



**Special points of interest:**

Coming soon:

- Trustee's Update
- Mission Update
- Evangelism Update

## “Merry Christ-mas”

A Note From Pastor Kevin Slough

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Luke 2: 11 says, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Amen, amen, amen!!

Blessings to you and your family throughout this time of Advent (The first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ) and Christmas (The birth of Jesus Christ). It is always a joy for me to be in ministry, especially during the month of December. I find it to be such a joy because the birth narrative of Jesus is filled with so much hope and peace for the world.

Think for a moment about the amazing depth of God's love for you and His longing to have a relationship with you. This is what Christmas is about, God's love. No matter how hard we attempt to keep the commandments of God it is impossible for any of us to do so. God's love fixed this by coming into the world both fully human and fully divine all at the same time, all in the same person of Jesus Christ. God did this for you, as your free and eternal gift. How has your acceptance of this free gift changed the way you live? How has it transformed the way you celebrate Christmas each year?

Nearly every time an angel appears in the Bible, his first words are, “Don't be afraid!” In the birth narrative of Jesus from Luke's gospel chapter 2, we are told some shepherds were taking care of their flock when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone over them. At that moment the shepherds were terrified. In Luke 2: 10 the angel of the Lord responded, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you.”

Our God could have “Fixed” our broken relationship anyway He chose to do so. But God chose to “Fix” the relationship in the most non-threatening way, God came to us as a baby and allowed for us to care for Him first as we came to know Him as our Lord and our God. God emptied himself and took on human form.

For the first time, ordinary people can hold a conversation, a debate, with God in visible form. As the angel of the Lord announced there was no need to be afraid for the news was good news! The birth of Jesus is good news because you can have a con-

versation with God; you can spend time with and come to know God in an intimate way through Jesus.

Christmas has its focus today on gifts, gatherings and commercial advertisements. What ever happen to the story that brought Christmas into being? I invite you to read Luke chapter 2 during this advent season and share the story with your family this Christmas. Rejoice and find yourself glad to be in ministry during this time of year for there is hope and peace wrapped in love waiting for all who accept such a welcoming and non-threatening free gift.

I pray that what I have written awakes and renews the story of Christ's birth that is already written in your hearts. I pray that this Christmas you rejoice knowing and acknowledging that unto you a Savior has been born. May you find hope and peace wrapped in love this Christmas and may you offer the message of this gift to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

I offer you the peace and knowledge that you are loved by God and your Pastor. Have a wonderful Christmas grounded in its true message and arrival.

Merry Christmas,  
PK

## Fellowship Notes

The wine tasting was so much fun. It was a great way to get to know each other more. Great snack's too. We will set up a date for a 2nd tasting.

On the 13th of November we had a comfort lunch, that was a huge success as well, good food, good fellowship and lots of fun.

In December we will be collecting food to do 2 Christmas dinners and food for the week for 2 families in our town. So plan on being a part of this service project.

Thank you to all who were able to sign cards, do little things and help make Pastor Appreciation Month a success. We

gave him the gifts on the 30th of October. Pastor Kevin we are so thankful for all you do!

In God's Love,  
Marilynn Amberger



## Trustees Notes

Greetings from the Trustees of East Rochester UMC.

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the mowing and maintaining of the church grounds, Thank you for all your efforts it looks great.!

We will also be having the carpets cleaned this month, please try to keep our rugs looking great, be careful with your drinks.

We will also be looking for people to help keep the sidewalk shoveled and salted during the winter months, lets try to

make it as safe as possible for all who come in.

Thank you in advance.

God bless you all,

The Trustees



## Mission Notes

Greetings from the Mission team. December is an exciting month this year, we will be leaving on our Mission Trip to Telica Nicaragua on the 27th of December for two weeks. It will be another wonderful experience as we work with the people and build not only new homes but new relationships as well.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers and we will be back in a couple

weeks to give you a report on all that was accomplished with the building and the people.

Thank you to everyone for all the support you have given us through the bar-b-ques and sales and all the events and prayers you have given in support of the Mission Trips.

Thank you and God bless!

The Mission Team



## Christian Education & Discipleship Ministry Notes

Our earlier Sunday school time has been such a blessing! It allows the children to have a longer class time, and now the adults have a class that meets at the same time! During the month of October the children have been learning about some stories from the book of Genesis. They know all about how God created the earth, Adam and Eve, Noah's ark and the Tower of Babel. In November we will be focusing on some of the kings in the Bible. Be sure to ask some of the children what they have been learning, they love to share what they know. You can also check out the Sunday school section of the bulletin board to see what we are

doing.

Did you know?

Carol has started an adult class that meets at the same time as the children (9:45-10:35). They are currently studying the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm. It is a great opportunity for parents to have some fellowship and learning time of their own while the children are in class.

I am still in need of some volunteers to help out with Sunday school. This could be teaching children, being a substitute teacher, helping prepare activities, or teaching adults. Please contact me through e mail if you can help [Stefanydelorme@gmail.com](mailto:Stefanydelorme@gmail.com)

There are children's' worship bulletins along with

crayons and pencils on the round table outside the sanctuary. Please help your children choose the one that suits them, this has been helping all of the children sit quietly in church with their families.



## Evangelism Notes

Well, it is that time of the year again, time to celebrate Christmas and make resolutions for the New Year. I know people are busy planning meals, trips, and buying gifts, not thinking much about spreading the Good News. But, we can do that too, amidst the chaos of the season, as a matter of fact we should!

Doesn't it bother any one that signs say "Xmas" on them or "Happy Holidays"? Doesn't it bother any one that the cashiers say "Happy Holiday's"? That is what they are told to say so that no one get's offended, well it offends me. ~blush~ When I worked at Wegmans we were told to say holidays, not Christmas, but, I went ahead and said "Merry Christmas" or "Have a

Blessed Christmas", and you know what? People appreciated that. I had a gentleman come through my line one day a few days before Christmas and I told him "Merry Christmas" and he thanked me and told me I was the first person to tell him that in a very long time. It made him happy to hear Christ put back in Christmas.

So where am I going with all this? Evangelism. It doesn't matter whether you think you can or not, you are, just by saying something like "Merry Christmas". You are spreading the Good News and it might even open the door for further communication about Christ and how He has worked in your life.

And on that note, we shortly will have dvd's introducing people to what our church is about, hopefully some of you have gotten a preview of it as you sat in the sanctuary before the service starts by watching the video up on the

screen. There is a song that goes with it on the dvd: "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) by Chris Tomlin. I hope we can get these out to people, maybe give them some hope and let them know God loves them and us too and that someone cares about them.

This is it for now, I pray you all have a blessed Christmas!

Every blessing to you,  
Jeannine F McMullen



**Jesus Christ said: "the  
Son of Man came to  
serve, not to be served"**

## Worship Notes

### Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was

expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all


the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

God bless you all,  
Margot



# Calendar for December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10:45 AM	5	6	7 Bible Study 10:30 to noon	8	9	10 ERAC Advent Sale 9a-3p @ High School
11 Worship 10:45 AM 5-7 pm Emmaus	12	13 7:30 pm Leadership Council mtg	14 Bible Study 10:30 to noon	15	16	17
18 Worship 10:45 AM Fellowship Special treat bag for the congregation	19	20	21 Bible Study 10:30 to noon	22 DePaul Christmas Party 7pm	23	24 Christmas Eve service 7 pm
25 Worship 10:45AM 	26	27	28 Bible Study 10:30 to noon	29	30	31

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## Poem of the Month

### OUR SAVIOUR WAS BORN

Our Saviour was born  
Into a slumbering world  
His star shone in the heavens  
A sign of God's love unfurled

This sleeping babe  
In lowly manger lay  
The world did not yet know  
He had come to show the way

Angels appeared to shepherds  
As in the fields they watched their sheep  
Glad tidings was their greetings  
Telling where our Saviour did sleep

The shepherds left their flocks  
They went to see their Shepherd born  
For the Lamb of God, His own dear Son  
Was born that Christmas morn

Jesus, Son of God, Emmanuel  
Saviour, Lamb of God, might counselor  
King of kings and Lord of lords  
He is all these and so much more

So come to see this new born babe  
God's precious gift to us  
And in return give Him your heart  
The Saviour of us all, Jesus

Jeannine Faith