



# Hope on the Hill

### Pastor's Letter

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

### Prepare Ye...

Yep, that's right, "prepare ye," is our theme during this Advent Season! I can tell by stores and places to buy trees, the commercial Christmas is well underway. I also know that during this Pandemic, we struggle to bring our hearts in line with both things....trees and trust in Jesus who has come into the world.

When I was younger my mother would ask at times, "Steve, are you really involved or just going through the motions?" Often it caused me to think about which one I was doing....heart and mind or just hand and time?

Now is our time, these weeks before celebrating Christmas to turn our hearts to living out our faith and not just walking the way to December 25<sup>th</sup>. I say this, because I know many more barriers are in our way right now!

From Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a

highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.  
<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Yes, there are "wilderness" places. Yes, there are dips and turns in our "highway for our God." Yes, "valleys and mountains" need to become level with rough places a plain.

If we are to prepare our hearts, lives and families for this time and Jesus' return, we cannot just go through the motions. It takes trust, commitment and living the covenant that God has given us in Jesus our Lord. Go to that place in your heart where you can find joy. Go to that place in your soul that gives you the energy to seek the Lord wherever he may be found!

One more Isaiah passage....40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

I pray that you will find the Spirit of God in your heart and the joy of "preparing the way," moving forward to celebrating, God's Son being born unto you and me!

Peace,

Pastor Stephen Barnes

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD  
PEKIN, IL 61554

**Pastor: Rev. Stephen Barnes**  
Email: barnes.stephen9@gmail.com

**Church Office: (309) 346-2600**  
Gerry Reynolds, Secretary

**Church email: oslcpekin1@gmail.com**

**Website: www.oslchopeonthehill.org**

On-line worship only

### Prayer Concerns

#### Prayers for all those with COVID-19

- Family of Ron Garber, Sr.** (passed away November 22)
- Family of Roman Wegrzyn** (passed away recently; Roman and Pastor, and Roman's wife, shared their musical talents with us at Our Savior several times.)
- Bud Thomas** (recovering from heart problems)
- Deena Burkholder** (recovering from treatment for cancer)
- Betty Barnes** (Pastor Barnes' mother, on hospice)
- Gus & Lil Marzinzik** (health concerns—Sue Barger's parents)
- George Sipka** (Teresa Massey's father; health concerns)
- Craig Brooks, Chad Wahl, Ryan Montgomery**

(Contact the church office with any additions, deletions, corrections or updates)



# NEWS & EVENTS

## REMEMBER:

- \*Wear a mask
- \*Watch your distance
- \*Wash your hands

COVID-19  
UPDATES

***Due to the continued rapid spread of the coronavirus throughout our community, WORSHIP SERVICES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AT LEAST THROUGH DECEMBER 13.***

We are monitoring what is happening in our region, and will be discussing the situation again before the 13th.

*All of the Midweek Advent Services will be posted on our website and the link will be emailed out. (See more information below.)*

We can still stay in touch with fellow OSLC members through phone calls, emails, cards sent through the mail, and even video calls. You can also continue to mail your offerings to the church.



## **SUNDAYS IN ADVENT**

**December 6—To Pray.** We think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ.

**December 13—To Praise.** We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through the songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him.

**December 20—To Proclaim.** We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. Much like John the Baptist, proclaim and be ready.

**December 24—**Just as Mary and Joseph prepared a place for the baby Jesus to rest his head in a manger, so we prepare a place in our hearts this Christmas Eve for Jesus to be present with us.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** *We are uncertain if we will be able to come together to celebrate the birth of our Savior, but we will make that decision soon. We will communicate worship plans as we get closer to Christmas Eve.*

**December 27—**Tim anticipates this will be an *on-line service*, with Christmas hymn videos that you can sing along with in your home! Watch for some of our Lay Readers, also.

## **Midweek Advent Services—Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16, and 23**

Tim has selected as the focus this Advent *Our Hope and Expectations*, loosely based on a booklet of devotions for Advent by Augsburg Fortress. There will be readings, prayers, and special music during time for reflection. There will be one short (12-13 minutes) video each week, with video readings that Tim has asked family members to record. The fourth Wednesday in Advent, December 23, will feature our own Lily Fleming. These services are always a good opportunity to slow down and recharge during at this busy time of year.



**Ron Garber, Sr.** passed away on November 22, 2020. His son, Ron Jr., sent Pastor the link to the slideshow that he made of his father. Ron, Jr. asked that it be shared with the congregation as there will only be a private family service due to COVID-19 restrictions. We hope you are able to view the pictures as it is a lovely tribute to Ron, Sr.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bUca\\_Po-ae90qjCcJ-CxRYorhrsW4Q5r/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bUca_Po-ae90qjCcJ-CxRYorhrsW4Q5r/view?usp=sharing)

This is the link to the obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pjstar/obituary.aspx?n=ronald-garber&pid=197157113&fhid=2873>

# Anniversaries & Birthdays

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Our Synod has connected churches in the Synod with other churches, creating "Sister Congregations". Our sister church is St. John's in Bluffs, Illinois (near Jacksonville, IL).



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands. [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

### 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.

### Prayer Chain



### Prayer Chain at Our Savior

Call the Church office with your prayer request 346-2600 or [email oslcekin1@gmail.com](mailto:oslcekin1@gmail.com).

An email will be sent to all members when a prayer request is received. Members without an email address may ask that they be called when a prayer request is sent out.



### CONTACT US AT:

**(309) 346-2600**

*If you have a ministry need, please call the Church office.*

*We continue to pray for those in the Military:*

Petty Officer **Robert Murphy** (3rd Class)—(*nephew of Phil & Beth Dralle*)  
**Nick Marzinzik** (*Air Force Reserves, Mike & Sue Barger's nephew*)  
**Ensign Tary N. Voller**—San Diego USN (*Doris Voller*)

**A reminder:** Please be sure to let Pastor know about committee meeting times & dates. Use this email: [barnes.stephen9@gmail.com](mailto:barnes.stephen9@gmail.com) or contact him on his cell phone. It would also be helpful to include him on committee emails. Thank you!!

*This is also the best way to contact him with personal requests and needs.*



### Online Bulletin

We post the Sunday bulletin on our website and our Facebook page on Saturdays. There are links within the bulletin to great music, and Pastor or Tim's spoken sermon. Be sure to check

the website tab:

*'News & Events'—'Sunday Service Material'* and keep an eye on your email!

<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/index.php/news-and-events/sunday-service-material/>

**Newsletter DEADLINE**



*If you have information you want to be in the next 'Hope on the Hill', please email Leslie Leitner by December 27*

*at [leitner@grics.net](mailto:leitner@grics.net). Thank you!*

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL			
President	Leslie Leitner	Worship & Music, Memorials & Gifts	leithaus@gmail.com
Vice President	Leo Stiles	Property, Memorials & Gifts	lastiles1@gmail.com
Secretary	Melanie Fleming	Christian Education	melaniefleming@comcast.net
Treasurer	Garold Burkholder	Finance & Stewardship	gburkholder21@comcast.net
	Steve Gresham	Property	gramg95@comcast.net
	Meri Arnold	Worship & Music	arnoldmeri15@gmail.com
	Dennis Eggemeyer	Outreach & Fellowship	dle_61554@yahoo.com
	Pastor Barnes	Pastor	barnes.stephen9@gmail.com

DECEMBER	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION SETUP	PARAMENT COLOR
DEC. 6	ON-LINE SERVICES ONLY					
DEC. 13						
DEC. 20	THESE SERVICES MAY ALSO BE ON-LINE SERVICES ONLY					
DEC. 24						
DEC. 27						

**A MESSAGE FROM LEE SORENSON:**

Please rest assured that any food and/or toiletry donations to Christian Civic Outreach left at OSLC will be transported to Christian Civic Outreach. Mary and/or I will check the donation boxes at least once per week. Also, any mittens, caps, scarves, or coats, etc. left in the entranceway will be presumed to be mitten tree type donations which will also be taken to CCO.

House of Hope/Center for Prevention of Abuse is also accepting donations, and the box at OSLC is open for this purpose, and I am confident that Bev and Ken Wehr will get all donations received to House of Hope.

Thank you one and all. *(Update from Lee: Three bags of food and 3 bags of mittens and other items and some toiletries were taken to Christian Civic Outreach Nov. 30!)*



Thank you to all who are participating in Angel Tree Ministries!  
Gerry – Angel Tree Coordinator

Many thanks to those who ordered poinsettias to decorate our worship space in the Parish Hall. There will be pictures posted on Facebook and on our website. Thank you Elsa for organizing this.



**LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT:**



**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.

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



**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: CRACKERS, CEREAL, BLANKETS, & SOCKS**

