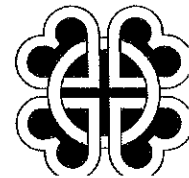

THE LIGHT

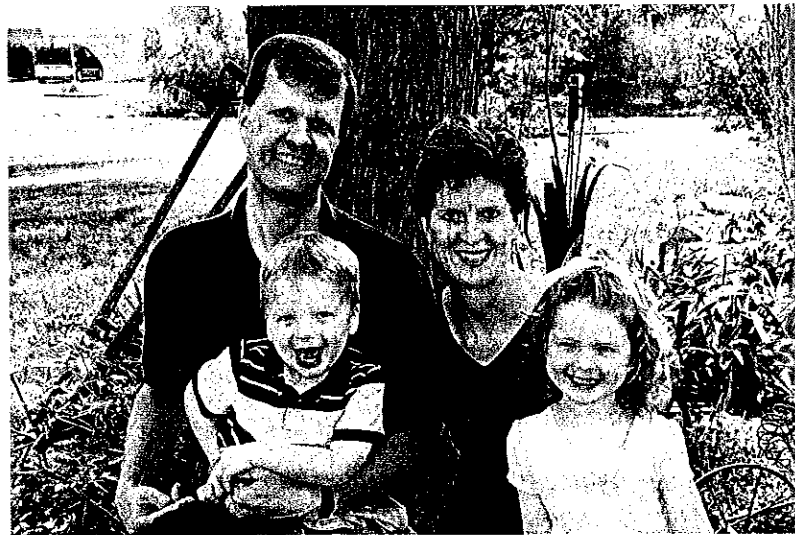
Week of Christ the King
November 16, 2011
Vol. 37, No. 6



"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid...
In the same way, your light must shine before people." Jesus, in Matthew 5

Signal Hill Lutheran Church + 8100 W. Main St. + Belleville, IL 62223

November 13th Congregational Meeting Raises Question of Calling an Assistant Pastor!



On Sunday, November 13, congregational members gathered in the church's Fellowship Hall to discuss the possibility of calling an Assistant Pastor. Specifically, fourth-year Seminarian Jonathan Hemler (who also served as our Vicar during the 2010-2011 academic year).

For the past several months, the church's membership (and leadership) has spent time in prayer, asking God to reveal to us His direction for this ministry. When this opportunity was made available, we began to ask ourselves if this was His answer to our prayers.

Adding Jonathan to our staff would certainly strengthen the ministry at Signal Hill. He would bring needed assistance in providing care to our shut-in and hospitalized members, teaching adult Bible classes, and freeing our other ministry staff to expand into areas that are often neglected or overlooked.

Additional congregational meetings are being scheduled to further discuss the matter. Questions should be directed to Pastor Mark, Michael Artime (Head Elder), or Tom Surber (Congregational President). Members are encouraged to continue praying on the matter, asking God to fully reveal His will to us for this ministry.

Children of the Light,

*** Thanksgiving and Suffering ***

Acts 5:40-41

... and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. [41] Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

On Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 6:30 p.m. (THANKSGIVING EVE), and Thursday, Nov. 24, at 9:30 a.m. (THANKSGIVING DAY), we will gather in the church to give thanks to God for His many blessings. Furthermore, many of us will sit down to a lavish meal within our home, and feast on turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, yams, cranberry sauce, and the like. We will eat too much. Watch a little football. And reflect upon the life, family, and possessions that God has given to us to enjoy.

While 1 Thessalonians 5 (verse 18) exhorts us to give thanks "in all circumstances," I would imagine that not many of us would think to give thanks to God for any suffering or hardship we endured over the past year. We do not tend to consider our trials worthy of celebrating, or remembering. If anything, they are moments we try to forget. Too bad. I believe there are great blessings that come through suffering.

Consider the passage above. Here the apostles suffered miserably, having been beaten by the Temple guards. And yet, they leave the council rejoicing, giving thanks to God. Why? Because, in this case, they were directly being associated with Jesus. (As Jesus Himself had warned: "As they persecuted me, so they will persecute you." - John 15:20 And furthermore, He said to them, "Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, on my account!" - Luke 6:22) In this instance, they rejoiced in their suffering, because they knew they were walking in God's will and purpose. And that's all that really mattered to them . . . regardless of whether they suffered because of it or not. Here, suffering was simply a confirmation or affirmation of the faith they lived.

But there are other reasons to thank God for the sufferings we experience in life. Romans 5 takes the following optimistic view:

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Suffering has a way of humbling us, making us more understanding and humane in our treatment of others. Suffering drives us to cry out to God, and to seek Him with our whole heart. Suffering burns off any pretense or belief that we can manage our life, and awakens within us the reality that we desperately need Him. For without His mercy, we will surely die. Suffering teaches us to appreciate the many blessings, mercies, and salvation that He so richly and abundantly pours upon us.



No one likes to suffer. But some of our greatest spiritual lessons have been born out of our moments of suffering. As you give thanks to God this holiday season, and consider all the things that God has given you . . . dare to thank Him for the suffering and hardships you encountered this past year. After all, these moments of pain were the fires that purified your spirit, and blazed the path for your faith to be forged. It was in the midst of suffering that the love of God was poured into your heart, and awakened within you the gift of the Holy Spirit!

Pastor Mark

Human Care Ministry

Affordable Christmas... Is that Possible?

Last year was so popular with our members, we will, once again, partner with other area churches, social service agencies, and local businesses with an event called "Affordable Christmas," which will take place in the Belleville area. Pastor Ray Baumann and his congregation, The Journey, will be hosting this event.

This will be the **Second Annual Affordable Christmas** in the Belleville area. (*Affordable Christmas originated in St. Louis five years ago.*) Last year, **25 families**, which included a total of **75 children**, benefited from the Affordable Christmas ministry. Ashley Bennett, the Lead Coordinator and her team is "hoping God triples the number of families we serve this year!"

The money paid by the parents or guardians for the toys are fed directly back into our community, which makes it a win-win situation. Families hear about Jesus — the true meaning of Christmas; they participate in providing Christmas at a more manageable price for the parents; and the community at large benefits. The funds will go to schools that the children of the families attend, and will help meet other needs that are identified in our community.

What does that mean for us at Signal Hill? Instead of having an Angel Tree with specific names of children and their wish list, we can purchase any gift we want for children from newborn to 16 years of age. We will collect them, and the Human Care Board will deliver them by **Friday, Dec. 2**, to the local drop-off site. Toys are needed by this date to allow the volunteers to organize and sort them prior to the event, which will take place, **Saturday, Dec. 10**. As is our tradition, we will have a Christmas tree located at the Human Care Center in the Fellowship Hall for you to drop off the **UNWRAPPED** items.

Where will Affordable Christmas take place?

Central Junior High School
1801 Central School Road
Belleville, IL 62220

What other ways can we help?

1) Help take the toys and gifts collected to the designated drop-off site by **Friday, Dec. 2, or earlier**. Mission Thrift Store, Carlyle Ave., Suite A. Belleville, IL 62221. If you would rather donate money, make check payable to **Belleville**

Affordable Christmas, Mission: St. Louis; 4366 Manchester Ave., St. Louis, MO 63110

2) **Volunteer to help with the event.**

You may contact Ashley Bennett (Lead Coordinator) bennettash4@gmail.com or Dcs. Cheryl Lynn at the church office (397-1407).

Other ways to give this Christmas Season

Belleville Christian Center

We will also collect blankets, new or gently used winter coats, mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for Belleville's Christian Center, which reaches out to the homeless of our community. You may place your donations in the appropriate bin at the Human Care Collection Center in the Fellowship Hall.

Domestic Violence Prevention Shelter: The Mitten Tree

If you would like to help in another way, a separate Mitten Christmas tree will be placed upstairs in the entry way of the education wing for mittens, hats, and warm scarves that will be given to the Domestic Violence Shelter.

Any help for either organization makes a big impact on sharing the true meaning of Christmas ~ *Jesus*

Connecting Members 2 Members... Once again, we are trying to establish a list of members who are able to assist other members. From time to time, we receive calls asking for help. Would you be willing to pick up a fellow member and bring them to a worship service on Sunday mornings or during our mid-week services? Perhaps you are able to help a member run errands, help them with their housecleaning, or take them to a doctor appointment? Once a list is established, we can start **Connecting Members 2 Members**. This is a wonderful way to reach out to someone in our faith family.

Please contact Dcs. Cheryl Lynn (397-1407), for more information about opportunities to serve.

Emergency Information

Emergency Contact Forms... the saying, "*It is better to have and not need than need and not have,*" rings so true! If you haven't sent in your information form, it is never too late. More forms are available in the Information Rack located in the Fellowship Hall.

Other safety and emergency tips

First Responders will look for a cell phone if you are unable to respond. Having a person designated as an

emergency contact person is very helpful. In your cell phone contact list, put the initials **I.C.E.** (In Case of Emergency) and the name of the person you wish to have notified. If you put "A" in front of I.C.E. (**A.I.C.E.**), then the contact person will be one of the first listed on your contact screen.

Suggestions from a Social Worker concerning an Advanced Directive

Have a copy of your Advanced Directive in your home, on file with your Primary Care Provider, on file at your local hospital, and a copy with your immediate family member(s).

Some suggest keeping a copy in the glove compartment of your car. The Social Worker commented that the likelihood of a First Responders looking through a glove compartment is slim. Their first duty is to save lives, and that is their main focus. A suggestion for those who are concerned about their wishes concerning a Do Not Resuscitate or Do Not Incubate order, is to mark it on their driver's license example: DNR/DNI.

It is important to discuss your wishes with family members, because all health care providers will lean on the side of life ... that is their standard of care. Frequently, DNR/DNI orders are not realized until after a patient is transported to the ICU and are on the ventilator. At that point, it is important to have family members and your Power of Attorney who are willing to follow your wishes.

Caring Hearts Food Co-op, Inc

On Oct. 26, Channel 5 News reported that the USDA stated the cost for poultry and other foods connected to grain will rise 4-5% in the coming months. Everyone needs to eat, and there is a way to purchase quality, locally grown food from the Metro St. Louis area at a discounted price through the **Caring Hearts Food Co-op, Inc.**

The Caring Hearts Food Co-op, Inc. was established by a group of civic-minded volunteers dedicated to the idea that by collective purchasing power, everyone can afford to eat a more nutritious and balanced diet at prices significantly less than market. For \$20 per month, you can receive 4 quality, fresh-frozen meats and 8 - 10 fresh, wholesome seasonal fruits and vegetables. There are other options available.

This Co-op is for everyone! The more people who are involved in this co-op, the more food items that can be included in a "food box."

There are several Host Sites:

- 1) First United Methodist Church, O'Fallon, IL.
Contact person: Larry Veale 618-593-9197

- 2) Christ United Church of Christ, Belleville.
Contact person: Teresa Smith 618-234-0665
- 3) Nashville-E. Walnut and Buhrman St.
Contacts: Helen Engele 618-327-3183 or Marie Bennett 618-327-3212
- 4) Church of God- Outreach Mission, East St. Louis
Contact: Lillie Butler-Lawrence 618-397-5695



This is a picture of the items received in the October box. One full chicken, four pork chops, one-pound ground beef, one head of cauliflower, one stalk of celery, one bag of carrots, a bag of potatoes, three onions, a bunch of bananas, nine apples, and five oranges.

A fun way to KICK OFF the February Food Pantry Drive

To help **KICK OFF** the Food Drive, we will be having our **Third-Annual "SOUP"er Bowl** competition of our own.

In the Fellowship Hall, you will find a table marked with the remaining teams from the AFC and the NFC football leagues that are eligible to continue in the playoffs for the Super Bowl. Each week as teams are disqualified, we will remove the team logos from the side of the Football Field.

The competition for us will be to see how many cans of soup (or any other food items) are placed on which side of the Football Field. **Who do you think is going to play in the Super Bowl? Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?**

The ultimate winner in this little competition will be the Community Interfaith Food Pantry, which will get all the proceeds of the soup collected, as well as the other items that are collected throughout the month of February.

(Continued on page 7)

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES!

Unlike the nation's calendar, which begins with the month of January . . . the Church's calendar begins with the season of Advent, and is usually initiated at the end of November or beginning of December. This year, the Advent season begins on Sunday, November 27.

Advent is a four-week period of time, marked by repentance (not as solemn as in the season of Lent however), and which directs the believer to *prepare* for the coming of the Savior. During Advent, we look both backward and forward as we make our preparations. We look backward (in time) to the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem. In this way, Advent is the season of preparation for His coming as the Christ-Child. As the Advent season comes to a close, we are immediately led into the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas Day!

But Advent also beckons us to look forward in time, in anticipation of His second, physical coming. When Jesus comes again, He will not come as a baby born humbly in a manger. Rather, He will return in triumphant power and glory as the Judge of all creation. The repentant spirit of Advent teaches us to be humble before the coming King, and prepare our hearts to be His throne!

Our theme for the Advent celebration this year is *Savior of the Nations, Come!* Using materials developed by Dr. L. Reed Lessing of Concordia Seminary, we will observe the following schedule:

November 30 – Seminarian Andy Roettjer
Hymn of the Day: Comfort, Comfort These My People (LW 28)
Sermon Text: Isaiah 40:1-2

December 7 – Vicar Nathan Whittaker
Hymn of the Day: Prepare the Royal Highway (LW 27)
Sermon Text: Isaiah 40:3-5

December 14 – Vicar Nathan Whittaker
Hymn of the Day: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (LW 31)
Sermon Text: Isaiah 40:6-8

Midweek Advent services are held on Wednesdays at Noon and 6:30 p.m.



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, November 23 (6:30 p.m.) – Thanksgiving Eve
Thursday, November 24 (9:30 a.m.) – Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday, November 30 (Noon, 6:30 p.m.) – Midweek Advent service
Wednesday, December 7 (Noon, 6:30 p.m.) – Midweek Advent service
Wednesday, December 14 (Noon, 6:30 p.m.) – Midweek Advent service

Sunday, December 4 (2 p.m.) – Hanging of the Greens!
Sunday, December 11 (9:20 a.m.) – Children-focused Christmas service
Saturday, December 24 (6 and 8 p.m.) – Christmas Eve, Candlelight service
Sunday, December 25 (8, 9:20, 10:40 a.m.) – Christmas Day, Family Carol service

Short Signals...

See what God is doing through LINUS at Signal Hill!

On Sunday, Sept. 25, the Linus Ladies met for their Semi-Annual Luncheon. There were ten ladies present, including some newcomers! We are so excited to have new people continue to join us in our cause!

The beauty of our Linus Ladies group is that we are inter-generational with diverse skills, but we are united in fellowship and a common cause: providing blankets to children who are born prematurely or with health problems. Blankets are also sent to children of all ages who are ill and hospitalized or who have been through a traumatic event, such as a fire or accident. And blankets are provided to local crisis pregnancy centers. Project Linus even sent blankets to Joplin, MO, this past year! The Linus Ladies at SHLC also donate lap quilts for local nursing homes and/or shelters.

At our September meeting, Pat Donald told us about "prayer shawls" that are provided at the hospital where she works as a nurse. She is gathering information to see if that is an additional mission that we may choose to support. My own research revealed that a "prayer shawl" is a shawl that is made with the maker praying for the recipient while making the shawl. If interested, you may find prayer shawl instructions online, or you may purchase pattern books from local stores, such as Jo-Ann Fabric.

On Friday, Sept. 30, nine ladies met at Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's house for a night of learning. This time, ladies learned how to quilt or crochet, or they just came to create and fellowship! Some ladies have expressed interest in learning how to quilt on a large frame, so Dorothy Hackmann is preparing a quilt top. The goal is for ladies to meet at Dorothy's house in the evening, starting early in 2012. The night, times, and frequency of get-togethers will be determined by the group of interested parties. This is for all skill levels, including those with no experience at all! If you want to participate, talk to Patty Wiesner (632-9120).

This past week, five lap blankets and two large quilts were delivered to local shelters, and 25 baby blankets were delivered to the Southwestern Illinois Chapter of Project Linus! That brings us to a total of 32 blankets delivered to area nursing homes or shelters and 383 blankets delivered to Project Linus for a GRAND TOTAL of 415 blankets our ladies have made since 2007! Many thanks to Dcs. Cheryl Lynn, June Maurice, and Charlotte Walther for delivering the blankets!

I estimate that we have had between 30-40 ladies from our congregation involved at different times. What a BLESSING! It is so exciting to see the impact of our small group and to see the relationships that God is building between us ... all different parts of the body of Christ serving in our own unique way! God is doing "far more abundantly than I could ask or think." (Eph 3:20)

Regarding supplies: Due to a generous donation, the SHLC Linus Ladies are now the proud owners of cutting mats, rotary blades, skip-stitch blades, and other supplies! We continue to maintain a great supply of clean donated yarn (available in the

church library area) and donated fabric for quilts (talk to Dcs. Cheryl Lynn, Patty Wiesner, or Dorothy Hackmann if you need fabric).

Additionally, we have been contacted by a group called "Charity Sharity" whose service project involves accepting donated fabric and distributing it to charities and service organizations who can use it. If you need fabric for a project, you may contact Pam Winslow at 233-3935. It is our hope that these supplies will allow all those interested to participate! We don't want anyone to be excluded due to the inability to purchase supplies.

Information Packets are available on the Tract Rack in the Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in the Linus Ladies at Signal Hill. We quilt, knit, crochet, loom-knit, skip stitch, and tie fleece ... and some just donate, pray, and support! We work at home on our own time, but we meet twice a year for luncheons and as needed to help each other with new skills. We have had teenagers participate as well as seniors! All ages are welcome! May God continue to bless us and those who receive our blankets! ~ *Patty Wiesner*

Fellowship Game Day

Our fellowship lunch and game day was a lot of fun. Twenty-six people joined together for lunch, followed by cards, dominos, chicken-foot, and yahtzee! Look for another fun fellowship day coming in December! ~ *Sandy Morris and Judy Huffman*

Trunk or Treat 2011

Another successful Trunk or Treat! Many thanks to everyone who participated in this community outreach by donating or handing out candy or by coming to trick or treat or by working to help clean up! We had 260 children this year! That is over double the number of children who attended last year!

We sowed many seeds through our interactions, as well as witness tracts, pencils, tattoos, and bracelets. The children will have these tangible reminders of God's love and grace. Each child present received a treat bag with church service times printed on it with an invitation to join us on Sundays. It is my hope that we presented a welcoming church and that our generosity and love demonstrated that God, too, is generous and loving. Please join us in praying that the seeds sown will sprout and grow so that souls are saved! ~ *Patty Wiesner*

Office will be closed

The church office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25. Also, the office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23; Monday, Dec. 26; and Monday, Jan. 2.

2011 Offering envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2012 will be available on Sunday, Dec. 18 ~ *Jerri Eggerding*

Hanging of the Greens

Make plans now to help decorate our church for Christmas. We will "hang the greens" on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. This is a fun activity for children and adults. Look for additional details in the bulletin and announcements by Pastor Mark.
~ Jerri Eggerding (397-3883) or jerriegg@peaknet.net

New church pictorial directory

We are excited to announce that we will be updating the Church Photo Directory. Our goal is 100% participation! Please mark your calendars and don't miss out. Starting in January through the month of March, Jennifer Harrill will be in the Fellowship Hall from 9-9:20 a.m. and 10:20-10:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings (i.e. between services) to take your picture and verify your address. We will have more details about cost, ordering, and delivery as they become available.



Human Care (Continued from page 4)

Having a Super Bowl Party??? Why not order some Sub sandwiches from the Human Care Board and have fresh sub sandwiches for your gathering. The funds raised will go directly to and exclusively for the Utility Fund that will support our own members who need assistance with their utility bills. Look for more detailed information and an order form in the coming weeks.

Labels for Education is a program committed to helping students get **FREE** educational merchandise like art supplies and much more. By clipping the UPC symbols on products marked **Labels for Education**, bringing them to church, and placing them in the **Labels for Education** canisters (located in the kitchen or on the table in the entryway by the education wing), we can get supplies for our Sunday school program.

Pick up a **Labels for Education** brochure in the Information Rack located in the Fellowship Hall, and find out what products qualify for this program and get eight coupons for various products.

Official Acts

July 20, - Nov. 15, 2011

Infant/Child Baptisms

Abbigale Lynn Kistler, daughter of Ben and Malynda Kistler, Aug. 7
Reagan Christine Porter, daughter of Michael and Stacie Porter, Aug. 21
Drake Austin Osborne, son of Jaime Greenwood and Damien Osborne, Sept. 4

Funerals

Darlene Owens, Aug. 27
Charles Davis (non-member), Sept. 28
John Eggerding, Sept. 30
Emmett Salmons, Oct. 24
Dovie Phillips, Nov. 5

Wedding

Alexandria Carlson and Sam Bennett, Oct. 8

Roster Update

() = Deacon zone

Address Changes

BRELJE, Mabel (9)
Bradford Place, #28
1463 Benchmark Ct.
Swansea, IL 62226
628-8878

CLASSEN, Mel and Marilyn
412B S. Pleasantview Road
Plymouth, WI 53073

EUGEA, Roz (9)
Cedarhurst of Shiloh
429 S. Main Street
Shiloh, IL 62269
622-9890

FISCHER, Kimberly (2)
10 Carson Drive
Belleville, IL 62223

RANDALL, Emily
717 S. 5th Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28401

WISE, Jennifer
6324 Baker Blvd., Apt. H12
Richland Hills, TX 76118-6125

Name Change due to marriage

CARLSON, Alexandria to Alexandria BENNETT

Signal Hill Lutheran Church Calendar ❄ December 2011

Thursday – December 1
7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – December 2
Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – December 3
8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
9:00 am Elders' meeting

Sunday – December 4
Second Sunday in Advent
8:00 am *Traditional Holy Communion*
9:20 am *Contemporary Holy Communion*
9:20 am Sunday School
10:40 am *Traditional Service of the Word*

Monday – December 5
Pastor's day off

Tuesday – December 6

Wednesday – December 7
Noon Advent service
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Advent Service

Thursday – December 8
7:00 pm Congregational Meeting
7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – December 9
Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – December 10

Sunday – December 11
Third Sunday in Advent
8:00 am *Traditional Service of the Word*
9:20 am *Contemporary Service of the Word - Children's focus*

10:40 am *Traditional Holy Communion*

Monday – December 12
Pastor's day off

Tuesday – December 13

Wednesday – December 14
Noon Advent service
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Advent Service

Thursday – December 15
7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – December 16
Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – December 17

Sunday – December 18
Fourth Sunday in Advent
8:00 am *Traditional Holy Communion*
9:20 am *Contemporary Holy Communion*
9:20 am Sunday School
10:40 am *Traditional Service of the Word*

Monday – December 19
Pastor's day off

Tuesday – December 20

Wednesday – December 21
Noon Advent service
NO Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Advent Service

Thursday – December 22
7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – December 23
Office Closed
Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – December 24
Christmas Eve

6:00 pm *Candlelight Service with Holy Communion*
8:00 pm *Candlelight Service with Holy Communion*

Sunday – December 25
Christmas Day

8:00 am *Traditional Holy Communion*
9:20 am *Contemporary Holy Communion*
10:40 am *Traditional Holy Communion*

Monday – December 26
Office Closed
Pastor Mark's vacation

Tuesday – December 27
Pastor Mark's vacation

Wednesday – December 28
NO Confirmation Class
Pastor Mark's vacation

Thursday – December 29
Pastor Mark's vacation
Vicar Nate on vacation
7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – December 30
Pastor Mark's vacation
Dcs. Cheryl Lynn day off
Vicar Nate on vacation

Saturday – December 31
Pastor Mark's vacation
Vicar Nate on vacation

Story of Faith

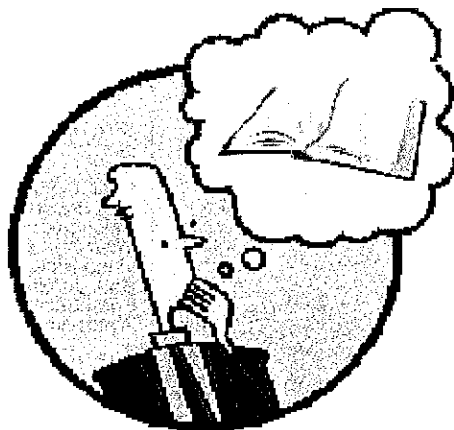
In the last newsletter, I wrote about how we all have a story shaped by the experiences God puts in our lives and molded by the gifts He has given to us. I went on to say that God is crafting a story for each and every one of us. And, although it was noted that all stories stem from the Great Story, I cannot say more until I make a few clarifications.

It is true that each and every one of us has a unique story. None of us has the same exact experiences or gifts. Some of us come from a home with two parents, while others come from a home with only one. Some of us have siblings, while others do not. Some of us are married, while others are single. Some of us have children, while others are not planning on having any. None of us know the same people in the same way. Our experiences are tremendously varied. The same can be said about our gifts. Some of us are artists, some are great with children, some are social, some are academic, and some are good with words. By no means are these possibilities exhaustive. They just point to the tremendous variety of gifts God has given. Both the variety of our experiences and the variety of our gifts are part of what makes life so exciting!

Yet, we must be careful. We must not make our experiences the guide; we must not make our gifts the source for understanding our faith. Though these are a part of our story, they are not the center of it. Simply put, the center is Jesus Christ. God Himself guides our story through His Word, which reveals Jesus Christ to us. In fact, the Word of God is what makes God's story our story. So, everything we experience and do is viewed in light of what God Himself says in His Word. Everything is viewed in light of what God has done, is doing, and will do for us in Jesus Christ. And this enriches our story. This makes our story worthwhile. It weeds out the corruption we all have, and pushes us to understand the story God is crafting for us.

It is true that each of our stories is different. Yet, they all stem from the Great Story: the story of what God has done, is doing, and will do for us through Jesus Christ. Only when we see our experiences and gifts in light of the Word of God can we truly appreciate our story of faith. To put it another way, the fundamental question is not "How does the Bible fit into my life, my story?" No, that makes your experiences and gifts the source. Rather, ask yourself, "How do I, along with my experiences and gifts, fit into the story of the Bible, or God's story?"

Vicar Nate



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

First Saturday of the month

8 - 9 a.m.

“The Art of Christian Conversation” (continues)

Most of us are not eloquent like Peter or convincing like Paul. Most of us do not have the gift of being able to walk into any situation and change people's hearts and minds. God doesn't call us all to be like Peter or Paul. However, He does call all of us to “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). This verse implies something that may not be obvious at first: unbelievers will ask you for a reason for your hope! Maybe someone already has. It could be a question of how you handle the big changes in your life, why you seem to have things together, or a direct question about your faith. Whatever it may be, God calls us to have an answer.

According to this divine call, God doesn't require us to go door to door. He doesn't require us to go across the sea to Africa or Asia. He doesn't even require that we put ourselves in foreign situations to reach those unbelievers. No, we have plenty of opportunities to share the gospel in our own lives, with the people we work, play, and live with. God works through our lives. He works through the conversations we have with unbelievers. These conversations do not follow a formula. There is no set way to talk to people about your faith. There's actually an art to it.



Teacher: Vicar Nathan Whittaker
(Come join us!)

12 Ordinary Men!



Who were the Twelve? Among them: a handful of fishermen, a tax collector, a political enthusiast. They weren't saints. They weren't scholars. They weren't even religious models or workers. The disciples were simply ordinary men; very much like you and me. And yet, having spent time with the Master forever changed their lives . . . and ours!

Through this study, we will walk in the disciple's shoes, embrace the hopes and the doubts that gnawed at them, and hear afresh the power of Jesus' words. As we learn more about the Twelve, we will learn more about ourselves . . . and the significance of the gospel that Jesus brought to such an ordinary world! Teacher: Pastor Mark

Friday mornings - 10 a.m.
Through mid-December

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Linda Rice, Office Assistant*
Barb Johansson, Nursery Attendant*
Erin Clifford, Keyboardist and Organist*
*part-time position

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The Light is published bi-monthly for members and friends of our church family. Assembled by Fred Blume, Betty Hohrein, Judy Huffman, Pauline Opperman, Rosemary Roberts and Lorraine Rice.

Signal Hill Lutheran Church Calendar ❖ January 2012

**Sunday – January 1
First Sunday after Christmas**

8:00 am *Traditional Holy Communion*
9:20 am *Contemporary Holy Communion*
10:40 am *Traditional Service of the Word*
Pastor Mark's vacation
Vicar Nate on vacation

Monday – January 2

Office Closed
Pastor Mark's vacation

Tuesday – January 3

Pastor Mark's vacation

Wednesday – January 4

Pastor Mark's vacation
NO Confirmation Class

Thursday – January 5

Pastor Mark's vacation
7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – January 6

Pastor Mark's vacation
Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – January 7

Pastor Mark's vacation
8:00 am Men's Bible Breakfast
9:00 am Elders' meeting

**Sunday – January 8
Baptism of Our Lord**

8:00 am *Traditional Service of the Word*
9:20 am *Contemporary Service of the Word*
9:20 am Sunday School
10:40 am *Traditional Holy Communion*
Pastor Mark's vacation

Monday – January 9

Pastor's day off

Tuesday – January 10

Wednesday – January 11

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday – January 12

7:00 pm Congregational Meeting
7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – January 13

Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – January 14

**Sunday – January 15
Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

8:00 am *Traditional Holy Communion*
9:20 am *Contemporary Holy Communion*
9:20 am Sunday School
10:40 am *Traditional Service of the Word*

Monday – January 16

Pastor's day off

Tuesday – January 17

Wednesday – January 18

9:30 am Newsletter Assembly Team
6:00 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday – January 19

7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – January 20

Dcs. Cheryl Lynn's day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – January 21

**Sunday – January 22
Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

8:00 am *Traditional Holy Communion*
9:20 am *Contemporary Holy Communion*
9:20 am Sunday School
10:40 am *Traditional Holy Communion*

Monday – January 23

Pastor's day off

Tuesday – January 24

Wednesday – January 25

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday – January 26

7:00 pm Praise Band

Friday – January 27

Dcs. Cheryl Lynn day off
Vicar Nate's day off

Saturday – January 28

**Sunday – January 29
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

8:00 am *Traditional Service of the Word*
9:20 am *Contemporary Service of the Word*
9:20 am Sunday School
10:40 am *Traditional Holy Communion*

Monday – January 30

Pastor's day off

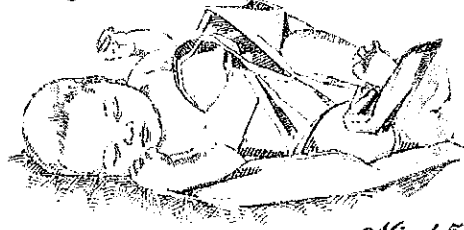
Tuesday – January 31

The staff of Signal Lutheran Church wishes you
a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And he will be their peace

Pastor Mark

Des. Cheryl



Micah 5:5

Vicar Nate

Annalee Rice

Jay Luehr

Barb Johansson

Eric L. R. Clifford

SIGNAL HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Family Sharing Christ"

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Please do not hold

Return service requested

Jesus loves:

Worship opportunities:

- ◆ 8 a.m. Sunday
- ◆ 9:20 a.m. Sunday
- ◆ 10:40 a.m. Sunday