

# The Hilltopper

Our Savior Lutheran Church



March 2018



*Many thanks to our current council members:* Dennis Eggemeyer, who is the new council president; Steve Gresham, Garold Burkholder, and Sharon Foss, who continue in their current positions; and members Melanie Fleming, Larry Daniels, Lee Sorenson, Leo Stiles, and Ron Garber.



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

## PASTOR'S PAGE

This Lenten season is moving right along even as the days are growing ever so slightly longer with the promise of sun!

Our Sundays focus upon a familiar biblical phrase – “Thy will be done.” Two places come to mind: Matthew 6:9 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Then in the garden of Gethsemane, Luke 22:42 “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.”

It is the continual struggle between what we might want and stepping out of self and seeing God's design. Our God of grace and love wants caring for others and seeing his will as paramount to our daily living.

Civility and caring seem to be on the wane in our world today. Self and serving what we think seems best for us is dividing us.

Peter Marty, publisher of Christian Century wrote an interesting article in the February 2018 issue. I guess I liked it because he and I have the same disdain for going to the dentist!

From Marty: “My least favorite part of sitting in a dentist's chair doesn't involve the drilling, suctioning, or poking. It's the moment when the dentist wraps my tongue in gauze and starts yanking it left and right. That hurts. I know it's part of oral cancer screening, but wincing anxiously under the exam light, my mind goes straight to a medieval torture chamber.

“No one can tame the tongue,” declares the writer of the Letter of James...but he had more than physical constraint of the tongue in mind. Is it true that the tongue can't be trained to keep coarse and brutal language at bay? Is there no way to hold off lies and propaganda? What about the self-serving images or words of deceit that roll off our tongues? Is taming all of this impossible? These are worthwhile questions to ask, especially in an era when many are wondering where public civility went.”

Worthwhile questions indeed, when we are considering not my will, but Thy will be done. On our Lenten journey, let us consider that God's will is to love one another as He loved us through His son. Let us consider where our heart is in our weekly prayer. Let us consider what brings communities together even in our differences and the role our faith plays. Marty wants us to consider that “there is an inner politeness that must be formed over time as well.” Amazing to me how many people in public offer faith, but few live “Thy will be done.”

There is a song entitled, “Let It Start With Me.” “Let it start with me. Open up my eyes. Fill my heart with your compassion. Free my mind from all distractions. Use my hands, to set the captive free. Move my feet to follow after you. Lord change the world and let it start with me.”

“Thy Will Be Done.”

Peace,

Pastor Stephen D. Barnes

## HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love



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

### HOLY WEEK



### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**March 25—Palm/Passion Sunday, 9:00 a.m.:** Christ reveals to us that even tough roads are worth traversing for the good of the kingdom. Procession with Palms beginning in the Parish Hall.

**March 29—Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.:** *“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”* John 15:11. Bread will be baked for the day.

**March 30—Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.:** God’s Will is done. Tenebrae—Service of Darkness with thunder and silence.

### Education Special Sunday

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

*The next All-Congregational program will be April 15, 2018.*



### EASTER CELEBRATION!

**April 1, 2018**

**7:00 a.m. The Empty Tomb—spoken worship**

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN WORSHIP TIMES

**9:00 a.m. He is Risen! Festive Easter Celebration. God’s Will for the New Creation. Special Music at the service.**

**Jason's deli**

The next “Supper Out” is scheduled for **Sunday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m.** at Jason’s Deli in East Peoria. This restaurant helped us with our Operation Santa fundraiser that provides stocking to US Service people at Christmas time, by providing fruit for 30 for our Coffee Fellowship Fundraiser for Operation Santa. A Signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Mark your calendars!

The Confirmation Class will meet on **March 4** following the worship service. Class time will be 10:15-11:30 a.m.



### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, March 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, March 21, at 9:30 a.m.** at the church. Hostess is Sharon Foss. Members will assemble Health Kits for Church Women United.

The study of **“Revelation: God’s Gift of Hope.”** will resume in April. Guides may be purchased at the meeting at a cost of \$8.00. All women of Our Savior are welcome.



**On Sunday, February 11, OSLC had its first chili contest! There were 19 people in attendance. Thanks to Mike Barger for proposing and coordinating the event.**



Thanks to all who donated to the soup and nonperishable food drive in conjunction with the NFL super bowl and the chili cookoff. A total of 203 units were donated to Christian Civic Outreach this year, as compared to 163 last year, a whopping 25% increase. Way to go everyone!



We're going to a movie!  
**"I Can Only Imagine"** at AMC Grand Prairie in Peoria

**Sunday, March 18 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**All Tickets are \$6**

Either drive directly to the AMC Grand Prairie Theatre in Peoria or meet at OSLC and car pool to the AMC Grand Prairie Theatre that day, whatever is most convenient. There is a sign up sheet at OSLC. This is the first viewing of a movie as a group for OSLC.

The Mary/Martha group is assembling **Health Kits** for Church Women United. There is a box in the gathering room. We would appreciate your help gathering supplies in March.

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



**KITS WILL BE ASSEMBLED ON MARCH 21**



**Fran Swarbrick passed away on January 25, 2018. She was the wife of our founding minister, Pastor Bill Swarbrick, and the sister-in-law of Lillian Pinkston.**

DIXON – Frances Elsa (Pervier) Swarbrick, 95, of Dixon, died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, at her country home near Dixon. She was not ill; she died peacefully of old age. Her daughters, who had been taking care of her, were at her side.

Frances was born Nov. 8, 1922, in Minneapolis, the daughter of Norville C. and Elsa (Radde) Pervier. Her mother died at Frances' birth. She attended the Cummings School of Art in Des Moines, Iowa, the American Academy of Art in Chicago, and Carthage College in Carthage. Frances married William Henry Swarbrick, a fellow student at the college, in 1944, who became a Lutheran minister. During the 38 years of his ministry, Frances accompanied him as he pastored five different Lutheran churches: Mount Moriah Lutheran Church at Anna, St. Mark Lutheran Church at Dubuque, Iowa, organized and served as first pastor of Our Savior Lutheran church in Pekin, Old Trinity Lutheran Church in Carthage, and lastly pastored 17 years at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon. He retired in 1985 and spent the rest of his life at his country home in Dixon. He died in 2012.

Fran is survived by her brother, Norville Pervier of Brainerd, Minnesota; daughter, Bonnie Swarbrick Morehouse (Richard) of Tucson, Arizona; daughter, Jeanne Rager (Van Johnson) of Dixon; son, Mark Swarbrick (Josephine) of Phoenix; 10 grandchildren, Jason Rager of Winnebago, Monte Rager of Pecatonica, Ryan Rager of Mound, Minnesota, Roxanne Rager of Bryon, Carla Swarbrick, Jamie, Eric, and Andy Swarbrick, all of Dixon, Jared Swarbrick of Tucson, and Cloe Swarbrick of Phoenix; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Frances was a reporter for the Rockford Register Star for many years, covering regional news. She served as a courtroom artist at many trials.

Frances was best known for her artwork. Her paintings grace the walls of many homes in the area. The Northwest Historical Center and the Loveland Museum (where she was curator for many years), both in Dixon, showcase many of her murals and paintings. Her painting of President Reagan standing at Lowell Park, now hangs in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California. She also organized and was curator of the Kibbe Museum in Carthage. She was an accomplished poet and author. Frances was an avid horse lover.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 10, and the memorial service at 11 a.m. Feb. 10 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon, with Rev. Joseph O'Donnell, pastor, officiating. A luncheon at the church will follow. Preston-Schilling Funeral Home in Dixon is handling arrangements.

*A memorial has been established to The Next Picture Show Art Gallery, 113 W. First St., Dixon, IL 61021.*

## FLOWER CHART FOR MARCH



<b>March 4</b>	The Atkinsons—Dale's birthday
<b>11</b>	Larry & Darlene—Anniversary
<b>18</b>	The Leitners—Leslie's birthday & Matt & Emily's 4th Anniversary
<b>25</b>	The Flemings—Lily'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.



We will be decorating the sanctuary with lilies on Easter. Orders for the Easter lilies must be turned in no later than March 4th. We ask that they be paid for when they are ordered, or before our order is turned in to the Greenhouse. The cost is **\$11.50 per lily**.



### Dispelling the darkness

*from www.newsletternewsletter.com*

On Good Friday, many churches hold a Tenebrae worship service. Tenebrae (Latin for “darkness” or “shadows”) is an ancient Christian tradition that re-creates the emotions of Jesus’ Passion and death. The sanctuary gradually grows darker. A strepitus (Latin for “loud noise”) may signify the closing of Jesus’ tomb. As the service concludes, a Christ candle stands alone on the altar, reminding worshippers that victory is coming on Easter morning.

When Scottish missionary Peter Milne died in 1924, the thankful people he’d served in the South Pacific inscribed this message on his headstone: “When he came, there was no light; when he died, there was no darkness.”

Death’s darkness couldn’t conquer Jesus, the light of the world, so it does not conquer us. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5, ESV).

### **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.

**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)

**Prayer Concerns**

**Roman Wegrzyn** (*Pray for him and his family as his Alzheimer's Disease progresses*)

**Becky** (*Beth Dralle's sister-health concerns*)

**Family of Lon Etheridge** (*Gerry's dad*)

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

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

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

**Craig Brooks**

**Chad Wahl**

**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)



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.

*Prayer Chain*



**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.



**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/>

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 March we're celebrating... Anniversaries & Birthdays

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Darlene Daniels—March 12
Charlie & Jacque Davis—March 21
Matt & Emily (Leitner) Olivos— March 15
Bruce & Gayle Gettman—March 29



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

*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 1: Easter Celebration! 7:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m.**
- **April 15: All-Congregational Presentation—'Human Trafficking'**
- **Last weekend in April—OSLC Rummage Sale**

April 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					



**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!



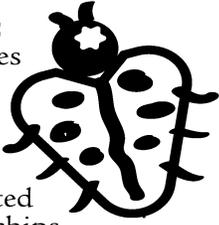
*If you have information you want to be in the Hilltopper, please email Leslie at [leitner@grics.net](mailto:leitner@grics.net); or put articles, committee information, news, events, and updates in the Hilltopper mailbox in the Library, **BY SUNDAY, MARCH 18.***

## FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

### What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and “spots” on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry “head” by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennas and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!

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



## Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

“L\_\_RD, \_\_r L\_\_rd, h\_\_w  
 m\_\_j\_\_st\_\_c \_\_s y\_\_r  
 n\_\_m\_\_n \_\_ll th\_\_  
 \_\_rth!”  
 Ps\_\_lm 8:1, N\_\_V



Answer: “LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”  
 NIV Psalm 8:1



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\*\***



**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.



2018 CHURCH COUNCIL—Contact Information			
President	<b>Dennis Eggemeyer</b>	Worship & Music Mutual Ministry	dle_61554@yahoo.com
Vice President	<b>Steve Gresham</b>	Property Memorials & Gifts	gramg95@comcast.net
Secretary	<b>Sharon Foss</b>	Christian Education Finance & Stewardship	slfoss35@gmail.com
Treasurer	<b>Garold Burkholder</b>	Finance & Stewardship	gburkholder21@comcast.net
	<b>Melanie Fleming</b>	Christian Education Mutual Ministry	melaniefleming@comcast.net
	<b>Lee Sorenson</b>	Outreach & Fellowship	Lee.sorenson75@gmail.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	
March 4	Assistant needed
March 11	Melanie Fleming
March 18	Meri Arnold
March 25	Melanie Fleming

LAY READERS	
March 4	Dennis Eggemeyer
March 11	Roberta Stiles
March 18	Roberta Stiles
March 25	Sue Barger

GREETERS	
March 4	Larry Daniels
March 11	Ron Barger
March 18	Melanie & Lily Fleming
March 25	Carol Guenther

**HOPE  
ON  
THE  
HILL**

Hospitality  
Outreach  
Proclamation  
Education

Helping  
Individuals  
Live in  
Love

USHERS	
March 4	Ken Wehr?
March 11	Mark McCarrell
March 18	Dennis Eggemeyer
March 25	Ken Wehr

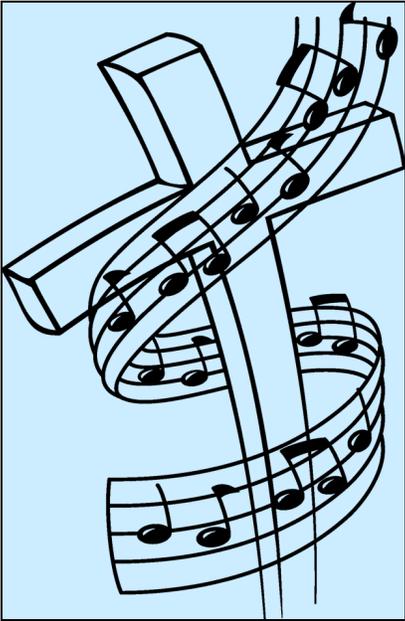
TELLERS	
March 4	Steve & Barb Gresham
March 11	Larry & Roberta Stiles
March 18	Sharon Foss & Elsa Keas
March 25	Tim Leitner

COMMUNION SET-UP & PARAMENT COLOR		
March 4	Lee & Mary Sorenson	Purple
March 11	Dave Sanders	Purple
March 18	(Intinction) Lee & Mary Sorenson	Purple
March 25	Carol Guenther & Lillian Pinkston	Purple



# March

**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.*