

# The Hilltopper

Our Savior Lutheran Church



February 2017



Their hearts  
are firm,  
secure in  
the LORD.

Psalms 112:7, NRSV



**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](mailto: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](mailto:oslcpekin1@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.oslchopeonthehill.org](http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org)

**Secretary: Gerry Reynolds**

*Office Hours: Mon.—Fri. 9-12*

**Hilltopper Editor:**

Leslie Leitner

Email: [leitner@grics.net](mailto:leitner@grics.net)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## PASTOR'S PAGE

I have noticed over the years that Lutherans don't do "change" very well. Move something in the sanctuary...why did you do that? Change something in the bulletin that we are used to...why did you do that? And heaven forbid! You decide to try a different wine for communion! Why did you do that!?

We find a certain comfort level in "knowing" what things will be like and how things are going to "go." The one difference I have noted is that as we "know" each other and build relationship and understanding with patience, the permutations of change seem to happen a little easier.

This came to mind because not only did OSLC have our Annual Meeting for the ministry of a new year, but great change is happening on the national/political level. It would seem that many people want to probe the negative before trying to see the positive. Honestly, I do not know how all the changes will distill out, but "having it out" with others does not seem to bring hope to the forefront.

With those thoughts in mind, regardless of any one person's political bent, a passage of scripture came to mind.

Galatians 5:22-25 "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."

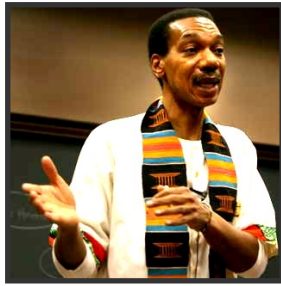
I love the verse....against such there is no law. Of course not! Those feelings and actions should always be the foundation of our heart and certainly part of our living with each other. I am blessed to serve our congregation where those "fruits of the Spirit" are so evident. You have been baptized into Christ, so the gift of the Spirit is yours. Let us walk in the world the same way.

Peace,

Pastor Stephen D. Barnes

## HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love



### LOCAL TV PERSONALITY TO VISIT OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Garry Moore, local television personality and news anchor for WEEK-TV, will give a presentation about Black History on **Sunday, February 12, from 2:00—4:00 p.m.** at Our Savior. Be sure to join us for an insightful lecture on the history of the African American people.

Outreach & Fellowship will furnish drinks; please bring a snack to share. Sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Thank you Dennis Eggemeyer for making the arrangements with Mr. Moore!

### Education Special Sunday

Once each month, we will have an **All-Congregation Presentation** after the Sunday Worship Service.

Here is more information about February's presentation:

February 19—

Reverend Greg Busboom

Pastor Busboom is the Senior Pastor of St. John's in Springfield. He will be discussing creating excitement in our ministry both inside of OSLC and reaching out to our community. He will be discussing our missional direction and involvement.—"Cultivating Missional Imagination in Congregations".

There will be a coffee fellowship after worship, sponsored by Christian Education committee.



### SPECIAL MEETING COMING UP

The Worship & Music Committee is reviewing several guidelines & handbooks, including the Usher Handbook and the Altar Guild Guidelines. We are planning a short meeting/workshop on **Sunday, February 12, after worship, for all of our worship participants.** If you are one, or are interested in what is involved, we hope you can stay for this opportunity!

Lay assistants, lay readers, ushers, greeters, communion set up volunteers—we know many of you wear multiple hats! We hope to see you there.

### **"SOUPER" Bowl of Caring 2017**

The first Sunday in February is the National Football League's Super Bowl. OSLC will once again participate in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" by collecting *soup and other non-perishables* through **Sunday, February 5**, will and donate them to Christian Civic Outreach.



### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group is creating lap covers and Prayer Shawls for Pastor Barnes to take to those in need of comfort.

**The next meeting is February 21, 9:30-11:00 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.



The Northern Conference of our Synod will be held at Our Savior Lutheran on Tuesday, February 14. Many thanks to the Mary Martha Circle for serving breakfast and lunch.



The Mary Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 9:30 a.m.**, at the church. Hostess is Sue Barger.

Topic Leader is Sharon Foss.

The study guide is *"Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith."* All women of Our Savior are welcome!

## Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, January 22, 2017.

**New council members are:** Melanie Fleming, Dennis Eggemeyer, Ron Garber, Leo Stiles and Lee Sorenson.

### Elected officers are:

President—Lee Sorenson  
Vice President—Steve Gresham  
Secretary—Sharon Foss  
Garold Burkholder

Committee assignments are listed on page 8 of the Hilltopper.

This is the first time in many years we have had the maximum of nine on the council! Many thanks to all for your service. The Council will be installed on Sunday, February 12.

*From Leslie Leitner:* As I looked through the clip art for February on the website we use here at OSLC (newsletternewsletter.com), this one caught my eye:

Intrigued, I did a little bit of “googling”, and found that a Baptist pastor (**Garrett Kell** serves as pastor of Del Ray Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia) had written a great article—*The Second-Most Important Book for Every Christian*. The link is <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-second-most-important-book-for-every-christian>.

It was posted in July, 2014.

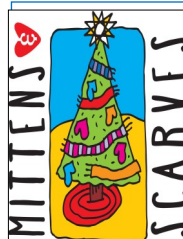
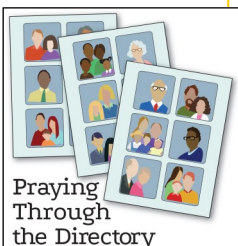
He explains these five points in more detail at the website:

1. It gives every member a practical tool to aid in prayer and encouragement.
2. It helps pastors better shepherd the flock Jesus entrusts to them.
3. It keeps homebound members on your mind, though they may be out of sight
4. It helps homebound members continue to invest in the spiritual health of the church
5. It helps alert church members to people who may be in danger

For me, a quick, simple suggestion at a different website sounded like a wonderful idea:

***Take a few minutes each day to pray for three families/people by name.***

I think doing this, while looking at their picture, would be wonderful. You may wish to add this idea to your devotions!



## MITTEN TREE UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who donated to Christian Civic Outreach and/or helped with the mitten drive and/or Three Kings (Epiphany) Party. OSLC donated to CCO a total of 51 pairs of mittens, 11 stocking caps, 8 mitten and scarf combos; 4 scarf, stocking cap and mitten combos; 3 stocking cap plus mitten combos, and one pair of very warm looking sox.

## HEALTH KITS FOR CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Members of Mary/Martha Circle invite members and friends of the congregation to participate in the collection of items for Health Kits, to be donated to Church Women United for distribution within the local area.

### Items needed are:

Hand towels, Wash cloths  
Combs, Nail files  
Bars of wrapped bath size soap  
New toothbrushes, 4-7 oz. tubes of toothpaste  
Band aids

Donations of one or more of the listed items would be appreciated. Circle members will assemble the health kits at their **March** meeting.

Each kit contains one of the listed items except for band aids. Six individual band aids go into each kit, so one box will serve more than one kit.

Any donations left after kits are filled will be donated to CCO.

A box labeled “For Health Kit Donations” will be available in the church entrance **until March 12.**

Thank you for your consideration and participation.

Confirmation Class is being offered on one Sunday a month. **The next class is scheduled for February 5, 2017.** Class periods will be 10:15-11:30 a.m.



## Planning ahead for Lent:

- Ash Wednesday is March 1. There will be a 7:00 PM Communion Service. The Worship & Music committee will serve a meal at 6:00 p.m. (pizza, salad, and desserts).
- Midweek Lenten Services will begin March 8, at 7:00.
- The devotional for Lent will be “God at the Center—Habits for Spiritual Growth”



**The Flower Chart for 2017 is up—be sure to sign up for a few Sundays in the new year!**

## FLOWER CHART FOR FERUARY

<b>February 5</b>	
<b>February 12</b>	Lee & Mary Sorenson
<b>February 19</b>	Pastor & Judy Barnes—Wedding Anniversary
<b>February 26</b>	

**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 **\$25.00**. 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 Pastor,  
the church office, or  
one of our lay assistants:***

Pastor Barnes—(309) 253-3754  
Office—(309) 346-2600  
(SAM) Tim Leitner—(309) 353-2771  
Melanie Fleming—(309)-387-6093  
Charlie Davis—(309) 347-7522  
Chris McCarrell—(309) 691-5313



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



**Craig Brooks**  
**Chad Wahl**  
**Cheryl, Alan and Mitchell**  
**Ruth Roach** (*health issues*)  
**Gus** (*Sue's father, serious health concern*)  
**Caleb** (*Mike and Sue Barger's nephew*)  
**Dick Daniels** (*Sue Barger's brother-in-law-cancer diagnosis*)  
**Cathy and Kenny** (*dealing with some rough times*)  
**Nancy Lietz** (*mother-in-law of Anne Dralle Lietz—Multiple Myeloma treatment*)  
**Darlene Smith** (*friend of Lillian Pinkston—serious health concerns*)  
**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*)  
**Doris Hambleton** (*sister of Marilyn Whittington—placed in Hospice*)  
**Family of Toni Thomas** (*friend of Michelle Eggemeyer—Toni, age 34, passed away recently of cancer*)  
**Jamie Fitzgerald** (*Elsa Keas' granddaughter, thyroid cancer surgery*)  
**Judy Prevette** (*Bill's sister's mother-in-law, by-pass healing*)  
**Molly Blanchard Brandenburg** (*friend of Emily Olivos, treatment for cancer*)  
(Contact Gerry with any additions, deletions, corrections or updates)



***Did you know...*** There is a Master Calendar on the wall in the office? If you have any events or meetings which need to be noted in the bulletin or the Hilltopper, please be sure you post them onto the Master Calendar as soon as possible.

### 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/>



## *Holy Communion*



Communion in the Lutheran Church is celebrated in the belief that Christ is truly present and truly gives himself to us in, with, and under the bread and wine. We cordially invite all baptized Christians who commune in their own congregation (regardless of denomination) to join us.

The pew card (in the holder on the pew backs which also holds offering envelopes) is 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.

# In January we're celebrating...

## Anniversaries & Birthdays

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 8—Wayne & Susan Foss

Feb. 14—George & Elaine Alexander

Feb. 17—Pastor Stephen & Judy Barnes



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 7—Sue Barger

Feb. 21—Ron Garber

Feb. 8—Dennis Eggemeyer

Feb. 29—Mike Barger



*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 MARCH...

- **March 1:** Ash Wednesday-7:00 pm Service
- **March 8:** Mid Week Lenten Services begin
- **March 12:** Avanti's Night Out-6:00 pm

**Believe.**  
**HOPE.**  
*Encourage.*  
**PERSEVERE.**



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



### MARCH HILLTOPPER INFORMATION

Please send articles, updates, news, etc. for the  
March Hilltopper by **Sunday, February 19.**

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

Please join us after service on most Sundays  
for **Adult Sunday School**. We are reading  
and discussing the book 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!



## Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



### What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

### What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!

from [www.newsletternewsletter.com](http://www.newsletternewsletter.com)

## Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

*Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.*

(1) You really like ice cream! \_\_\_\_\_

(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. \_\_\_\_\_

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. \_\_\_\_\_

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. \_\_\_\_\_

(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. \_\_\_\_\_

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. \_\_\_\_\_

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. \_\_\_\_\_

♥ "Honor \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_."

Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV



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: CANNED MEAT, RICE, CEREAL, TOWELS, COATS, JEANS, TOYS\*\***



**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.



### 2017 CHURCH COUNCIL—Contact Information

<i>President</i>	<b>Lee Sorenson</b>	Outreach & Fellowship Mutual Ministry	Lee.sorenson75@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>Steve Gresham</b>	Property Memorials & Gifts	gramg95@comcast.net
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Sharon Foss</b>	Christian Education Finance & Stewardship	slfoss35@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Garold Burkholder</b>	Finance & Stewardship	gburkholder21@comcast.net
	<b>Melanie Fleming</b>	Christian Education Mutual Ministry	melaniefleming@comcast.net
	<b>Dennis Eggemeyer</b>	Outreach & Fellowship	dle_61554@yahoo.com
	<b>Larry Daniels</b>	Outreach & Fellowship	lawrencedaniels@centurytel.net
	<b>Leo Stiles</b>	Property	lastiles1@gmail.com
	<b>Ron Garber</b>	Worship & Music	
	<b>Pastor Barnes</b>	Pastor	barnes.stephen9@gmail.com

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS SCHEDULES

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

#### LAY ASSISTANTS

<b>February 5</b>	Chris McCarrell
<b>February 12</b>	Charlie Davis
<b>February 19</b>	Tim Leitner
<b>February 26</b>	Melanie Fleming

#### LAY READERS

<b>February 5</b>	Roberta Stiles
<b>February 12</b>	Sue Barger
<b>February 19</b>	Larry Daniels
<b>February 26</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer

#### GREETERS

<b>February 5</b>	Roberta Stiles
<b>February 12</b>	Meri Arnold
<b>February 19</b>	Larry Daniels
<b>February 26</b>	Melanie & Lily Fleming

HOPE  
ON  
THE  
HILL

Hospitality  
Outreach  
Proclamation  
Education

Helping  
Individuals  
Live in  
Love

#### USHERS

<b>February 5</b>	Mark McCarrell
<b>February 12</b>	Dave Sanders
<b>February 19</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer
<b>February 26</b>	Garold Burkholder

#### TELLERS

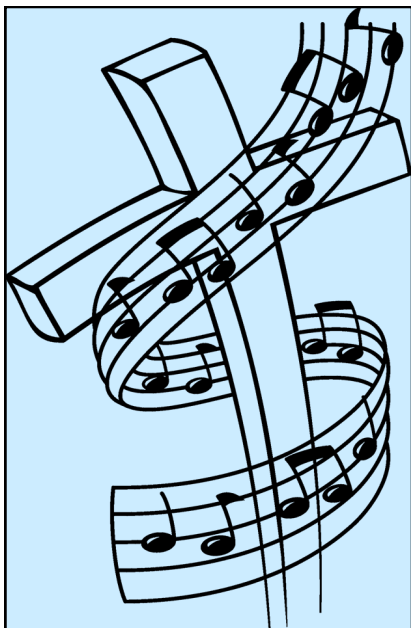
<b>February 5</b>	Sharon Foss & Elsa Keas
<b>February 12</b>	Leo & Roberta Stiles
<b>February 19</b>	Steve & Barb Gresham
<b>February 26</b>	Tim Leitner

#### COMMUNION SET-UP & PARAMENT COLOR

<b>February 5</b>	Dave Sanders	Green
<b>February 12</b>	Carol Guenther & Lillian Pinkston	Green
<b>February 19</b>	Lee & Mary Sorenson	Green (Intinction)
<b>February 26</b>	Dave Sanders	White



# FEBRUARY



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.