

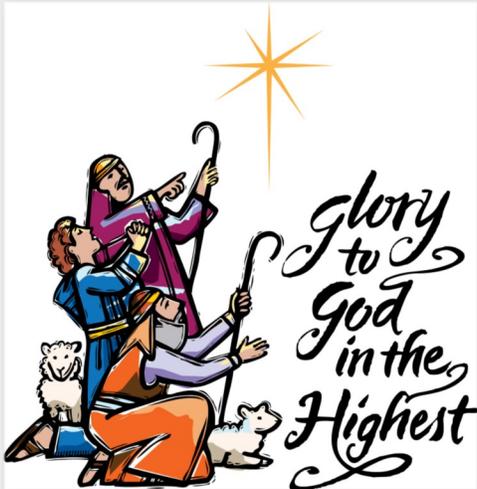
# The Hilltopper

Our Savior Lutheran Church



NEWSLETTER

December 2018



**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

Dear Family of Faith,

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

In the Gospels, joy and peace are always found together. The angel who announces the birth of Christ, the prince of peace, to the shepherds says: “Listen, I bring you news of great joy to be shared with the whole people” (Luke 2:10). And when Jesus has completed his work of peace on earth and is lifted up to heaven, the disciples return to Jerusalem “full of joy” (Luke 24:52). Thus the Gospel of peace is also a Gospel of Joy. Henri Nouwen

Advent is a time of waiting and renewal. This is a time to once again remember the birth of our Savior Jesus who brings salvation and the grace of God into our hearts. Jesus says we are to be the light of the world and I would hope that as we decorate with many lights, we would remember that our light is to shine out into this dark world as well. There is a phrase that states, “peace begins with me.” If we keep the joy and peace of Christ in our hearts, even in our small circle of people, we can make a difference.

Looking at our world, violence and hatred seem to be growing even in the world of religion. Henri Nouwen writes, “that we can't sell out to those who view peace only at the end of a sword. If we are ever to enjoy peace joined together with joy in our time, we must first look at the person in the mirror.”

When there are acts of violence in our world and someone will say, “you are in my prayers,” is that all? How are we following the Christmas Angel? “Listen, I bring you news of great joy to be shared with the whole people.” To say, to live the words, “my peace, I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you” (John 14:27). Is that person you see in the mirror bringing that news, sharing the light that is within you?

Not easy questions, I know, but Advent provides us time to reflect, pray and prepare our hearts.

Peace,

Pastor Stephen Barnes

## HOPE ON THE HILL

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love



Be sure to return your reply to your invitation to the 60th Anniversary Celebration of Our Savior Lutheran! The deadline is *Friday, November 30*.

It will be a wonderful service and celebration, with brunch after the service catered by Cracker Barrel.

It is on **Sunday, December 9, beginning with our worship service at 9:00 a.m.**

Two former pastors are planning to attend—Phil Hougen & Lyle Steinfeldt.

The Anniversary committee is asking for volunteers to provide table decorations and to decorate the tables. Tablecloths are provided by Cracker Barrel. On the day of the celebration, volunteers are needed to help with cutting & serving the cake, manning the beverage table, and general kitchen help. We also need a volunteer to take photos of the event. Please respond to Chris (chrismccarrell@comcast.net) if you are able to help.

### Education Special Sunday

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

The All-Congregational program will be on **Sunday, December 2**.

We will have “Puppets for Jesus” performing for us!

Roberta Stiles & Melanie Fleming will host a coffee fellowship. Donations of goodies are welcome.

**December 2 begins our Ornament Exchange! Bring an ornament from home and take home our special 60th Anniversary Ornament!!**

*You will take your own ornament home when we “undecorate.”*



## WONDERFUL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN DECEMBER!

Join us for our Advent worship series, **God With Us**. Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah.

**Sunday, December 2:** *Our Potter—“We are the clay, and you are our potter.” Isaiah 64:8*

**Sunday, December 9:** *Our Shepherd—“He will gather the lambs in his arms.” Isaiah 40:11*

**Sunday, December 16:** *Our Living Branch—“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.” Isaiah 11:1*

**Sunday, December 23:** *Our Guide—“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” Isaiah 2:3*



### Wednesday Advent Worship

*Mid Week Services will begin with a light meal at 6:00 p.m., followed by an informal service at 6:20 p.m. in the Parish Hall.*

December 5: The Potter

December 12: The Shepherd

December 19: The Living Branch

*The service will include hymns, prayers, readings and a short meditation.*

*We will also share a project for our Starke School Partner Children.*

### CHRISTMAS EVE – 8:00 P.M. CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

*God With Us – “A Great Light”*

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, Isaiah foretold.*



Sunday, December 30, 9:00 a.m.—‘LESSONS & CAROLS’

# News & Updates

Orders for (red) poinsettias to decorate the church must be turned in **no later than December 2!** We ask that the poinsettias be paid for when they are ordered or before the order is turned in. They are \$11.50 per poinsettias.



The Outreach & Fellowship Committee would like us to sign up to host Coffee Fellowships on **December 16, 23, 30, and January 6.** There is a sign up sheet—grab some friends to bring treats, or have your committee select a Sunday!

**Christmas Caroling** will be on Sunday, December 16th. Carolers are asked to gather at OSLC. We will leave *promptly at 5:30 p.m.!* Lillian has graciously offered to host us when we finish caroling.



## COOKIE WALK AT LUTHERAN HILLSIDE VILLAGE

*Friday, December 14, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.*

Homemade fudge, homemade cookies and candies, individual loaves of bread, a variety of sweet treats - sound good? Stop by the main entrance of LHV at 6901 North Galena Road in Peoria. The goodies will be displayed on long tables, and you can select your own personal favorites. Sound easy? It is! Your Styrofoam container will be weighed - you can get a lot of yummy sweets for a pound! Proceeds benefit LHV's Benevolent Fund for those folks who have outlived their resources. The event is sponsored by the Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria.

Bakers are needed for this event. We are requesting donations to be in containers that you do not need back delivered to the main lobby/front desk of Lutheran Hillside Village between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13. We will gladly accept homemade cookies, fudge, baked breads, or Christmas candies. The residents and staff will be delighted by your efforts!



### **'Supper Out' for December**

**On Sunday, December 2, OSLC will have a 'supper out' starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Golden Corral restaurant, 3525 N University St, Peoria. Then we will go to view the Festival of the Nativity, 3700 W. Reservoir Blvd, Peoria, which features over 500 different Nativity scenes.**

If you would like a ride, please call contact any member of the Outreach committee (Mike Barger, Darlene Daniels, Larry Daniels, Lee Sorenson)

**The Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday, January 27, 2019.**

Reminder: The Nominating Committee members are Mike Barger, Leslie Leitner, Mark McCarrell, and Dave Sanders, along with outgoing Council member Sharon Foss.

### ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

Thanks to all who have offered to help with the Angel Tree Ministry this year. Gerry will be contacting you soon to get "your child's" information to you as soon as she receives specific information from the children's caregivers.



The Mary Martha Circle will NOT meet in December.

The study guide is "Twelve Extraordinary Women."

Copies are available at the meeting for a cost of \$5.00. All women of Our Savior are welcome.

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry group have decided to donate our excess items to the Church Women United group. They collect at their October meeting each year and distribute to nursing homes and shelters. We donated 5 lap blankets and two infant quilts.

Anyone interested in this project—please plan on joining us the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 11, 9:30-11:00 a.m.** We would appreciate any yarn/monetary donations (a box for yarn is under the coat rack.) Questions? Contact Darlene Daniels.

### Mitten Tree

Our Savior will have a tree in the entrance where you can hang your donations of mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. They will be donated to Christian CIVIC Outreach. Thank you for your generosity.





## FLOWER CHART FOR DECEMBER

<b>December 2</b>	Sue Hale—for the Glory of God
<b>December 9</b>	60th Anniversary of OSLC
<b>December 16</b>	Poinsettias
<b>December 23</b>	Poinsettias
<b>December 30</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.

**If you have information you want to be in the Hilltopper, please email Leslie by Sunday, December 23 at [leitner@grics.net](mailto:leitner@grics.net); OR put articles, committee information, news, events, and updates in the Hilltopper mailbox in the Library. Thank you!**



Somehow, not only for Christmas,  
But all the long year through,  
The joy that you give to others,  
Is the joy that comes back to you.  
And the more you spend in blessing  
The poor and lonely and sad,  
The more of your heart's possessing  
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier



### **Center for Prevention of Abuse— \*\*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 continue to pray for 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 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!!

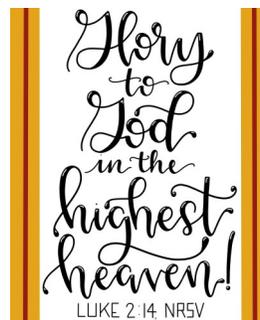


**Prayer Concerns**

- Dick Bolam** (health concerns)
- Scott Massey** (leg injury)
- Remi (Remington)** (premature baby & family)
- Pastor Dennis Scoville** (health concerns)
- Roman Wegrzyn** (Pray for him and his family as his Alzheimer's Disease progresses)
- Elaine Alexander** (health concerns)
- Gus** (health concerns—Sue Barger's father)
- Caleb** (personal concerns, Mike & Sue Barger's nephew)
- Craig Brooks**
- Chad Wahl**
- Ruth Roach** (at Hallmark House)



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



**Our Savior Lutheran Value Statement**

We spread God's word – joining with Jesus to heal our broken world.



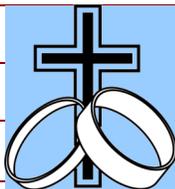
**Our Savior Lutheran Guiding Principles**



- 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 December we're celebrating... Anniversaries & Birthdays

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- December 3—Phil Dralle
- December 8—Mike Dralle
- December 12—Teresa Massey
- December 19—Sharon Eggemeyer
- December 19—Amanda Johnson
- December 26—Darlene Daniels
- December 26—Barb Gresham
- December 30—Dick Bolam

*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 JANUARY

- **January 5**—Annual Reports Due to Gerry
- **Sunday, January 6**—Epiphany Party
- **Sunday, January 27**—Annual Meeting

January 2019						
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 11:15. We will meet in the library and can move if our group outgrows that space! All adults of the church and visitors are welcome! .

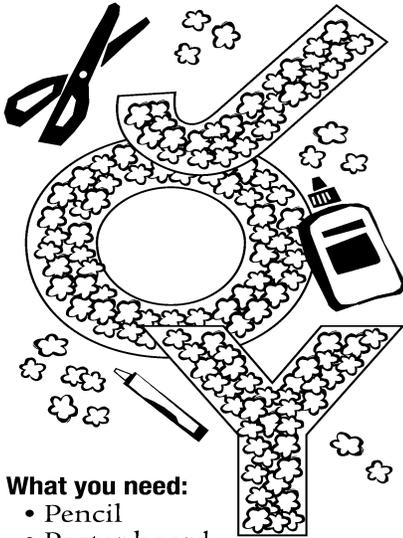


God sends us out as messengers with his good news. Who has brought that news to me?  
Who needs me to carry that news to them?

## CHRISTMAS



Make this fun decoration as a reminder of the joy Jesus brings.



### What you need:

- Pencil
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Craft pom-poms (red, white, green, silver, gold)
- Glue

### What you do:

1. Trace large capital block letters J, O and Y on the poster board.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Glue pom-poms on one side of each letter, completely covering it.
4. Share JOY by displaying the letters in your home.



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



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:\*\***

COATS, HATS, GLOVES, BABY FOOD & FORMULA, BOXED FOODS, & Personal Items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, bath wash, combs



**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**

<i>President</i>	<b>Dennis Eggemeyer</b>	Worship & Music Mutual Ministry	dle_61554@yahoo.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>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.*

<b>LAY ASSISTANTS</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	Tim Leitner
<b>December 9</b>	Meri Arnold
<b>December 16</b>	Melanie Fleming
<b>December 23</b>	Meri Arnold
<b>December 30</b>	Tim Leitner

<b>LAY READERS</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer
<b>December 9</b>	Larry Daniels
<b>December 16</b>	Roberta Stiles
<b>December 23</b>	Sue Barger
<b>December 30</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer

**HOPE  
ON  
THE  
HILL**

Hospitality  
Outreach  
Proclamation  
Education

Helping  
Individuals  
Live in  
Love

<b>USHERS</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer
<b>December 9</b>	Mark McCarrell
<b>December 16</b>	Ken Wehr
<b>December 23</b>	Garold Burkholder
<b>December 30</b>	Dennis Eggemeyer

<b>TELLERS</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	Sharon Foss & Elsa Keas
<b>December 9</b>	Tim Leitner & Ken Wehr
<b>December 16</b>	Leo & Roberta Stiles
<b>December 23</b>	Steve & Barb Gresham
<b>December 30</b>	Valerie Gettys & Tim Leitner

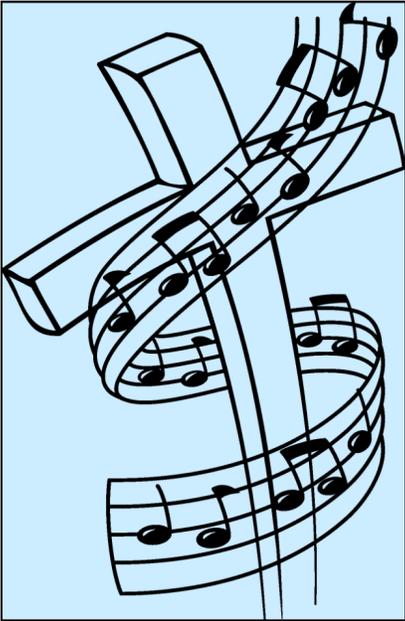
<b>GREETERS</b>	
<b>December 2</b>	Ron Garber & Steve Gresham
<b>December 9</b>	Linda Tanner
<b>December 16</b>	Sue Hale
<b>December 23</b>	Carol Guenther
<b>December 30</b>	Melanie & Lily Fleming

<b>COMMUNION SET-UP &amp; PARAMENT COLOR</b>		
<b>December 2</b>	Dave Sanders	Blue
<b>December 9</b>	Lee & Mary Sorenson	Blue
<b>December 16</b>	Carol Guenther (Intinction)	Blue
<b>December 23</b>	Linda Tanner	Blue
<b>December 30</b>	Dave Sanders	White

# DECEMBER



**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.*