



Hope on the Hill

Pastor's Letter

In the Bleak Midwinter

The title is of a Christmas carol that most everyone knows. Maybe as we begin another New Year, we could focus upon the word "bleak," having just come through a long haul of COVID that is not yet over. But I think we would miss the joy and peace of knowing our Lord Jesus walks with us and hope will see us through.

Nothing upon this earth or above this earth can contain the love born in Bethlehem. Here are the last two verses of "In the Bleak Midwinter":

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

January 6th is the Epiphany of our Lord. Translated that means we give honor to Jesus as King and Messiah. Matthew 2 – The wise men led by a star searched diligently for this child. Verse 11: *On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

The gift of our hearts given will be held in the strong hands of the one who blessed the children and said, "...it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." It may be midwinter, but the light of Christ will continue to shine in and through you.

Since we cannot physically be together, I will be mailing out an "Epiphany mailing" to keep us connected as we lay the gift of our hearts with the wise men before Jesus.

The New Year WILL be better! Take this passage into 2021:

Romans 8:37-39

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Peace, Pastor Barnes



[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:39



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD
PEKIN, IL 61554

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Barnes
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Church Office: (309) 346-2600
Gerry Reynolds, Secretary

Church email: oslcpkin1@gmail.com

Website: www.oslchopeonthehill.org

On-line worship only



Prayer Concerns

Prayers for all those with COVID-19

Prayers for all who have Arthrogyposis (Per Lee Sorenson: *It is a very rare disease that strikes joints and attached muscle tissue. There is an 11 month old boy in Pekin with this disease.*)

Betty Barnes (Pastor Barnes' mother, on hospice)

Gus & Lil Marzinik (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.

We are monitoring what is happening in our region.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS:

The Church Council met on December 16, 2020. Meri Arnold was unable to attend. These items were discussed:

- The consensus was to continue with *only* on-line services.
- Accepted the *proposed budget* as presented by Garold.
- Annual Meeting: Approved a motion to have an *online or mailed vote on the budget* by January 24, 2021.

Our annual meeting with election of council members will be postponed until after Easter. By then we hope to be able to have a coffee fellowship and an in-person meeting. This has been approved/suggested by the Bishop and will not be contradictory of our by-laws. This change will be for our 2021 annual meeting only.

-Accepted, with great appreciation to Ken & Bev, a motion to *move ahead with the purchase and installation* of a new outdoor sign. It will be installed in the existing sign frame, and will be able to be changed electronically from inside the church.

Next Council meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Many thanks to those who ordered poinsettias to decorate our worship space in the Parish Hall.
Thank you Elsa & Gerry for organizing this!

Larry & Darlene Daniels	Glory to God
Bill & Melanie Fleming	In Memory of Loved Ones
Elsa Keas	In Memory of Bill Keas and In Memory of Carolyn Murphy
Carol Guenther	In Memory of Robert Guenther
Pastor Stephen & Judy	In Memory of Roger Barnes
Sharon Foss	Merry Christmas
Gerry Reynolds	In Memory of Lon Etheridge



Our first attempt at a 'Zoom' Coffee Fellowship was a lot of fun. Melanie emailed a link to the "meeting" and six households were able to join her and Lily. This was on Christmas Eve morning.

She will send the link out in January to try again. If it's your first experience with this kind of video call, don't be intimidated—we have all had learning experiences the first few times we tried to join. Just give it a chance—it is great to be able to 'chat' with our OSLC friends (& without masks!)

Pictured here are Sonja & Dave, Leslie & Tim, Melanie & Lily, Ann Davis, Lee & Mary, Pastor & Judy, and Leo & Roberta.

Hope to 'see' you next time!



Anniversaries & Birthdays

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



January 2—Courtney Dralle	January 22—Leo Stiles
January 6—Wayne Foss	January 31—Linda Tanner
January 20—Melanie Fleming	



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

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 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 to 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 at leitner@grics.net **by JANUARY 24**

Thank you!

CHURCH COUNCIL			
President	Leslie Leitner	Worship & Music, Memorials & Gifts	leithaus@gmail.com
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	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
January 03	ON-LINE SERVICES ONLY			Leo & Roberta	NO SET UP	Blue/White
January 10				Leo & Roberta		White
January 17				Leo & Roberta		Green
January 24				Leo & Roberta		Green
January 31				Leo & Roberta		Green

We are grateful to the Stiles for tattering the month of January, and for the Greshams, who will teller the month of February.



Thank you to all who volunteered, gifts, time and money for this year's Angel Tree program. It has been a great success. This year we served six local families with a total of 10 children. An offer of a new bible was given to each family along with gifts for the children and one family gift. Special thanks to: Roberta & Leo Stiles; Melanie, Bill, & Lily Fleming; Beth & Phil Dralle; Chris & Mark McCarrell; Linda Tanner; Sharon Foss; Darlene & Larry Daniels; Mike & Sue Barger; Meri Arnold.
Gerry – Angel Tree Coordinator

Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. "There is no neutral position in the Lord," she writes. "You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him." And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."



from www.newsletternewsletter.com

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

Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)