



Hope on the Hill

Pastor's Letter

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

Presents Wrapped and Unwrapped!

We all have myriad memories growing up and sharing the joy of Christmas! Yes, my family always went to Christmas Eve Candlelight worship and if I close my eyes I can still see the glow of candles and the pleasant smell of wax. My grandma and grandpa Schmekel always worshiped with us and Christmas Eve was no exception. What I remember was the snow and cold and grandpa always wore a "fedora" hat. Now, what most may not remember...in the back of all pews was a little metal spring clip for those hats! So as soon as grandpa Schmekel was seated, off came the hat and "clipped" to the back of the pew. J All those little memories!



I also remember, as a little boy, expecting Santa to come and bring gifts, we three boys were just so excited it was

hard to sleep and up at the crack of dawn. (whatever "crack of dawn" means!) Anyway, another memory was that all the gifts were neatly wrapped except for the ones from Santa, which sat front and center before the Christmas tree. All smiles and giggles we ran to those special gifts.

Believe it or not, this made me think of our celebration of Jesus birth.

Luke 2:7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Ah yes, a gift wrapped and shared in love and faith with the world...much like I remember Christmas Eve Candlelight.

Luke 2:8-12 The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is

the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Ah yes, a gift unwrapped and celebrated with joy and excitement by Angels and Shepherds...much like the feeling I remember with my family on Christmas morning.

I love to put those two feelings together in the ONE great gift of all - God's son, being born unto us in the little town of Bethlehem. Can you feel the warmth of faith as we worship the gift wrapped in the stable that holds love for all humankind? Can you feel the excitement of the now unwrapped gift of the Christ Child bringing light and life to you as you gather around your Christmas tree making memories.

May you find gifts both wrapped and unwrapped given out of love by God in the baby Jesus and given to each other as you share this special time.

A blessed and happy Christmas and New Year to one and all!

And - thank you for the gift of you.

"The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Jesus is born in us today!

Peace,
Pastor Barnes

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: oslcpokin1@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

Beth Dralle (hip replacement)
Gus Marzinik (Sue Barger's father, on hospice)
Maize Wankel (health concerns)
Nancy Atkinson (experiencing severe leg and back pain)
Vickie Rayburn (recovering from shoulder surgery)
David Aper (brother of Rita Wahl, health concerns)
Paul Sipka (health concerns)
Finn Davis (4 yr. old grandson of Ann & Alton Davis, doing well, continuing maintenance treatments for leukemia)
Jim & Mary Kay Johnson (health concerns)
Lil Marzinik (Sue Barger's mother, health concerns)
Craig Brooks, Chad Wahl, Ryan Montgomery
Prayers for our sister congregation, Faith Lutheran, Washington, IL
Prayers for Ukraine and other countries with unrest

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.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Savior's Annual Meeting is **Sunday, January 29, following the worship service.** Please stay to review the committee reports, approve the 2023 budget, and elect new council members. **NOTE:** Committee reports are due as soon as possible. *The office will need to receive them **no later than January 15.*** Please email your report to oslcpkin1@gmail.com

Plans are underway for our **Epiphany Gathering** and coffee fellowship **January 8 after the worship service.** A sign up sheet has been posted. Hope you can stay to enjoy this event!



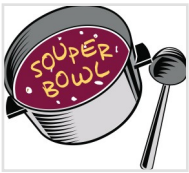
We would like to 'undecorate' the church after the Epiphany Party Jan. 8. Many hands make quick work!

Per Susan Foss, the company that handles our offering envelopes is having manufacturing difficulties, and the shipment has been delayed. There will be blank envelopes on the table in the entry for you to use if you wish.



The end-of-year statements will be available by January 15.

January's All-Congregational presentation is January 15 after the worship service. Our presenter is from **The Hope Chest**, the shop that recently moved to 8th St. There will be a coffee fellowship. *Donations of food are welcome.*



The Outreach & Fellowship Committee is planning on participating in 'Souper Bowl' again. Our large pot will be put out for the collection of soup and food items through Super Bowl Sunday on February 12.

Thank you to those who donated the poinsettias that were so beautiful in our sanctuary for the Christmas Season:

- Mark & Chris McCarrell—*In honor of Bill & Lillian Pinkston and Merrill & Katherine McCarrell*
- Larry & Darlene Daniels—*Glory to God*
- Pastor & Judy Barnes—*In honor of Roger & Elizabeth (Betty) Barnes*
- Sue Hale—*In honor of Roscoe*
- The Fleming Family—*In honor of loved ones*
- Dennis & Sharon Eggemeyer—*In memory of Bill Keas and Del & Martha Eggemeyer*
- Lillian Pinkston—*In honor of Bill Pinkston and Pastor William Swarbrick*
- Tim & Leslie Leitner—*In memory of our parents*
- Elsa Keas—*In memory of Bill Keas and Carolyn Murphy*
- Stella Getty—*In memory of Dale Gettys*
- Lee & Mary Sorenson—*In memory of our parents*
- Leo & Roberta Stiles—*In thankfulness for two grandsons*



Poinsettias



Many thanks to those who stayed after the worship service on November 27 to decorate the church. All was beautiful, especially on Christmas Eve.

Photo taken by Lily Fleming

MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



The next Zoom Fellowship is **Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.** Lee will send an email link to the meeting prior to that evening. Hope you can join in!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Group will meet on **Tuesday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m.**

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



The Mary/Martha Circle will meet on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.** at the church. Hostess is Rita Wahl and the topic leader is Susan Thomas.

All women of the church are welcome.



Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be **Thursday, January 19, 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.



Sixteen carolers shared their voices on December 11. We ended our evening by joining 9 more at Lillian's house! It was a lovely event.



Thank you so much to those who donated gifts and money to the Angel Tree.

-Meri Arnold & Rita Wahl

Our Free Little Library has been getting some use!

Mary Sorenson and Mike Barger have volunteered to help maintain our Free Little Library, and Bev Wehr continues to monitor it also. Thank you—you are appreciated!!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AT OUR SAVIOR

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

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.

The Worship & Music Committee continues 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.



Anniversaries & Birthdays

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



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



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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*

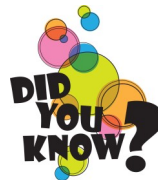
Call the Church office with your prayer request: 346-2600 or email: oslcekin1@gmail.com. An email will be sent to all members when a prayer request is received. Members without an email address may ask that they be called when a prayer request is sent out.

► *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!

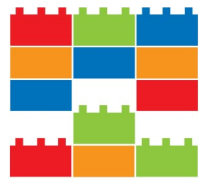


CONTACT US AT:

(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, JANUARY 22, 2023**

at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR NOVEMBER

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
January 01	Dennis	Sue	Larry	Tim & Leslie	Lee & Mary	Blue
January 08	Meri	Roberta	Mark	Tim & Valerie	Linda & Carol	White
January 15	Melanie	Lily	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Green
January 22	Meri	Sue	Mark	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Green
January 29	Dennis	Mary Sipka	Leo	Tim & Leslie	Tim & Leslie	Green

JANUARY FLOWER CHART

January 01	
January 08	
January 15	
January 22	The Flemings—Melanie's Birthday
January 29	

You can call the office if you would like to sign up for flowers on a Sunday.

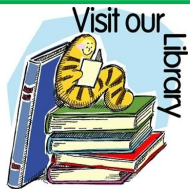
We continue to stay steady financially. **Thank you** for mailing your offerings to Our Savior. Please continue to do so if you opt to not attend worship services—thank you!!



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

I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



Our Savior's Library

Don't forget to check out the selections available in our 'indoor' Library! There are devotionals, fiction books, various bibles, study guides, and more. Feel free to browse what is on the shelves.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY

- **Wednesday, February 22:** Ash Wednesday
- **Sunday, February 26:** First Sunday in Lent

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.

JANUARY 2023 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
<p>1</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Property</p> <p>7:00 PM Committee Meetings: Worship & Music, Outreach with Chris Ed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Sharon E.- Event 12:00-5:00PM</p>																																																	
<p>8</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>EPIPHANY PARTY 10:15 AM 'Undecorate' after party</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Zoom Fellowship 7:00 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>																																																	
<p>15</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday School/Bible Study 10:15 AM</p> <p>Finance Committee</p>	<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Prayer Shawls</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 AM Mary/Martha Circle</p> <p>7:00 PM Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Men's Group 7:30 AM Creve Coeur</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>																																																	
<p>22</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>Sunday School/Bible Study 10:15 AM</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>																																																	
<p>29</p> <p>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM</p> <p>ANNUAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics</p>				<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	February 2023							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				
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