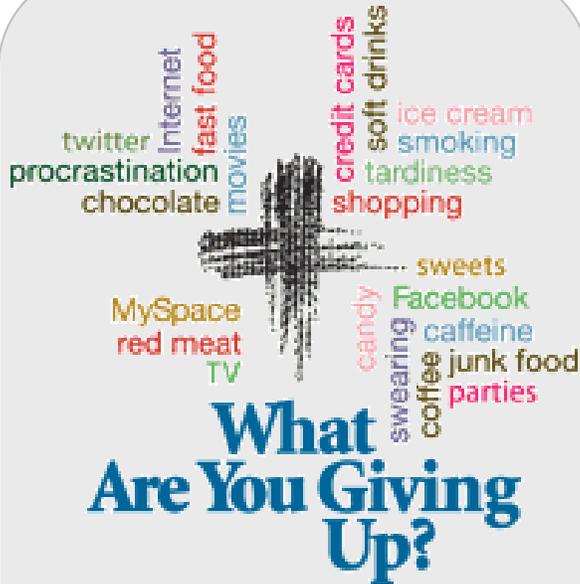


# The Hilltopper

Our Savior Lutheran Church



February 2018



## PASTOR'S PAGE

February is a “fooler” for me! I mindlessly slip into thinking that warmer weather is here only to realize that frozen toes are still possible! It must be that Valentine’s Day is close at hand and the days are getting longer and that “big yellow thing” can be seen in the sky more often.

And this year wouldn’t you know, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day, February 14<sup>th</sup>! That ought to really mess with people’s sense of “where are we really.” Thank goodness that Zebedee, old beyond knowing turtle, keeps things at Turtle Pond focused not on dates but on direction. That is, when the ice goes off the pond, turtles know it is time to count days till spring when life returns and the joy of Easter is close at hand. During that time of preparation, Turtle Creek Lutheran Church and the pond turtles focus upon the Love of God who deigned to send his Son to die for all of creation...turtles included!

Speaking of love, 1 John 4:7-12 says this: “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God IS love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

I have not seen too many “Ash Wednesday” cards compared to “Valentine’s Day” cards. I hope you share your love with those special people, but know that God in Christ Jesus has also given us His heart. One writer said: “As we gather for worship on February 14<sup>th</sup>, repenting in dust and ashes we experience a love that is far greater than the finest expression of love on a Valentine’s Day card. We look to the cross and see a love that is infinitely stronger and deeper than the greatest human love.”

Peace,

Pastor Stephen D. Barnes



**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](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:** [oslcekin1@gmail.com](mailto:oslcekin1@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.oslchopeonthehill.org](http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org)

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

**Hilltopper Editor:**  
Leslie Leitner  
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God’s work. Our hands. [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love



**On Sunday, February 11, at 5:30 p.m.,**  
Our Savior will have its first  
**Chili Contest!**

As we do not have a "Fat Tuesday" event before Ash Wednesday, we will call this a "Fat Sunday" event. The Outreach Committee will furnish drinks and chili toppings. Parishioners will be asked to *bring Chili or Desert, or a Non-contest Dish to Pass*. There will be small bowls available so that all chilis and desserts can be tasted by all in attendance. The chili will be awarded prizes for **Hottest Chili**, **Most Unique Chili**, and **Best Tasting Chili**. There will be an award for **Best Tasting Dessert** as well.

***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 18—Lori Reimer, RN**

The program will focus on aspects of health. Lori has been doing blood pressure checks at OSLC.

Christian Education will host a coffee fellowship—donations are welcome.



Our Savior will have an **Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. on February 14**, with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

The Worship & Music Committee is planning to serve a light meal (pizza & salad) **before the service at 6:15 p.m.**



There will be mid-week Lenten services on **Wednesdays, Feb. 21—March 21, at 7:00 p.m.** We will again use the Marty Haugen *Evening Prayer Service*.

**An Ash Wednesday Prayer**

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

*from www.newsletternewsletter.com*

The Confirmation Class will meet on **February 4** following the worship service. Another class will be scheduled in February. Class time will be 10:15-11:30 a.m.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, February 13, 9:30-11:00 a.m.** Our goal is to create lap covers and Prayer Shawls for Pastor Barnes to take to those in need of comfort. *We would appreciate any yarn/monetary donations (a box for yarn is under the coat rack).* Questions? Contact Darlene Daniels.



The Mary Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, February 21, at 9:30 a.m.** at the church. Hostess is Sue Barger. Topic Leader is Lillian Pinkston. The study guide is **"Revelation: God's Gift of Hope."** Guides may be purchased at the meeting at a cost of \$8.00. All women of Our Savior are welcome.

# News & Updates

## The annual Souper Bowl drive has begun!

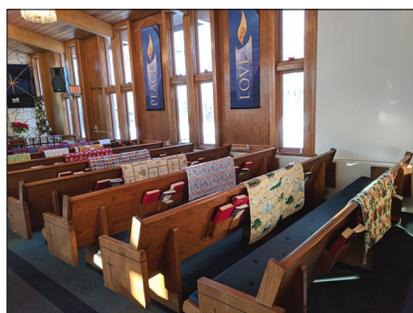


**SOUPER BOWL**

This is a nationwide program that Our Savior Lutheran Church participates in annually. Soup and other nonperishables are collected and donated to Pekin Christian Civic Outreach. It normally finishes on the same day as the National Football League's Super Bowl. This year, we are extending it through Sunday, February 11 which will be the day of the Chili contest. There will be a cauldron available for soup and other nonperishables to be placed in from **now through February 11.**

Again this year the Mary/Martha group is assembling **Health Kits** for Church Women United. There will be a box in the gathering room. We would appreciate your help gathering supplies in February and March:

- ♥ Hand towels
- ♥ Washcloths
- ♥ Combs (no rattails)
- ♥ Nail files (no emery boards)
- ♥ Band-aids
- ♥ Bath size soap
- ♥ Wrapped toothbrush
- ♥ 4-7 oz. toothpaste



On Sunday, December 31, we blessed these beautiful quilts during the worship service. They will be given those in need of comfort.

The Finance Committee reports that we have received a check from Ameren Illinois in the amount of \$2,700, under Ameren's rebate program that is available for upgrading heating systems. Ken Wehr submitted the necessary documentation to Ameren to obtain the rebate. **Thank you, Ken!**



**NOTE FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

**The newly sealed parking lot can be slick after rain or snow—please be cautious!**



### Mitten Tree Update

The Mitten Tree was "undecorated" to get the warm weather gear to Christian Civic Outreach before the extreme cold we experienced. Thanks to all who donated! A total of 41 mittens, 8 mitten and glove combinations, 31 stocking caps, 6 scarves, 5 pairs of socks, 1 ear muff, and 1 blanket were donated to Christian Civic Outreach!



### **NEWS from CCO**

- \* Christian Civic Outreach (CCO), reports that the **Anti-Hunger Coalition Can-a-thon is March 4th.** Drop boxes will be located at Kroger's, WCIC radio station, and some Subways. They ask for help to fill the boxes and stock their shelves.
- \* 109 Children received toys on December 8th from this year's toy give-away.



The 2018 Flower Chart is up. The price remains the same—\$25.00 for both vases per week. Thank you to all who provided flowers in 2017, either weekly or by lilies at Easter or poinsettias at Christmas.

—Elsa Keas

## FLOWER CHART FOR FEBRUARY



<b>February 4</b>	Lillian Pinkston—In Memory of Bill Pinkston
<b>11</b>	Pastor & Judy Barnes—Wedding Anniversary
<b>18</b>	The Bargers—Mike & Sue's birthdays
<b>25</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— \*\*UPDATED LIST OF NEEDS\*\***

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 RIGHT NOW include: cereal, canned fruit, bottled juice, peanut butter, can tuna, can soups, sugar, coffee, pancake mix, syrup**

Towels, washcloths  
Laundry detergent and dish soap  
Coffeemaker  
Kitchen towels

Pillows  
Twin sheets, blankets, comforters  
Shower curtain, curtain holders  
Diapers-all sizes

Your generosity is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact (309) 353-7512 or (309) 691-0551.



### **10 Biblical Ways to Love**



1. **Listen without interrupting.** "To answer before listening — that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13).
2. **Speak without accusing.** "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).
3. **Give without selfishness.** "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26).
4. **Pray without ceasing.** "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9).
5. **Answer without arguing.** "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
6. **Share without pretending.** "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).
7. **Enjoy without complaining.** "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).
8. **Trust without wavering.** "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. **Forgive without punishing.** "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).
10. **Promise without forgetting.** "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).

**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 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.

**Prayer Concerns**

**Family of Tim & Leslie Leitner** (*Tim's mother passed away January 4*)

**Lon Etheridge** (*Gerry's dad in the hospital*)

**Doris Voller** (*health concerns*)

**Gus** (*health concerns—Sue Barger's father*)

**Caleb** (*personal problems, Mike & Sue Barger's nephew*)

**Craig Brooks**

**Chad Wahl**

**Cheryl, Alan, and Mitchell**

**Ruth Roach** (*health issues, at Hallmark, room 112*)

**Marithza Barger** (*living alone while Josh is deployed*)

**Linda Crandal** (*Chris McCarrell's college roommate, ovarian cancer*)



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



**Prayer Chain at Our Savior**

An email will be sent to all members when a prayer request is received. 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.

**Don't forget to visit our website!**

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

If you'd like to see the Hilltopper in full color, take a look at it on our website!!



**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.

# In February we're celebrating... Anniversaries & Birthdays

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Wayne & Susan Foss February 8
George & Elaine Alexander February 14
Pastor Stephen & Judy Barnes February 17



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 4—Gayle Gettman

February 7—Sue Barger

February 8—Dennis Eggemeyer

February 21—Ron Garber

February 29—Mike Barger  
(*sorry Mike, not this year!*)

Happy Birthday!



*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!

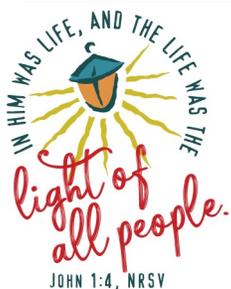


STRETCHING  
STRENGTH TRAINING FOR ARMS & LEGS  
AB & CORE WORKOUT  
CARDIO (WITH OR W/O STEP)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH...

- Wednesday in March—Midweek Lenten Services, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 4, 6:00 PM—Supper Out

March 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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

10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School



Please join us after service for **Adult Sunday School**. 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!



**If you have information you want to be in the Hilltopper, please email Leslie at [leitner@grics.net](mailto:leitner@grics.net); or put articles, committee information, news, events, and updates in the Hilltopper mailbox in the Library, **BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18.****



## heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

**What you need:**

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

**What you do:**

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.

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



## A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

*Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.*

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D ...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	O	J	F	
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G	
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H	
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G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T	
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A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O
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JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, 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.

**\*\*CURRENT SPECIAL NEEDS: CEREAL, CANNED MEATS, FRUIT, BOYS CLOTHING, COATS—ALL SIZES\*\***  
**They served 231 clients in December 2017. There were 17 new clients.**



**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 4</b>	Melanie Fleming
<b>February 11</b>	Tim Leitner
<b>February 18</b>	Meri Arnold
<b>February 25</b>	Melanie Fleming

LAY READERS	
<b>February 4</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer
<b>February 11</b>	Roberta Stiles
<b>February 18</b>	Roberta Stiles
<b>February 25</b>	Sue Barger

GREETERS	
<b>February 4</b>	Roberta Stiles
<b>February 11</b>	Ron Barger
<b>February 18</b>	<i>Greeter Needed</i>
<b>February 25</b>	Carol Guenther

**HOPE  
ON  
THE  
HILL**

Hospitality  
Outreach  
Proclamation  
Education

Helping  
Individuals  
Live in  
Love

USHERS	
<b>February 4</b>	Ron Garber
<b>February 11</b>	Mark McCarrell
<b>February 18</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer
<b>February 25</b>	Garold Burkholder

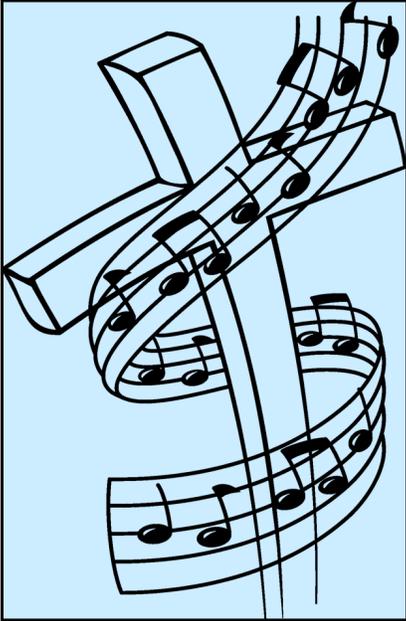
TELLERS	
<b>February 4</b>	Steve & Barb Gresham
<b>February 11</b>	Leo & Roberta Stiles
<b>February 18</b>	Sharon Foss & Elsa Keas
<b>February 25</b>	Tim Leitner & Valerie Gettys

COMMUNION SET-UP & PARAMENT COLOR		
<b>February 4</b>	Lillian & Mark	Green
<b>February 11</b>	Lee & Mary Sorenson	White
<b>February 18</b>	(Intinction) Dave Sanders	Purple
<b>February 25</b>	Carol & Lillian	Purple



# FEBRUARY

**Freed**  
& RENEWED  
**in Christ**  
500  
YEARS OF GOD'S  
GRACE IN ACTION



**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 '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 the 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.

## *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.*