

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Pastor's Letter

Advent/Christmas 2022 "Be Born In Us Today"

Each week we will be lighting one candle on the Advent Wreath as we celebrate and wait for Messiah. God has and will fulfill His promise in Jesus our Lord.

We will speak of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that is in us and given for us to share. I was thinking of Mary's song called the "Magnificat" in chapter one of Luke. The Angel Gabriel came to Mary and said: "greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." Mary was, to say the least perplexed, but said, "let it be with me according to your word."

Then in verse 46 - May soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. We place that in the heart of Mary, but why shouldn't it also be in our hearts as well? Jesus is birthed in

our hearts and we should rejoice as we are special in God's eyes! He will do wondrous things through each of you.

So I hope you will share that "rejoicing spirit" for Advent through Christmas and beyond. November 27; December 4; December 11; December 18 and Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24. Let us rejoice together!

Pastor Barnes

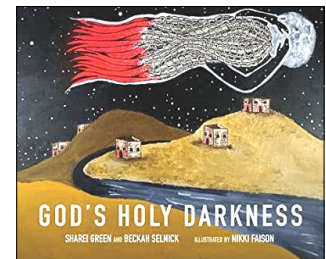
From Tim Leitner:

The theme for the midweek Advent material this year is God's Holy Darkness, which was prompted from two sources. First, a children's book by that name published this year. It was written by Beckah Selnick and Sharei Green, who is the former program director for Lutheran Disaster Response and now working on her Master of Divinity at Lutheran School of Theology Chicago. The illustrator of the book is Pastor Nikki Faison, an ELCA pastor serving in the Chicago

area. The second source was the 2022 Sunday and Seasons which offered a midweek Advent service "Holy Darkness: Service of Word and Prayer".

This year's take-home pack contains a printed service with prayers, readings, reflections, hymns and a craft. The crafts are different every week and everything is included except for week two. The hope is you have either colored markers, crayons, or a simple paint set to decorate the wooden ornament.

There will be an informal in-person prayer service on the Wednesdays of Advent at 6 pm. This will be a quiet time for reflection on the Advent season. The expected length of the service is 30 minutes.



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
2223 SHERIDAN ROAD
PEKIN, IL 61554

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

Church Secretary: Lori Frampton
Church Office: (309) 346-2600
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Monday—Friday

Church email: oslcpekin1@gmail.com
Website: www.oslchopeonthehill.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study 10:15 a.m.



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Prayer Concerns

Phil Dralle (recovering from pneumonia at home)
Nancy Atkinson (experiencing severe leg and back pain)
Vickie Rayburn (recovering from shoulder surgery)
Pat (Melanie's brother-in-law, heart issues)
David Aper (brother of Rita Wahl, health concerns)
Paul Sipka (health concerns)
Finn Davis (4 yr old grandson of Ann & Alton Davis, leukemia treatment)
Jim & Mary Kay Johnson (health concerns)
Gus & Lil Marzinzik (Sue Barger's parents, health concerns)
Craig Brooks, Chad Wahl, Ryan Montgomery
Prayers for all those with COVID-19 and recovering from COVID-19
Prayers for our sister congregation, Faith Lutheran, Washington, IL
Prayers for Ukraine
Prayers for those experiencing hurricanes & fires

Please contact Pastor or the Church Office with any additions, deletions, corrections or updates

NEWS & EVENTS



No updates. You may wear a mask if desired but masks are not required at Our Savior at this time.



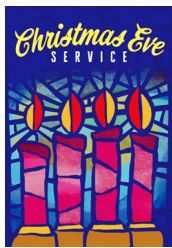
There will be an informal in-person prayer service on the **Wednesdays of Advent at 6:00 pm.: November 30, December 7; Dec. 14, and Dec. 21.** This will be a quiet time for reflections on the Advent season and will last about 30 minutes. Be sure to pick up your weekly Advent devotional/craft packet at church.



Sunday, December 4 we will exchange ornaments – Home to Church and Church to Home. Bring your special ornament from home to hang on our tree for the season, and take home an ornament provided by Our Savior! (Extra ornaments are available.)



Sundays of Advent – “Be Born In Us Today
November 27 – Bringing Blessing
December 04 – Bringing Renewal
December 11 – Bringing Guidance
December 18 – Bringing Power



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:
December 24, 7:00 P.M. “Bringing Light”
Jesus is born for us all on this silent night in the little town of Bethlehem. His first cry announces to the world that darkness of sin is done away with the shining light of his amazing love. We will have our Candle Lighting as we sing ‘Silent Night’. Come be with us!



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE:
Sunday, December 25, 9:00 A.M.



We will be Christmas Caroling on **Sunday, December 11.** Meet at the church at **5:30 p.m.** to make the caroling rounds. We will end our caroling evening at Lillian’s house! Hope you can join us.



Our Mitten Tree in the entry way at OSLC will again collect children’s mittens, gloves, caps & hats, scarves and other winter apparel. These items will be donated to the Pekin Christian Civic Outreach. Thank you!



Thank you for those who have signed up to help with the Angel Tree. Meri Arnold & Rita Wahl are in charge of this wonderful outreach.



thank you
Thank you so much for the nice cards and notes. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.
-Nancy Atkinson



New Address for:
Nick Fleming
207 E. Birchwood
Morton, IL 61554

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



The Nominating Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 30, at 7:00 p.m.



The Mary/Martha Circle will NOT meet in December. We will start again in January. *All women of the church are welcome.*



OPERATION SANTA FUNDRAISER

A coffee fellowship for Operation Santa was held November 13. A total of \$368 was collected to go to the organization to help send Christmas Stockings to oversea troops.

Church members brought pictures of their family veterans/military persons that were displayed.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Anyone wanting to come and knit or crochet are welcome!!! Questions? Contact Darlene Daniels.



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be Thursday, December 15, 7:30 a.m. at Main Street Family Restaurant in Creve Coeur.

Future gatherings will continue to be on the third Thursday of the month.



The next Zoom Fellowship is Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Lee will send an email link to the meeting prior to that evening. Hope you can join in!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AT OUR SAVIOR

Our Free Little Library has been getting some use! But...our little library needs a volunteer to be the 'librarian'. This could be a fun opportunity for you to look at the books that have been donated, and replenish the little library on a regular basis.



Interested? Contact an Outreach Committee member or the church office! Thank you!!

The Outreach Committee is looking for one or more volunteers to post messages on our sign. If this important and 'behind the scenes' job sounds interesting to you, please contact the church office.



Capital Improvement Fund

The Property committee is planning to have the remaining blacktop work for the parking lot completed in 2023. Cost expectations for this project is between \$5,000-\$7,000. Please give prayerful consideration to donating to the Capital Improvement Fund to help support this project as well as increase funds in case of unforeseen property needs. You may write 'capital improvement' on your offering envelope, which will designate the funds go to the proper account.



Thank you from Property Committee and the Treasurer

We continue to look at the possibilities for our Audio/Video needs for Our Savior now and in the future. We will keep you posted on our efforts.



Thank you, W&M committee

Our Savior's Thanksgiving Eve Service was at a new time this year, 3:00 p.m. The Worship & Music Committee **would like to know** how this afternoon time for a special or midweek service worked for you & OSLC, so please let them know! It will help them plan future services.

Anniversaries & Birthdays

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



December 3—Phil Dralle	
December 8—Mike Dralle	
December 12—Teresa Massey	
December 19—Sharon Eggemeyer	
December 26—Darlene Daniels	
December 26—Barb Gresham	



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We have a 'Sister Congregation'! Our Synod has connected churches in the Synod with other churches, creating "Sister Congregations". Our sister church is **Faith Lutheran in Washington, IL**. Their minister is **Pastor John Rothfusz**. Their website is www.shareourfaith.org.



PRAYER CHAIN AT OUR SAVIOR

► *If someone needs prayers, is going into the hospital, or needs a visit—PLEASE LET PASTOR KNOW! His email is: barnes.stephen9@gmail.com. You may also call the church office: 346-2600*

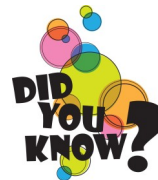
Call the Church office with your prayer request: 346-2600 or email: oslcekin1@gmail.com. An email will be sent to all members when a prayer request is received. Members without an email address may ask that they be called when a prayer request is sent out.

► *Please let Lori know if someone can **go off** the prayer list—call or email, or fill out one of the blue cards in the pews in the sanctuary. Thank you!*



We continue to pray for those in the Military:

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



Committee and Council minutes are posted by the church office. Check out all the hard work our members are doing!

Reminder: If your committee changes or cancels a meeting, or plans an event, or makes an appointment to bring someone in—please let Pastor know. And please include Pastor on all committee emails. Thank you!

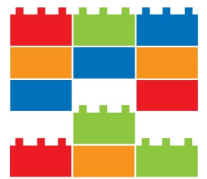


CONTACT US AT:

(309) 346-2600

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

We continue to work on ideas for the 'Philip and Andrew—Come & See' initiative to work on the life and ministry of OSLC. Contact Pastor, or any council member, with an idea you would like to try!



PHILIP & ANDREW GROWTH GROUP



If you are unable to print the newsletter at home and would like a copy, please contact the church office and one can be printed for you. **If you want a printed copy monthly, please let Leslie know.**

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

If you have information you want to be in the next 'Hope on the Hill', please email Leslie Leitner **BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022**

at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR NOVEMBER

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
December 04	Melanie	Roberta	Dennis	Tim & Ken	Tim & Leslie	Blue
December 11	Dennis	Larry	Ken	Valerie & Tim	Linda & Carol	Blue
December 18	Meri	Sue	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Blue
December 24	Dennis	Mary Sipka	Mark	Leo & Roberta	Tim & Leslie	Blue
December 25	Tim	Larry	Leo	Tim & Leslie	---	Blue

DECEMBER FLOWER CHART

December 04	Sue Hale—For the Glory of God
December 11	Lillian Pinkston—The McCarrells & Scott Pinkston
December 18	Poinsettias
December 25	Poinsettias

You can call the office if you would like to sign up for flowers on 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!!



Please note: We will only be receiving ONE vase of flowers; your cost will be \$30.00.



Brandy Wright, Social Ministries Manager at the Pekin Salvation Army, was our speaker on Sunday, Nov. 20. She shared information about the many services they have that helps to meet the needs of the people of the Pekin area. Some highlights include:

- Works with many local agencies to coordinate services
- Need men's, boys, & girls coats, new, or used in good condition, and gloves/mittens
- Area organizations provide a meal for 40 on Mondays
- Pathway of Hope Program helps find housing for those who graduate from the program
- Homeless prevention assistance
- Holiday Assistance

We appreciated learning about the Pekin Salvation Army.

2021 PEKIN

How We Served the Community

PROVIDING SHELTER: Rest Transitional Center

- Nights of lodging provided: **8,320**
- Who we served: **110 total individuals** that included **78 men, 30 women and 5 children**
- Number of Veterans Assisted: **15**

Meals Served:

- Through Shelter: **18,961**
- Number of Total Meals Provided: **15,120**
- Number of new households served in 2021: **189** (25% of all households served)
- Number of people aged 60+ receiving assistance: **77** (9% of total)

PATHWAY OF HOPE PROGRAM

- Number of people in program: **86**
- Number of people who graduated from program in 2021: **44**
- **110 people** took part in **15,640 case management sessions**
- Number of families placed into housing: **3 families** and **42 individuals** placed in permanent housing; **22 individuals** moved into temporary housing
- Number of people who were able to find jobs: **35** individuals found employment; **82 people** had income upon leaving the shelter

HOMELESS PREVENTION ASSISTANCE

- Number of people seeking emergency assistance for the first time: **85**
- Emergency Assistance for Rent and Utilities: **54** individuals received a total of **\$76,281** in rental assistance; **225 people** received a total of **\$10,300** for water assistance
- Our ability to provide rental assistance is dependent on the amount of money donated to The Salvation Army throughout the year. Donations go directly to help people in our community.

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

- Families receiving food boxes: **158 families**
- Rice Stockings distributed: **319 children**
- Toys distributed through Toy Shop: **319 children**
- Winter coats distributed: **128**
- Total number of people helped during the holiday: **876**

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

- Total volunteers: **42**
- Total hours volunteered: **1,436**
- Value of volunteer hours: **\$40,383.44**

The Salvation Army of Pekin, 365 Life Center, 633 Oakley St., Pekin, IL 61654
For information on how you can support The Salvation Army, go to usa.org



*You may wish to see the Christmas Nativity Display, **December 1-4**, at the Latter Day Saints Church in Peoria.*

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

- **Sunday, January 1, 2023:** New Year's Day
- **January 6, 2023:** Epiphany
- **Sunday, January 29:** Annual Meeting following the worship service

January 2023						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

<i>President</i>	Melanie Fleming	Christian Education, Mutual Ministry	melaniefleming@comcast.net
<i>Vice President</i>	Meri Arnold	Worship & Music, Memorials & Gifts	arnoldmeri15@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Valerie Gettys	Finance	swimmin@yahoo.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tim Leitner	Finance, Stewardship, Worship & Music	tim.j.leitner@gmail.com
	Dennis Eggemeyer	Outreach & Fellowship	dle_61554@yahoo.com
	Mark McCarrell	Worship & Music	markgmc1154@gmail.com
	Leo Stiles	Property	lastiles1@gmail.com
	Pastor Barnes		barnes.stephen9@gmail.com



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.

A prayer for OSLC and our Sister Congregation,
Faith Lutheran in Washington, IL:

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that St. Paul's in Gilman and Our Savior in Pekin, will use these gifts to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Online Bulletin

The Sunday worship bulletin is posted to our website and our Facebook page, usually by Saturday afternoon.

Our website link is:

www.oslchopeonthehill.org

The video of Pastor or Tim's sermon is within the bulletin, as are some music videos. Pastor also records the Gospel reading and the Children's message. Hope you take a look! It is also emailed to our members.

Clip art in the newsletter is 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 include: cereal, canned fruit, bottled juice, peanut butter, canned 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.

Special Needs: jackets, jeans, socks, macaroni & cheese, canned fruit.

DECEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
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