

The Spotlight

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January 2012

The Grace of Giving

*"Praise God from who all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below."*

Those words begin the Doxology we sing every Sunday morning after giving to the Lord our gifts of grace. They are especially appropriate as we end 2011 and begin 2012.

Your generosity has allowed us to finish the year in the black, and fills the coming year with a sense of anticipation as we take the step of faith in adding more staff.

One of the hallmarks of Salem Road is that we do not ask you to pledge any amount of money to the church, nor do we ask you to tithe (giving 10% of your gross income), nor do we ask you to give sacrificially until it hurts.

Instead, we ask you to consider what the Lord would have you to do, and then to give generously and cheerfully. This is New Testament giving at its finest and year after year you have proven to be among the finest, most generous and cheerful givers. To see the Lord working in this very tangible way is amazing and overwhelming.

That is why 2012 will be a year of excitement as we boost our annual budget by a significant amount to accommodate another pastor. The projected budget is not as high as some have been in the past. However, it currently has fewer givers contributing toward its goal.

But in order to encourage you in this adventure, listen to St. Paul as he addresses the issue of giving in his letters by using words and phrases such as these: 'act of grace,' 'excel in this grace of giving,' 'I am not commanding you.'

Paul speaks of our gifts as examples of 'love' and 'desire.' He speaks of one's 'eager willingness,' and giving 'according to one's means,' saying that 'if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.'

The Apostle goes on to speak of giving 'generously, not grudgingly,' as each man 'has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' He tells the Corinthian church that their generosity is a 'surpassing grace,' an 'indescribable gift!'

Finally, but not the last word, St. Paul tells the Philippian church that their gifts of grace are 'a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.' And in return for their generosity Paul promises them that 'my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.'

And there can be no more fitting doxology to that kind of giving and to this article than St. Paul's words to the Philipians: "To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Excited about 2012, Pastor Mark

Cooking Safely Workshop

You recently may have heard of the "Church Lady Bill " which went into effect August 2011. In order to remain in compliance with this new law, churches are required to have at least one "food-safe" educated volunteer at each church fellowship meal. Since I am a certified food manager I am qualified to educate volunteers to provide this service. The more people who are educated, the easier it will be to continue to have Fika, fellowship coffee hour, CHIC fundraisers, summer picnics and other fellowship

meals. You will also find the education useful for improving the safety of food prepared in the home and other locations.

The Food Safety Workshop will take place on January 15 at 3:30 PM at Julie Warner's home, 4248 48th St. NE and includes a good time of fellowship and some tasty treats. Contact Julie at 288-4127 or at warner.jul@gmail.com with any questions. Sign up in the back of the church if you plan to attend.

Bon Appetite! Julie

Thank You from the Church Staff

Dear SRCC Saints,

Thank you for the cards, gifts, prayers and concern you have showed Melinda and me this Christmas Season. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated.

Pastor Mark

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. I appreciate your support and kindness. It's a joy and privilege to be serving you as part of the staff at SRCC.

Blessings to all of you in the new year.

Sheryl

A great big thank you to all who helped with special music this Advent season! The choir numbers were almost record breaking and the sound was amazing! You are a fun group to work with!

I also want to thank all of the instrumentalists who shared their musical gifts: Marilyn Reigler, Joel Hueton, Kohl Hanson, Josh Novinger, Faith, Grace, and Judy Boyum, and Paula Stewart and her violin students.

A big thanks goes to the kids and adults who showed us the motions to "Away in a Manger" on Christmas Day—you guys were great! It was a great season of sharing and music.

I also want to thank the church for their support and the Christmas gift this year. God Bless, jenny

Olmsted County Journal

Did you see the December 21st edition of the Olmsted County Journal. Salem Road Covenant Church is featured

with an article, picture, and ad sponsors of businesses who have done work for our church.

Searchers Are Busy

The SRCC Search Committee is busy looking for a great person to fill our position of Youth and Family Minister. We have met 10 times over the last 2 months, prayed constantly, received many highly-qualified applications, and spent hours on the phone with applicants. We will soon be narrowing our efforts to a single candidate, with the goal of presenting a candidate to the Elders and the Congregation early in 2012.

As I write this, I am reminded of the verse in Proverbs which says, *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the*

Lord determines his steps." Our committee has been dedicated to prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we go through this process. We plan a course, the search process, but the Lord determines exactly how we step through that course and what the final outcome will be. Pray for our committee, the applicants, our youth, and our congregation as the searchers continue their task.

Dave Danielson,
for the Search Committee

Community Opportunities

The Miracle 2012

A Recreation of the Life of Christ

Auditions for this community-wide musical are Friday, January 6, 5-9 PM and Saturday, January 7, 1-5 PM and 7-9 PM at Bethel Lutheran Church. Actors, dancers, singers, musicians, and crew people are needed. Come prepared with sheet music to sing and dance at the auditions. The shows will be March 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25. This is a great outreach opportunity for our community.

Rochester area Women's Connection Luncheon at Clarion Inn

Sponsored by Stonecroft Ministries
Tuesday, January 10, 11:45 - 1:30
Special Feature: *See, Say, Do ... Which One Are You?* By Laurie Kimball
Speaker: Laurie Kimball on the topic, *"Moving On"*

Call Jan, 288-1144 for reservations, \$10

New Life Family Services Laugh for Life Fundraiser is on Friday, January 20 at 7 PM at Autumn Ridge Church. Reserved seating tickets are on sale for \$10 at 800-965-9324 or www.nlfs.org. Anita Renfro, comedian and author, will entertain us with her humor. She became an overnight internet sensation when her YouTube *"Momsense"* was viewed by millions. Information cards are in the hall.

Supernight 2012

This Rochester Area Youth for Christ 28th annual all-night event for Middle & High School students will be held on February 24-25 at the Rochester Athletic Club, Recreation Center, Recreation Lanes, and Colonial Lanes. Tickets are on sale for \$28 at Christian Book & Gift. Adult volunteers are needed. Call Gary at 251-9926 or 288-4567 with questions or if you can help. More details are available at www.rochesterareayfc.org

January Youth Events

January 11, 7-8:30 PM
Middle & High School Youth Group

January 14, 1:00-5:00 PM Bible Quizzing at
Emmanuel Baptist Church.

January 25, 7:00 - 8:30 PM Middle & High
School Night at Rochester Area Family Y

More January Events

January 2, 4:30 - 8:00 PM CHIC
Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch in Stewartville.
All tips and 10% of all sales will go to
support CHIC students who are bussing
tables.

January 15, New Life Family Services
Mission Moment Ministry Update in
recognition of Sanctity of Human Life
Sunday

January 21, 9- Noon Girls Morning Out
Melinda will be in Canada this month,
so I am opening my home to anyone who
wants to knit, crochet, whatever, or just
visit with others. I won't promise any of
Melinda's fabulous scones, but will provide
coffee, tea, and something to eat. The
fireplace will be on if it is cold, the walk
will be shoveled, parking is across the
street. Samaritan Bethany has requested
knit or crocheted shawls for residents so
that is a winter project I plan to work on.
If you wish to do so, they would welcome
any shawls we complete. If you have your
own project to work on, that is great too.
Just let me (Margaret) know if you are
coming by Friday, January 20, 288-6917 or
margarethuebner@juno.com.



- 2 - Jennifer Naatz
- 5 - Arwen Gustafson
- 9 - Elizabeth Iott
- 10 - Sharon Hopkins
- 15 - Angelica Novinger
- 16 - Jeannie Byer
- 24 - Lewis Roberts
- 25 - Lee Riegler
- 27 - Kami Jordan
- 28 - Greg Stewart

Greeters

- 1 - Lewis
- 8 - Heikes
- 15 - Halbmaier
- 22 - Torkelson
- 29 - Wolfe

Set-Up

- J. Johnson
- Lewis
- Lorang
- Lucas
- Naatz

January 29: 12:00 PM CHIC Lunch
1:00 PM Congregational Annual Meeting
Election of new leadership, approval of
the 2012 budget, review of 2011, and
looking ahead to 2012. Plan to join us!

Births

Helena Joelle, which means light
Jehovah God, was born on December 16
to Carolyn Warner.
Grandparents: Dave & Julie Warner

Dec. Bible Quiz Results

Novice League: Ella Ouverson's team, Flowers of the Field, placed 2nd with Ella placing 2nd for individuals.

Little League: Faith Boyum, Sam & Evan Ouverson's team, Doubled-Edged Sword, placed 1st with Faith placing 3rd for individuals.

AB League: Grace Boyum placed 1st and Kohl Hanson placed 2nd for individuals.

Other SRCC quizzers include Ashton & Taylor Hanson and Rebekah Novinger.

