

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT



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Weekly on Wednesday

December 19, 2018

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Closed 12-1 pm

**The office will be closed Friday Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> until Wednesday Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

## Overshadowed

“The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son.” Luke 1: 35



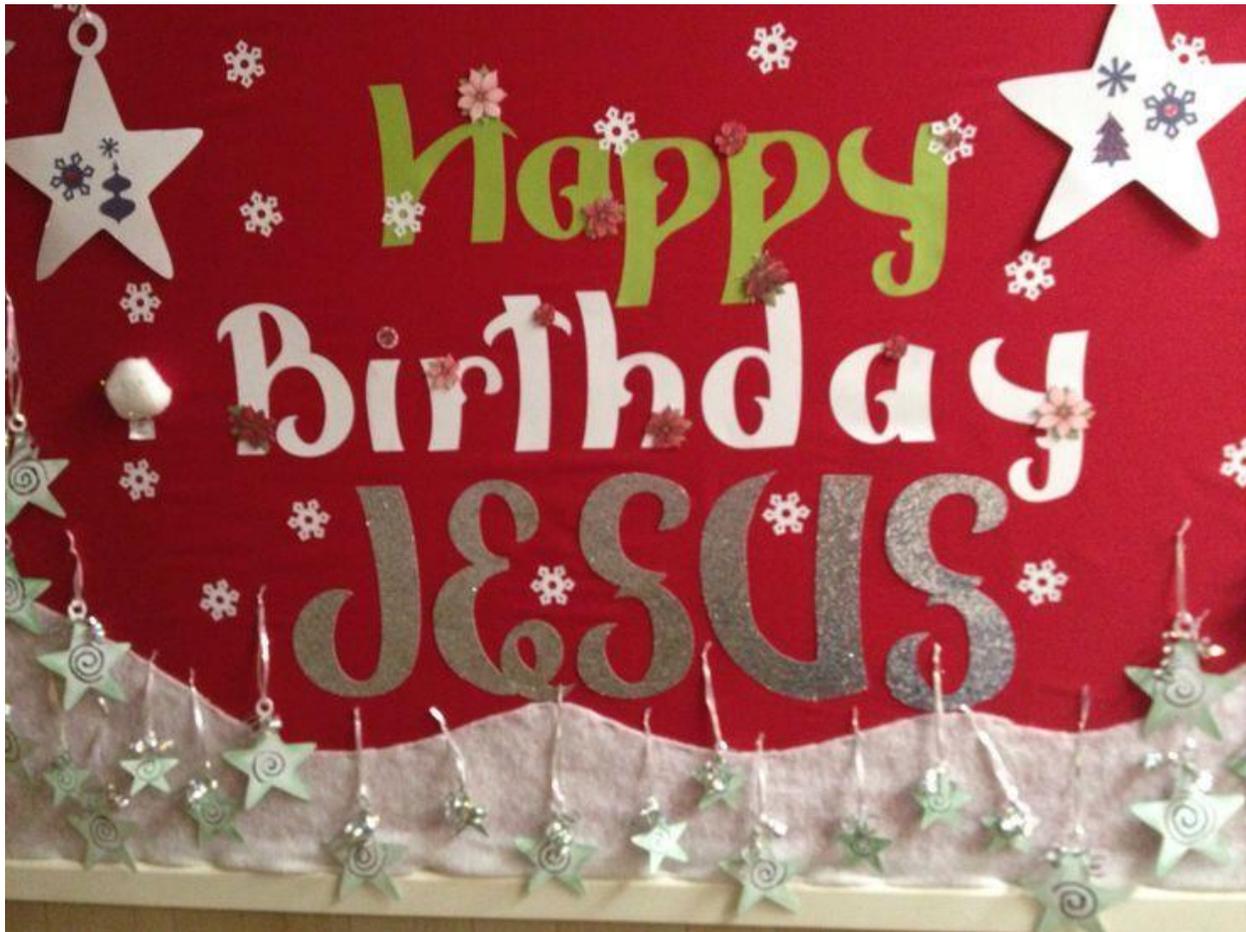
At the very heart of what we celebrate at Christmas is the collision of human and divine worlds in the Incarnation. Mary asks how this will all happen, and the angel Gabriel tells her that the power of God

will “overshadow” her. What an unusual word to use, Gabriel! The God who is light itself will **overshadow** Mary? Sounds dark, sounds scary. Why on earth would Mary say “yes” to that plan? Yet she does! With great courage and faith, she accepts the darkness with the light. Here at the very sacred moment of God-made-flesh is the interplay of light and darkness: Herod’s anger, Joseph’s love; no room in the Inn, the wise men’s gifts; hardship, pain, and fear; new life, angel’s song, God’s bright star.

The master painter, Rembrandt, is known for his amazing ability to capture the luminescence of God’s glory. And yet the colors most used in his religious art are the darker hues! Can it be that our great God can use even the dark parts of our lives to paint His story of Light? A difficult diagnosis, children behind fences at our border, a government paralyzed by partisanship, a Christmas apart from the people we love.... Can God use even these things?

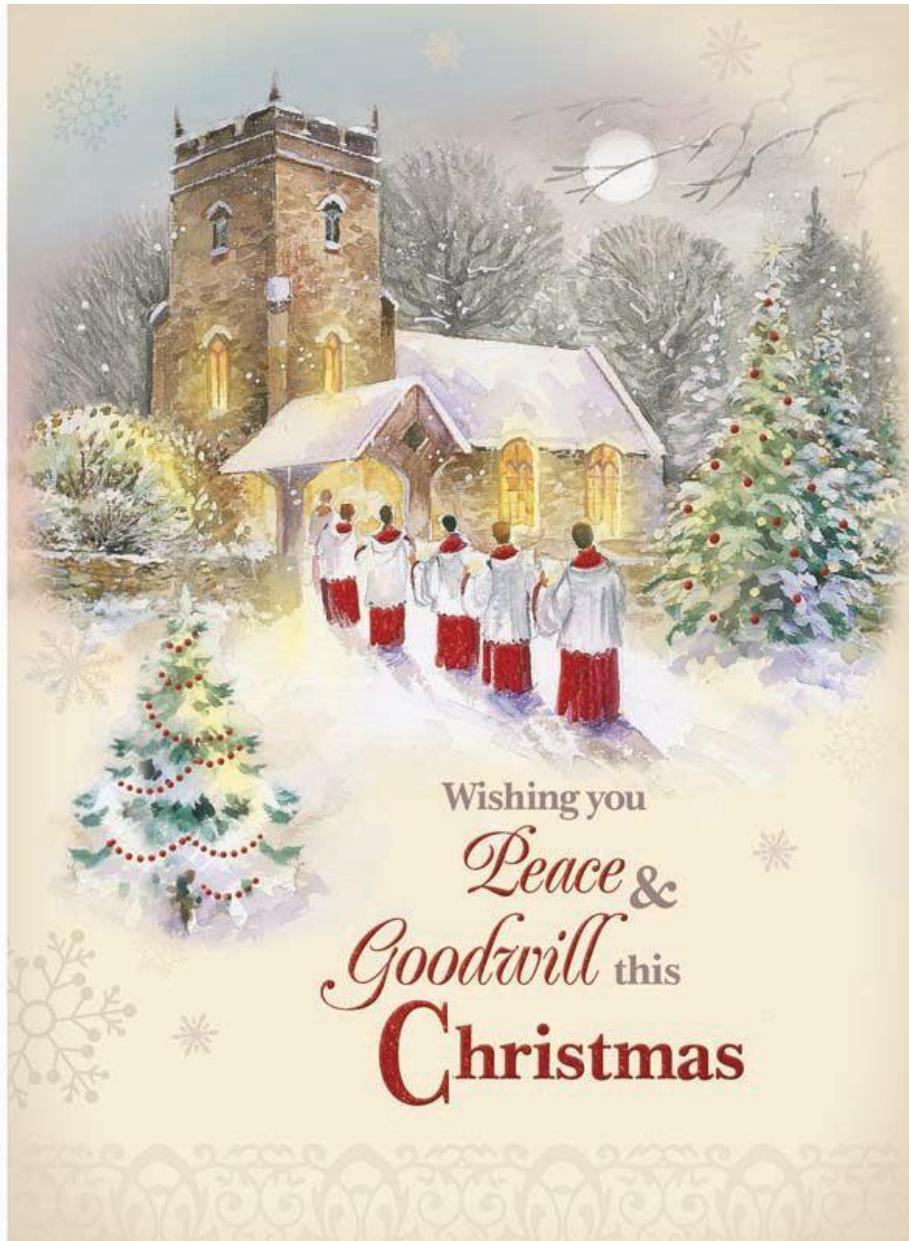
As we come to the high and holy moments of Christmas, my prayer for you and our world is that we may see the dark parts of our lives as God’s foil by which His glory may shine all the brighter in us and through us, and for us!

Blessed Christmas! Paul



*Christmas is just around the corner – see this request for assistance to provide free holiday meals – click [here](#).*

Challenge started for each district to raise funds for kitchen at the Ubuntu Retreat Centre at Africa University. View the flyer [here](#). Let's show them that the NE District is up for the challenge!



Resources on how to Help "When you Don't know what to say".

Iowa Concern Hotline: Toll-free: 1-800-447-1985 or [www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/iowaconcern)  
For more information – click [here](#).

## **Important Dates that are coming soon:**

Wed. January 9<sup>th</sup> – last day for 2018 remittances to be recorded to the 2018 year.

Thurs. February 14<sup>th</sup> – Statistical collection date – **NEW**

Friday February 15<sup>th</sup> – District Askings Grant Application are due – *they are now on the NE District web page under “Resources”.*

Friday March 1<sup>st</sup> – Fund Balance Report – aka – Audit Report – is due in the NE District Office

Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> - NE District Conference is scheduled.

Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> – Another Set of Eyes are due – by everyone – *retiring or not.*

May 16<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> – Iowa Licensing School – see more information here:  
<https://www.iaumc.org/iowalicensingschool>

June 7 – 10<sup>th</sup> – Annual Conference in Des Moines

Make sure to post your events at your church on your Church Dashboard and then add “NE District” so your event will appear on our web page also.

Clean up on 2018 reports not sent into the NE District Office yet:

**Charge Conference minutes** – NE District office not provided a copy yet:

**Buck Creek / Delhi**

**Cedar Falls Washington Chapel**

**Charles City Trinity**

**Cresco First / Cresco Zion**

**Dunkerton / Mt. Hope**

**Elma**

**Fairbank**

**Floyd Grace / West St. Charles**

**Forest Mills / Waukon**

**Fredericksburg / Sumner**

**Geneseo**

**Independence**

**Jubilee**

**Little Cedar / St. Ansgar**

**McIntire / Riceville**

**Nashua / Republic Community**

**Nora Springs / Plymouth First / Rock Falls Old Stone / Rudd**

**Osage**

**Plainfield**

**Waverly Trinity**

Please get a copy to the NE District Office before the end of this year – either email or mail a copy.



Our youth from Cedar Falls Washington Chapel UMC before they completed their awesome program.

With our NE District Facebook page, we are trying to promote your church events or happenings there, but Facebook has been being stubborn again, so we are giving it a rest until the new year and hope things get straightened out again.