

The Hilltopper

Our Savior Lutheran Church



March 2017

"Create
in me a
clean heart,
O **God,**
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me."
Psalm 51:10



**Sunday Worship
Service 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday 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
God's work. Our hands. www.elca.org

PASTOR'S PAGE



Michelangelo's Sixth Day of Creation with Adam's hand reaching toward God. Throughout Scripture, God's "right hand and his holy arm" reach out in anger, but also in power to protect and bring about salvation (Ps. 98:1) Jesus says that no one can snatch his sheep out of his Father's hand (John 10:28)

We can reach for God, but all would be in vain if he hadn't reached for us. Lent is a time to remember the love and grace that continues as we are in the hand of God. On Ash Wednesday we hear from Genesis 3:19 "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." From Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Lent and these passages are not meant to be dour, fearful or a time of sadness. Lent is a time of renewal and re-energizing, for God's hand is there! Yes, we are finite, but the gift promised through Christ is eternal, which should cause each of us to take time and refocus, rethink and pray over the hands that had nails driven through them up-on the cross.

"Put a new and right spirit within me" is exciting and makes these 40 days a time of expectation. After my heart issues, I could have lived every day in fear of what "might be," but I chose to seek the better of each day and how special all mornings are.

Close your eyes and see God's hand continually reaching for you. It is after all the story of Lent, God's passion in Christ Jesus.

Come and worship both Sundays and our mid-week worship at 7 p.m.

Peace,


Pastor Stephen D. Barnes

HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Special Services during 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 on Wednesday, March 8, at 7:00 PM. The theme is "The Hand of God".

Our devotional for Lent will be "God at the Center—Habits for Spiritual Growth."

The theme for Sunday Worship Services is "At the Crossroads."



OSLC will have a supper out at the Pekin Avanti's on **Sunday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m.** This is an every person order and pay off the menu. Ciao! A signup sheet will be on the bulletin board. Please sign up so we can inform Avanti's how many to expect. Thanks!

-Outreach & Fellowship Committee



The Mary Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 9:30 a.m.**, at the church. Hostess is Susan Thomas. Members will assemble "Health Kits" for Church Women United. Donations for the health kits continue to be accepted until March 12. Topics from the study guide "*Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith.*" will resume in April. All women of Our Savior are welcome!

Health  Kits

Items needed are (until Mar. 12):

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

Thank your for your help.



Easter Lilies to beautify our church will be available for you to order. The form will be in the March bulletins. The cost is again \$11.50. Orders need to be prepaid. Thank you Elsa Keas for organizing this!



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 Tuesday, March 28, 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. The prayer shawls and quilts that have been made so far will be dedicated at the Sunday, March 26 worship service. *Questions?* Contact Darlene Daniels.



Here is a sample of their work!





Garry Moore's very interesting presentation about Africa, the Swahili language, and history of African Americans in the Peoria area was enjoyed by the 30+ persons in attendance. He had given Dennis a special rate of \$50 instead of his usual \$250 for his presentation because our Church is small and he and Dennis are friends. We paid him the \$50, and the donation cup that was at the event received \$112, also given to Mr. Moore.

Thanks everyone,
Lee Sorenson

More pictures will be posted to Our Savior's website and Facebook page —be sure to check them out!



Our secretary, Gerry Reynolds, would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers offered during the recent months of traveling to and from Texas to help her parents with their health issues and the difficult move into a senior facility there. *"I believe prayers made this tough time much easier on my brother and me. We so appreciate your prayers. We are hoping to get them moved to Illinois in the near future."*

Thank you to everyone who came to Worship & Music's special meeting for worship participants. We shared good information and ideas. You are all very important to OSLC!!

Reminder: There will be **no** Bible Study group during Lent. Thank you!

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



"SOUPER" Bowl of Caring 2017

Thanks to all who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. A total of **163** nonperishable food items were donated by Our Savior to Christian Civic Outreach. This compares to 147 items last year. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national program which raises food donations and donates them to food



Don't Forget- "Spring Forward"
Saturday Night, March 11—See you at church on Sunday!

An organizational meeting of the *Retention of Records Committee* will be scheduled in the near future. The committee is composed of the following, who volunteered at the annual congregational meeting in January: Garold Burkholder, Sharon Foss, Elsa Keas, Tim Leitner, and Lillian Pinkston.

You are invited to Leslie Leitner's 60th **Birthday Celebration!!!**
Open House 1:00 —4:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 25, 2017
Cake, Conversation, and 'Dancing through the Decades'
Our Savior Lutheran Church
2223 Sheridan Road
Pekin, Illinois
Hope you can come—our kids will be here and we are planning to have a good time!
No gifts, please



FLOWER CHART FOR MARCH



March 5	Elsa Keas—In Memory of Carolyn Murphy
March 12	
March 19	Tim Leitner—In Honor of Leslie Leitner's 60th Birthday
March 26	Lee & Mary Sorenson—In Honor of Mary's Birthday

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 try to stay current with your prayer concerns. Prayer requests will be listed in the bulletin/Hilltopper for 4 weeks. Requests may be repeated if desired. If you wish to update a prayer or to continue it, just fill out the form that is in the pew.

New prayer concerns may be added at any time. For any prayer request or update, you may also contact the church office by phone or email.



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.



Don't forget to visit our website!

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

Prayer Concerns



Craig Brooks

Chad Wahl

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*)

Nancy Lietz (*mother-in-law of Anne Dralle Lietz—Multiple Myeloma treatment*)

Darlene Smith (*friend of Lillian Pinkston—serious health concerns*)

Ruby and Lon Etheridge (*Gerry's parents—Prayers for guidance and healing*)

Doris Hambleton (*sister of Marilyn Whittington—placed in Hospice*)

Jamie Fitzgerald (*Elsa Keas' granddaughter, thyroid cancer surgery*)

Molly Blanchard Brandenburg (*friend of Emily Olivos, treatment for cancer*)

Ryan (*guidance and protection*)

Jacque Davis (*health concerns*)

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

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

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

Prayer Chain at Our Savior

Council members recently discussed how our prayer chain is working. From the minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting: "The consensus was that email is fast, efficient, and achieves a wider coverage than possible... Pastor noted that such emails would be general rather than specific about the reason for the request due to constraints of policies regarding privacy."

A group email can reach a large number of members quickly. Members without an email address may ask that they be called when a prayer request is sent out.



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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 12—Larry & Darlene Daniels
 March 21—Charlie & Jacque Davis
 March 15—Matt & Emily (Leitner) Olivos



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 18—Leslie Leitner March 26—Mary Sorenson
 March 22—Charlie Davis



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 APRIL...

- **April 5:** Mid Week Lenten Service
- **April 13:** Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM
- **April 14:** Good Friday Service 7:00 PM
- **April 16:** Easter Sunday
 - ◆ Spoken Service 6:30 AM
 - ◆ Coffee Fellowship
 - ◆ Easter Festival Service 9:00 AM
- **April 28 & 29:** Tentative dates for the Rummage Sale (proceeds to be donated to House of Hope.)



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 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!

APRIL HILLTOPPER INFORMATION

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

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!

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.

Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z _____
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
 because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

from www.newsletternewsletter.com

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, 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: CEREAL, BOXED MEALS, CRACKERS, COATS, JEANS, CHILDREN'S CLOTHES, TOWELS****

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





2017 CHURCH COUNCIL—Contact Information

<i>President</i>	Lee Sorenson	Outreach & Fellowship Mutual Ministry	Lee.sorenson75@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Steve Gresham	Property Memorials & Gifts	gramg95@comcast.net
<i>Secretary</i>	Sharon Foss	Christian Education Finance & Stewardship	slfoss35@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Garold Burkholder	Finance & Stewardship	gburkholder21@comcast.net
	Melanie Fleming	Christian Education Mutual Ministry	melaniefleming@comcast.net
	Dennis Eggemeyer	Outreach & Fellowship	dle_61554@yahoo.com
	Larry Daniels	Outreach & Fellowship	lawrencedaniels@centurytel.net
	Leo Stiles	Property	lastiles1@gmail.com
	Ron Garber	Worship & Music	
	Pastor Barnes	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	
March 5	Melanie Fleming
March 12	Charlie Davis
March 19	Tim Leitner
March 26	Chris McCarrell

LAY READERS	
March 5	Roberta Stiles
March 12	Sue Barger
March 19	Larry Daniels
March 26	Dennis Eggemeyer

GREETERS	
March 5	Larry Daniels
March 12	Ron Garber
March 19	Roberta Stiles
March 26	Meri Arnold

**HOPE
ON
THE
HILL**

Hospitality
Outreach
Proclamation
Education

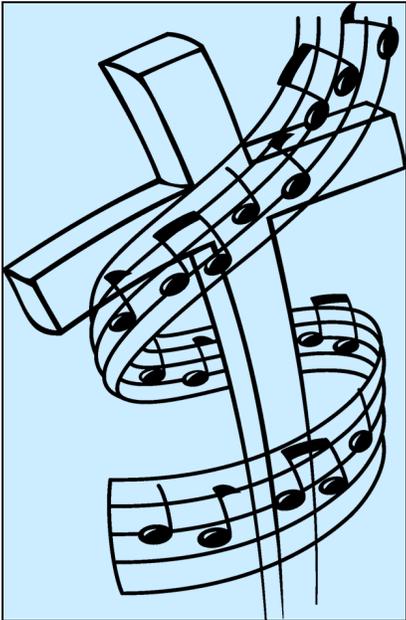
Helping
Individuals
Live in
Love

USHERS	
March 5	Ron Garber
March 12	Mark McCarrell
March 19	Dave Sanders
March 26	Garold Burkholder

TELLERS	
March 5	Sharon Foss & Elsa Keas
March 12	Leo & Roberta Stiles
March 19	Steve & Barb Gresham
March 26	Tim Leitner

COMMUNION SET-UP & PARAMENT COLOR		
March 5	Carol Guenther & Lillian Pinkston	Purple
March 12	Lee & Mary Sorenson	Purple
March 19	Dave Sanders (Intinction)	Purple
March 26	Carol Guenther & Lillian Pinkston	Purple

March



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.