Lon Etheridge (*Gerry's parents—Prayers for guidance and healing*)
Dennis and Jacque Matthews family (*Lee's friends—parents and grandchildren all hospitalized at the same time*)

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

Visit Us
ONLINE



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

The monthly Hilltopper and calendar are available to view, as well as upcoming events and various pieces of information. Material will be updated regularly on our new website so we can keep you informed as quickly as possible.

Below is the link for your convenience. Be sure to *bookmark* it on your "Favorites" list. And if you need any help navigating it, call or come into the office for help.

<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/>

Christmas
Joy

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will be creating lap covers and Prayer Shawls for Pastor Barnes to take to those in need of comfort. We plan to meet at the church on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

The next meeting is December 13, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Anyone is welcome for fellowship and to help us with our projects. Patterns & some supplies are provided. You can also bring your own yarn, needles, etc. *Questions?* Contact Darlene Daniels.



In December we're celebrating... Anniversaries & Birthdays

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 3—Phil Dralle | Dec. 20—Jackie Scoville |
| Dec. 8—Mike Dralle | Dec. 26—Darlene Daniels |
| Dec. 12—Teresa Massey | Dec. 26—Barb Gresham |
| Dec. 19—Sharon Eggemeyer | Dec. 30—Dick Bolam |
| Dec. 19—Amanda Johnson | |



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know!!

EXERCISE CLASSES @ OSLC!

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD-PEKIN

6:00—7:00 p.m. Tuesdays

6:00—7:00 p.m. Thursdays

- ▶ Come whenever you want
- ▶ Work at your own level
- ▶ Open to the public



- ☺ FUN!
- ☺ FRIENDLY!
- ☺ FREE!



STRETCHING
STRENGTH TRAINING FOR ARMS & LEGS
AB & CORE WORKOUT
CARDIO (WITH OR W/O STEP)

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY...

- Epiphany-January 6
- Sunday, January 8, 10:15-11:30 a.m., at Our Savior: Confirmation class.
- Sunday, January 8, 6:00 p.m.—Epiphany Party
- Sunday, January 22, 2017—Annual Congregational Meeting

Reminder: No Sunday School classes on Dec. 25, 2016 and January 1, 2017.



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



Please join us after service on most Sundays for Adult Sunday School. We have read through and discussed the first chapter of Acts and will continue this discussion and reading each week!



- *We don't take attendance;
- *there is no homework or extra books to purchase; and
- *we have plenty of extra Bibles, or you can bring your own!

We are done by 11:00-11:15. We will meet in the library and can move if our group outgrows that space! All adults of the church or visitors are welcome!

JANUARY HILLTOPPER INFORMATION

Please send articles, updates, news, etc. for the December Hilltopper by **Sunday, December 18.**

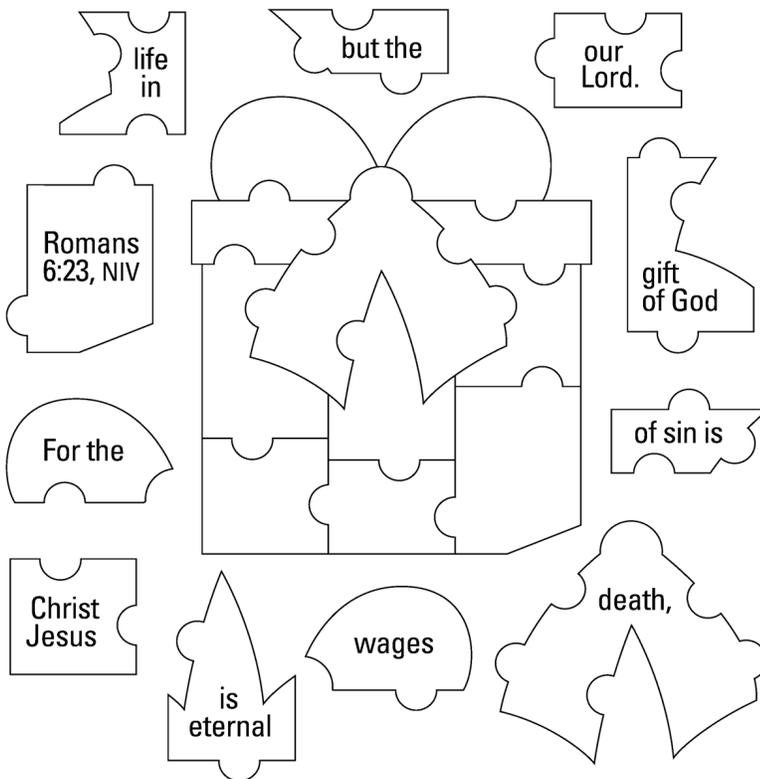
Email Leslie or Gerry with committee information, news, events, updates, etc. at leitner@grics.net (Leslie) or Gerry at oslcpekin1@gmail.com, or put articles in the Hilltopper mailbox in the Library. Thank you!



The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

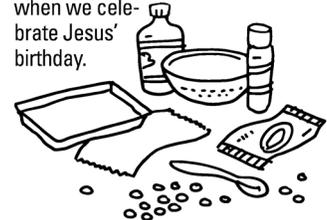
Directions: Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



Help for Those in Need

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: SHOES, COATS, SOCKS, MEN'S SHIRTS AND JEANS, CANNED FRUIT, CRACKERS, MACARONI & CHEESE****

From CCO: We appreciate anything that you can give to help the disadvantaged in our community. We also welcome monetary contributions for our general operation fund, and also for our emergency help fund. We also accept clothing in good condition. At the present time, we do not accept furniture because of transport and storage problems.

NOTE: The CCO Board meets on the 3rd Monday of the month from 5:30—6:30 p.m. They would like a representative from Our Savior to be on the Board. Please consider helping in this ministry.





2016 CHURCH COUNCIL—Contact Information

<i>President</i>	Lee Sorenson	Outreach & Fellowship	Lee.sorenson75@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Mark McCarrell	Worship & Music Gifts & Memorials	mmccarrell@pekininsurance.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Sharon Foss	Christian Education	slfoss35@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Garold Burkholder	Finance & Stewardship	gburkholder21@comcast.net
	Steve Gresham	Property	gramg95@comcast.net
	Dave Sanders	Finance	sandsd@mtco.com
	Larry Daniels	Outreach & Fellowship	lawrencedaniels@centurytel.net
	Jacque Davis	Christian Education	cad1206@comcast.net
	Pastor Barnes	Pastor	barnes.stephen9@gmail.com
	Gerry Reynolds	Church Secretary	oslcpekin1@gmail.com

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS SCHEDULES

Please switch with someone as needed and notify Gerry so the Bulletin will be correct.

LAY ASSISTANTS

December 4	Tim Leitner
December 11	Melanie Fleming
December 18	Charlie Davis
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
December 25	Chris McCarrell

USHERS

December 4	Mark McCarrell
December 11	Dave Sanders
December 18	Dennis Eggemeyer
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
December 25	Garold Burkholder

LAY READERS

December 4	Larry Daniels
December 11	Roberta Stiles
December 18	Sue Barger
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
December 25	Larry Daniels

TELLERS

December 4	Tim Leitner & Ken Wehn
December 11	Sharon Foss & Elsa Keas
December 18	Steve and Barb Gresham
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service-not needed</i>
December 25	Leo & Roberta Stiles

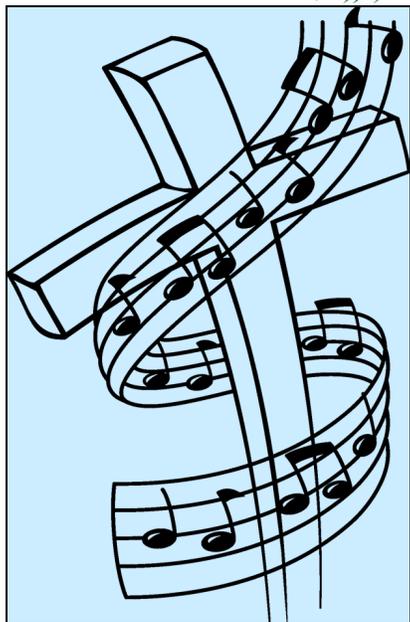
GREETERS

December 4	Larry Daniels
December 11	Melanie & Lily Fleming
December 18	Roberta Stiles
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
December 25	Jacque Davis

COMMUNION SET-UP

December 4	Lee & Mary Sorenson ~ Blue
December 11	Dave Sanders ~ Blue
December 18	Lee & Mary Sorenson—Intinction ~ Blue
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Service ~ White</i>
December 25	Carol Guenther & Lillian Pinkston— Intinction ~ White

December 2016



The Hilltopper Newsletter
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 Sheridan Road
Pekin, IL 61554-2498
Phone: (309) 346-2600
Rev. Stephen D. Barnes—Pastor

Sundays—9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:15 a.m. Sunday Church School

At Our Savior Lutheran, we offer a
'blended' or 'unified' worship service.

For music, we combine the music from the Organist and the FaithFull Worship Band with our liturgy, hymns & songs, offertory, prelude, and more.

Each part of the service in some way contributes to the "conversation" we are having with God.

The sermon is not the only medium for the word of God. We hear God speaking in the readings, hymns, anthems, and liturgy itself.

We also receive the body and blood of the living Word, Jesus Christ.

Worship provides us with opportunities to offer to God our praise, thanksgiving, prayers and concerns.