

The Hilltopper

Our Savior Lutheran Church



January 2017

The OTHER Serenity Prayer

God, great me the serenity to stop
beating myself for not doing things
perfectly, the courage to forgive
myself because I'm working on
doing better, and the wisdom to
know that you already love me
just the way I am.

Eleanor Brown
eleanorbrown.com



**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: oslcpkin1@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

As I sit writing this article, we are still on the “east side” of Christmas. That is – practicing patience and waiting, preparing during Advent. I have managed to get the decorations up before the cold hit and the trees decorated inside.

You hear a lot of people asking the question during this season – “are you prepared?” What does that mean? Have I gotten the “stuff” out and ready – yes. Have I gotten the presents wrapped – in progress. Have I spent more than I should, thinking of family and grandkids – yes. BUT, have I spent as much time pondering, praying and patiently considering the impact of God become flesh in Jesus and coming into my heart – probably not.

We have often lost the greatest gift in the midst of preparing for all the rest. I bought more decorations and a train for under the tree for the grandkids (well, maybe for me as well!) when they come. Doesn't seem to bother me in time and money, but have I given time and money that reflects Jesus for others?

A passage from James, chapter 1:17-18 “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

Reading this on the “west side” of Christmas... although the gift of Jesus keeps blooming in our hearts and means we are to keep Christmas all year round! Scrooge learned that lesson in Charles Dickens – A Christmas Carol. I would continue to ask the question of myself – “are you prepared” because Christ comes and will come again. We are to see Christ in others and are to be that love, grace, forgiveness and giving for others.

I hope and pray that you have been blessed during this season and have found love and energy to carry you on in 2017. Let us grow together with Jesus in our hearts!

Peace,

Pastor Stephen D. Barnes

HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality
Outreach
Proclamation
Education

Helping
Individuals
Live in
Love

January 2017 - HOPE on the HILL Preaching Series

Why have a preaching series? Because we have adopted the “logo” “Hope on the Hill” to strengthen our sense of family and reason for coming together as Our Savior Lutheran and reaching out into the community and world.

January 1 - H (hospitality);
January 8 - O (outreach);
January 15 - P (proclamation);
January 22 - E (education) and finally
January 29 - Hill (helping individuals live in love)

Many churches have a moniker (logo) but either never know or forget how it identifies them. Hopefully our moniker brings energy, direction and a feeling of connection.

How did our Logo come to be? Well, we ARE on a hill and Hope is the foundation of God given in Jesus. From there it was to come to terms with what Our Savior should be. First, our church family ought to be a place of Hope in each other and in our faith. Second, is to understand Hope as our foundation - Hospitality; Outreach; Proclamation; Education which covers how we are to live in Christ. Finally, putting these attributes into use is the “hill” part. Helping Individuals Live in Love.

One passage from scripture that comes to mind is Hebrews 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Finally, while on vacation my devotion for June 29 was written by Eileen Ritter. She wrote: A gift! You open the box only to be greeted by those dreaded words: “Assembly required.” But if the gift is a jigsaw puzzle or a model you’ve been longing to put together, the opportunity to assemble is the best part of the gift.

God has given his children a precious gift - the Christian Church. But to truly benefit from this gift, assembly is required. We listen to God’s Word and receive Christ’s body and blood in Holy Communion. We pray together and share words of hope and comfort. We rest in the forgiveness won for us by Jesus’ death, and together we celebrate his resurrection.

Both our HOPE and reason for being!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Barnes



Also happening in January:



Our Savior’s Annual
Epiphany Party will be
Sunday, January 8,
at 6:00 p.m.

There will be art projects,
and coffee & dessert will
be served.

Hope you can come!



*Annual
Meeting
Sunday*

January 22, 2017

Annual
Congregational
Meeting

after the worship service
(refreshments provided)



Would you like to sing
some of your favorite
hymns??

Turn their titles (and #
from the ELW or Wor-
ship & Praise song

book) **into the office by January 8**, and we
will sing them on one of the last 3 Sundays
in January! You can *fill out the Pew Card* at
church and put it in the offering plate; *write*
your choices on the sheet posted on the
bulletin board; *email Gerry or Pastor*; or *put*
a note in Pastor or Gerry’s mailbox in
the Library. Thank you!!

HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love



Our sanctuary was made beautiful in December with the poinsettias donated by the following:

<i>Donated by:</i>	<i>In Memory/Honor of:</i>
Sharon Foss	<i>In memory of Marvin Foss and Thanksgiving for family</i>
Dale & Stella Gettys	<i>The Glory of God</i>
Lillian Pinkston	<i>In memory of Bill Pinkston</i>
Fleming Family	<i>In memory of Dick Fleming, and Jack & Hilvie Gross</i>
Mark & Chris McCarrell	<i>In memory of Merrill & Katherine McCarrell and Bill Pinkston</i>
Dale & Nancy Atkinson	<i>Blessings Received</i>
Larry & Darlene Daniels	<i>In memory of our parents</i>
Elsa Keas	<i>In memory of Bill Keas and Carolyn Murphy</i>
Gene Massey	<i>In remembrance of Joann Massey</i>
Sue Hale	<i>In memory of Roscoe</i>
Lee & Mary Sorenson	<i>In memory of Woodrow and Madeleine Sorenson</i>
Marilyn Whittington & Vickie Rayburn	<i>In honor of Jack Whittington, Sr.</i>
Pastor Stephen & Judy Barnes	<i>In memory of Roger W. Barnes</i>
Carol Guenther	<i>In memory of Robert Guenther</i>
Dennis Eggemeyer Family	<i>In memory of Bill Keas and Del & Martha Eggemeyer</i>
Doris Voller	<i>In memory of Richard Voller</i>
Leo & Roberta Stiles	<i>In memory of our parents</i>
Tim & Leslie Leitner	<i>In memory of Gusta Bolam and Leo Leitner</i>
Steven Pitts	<i>Kate & Sue Pitts, Loving Family</i>

Education Special Sunday

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

Here is more information about January's presentation:

January 15—Center for Prevention of Abuse

A speaker from the Center will be at Our Savior. OSLC supports this organization through House of Hope in Pekin.



The Mary Martha Circle will meet **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!

Confirmation Class is being offered on one Sunday a month. **The next class is scheduled for January 8, 2017.** Class periods will be 10:15-11:30 a.m.



The 2017 Flower Chart is up. I want to thank everyone who supplied flowers in 2016. Only 5 Sundays were not filled. Thanks again for helping keep our altar beautiful.
—Elsa Keas



ANGEL TREE PROGRAM 2016

Thanks to all who participated, contributed, purchased and wrapped gifts and/or those who prayed for the Angel Tree program this year. Because of you it was a complete success! Lives were touched and hearts were made happy with the gifts that were delivered to these families.

They all were grateful for the thought and kindness extended by each of you. All were appreciative and appeared glad to have been remembered at this time of the year by their incarcerated loved ones.

The children each received a clothing gift and a fun gift, and each family received a popcorn tin as well as reading material and the offer of a free bible to be mailed to them. Each child received a tiny bible as well.

Thank you for all your contributions of time, effort and prayers:

Nancy and Dale Atkinson, Jacque and Chuck Davis, Vickie Rayburn, Melanie and Lily Fleming, Darlene and Larry Daniels, Sue and Mike Barger, Lillian Pinkston, Chris and Mark McCarrell, Gerry Reynolds, Dave and Sonja Sanders, Marilyn Whittington, Roberta and Leo Stiles, Beth and Phil Dralle, and all our anonymous donors.



Thanks for Your Support!

Thanks to all who donated to Christian Civic Outreach in November, including in conjunction with the Thanksgiving Eve Worship. An estimated 100 or more non-perishable food cans and/or boxes were transported to Christian Civic Outreach from OSLC in November.

The clients of Christian Civic Outreach thank you.

-Lee Sorenson

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



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
- Band aids
- 4-7 oz. tubes of toothpaste

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 **from January 10 until March 12, 2017.**

Thank you for your consideration and participation.

Behind the scenes.....

Reading the **Property minutes** for November gives us a clue to the many things that get done at Our Savior that perhaps escape our notice:

Ken: construction of a Christmas tree stand—a box which will also provide storage for the ornaments; caulking the chimney; recharging the battery in the riding law mower.

Leo & Roberta: trimmed the large yew on the corner of the church.

Chris & Gerry: went to Staples for a new office chair for Gerry (the current chair was definitely worn out!)

Many thanks to all!



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.



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.

Please contact one of the **Nominating Committee** members if you would like to serve on 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!





FLOWER CHART FOR JANUARY

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

January 1	
January 8	
January 15	The Flemings in honor of Melanie's birthday
January 22	
January 29	

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 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*)
Dick Daniels (*Sue Barger's brother-in-law*)
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*)
Jessica (*friend of Michelle Eggemeyer*)
Doris Hambleton (*sister of Marilyn Whittington—
placed in Hospice*)
Co-worker of Vickie Rayburn (*Clorissa's father in ICU
at Methodist—brain bleed from fall*)
Julie Thomas (*Nathan Leitner's mother-in-law—broken
leg Dec. 23*)

(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/>

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 January 10, 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 January we're celebrating...

Anniversaries & Birthdays

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- Jan. 2—Courtney Dralle
- Jan. 6—Wayne Foss
- Jan. 14—George Alexander
- Jan. 17—Jazmyne Scoville
- Jan. 20—Melanie Fleming
- Jan. 22—Leo Stiles

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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 FEBRUARY...

- February 5: Confirmation Class
- February 19: All Congregation Class

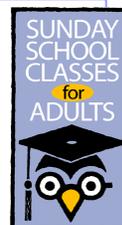
Believe.
HOPE.
Encourage.
PERSEVERE.



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!

FEBRUARY HILLTOPPER INFORMATION

Please send articles, updates, news, etc. for the February Hilltopper by **Sunday, January 22.**

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!

MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:



" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F
TH _ W _ RLD. W H _ _ V _ R
F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R
W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."
J _ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

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.



Help for Those
in Need





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	oslcpkin1@gmail.com

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS SCHEDULES

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

LAY ASSISTANTS	
January 1	Tim
January 8	Melanie
January 15	Charlie
January 22	Chris
January 29	Tim

USHERS	
January 1	Ron
January 8	Dave
January 15	Dennis
January 22	Garold
January 29	Ron

LAY READERS	
January 1	Dennis
January 8	Roberta
January 15	Sue
January 22	Larry
January 29	Dennis

TELLERS	
January 1	Tim
January 8	Sharon & Elsa
January 15	Leo & Roberta
January 22	Steve & Barb
January 29	Tim

GREETERS	
January 1	Meri
January 8	Larry
January 15	Melanie & Lily
January 22	Ron
January 29	Roberta

COMMUNION SET-UP & PARAMENT COLOR		
January 1	Dave	White
January 8	Lee & Mary	White
January 15	Dave	Green (Intinction)
January 22	Lee & Mary	Green
January 29	Carol & Lillian	Green

??...DID YOU KNOW THAT...??

From the Central/Southern Synod/ELCA
December 15, 2016

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

- Congregations play a key role in encouraging individuals to consider a career in professional church work? Who might you and your congregation encourage to consider going to seminary? For more information about the candidacy process, contact Pastor Ken Sandlin at (217) 753-7915 or by email at Ken.Sandlin@csis-elca.org
- Beginning January, 2017, the three lay rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers will be combined into one roster which will be called “Ministry to Word and Service”? For more information, visit <https://www.ELCA.org/en/Our-Work/Leadership/Vocation>



- During the month of October, 2016, our synod contributed more than \$52,000 to the Campaign for the ELCA? \$36,870 was given for Hunger & Poverty; \$11,284 was given for the Global Church; and \$3,900 was given Where Needed Most. Thank you for your generosity. For more details, visit www.ELCA.org/campaign
- The “Reformation 500 Sourcebook” is an essential guide to help congregations plan for ways they will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation? The guide is divided into three main sections: worship, education, and service. To see this and other resources, visit www.augsburgfortress.org



- The Lutheran Volunteer Corps (for young adults age 21+) is a year-long program that allows young adults to work for peace and justice in one of 13 cities? For more details, visit <http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org> or call (202) 387-3222.
- Urban Servant Corps is a one-year full-time volunteer program in Denver, CO for persons (age 21+) with a Bachelor’s Degree? You may call (303) 894-0076 or visit <http://www.urbanservantcorps> for more information.



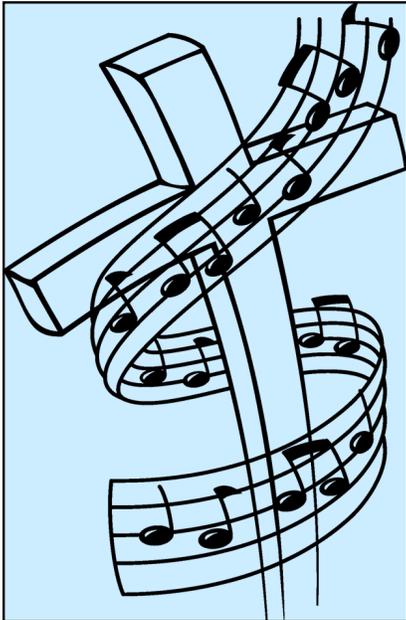
- ELCA Global Mission personnel serve in more than 40 countries, as assignments range from a few months to eight years or more? There are four categories of service: Long-term (usually four or more years); Global Mission (a two-year program); Self-funded Volunteers (of varying lengths, includes teachers and health care professionals); and Young Adults in Global Mission (ages 21-29). For more information about Global Mission service, visit www.ELCA.org/globalmission



For more information about the ELCA, visit www.elca.org
For more information about the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, visit www.csis-elca.org

Pastor Bob Dealey, DEM
Coordinator of Communications and Networking
Central-Southern Illinois Synod





**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.