



## Hope on the Hill

Newsletter

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 12

### Pastor's Letter

Hospitality Outreach Proclamation Education Helping Individuals Live in Love

### A Prayer of Joy, Comfort and Blessings to God and for Each Other

“Not Because Our Tables Are Full”

*Lord of all,*

*We look up to you and give thanks – Not because our tables are full. Our harvests are robust. Or our homes resound with laughter and joy.*

*Though these things may indeed be true. Too often we have looked upon want – We see times of dryness and lives of loneliness and despair.*

*Even then, we thank you nonetheless. Because it is in times such as these that we see hands that share.*

*We see feet that walk in solidarity with the outcast. We see arms that open up to embrace the broken-hearted. And we see the sinner weep to know of your forgiveness. And whatever the joys and comforts of our homes, great and small, it is*

*in the blessings of these times that our cup truly overflows.*

*And so we bless you and thank you not because our tables are full, but because our hearts are. Because your love is everlasting and your mercy endures forever. Amen.*

No the above prayer is not original from me, but I wanted us to consider that our joy and strength could be shared with those who find the “holiday times” more difficult and need your hand to be God’s hand for them. It is in reaching out our hands of faith that the true gift of God and love are shared.

Psalm 37:23-24 - *Our steps are made firm by the Lord; when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong for the Lord holds us by the hand.*

Let us walk hand in hand with God and each other as we journey through these coming special days for Thanksgiving, Advent and then Christmas.

For those who struggle read the rest of Psalm 37:39-40 - *The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.*

For you and me as Psalm 23 says....our cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life!

Peace, Pastor Barnes



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

**Pastor: Rev. Stephen Barnes**  
Email: [barnes.stephen9@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:oslcpekin1@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.oslchopeonthehill.org](http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org)

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



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

### Prayer Concerns

**Carolyn** (Mike Barger's sister, health concerns)  
**Donna Fitzgerald** (Elsa's daughter, health concerns)  
**Carol Guenther** (health concerns)  
**Stella Gettys** (healing from a fall)  
**Leslie Leitner** (recovering from foot surgery)  
**Dave Sanders** (health concerns)  
**Garold Burkholder** (health concerns)  
**Leo Stiles** (continued recovery)  
**David Aper** (brother of Rita Wahl, health concerns)  
**Paul Sipka** (health concerns)  
**Becky Murray** (Beth Dralle's sister, recurrence of lymphoma)  
**Finn Davis** (grandson of Ann & Alton Davis, doing well with leukemia)  
**Jim & Mary Kay Johnson** (health concerns)  
**Marithaza Barger** (chronic hip problems)  
**Lil Marzinik** (Sue Barger's mother, health concerns)  
**Chad Wahl**

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

# NEWS & EVENTS



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

## OUR SERVICES IN DECEMBER:

**9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 3:** First Sunday of Advent

**7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 6:** Informal Midweek Advent Service: 'Pause'

*There will also be take-home devotionals and crafts for the three weeks of Advent.*

**9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 10:** Second Sunday of Advent

**7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 13:** Informal Midweek Advent Service: 'Prepare'

**9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent

**7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 20:** Informal Midweek Advent Service: 'Ponder'

**9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent. Lessons & Carols service (no communion)

**7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion.

**9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 31:** First Sunday after Christmas



Our annual Ornament Exchange will be on **Sunday, December 3**. Bring your favorite ornament to hang on the tree in the Gathering Room, and take home an OSLC ornament to hang on your tree at home!



Outreach & Fellowship is planning to have coffee fellowships the first 3 Sundays in December: **December 3, 10, & 17**. Groups, Committees, or individuals are encouraged to **volunteer to bring treats for one of those Sundays**. A signup sheet will be posted so members or groups can sign up to host these coffees. Thank you!



Mary/Martha Circle  
**COFFEE  
FELLOWSHIP**  
Dec. 3

The Mary /Martha Circle is sponsoring the coffee fellowship after church on **Dec. 3**. **You are invited!** We're hoping to 'inspire' everyone to stop the hustle and bustle and enjoy some snacks and a lot of visiting together.

## ***Christmas Caroling: We are trying something different this year!***

We will be going *caroling* after the church service & Coffee Fellowship on **Sunday, December 10th**. Depending upon how many places we arrange to visit, it should take us around 90 minutes, approximately 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Hope you can join us!



## MORE NEWS & INFORMATION



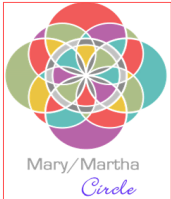
### Men's Coffee/Breakfast Group

The next gathering will be  
**Thursday, December 21**  
**7:30 a.m. at**  
**Denny's in North Pekin**

*Be sure to note the change of place!*



Watch for information about the next Zoom Fellowship. Lee will send an email link to the meeting prior to that evening.



Mary/Martha Circle:

NO meeting in December.

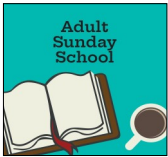
### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry group will meet on **Tuesday, December 12**, at **9:30 a.m.** at the church. *We would appreciate any regular weight yarn donations—we have a good supply of white at this time but need some colors. Thank you!! Come join us to make shawls or lap blankets!*



Pastor Barnes leads the **Thursday Morning Bible Study** each week. The group begins at **10:00 a.m.** and goes until **11:30 a.m.** You are welcome to come whenever you can!



The Adult Sunday School class is held in the Gathering Room. We are studying the names and attributes of God by looking up scripture and having informal discussions. We have several Bibles to choose from (including large print) or bring your own! There will be coffee available.

### From the Property Minutes



#### Update on the ceiling in the Library:

Cracking in the mortar of the chimney caused water to leak through the roof of the Library. Ken & Mike covered the chimney with a heavy rubber tarp for the winter. The person Ken contacted to do the tuck pointing is not available until spring. Repairing the ceiling is on hold until the tuckpointing is completed.



*Carol Guenther would enjoy hearing from you. Her current address is:*

Villas of Holly Brook  
ATTN: Carol Guenther  
Room #7  
2720 S. 14th St.  
Pekin IL 61554

## Thanks

Thanks to everyone who brought food and family photos for the coffee fellowship honoring our Veterans. And thank you to those who contributed to "Love Packages".

-Mark McCarrell, Council President

Annual Reports from each Committee are due  
**January 4, 2024.**



Please email your report to Lori at

**oslcekin1@gmail.com**

# WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR DECEMBER

*Please switch with someone as needed.*

	LAY ASSISTANT	LAY READER	USHERS	TELLERS	COMMUNION Set up & Clean up	PARAMENT COLOR
<b>December 03</b>	Melanie	Roberta	Dennis	Tim & Ken	Tim & Leslie	Blue
<b>December 10</b>	Dennis	Larry	Larry	Meri & Valerie	Linda	Blue
<b>December 17</b>	Tim	Sue	Leo	Leo & Roberta	Lee & Mary	Blue
<b>December 24</b>	Dennis	Mary Sipka	Mark	Leo & Roberta	<b>NO COMMUNION</b>	Blue
<i>Christmas Eve</i>					<i>Tim &amp; Leslie</i>	Blue
<b>December 31</b>	Meri	Dennis	Leo	Tim & Ken	Tim & Leslie	Blue

## DECEMBER FLOWER CHART

<b>December 03</b>	Sue Hale—Glory to God
<b>December 10</b>	The Leitners—In Memory of Phil Bolam's 70th birthday
<b>December 17</b>	Poinsettias
<b>December 24</b>	(Poinsettias)
<b>December 31</b>	(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!!**

You may wish to mail your offerings to Our Savior if you cannot attend worship.



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

The Finance Committee would like to encourage donations to the Capital Improvement Fund. Recent and upcoming improvements include the parking lot, landscaping, and tuckpointing the chimney over the library.



You may be interested in this event (it is spectacular!):

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 3700 West Reservoir Boulevard in Peoria is hosting a free admission event to **The Community Festival of Nativities**, Thursday, November 30 through Sunday, December 1.

Thursday: 3:00—9:00 p.m. with a Live Nativity from 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

Note: Thursday is the only day with a Live Nativity.

Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.



## LOOKING AHEAD:

- **Sunday, January 7, 2024:** Epiphany Party after the worship service
- **Thursday, January 4, 2024:** Committee Annual Reports Due
- **Sunday, January 28, 2024:** Annual Congregational Meeting



# Anniversaries & Birthdays

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



December 8—Mike Dralle	December 31—Lori Frampton
December 12—Teresa Massey	December 31—Justin Baal
December 19—Sharon Eggemeyer	
December 26—Darlene Daniels	
December 26—Barb Gresham	

### 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: oslcpkin1@gmail.com.*

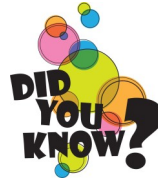
*An email will be sent to all members when a prayer request is received. Members without an email address may ask that they be called when a prayer request is sent out.*

► *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 the Dralles*)  
**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



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



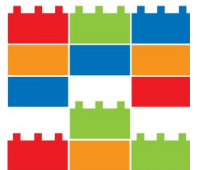
**CONTACT US AT:**

**(309) 346-2600**

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

**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!

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 17*

*at leithaus@gmail.com. Thank you!*

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

<i>President</i>	<b>Mark McCarrell</b>	Mutual Ministry, Worship & Music, Finance	markgmc1154@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>Tim Leitner</b>	Memorials & Gifts, Worship & Music, Finance	tim.j.leitner@gmail.com
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Valerie Gettys</b>	Finance	swimmin@yahoo.com
	<b>Meri Arnold</b>	Worship & Music	arnoldmeri15@gmail.com
	<b>Leo Stiles</b>	Property	lastiles1@gmail.com
	<b>Mary Sipka</b>	Worship & Music	sipka.mary@gmail.com
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Mary Sorenson</b>	Outreach	Msorenson75@gmail.com
	<b>Sharon Eggemeyer</b>	Finance	sjemh@yahoo.com
	<b>Pastor Barnes</b>		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.

### Advent meanings

During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.



### 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](http://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.churchart.com](http://www.churchart.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 2023 CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship		10:00 AM Outreach & Fellowship Mtg  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	<b>7:00 PM</b> <b>ADVENT SERVICE</b>  W & M mtg after service	10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship Property Mtg <b>CAROLING</b>		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	<b>7:00 PM</b> <b>ADVENT SERVICE</b>  Finance mtg after service	10:00 AM Bible Study  6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship		6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics	<b>7:00 PM</b> <b>ADVENT SERVICE</b>  Council Meeting after service	Men's Group 7:30 AM <b>NORTH PEKIN</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00-7:00 PM Aerobics		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> <b>9:00 AM</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	 <i>Christmas Day</i>					
31	New Year's Day— Office Closed					

January 2024						
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	29	30	31			