

Hope on the Hill

Pastor's Letter

To Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and your neighbor as yourself is the focus for Lent.

I hear a lot of people wishing that their children had interest in church or had an active faith. I also hear a lot of people saying they have faith but love of God and neighbor does not seem to be utmost in their hearts.

Peter Marty said this: "I'm more convinced than ever that a desire for God is the beginning of faith. We think a relationship with God is everything, but I wonder if the desire for that relationship isn't as sweet as the relationship itself. As I think back on my own experiences of falling in love, the desire was as beautiful as the relationship itself. 'My soul thirsts for you, O God.' (Psalm 63:1)" Deep into his ministry, Paul says something similar: "I want to know Christ" (not "I already know Christ"). Instead of defining ourselves by what we have or know or do, maybe we ought to think about what we most desire."

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

The essence of a relationship with God is desiring God.

Jesus in Mark 12 answers a scribes question about the greatest commandment. Jesus said: *Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

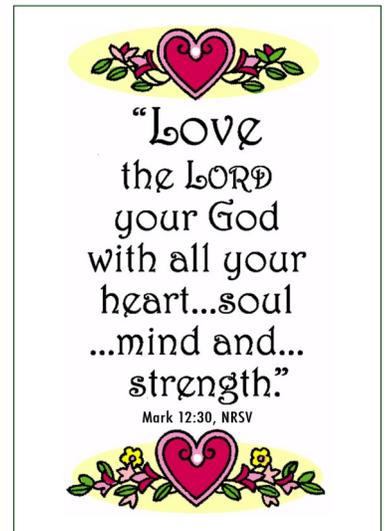
During our up and coming Lent/Holy Week/Easter worship experience we will explore this "love story."

Whether we are able to come together at OSLC or study/worship online, I hope we can rekindle our great desire for that relationship. Paul in Romans 8 writes: *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come nor power, 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.*

Where there is desire, love is alive and growing. This is not an appointment to be kept. This is not an obedience to be followed. This is an "I can hardly wait," kind of thing. Desire is always looking forward to connections that make love real and deeper. Let us continue to be excited for our community and God who loves us so much.

Peace,

Pastor Stephen D. 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

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

Prayer Concerns as of January 31, 2021

Family of Betty Barnes (Pastor Barnes' mother, passed away January 31, 2021)

Connie Huessner (former member, cancer treatments)

Prayers for all those with COVID-19 and recovering from COVID-19
Jerry and Sharon Sczinski, their daughter, and their grandson (all have covid; friends of Lee Sorenson)

OSLC members who cannot yet attend in-person services

Prayers for all who have Arthrogryposis (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.*)

Gus & Lil Marzinik (health concerns—Sue Barger's parents)

George Sipka (Teresa Massey's father; health concerns)

Craig Brooks, Chad Wahl, Ryan Montgomery

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



NEWS & EVENTS

REMEMBER:

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

COVID-19
UPDATES

Since our region has moved into Phase 4, Worship & Music will be meeting on Wed., Feb. 3 to prepare to once again have in-person services. We will plan to reopen on **Sunday, February 7.**

The same procedures as at our last service in November will apply – masks to be worn, physically distance as much as possible, bulletin projected onto the screen, no singing at this time.

Worship Services continue on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

We will continue to monitor the virus situation and make changes as needed or required.

Our aim is to minimize the risk for all that wish to attend these worship service. Only attend if you are well, and feel comfortable coming to church during this time. *We do ask that you wear a mask entering the building and during the service.* There will be masks available in case you do not have one. There are hand sanitizer at several locations.

We are having worship in the **Parish hall**. Chairs are spaced out in order to maintain distancing. We ask that you sit in family/household units during worship. The bulletin is being projected onto a screen. We are speaking together, but not singing.

Holy Communion: During communion, you will come to the tables in front and pick up your own wafer and communion cup. You may also stay seated, and Pastor and the Lay Assistant will come to you with the wine tray and wafer tin. We remain physically distanced as we are in line to receive communion from Pastor and the Lay Assistant.

If you are interested in being a part of the communion preparation/clean up team, please contact Tim Leitner.

We continue to post the Sunday bulletin to our website and our Facebook page.

We appreciate your patience, support and prayers as we to meet together for worship.

Budget 2021 & Annual Meeting

Many thanks to those who mailed in their ballots. Council reviewed the ballots on Jan. 26; 45 ballots were received, all 'Ayes'. The 2021 budget was approved.

Council discussed the congregational (annual) meeting that we will have in April, after Easter. That is when annual committee reports will be reviewed and council members elected. At the February Council meeting, Council will select the April date, determine when annual reports will be due to Gerry, and notify the Nominating committee members regarding council positions.



Mary/Martha Circle will meet **Wednesday, February 17 at 9:30 a.m.** at the church. Hostess is Roberta Stiles and Topic Leader is Sue Barger. We are beginning a new study: a Max Lucado book titled "A Love Worth Giving." Copies are still available at the meeting. *All women of the church are welcome.*

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" continues through Sunday, February 7. The Soup Caldron is out and donations will be taken to Christian Civic Outreach. Fifty items have been delivered so far—thank you!



The Worship & Music Committee will discuss an Ash Wednesday service (February 17) and midweek Lenten services when we are able to meet with Pastor Barnes.

Reminder: There are meetings & other events occurring at Our Savior besides our worship service, so remember the 3 'W's'!
(Wear a mask, Watch your distance, Wash your hands.)

Anniversaries & Birthdays

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 8—Wayne & Susan Foss

February 17—Pastor & Judy Barnes



Gayle Gettman—Feb. 4

Sue Barger—Feb. 7

Dennis Eggemeyer—Feb. 8

Mike Barger—Feb. 29



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.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Prayer Chain at Our Savior

Call the Church office with your prayer request 346-2600 or [email oslcpokin1@gmail.com](mailto:oslcpokin1@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.

Each Sunday worship service bulletin is posted to our website and our Facebook page, usually by Saturday afternoon. 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/>

If you are unable to print out the newsletter and would like a printed copy, please let Gerry know and she can print one for you. *If you want a printed copy mailed to you regularly, please let Leslie know.*

Newsletter DEADLINE

Our Savior Newsletter
Lutheran

If you have information you want to be in the next ‘Hope on the Hill’, please email Leslie Leitner **by Sunday, February 21**

at 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

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION	PARAMENT COLOR
February 7	Melanie	Sue	Mark	Steve & Barb	Mary & Lee	Green
February 14	Tim	Tim	Steve	Steve & Barb	Mary & Lee	White
February 21	Dennis	Dennis	Mark	Steve & Barb	Tim & Leslie	Purple
February 28	Meri	Roberta	Steve	Steve & Barb	Linda & Carol	Purple

FEBRUARY FLOWER CHART



The 2021 flower chart has been posted
(thank you Elsa)

You may wish to call the office if you would like to sign up for a Sunday.

We continue to stay steady financially. **Thank you** for mailing your offerings to Our Savior. Please continue to do so if you opt to not attend worship services—thank you!!



We again had a successful 'Zoom' Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, January 17. Melanie emailed a link to the "meeting" and six households were able to join the fellowship. Pictured here are Dave & Sonja, Leslie & Tim, Mary & Lee, Melanie & Lily, Carol, and Pastor & Judy on Sunday morning.

Lee Sorenson hosted a Zoom Outreach Gathering on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 7:00 p.m. He emailed the link to all members. We delighted to 'see' Mary & Lee, Leslie & her dad, Dick Bolam, at his house, Dennis & Sharon Eggemeyer, Dave & Sonja Sanders, Sue & Mike Barger, Pastor & Judy, and Tim Leitner (at his house.)



If it's your first experience with this kind of video call, don't be intimidated—we have all had to learn what to do the first few times we participated. Just give it a chance—it is great to be able to 'chat' with our OSLC friends (& without masks!) Hope to 'see' you next time!

Bible Quiz

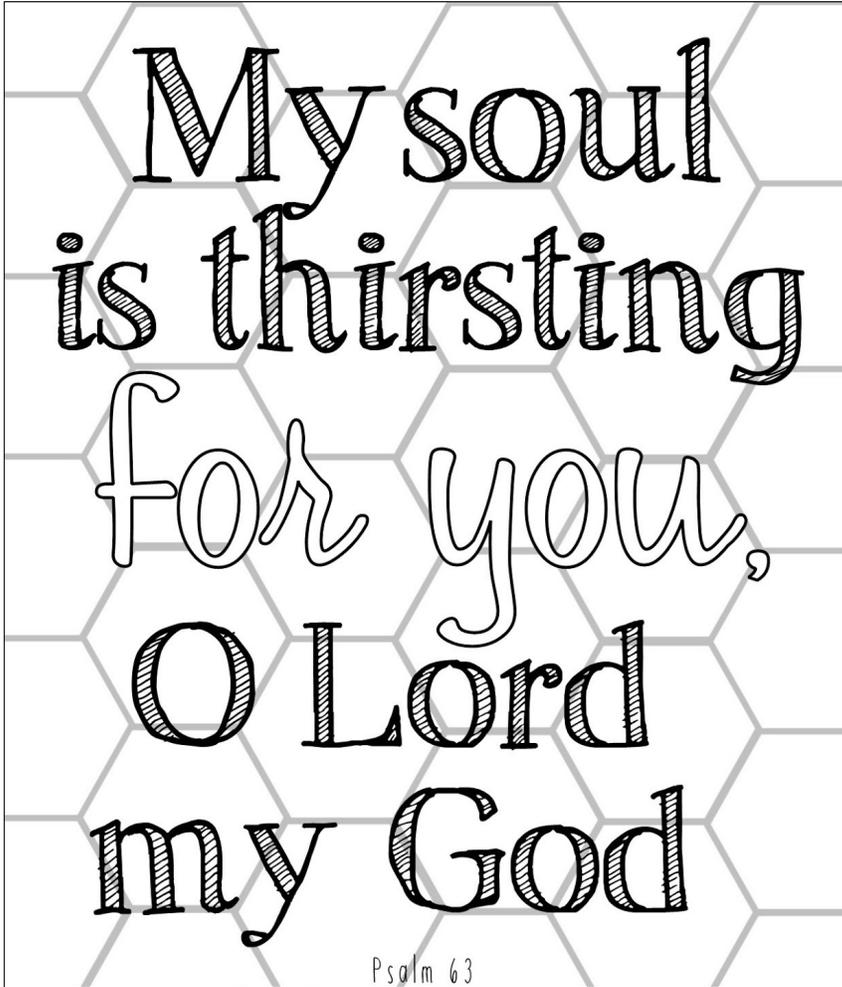
Paul declares that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Which of the following does Paul specify as unable to block God's love?

A. death; life
 B. angels; demons
 C. present; future
 D. height; depth
 E. all of the above

ANSWERS: A. death; life; B. angels; demons; C. present; future; D. height; depth; E. all of the above

from www.newsletternewsletter.com

Answer: E (See Romans 8:38-39, NIV.)



Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

- When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
- People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
- If the shoe fits, _____ it.
- "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God."
- Good things come _____ those who wait.
- When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
- Don't wear _____ your welcome.
- If you want something done right, do it _____.

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

_____ PROVERBS 23:4

Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4

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

neither death, nor life,
 nor angels, nor rulers, nor
 things present, nor things to
 come, nor powers, 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.

ROMANS 8:38-39, NRSV

FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
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