



"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

Children of the Light,

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.

--- How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a foreign land?

(Psalm 137:1, 4)



I can only imagine the agony that is experienced when you are forcefully uprooted from your home, and carried off to a distant land. The words of Psalm 137 (partially quoted above) give us a brief but emotional glimpse into the trauma that is inflicted.

Currently there are thousands on a long, arduous journey toward our country. Fleeing their countries in South America, families have been uprooted and are on their way. They are not being physically swept along against their will. They are coming by choice. But the trauma they are experiencing because of an uprooted life is just as real and significant.

The questions that are raised by their coming are many. From seeking to understand what has transpired in these countries to result in such a mass exodus of humanity . . . to a review and discussion of our nation's policy

for receiving immigrants, refugees and those seeking asylum. There are concerns related to our nation's security . . . and a consideration of the moral responsibility we have in caring for our fellow man. Political lines have been drawn. And with them, our country is divided. American against American. Each side making accusations against the other. It is a sick situation. Who can deliver us from this hopeless situation?

*² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

*⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government
shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:2, 6)*

These words from Isaiah are read each year on Christmas Eve, the night before the birth of our Savior. It speaks of people wandering in darkness and being lost. And then, the blessed arrival of the Anointed One.

It is not just the families of Central America that are displaced. We have been uprooted and driven out of our homeland, the Garden of Eden. We are lost, wandering in the darkness of sin. And we bear the scars of those who have been traumatized by a lost life.

As in the garden with our first parents, we turn and blame one another. We are divided and filled with resentment. Lines are drawn. It is a sick situation. Who can deliver us from this hopeless situation?

The son of Mary, of the line of David, from the root of Jesse. Christ the Lord! He is the Light of the world, and the only One who can rescue us from this present darkness. He came in order to provide us with a way to return to our homeland. No one comes to the Father except through Him. *(continued on next page)*

On Liberty Island of New York Harbor stands the Statue of Liberty. These words are inscribed upon this national monument:

*“Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed,
to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”*

When we read these words in consideration of our Lord Jesus and apply them to Him, what a new, sweet meaning they take on! For apart from Him, we were wretched, poor, homeless people. But since He came and took on our flesh, He has breathed His breath in us....filling us with His Spirit....and making us heirs of His glorious kingdom. He is the “golden door” through which we enter!

This Christmas, celebrate the One who has given us life. Come with your loved ones...your children and your grandchildren....and gather around the manger. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!



Pastor Mark



Thoughts from Pastor Jon

“Peace Amidst the Storm”

I was at a pastors’ meeting recently and was asked how everything at church was going. The only thing I could think of was “crazy busy!” With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up, the stress and anxiety level for many of us often seems to go up a notch. Whether preparing advent services, hosting guests and cooking for holiday meals, braving the rush to buy Christmas gifts, feeling the loss of loved ones, whom we especially remember during the holidays or dealing with thorny family issues that seem to pop up at this time of year, the holidays can be stressful.

My prayer for you this season is the promise which the apostle Paul gave in **Phillipians 4:7**: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” This holiday season, bring your stress and anxiety to the Prince of Peace; Jesus. He will guard your heart and mind and give you peace amidst the storm. Jesus is the only one who can bring true rest and relief during life’s difficulties. So today, take a deep breath, bring your troubles to Jesus in prayer and leave them at His feet. May you know His all-surpassing peace.

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

Leaving a Legacy for the Ministry at Signal Hill!



Through the generations, Signal Hill Lutheran has been *A Family Sharing Christ!* That has been our motto, and that has been our life. As we look ahead, into the future of our children and our children's children, we consider the financial support we might send with them. Here are some options you might prayerfully consider:

Wills and Bequests

Leaving property and/or finances to Signal Hill in your will or living trust. One benefit of making such a request is that you can continue to use the asset that you will (in the future) be leaving to Signal Hill during your lifetime. A bequest can be made by:

- Designating a gift of a specific dollar amount
- Gifting a percentage of your overall estate
- Leaving a gift from the balance or residue of your estate
- Making a beneficiary designation of specified assets

A bequest is generally a revocable gift, meaning that it can be changed or modified at any time, per your desire. If preferred, you can request that your gift be applied toward a specific focus or area of work, so that you know your gift will be considered for an identified purpose that is dear to your heart.

Stocks and Bonds

Donating appreciated securities, including stocks and bonds, is an easy and tax-effective way to make a gift. By gifting these assets, you can avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of appreciated stock, and often receive a charitable income tax deduction.

Gift Annuity

A gift annuity offers you regular, fixed payments for your lifetime (and the life of another, if you choose). The rate and payment amount is based upon the age of the recipients named at the time the gift annuity is established.

Life Insurance

A gift of your life insurance policy is another excellent way to make a gift to Signal Hill. This could provide you with an option for using a life insurance policy that has outlived its original purpose (for example, if you originally purchased the policy to provide for minor children who are now financially independent adults). To make a gift of life insurance, please contact your life insurance provider and request a beneficiary designation form from the insurer. Include Signal Hill as the beneficiary of the policy.

Retirement Assets

Donating part or all of your unused retirement assets (such as your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), pension, or other deferred plan) is another excellent way of providing for Signal Hill's future. If you are like most people, you probably will not use all of your retirement assets. You can make a gift of your unused retirement assets to help further our mission. To leave your retirement assets to Signal Hill, you will need to complete a beneficiary designation form provided by your retirement plan custodian.

We have been blessed as a congregation, and equipped to carry out our mission, because of the vision and commitment of prior generations. As we look to the future of Signal Hill, and the ministry that our children, grandchildren, and those who come after us will conduct, we are struck by the opportunity (and responsibility) that is ours in providing for their needs. Your prayerful consideration of this task is invited and welcomed. May God guide and direct you as you look toward the future. And may He bless our congregation so that we might continue to be *A Family Sharing Christ!*

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS will resume on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Our topic for this weekly class will be the “Minor Prophets.” I hope you will give considerable thought and prayer to making this Bible class a part of your weekly routine. ~ *Jerri Eggerding (397-3883)*



Midweek advent services

Wednesdays – December 5, 12 and 19
(Noon and 6:30 p.m.)



The birth of a certain child two thousand years ago in Bethlehem prompted a poet in the nineteenth century to ask a very *uncommon* question in a hymn: “What Child Is This?” It was an *uncommon* question because it asked about the birth of a very *uncommon* child.

What Child Is This? The angel who announced this child’s birth on Christmas Eve answered the question this way: “a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” The hymn writer answered it this way: “This, this is Christ the King.” They both want to make known the identity of this child.

This advent, we focus on the hymn and the question: “What Child Is This?” We will hear about Zechariah, Mary, and John the Baptist as we seek to answer our question. Come and meet this uncommon child this advent!

December 5 – Rev. Jonathan Hemler
“**The Child Who is Zechariah’s Hope**”
(*Luke 1:5-25*)

Zechariah received a son, John, in his old age, but more importantly had his hope of a Savior realized in Jesus. We, too, have hope in the one and only Christ-child!

December 12- Seminarian Andrew Zobel
“**The Child Who is a Virgin’s Great Son**”
(*Luke 1:26-38*)

When Jesus was about to be conceived, Gabriel told Mary, “The child to be born will be called holy”. As we focus on the virgin’s Son, we too are called holy in God’s sight!

December 19 – Rev. Jonathan Hemler
“**The Child Who is John’s Joy**” (*Luke 1:39-45*)

Unborn John the Baptist jumped for joy inside his mother, Elizabeth, when Mary arrived, bearing Jesus. We also are filled with uncontainable joy as we receive the gift of a Savior, born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.



Children's Christmas Service

This year's children's Christmas program will be a student-led service. It will be held at the 9:20 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 23.

As in the past, we will have the Happy Birthday, Jesus, party afterwards in the Sunday School room. This is open to the congregation.

2019 Flower Calendar

The 2019 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. You may sign up to have flowers on the altar. The cost is \$25 which is payable to Signal Hill Lutheran Church. Please give the money to me in person, or put it in my mailbox, #76. This will make sure the money is credited to you. Two members can sign up for the same date. Flowers on the altar are a way to honor loved ones and beautify our worship space. If you are not able to get to church to sign the calendar, call me at 397-3883 and I will write your name on the calendar. Thank you to everyone who signed up in 2018. ~ Jerri Eggerding

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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, Sandi Slack and Bill Townsend.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES!

Christmas Eve (evening)

Monday, December 24 ~ 6 and 8 p.m.

Holy Communion

Preacher: Rev. Mark D. Wiesner, Senior Pastor

"The Child Who Is the Lord"

(Luke 2:1-20)



The angel answered the carol's question, "What child is this?" with the announcement, "a Savior, Christ the Lord." Tonight that proclamation echoes through the Scripture we read, the songs we sing, and even the prayers we bring for His sake. The Babe of Bethlehem is the one true Son of God and our Lord now and forever.

A Candlelight Service featuring quiet and gentle Christmas hymns: O Little Town of Bethlehem – What Child Is This – Once in Royal David's City – Gentle Mary Laid Her Child – Away in a Manger – etc. The service concludes with the lights being dimmed, congregants holding newly lit candles, and singing Silent Night.

+ + +

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25 ~ 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion

Preacher: Rev. Jonathan A. Hemler, Associate Pastor

“For to Us a Child is Born”

(Isaiah 9:6)



Our focus this Advent has been the question, “What child is this?”. The angels had an answer in their message to the shepherds: He is “Christ the Lord.” Isaiah had his own answer: the child will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Today we praise God for this child who is called by many names. For us, He is simply Jesus, our Savior. Praise the Lord!

A delightful Family Carol Service, including such favorite hymns as: Angels We Have Heard on High – Oh Come All Ye Faithful – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – From Heaven Above – Joy to the World – and Angels From the Realms of Glory. A wonderful, traditional service of praise for the entire family!



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, November 21 (6:30 pm) – Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, December 5 (Noon, 6:30 pm) – Midweek Advent service

Wednesday, December 12 (Noon, 6:30 pm) – Midweek Advent service

Wednesday, December 19 (Noon, 6:30 pm) – Midweek Advent service

Sunday, November 25 (2:00 pm) – Hanging of the Greens!

Sunday, December 23 (9:20 am) – Children’s Christmas service!

Monday, December 24 (6:00 pm, 8:00 pm) – Christmas Eve evening services

Tuesday, December 25 (9:30 am) – Christmas Day service

Human Care Ministry

As Christmas approaches, there are plenty of opportunities to serve our church and community. Here’s what is happening with our human care ministry:

Christmas Angels

This year, we, again, have the opportunity to make the holidays brighter for God’s children who are in need by giving them Christmas gifts. We, as a congregation, are partnering with the Salvation Army in their Christmas Angel program. As you are able, you may take an angel from the board in the Fellowship Hall and return your unwrapped gift (or gifts) by Sunday, Dec. 2.

Thank you in advance for your generosity towards this wonderful ministry!

The Domestic Violence Prevention Shelter Mitten Tree

We are collecting mittens, hats, and warm scarves for the Domestic Violence Prevention Shelter. Donations can be placed under the Mitten Christmas Tree in the entryway of the Education Wing or under the small Christmas tree near the Human Care Center in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support for such an important ministry.

Coats needed

The Belleville Christian Center is also collecting coats this winter. If you or your children have outgrown last year’s coats, think about donating your old coats. They will help keep someone warm this winter.

Center of Hope Collection

This year, in place of our "SOUP"er Bowl Kickoff competition, we will be collecting items for the "Center of Hope" located in Belleville. The Center is sponsored by the Salvation Army, Beacon Ministries and other organizations in the area. The Center provides for the homeless or those in danger of being homeless a place to rest, relax and refresh. They will be able to take showers, wash and dry clothes, receive employment search assistance and other helpful services. We will be collecting personal care items, infant items, clothing, snacks and drinks, office supplies and other miscellaneous goods.

The collection will begin on Sunday, January 6. What a wonderful way to show God's love!

Christmas cards

Have you started addressing your Christmas cards yet??? Why not consider sending a card to one of our shut-ins. You would certainly put a smile on his/her face.

Martin Bendick
54 Windsor Drive
Belleville, IL 62223

Mary Ann Lybarger
Cambridge House
3900 Sullivan Drive
Swansea, IL 62226

George Niklich
Cedar Ridge Health Center
1 Perryman Street
Lebanon IL 62254

Peggy Robb
Oak Hill
623 Hamacher St.
Waterloo, IL 62298

Clem Buechler
St. Paul's Senior Community
1021 W E St.
Belleville, IL 62220

Mabel Brelje
Cedarhurst of Shiloh, Room
481
429 S. Main St.
Shiloh, IL 62269

Carol House
Belleville Healthcare & Rehab
150 North 27th St. Belleville,
IL 62226

Ann Norman
1530 Bond Ave., Apt. 101
East St. Louis, IL 62207

Erma Poole
325 Carson Drive
Belleville, IL 62223-1819

Norma Vlahavas
3009 Mill Springs Road
Belleville, IL 62221

More

We continue to collect used cell phones for the Violence Prevention Center, as well as eye glasses and keys for the local Lion's Club. Have a blessed Christmas season! ~ *Human Care Ministry*

Remember . . . If It Is In Your Heart



Then It Should Be In Your Will!

Over the years, one generation after another has provided for those who came after them. For example, we now worship in a beautiful church building because a *prior* generation had a vision of this church's future ministry, and made a commitment to provide for that future. God directed them in this undertaking, and He blessed them.

And now the baton has been passed to us. Now **we** are the generation that stands on the edge of time and peers into the future. And what will be the need of the next generation of believers? What challenges will our children and our grandchildren face? Well, we know they will be inheriting an aging building from us. We know they will live in a time when identity, information, and financial resources will be at risk. We know the culture that surrounds them will continue to press in upon them with beliefs, practices and lifestyles that will challenge their Christian faith. We know they will not be tolerated as Christian believers; and, at the worst, will experience great loss because of the faith they profess. But we also know that despite the severity of the challenges that lie before them, even greater will be the opportunities they will be given for proclaiming the gospel, and for ushering many into the kingdom! For the light never shines so brightly as when it flickers in the darkest room!

We may not be there when this great harvest is taken in, but we can pass along to the next generation the financial resources they will need to conduct this great work of the kingdom. Therefore, I encourage you to prayerfully look over and consider the article which follows . . . ***Leaving a Legacy for the Ministry at Signal Hill!*** Just as *we* look back at the generations who came before us, and we realize how we have benefited from the investments they made on our behalf, so now it is our opportunity to take up the challenge and provide for those who come after us. May God continue to direct this, His congregation, and bless those who regularly gather around His Word and sacraments as He has done from generation to generation!

Short Signals. . .

Office closures

The office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23. Please attend the Thanksgiving Eve service with Holy Communion on Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

The office will also be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25, Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday Jan. 1

Thanksgiving Service

Thanksgiving Eve
Wednesday, Nov. 21
6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

Hanging of the Greens

This annual event will be on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 25, at 2 p.m. Plan now to come and help put up the Christmas trees and other decorations while we listen to Christmas music. Afterward, we will enjoy ice cream.

It is fun for the entire family! Please bring your loved ones and join us for this time-honored tradition. You'll be glad you did. ~ *Jerri Eggerding* (397-3883)



Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting for Signal Hill Lutheran Church members will be held at noon, in the Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, Dec. 2 at noon. All members are encouraged to attend.

Weather closing

If you have questions whether church services will be held due to inclement weather, please watch Channel 4 (KMOV-TV) or Channel 5 (KSDK). Our church will be listed (with others) at the bottom of the screen.

Thank you

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the rummage sale a huge success. We took in \$2520.00 which should finally put us over the top of our goal to replace the fellowship flooring. It has taken three rummage sales to reach this goal! A very special thank you to everyone who sorted and arranged all of the donations, worked sale day, and helped pack up all of the unsold goods. It was a very big job! ~ *Sandi Slack and Judy Huffman*

E-scrip helps!!

If you are currently using your e-scrip card at Schnuck's, thank you for the additional money we receive because of it! If you are not using an e-scrip card, please go to the curtesy desk and ask for one. It costs you nothing!

The great news is that you can now earn contributions for Signal Hill Lutheran Church in the Schnuck's Rewards program app too!!

Here is how:

- Scan your My Schnuck's Card AND the Rewards App in a single transaction
- Go to the Schnuck's Rewards App, tap on the "More" tab at the bottom of the screen
- Select "Donate" and check the circle next to the donation option, click "apply."

If you don't use the Rewards App, you can just use your My Schnuck's card as usual.

Sunday School schedule

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Nov. 25 or Sunday, Dec. 30

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, Jan. 6

Fellowship Game Day

The next Fellowship Game Day will be on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Honey Baked Ham will be on the menu.

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall and if you are bringing a dish, indicate what it is, so we have knowledge of anything we may need to add. Thank you! ~ *Sandy Morris and Judy Huffman*

FONDUE, FUN, and FAULTLESS!



Once again a dozen ladies attended our semi-annual Linus Luncheon. It was so much fun to have five visitors with us! Welcome Kathleen, Danielle, and Kasten clan! We had three cheese fondues, two kinds of chocolate fondue and so many dippers that the ladies brought (pineapple, strawberries, apples, bananas, marshmallows, bread, fajita meats, and a variety of pretzels and chips)! On top of that, one lady brought meatballs and pumpkin dessert!

Yes, we had our **FONDUE FUN**. But, as we dipped our food into the yummy fondue we were reminded that **HE who is FAITHFUL makes us to be FAULTLESS** as we are dipped in His blood. We remembered Pastor Jon's recent sermon when he referenced the lyrics to the Mercy Me song, "Flawless":

"No matter the bumps - No matter the bruises
No matter the scars - Still the truth is
The cross has made - The cross has made you flawless"

As the cheese and chocolate covered the morsels of food, we thought about how JESUS completely covers us so that there is no more fault or blemish in us. We are perfect in His sight. He loves us beyond measure. He is faithfully there every minute of every day caring for us no matter what is going on in our lives. He rejoices with us in our joys. And, He comforts us in our sorrows. He sees us clean, *flawless*, and valuable even when we feel inadequate to please Him. As the children's song goes, "We are precious in His sight"!

In gratitude, we seek to serve Him! **LINUS LADIES** is one opportunity for us to show His love and care to those around us. Over the years, the ladies of southern Illinois have hand-made and donated over 63,339 blankets to infants and children through local hospitals, pregnancy centers, and first responders. That means there were over 63,339 moments of need. The needs continue. In fact, Linus of Southwestern IL now has a new recipient. They have recently started providing blankets to a youth program at the Salvation Army! If you would like to help us reach out with comfort to the little ones in our community, please pick up an information packet from the tract rack in the Fellowship Hall. All of the information is there. It is really easier than you think! There are no deadlines or expectations. Ladies work at their own pace in their own time using whatever technique is easiest (fleece tie, skip stitch, knit, crochet, sew, quilt). We get together two times per year (the last Sunday in September and the last Sunday in January) for food, fellowship, and inspiration. We would love to have you join us!

If you have not made blankets...if you cannot make blankets...remember, you are faultless. God's grace makes you flawless! We invite you to pray for our ministry as to how He would lead each of us to serve Him. You're not a blanketeer? How DO you show God your thanks for His amazing grace?

Two Busy Sisters

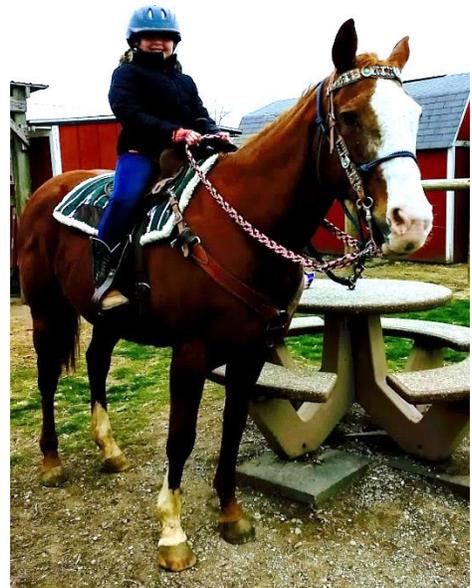
Peyton Morgan is 11 and a 5th grade student at Smithton School. She is the daughter of Molly and Matt Morgan and granddaughter of Sandy and Mike Morris. Peyton has been in gymnastics since age three. For the past six years, she participated on the World Class Excel Gold team. Last year was a fantastic year for her! Peyton scored First Place All Around Gymnast at her age level in every meet. She has gone to regionals and made the Illinois State Team three years in a row. This year Peyton is participating in competitive power tumbling and looks forward to competitive cheerleading in January. Peyton's biggest fan, other than her parents and grandparents, is her sister, Rylie Rose.

Rylie, who is nine, enjoys horseback riding and softball. This year, Rylie joined Girls on the Run and completed two 5 k runs.

The girls also foster kittens from the Helping Strays of Monroe County. They socialize the kittens, litter train them, and after a few weeks, return them to be adopted. Instead of birthday gifts, the girls requested donations gifts for the shelter. Way to go, girls!!!



Peyton



Rylie



**The Staff of Signal Hill Lutheran Church
wishes you a Blessed Christmas and a
Happy New Year.**

Rev. Mark D. Wusnie

Rev. Jonathan A. Hemler

Jay Cuckner

*"...they will call him
Immanuel"
— which means,
"God with us."*



Matthew 1:23

Eric E. R. Clifford



