

Season of Advent

That same night, in amongst the other stars, suddenly a bright new star appeared. Of all the stars in the dark vaulted heavens, this one shone clearer. It blazed in the night and made the other stars look pale beside it. God put it there when His baby Son was born - to be like a spotlight. Shining on Him. Lighting up the darkness. Showing people the way to Him.

The Jesus Storybook Bible (page 184)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at the Shoreview Community Center 1:00 & 2:30 PM

More than a pleasant interruption

Every Advent, we select Scriptures, songs, symbols and a message series designed to help us reflect on the birth of our Savior and prepare our hearts and homes for a fresh advent of Christ.

Join us for a new Advent message series

Explore the writings of a first century physician named Luke who set out to learn the truth about the first Christmas.

Join us on Christmas Eve

We're offering two identical services right here at the Shoreview Community Center on Christmas Eve. The first service will begin at 1:00 and the second service will begin at 2:30. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins.





Headlines & Happenings

A glimpse into what's up and coming at ECC

YOUR CURRENT INFO & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

In today's bulletin there is a form we're asking you to take a moment to fill out. The front page, the "ECC Contact Update Form", helps us ensure our database of attendees and members is up to date. The back page, the "ECC Membership Covenant", is for current or former members of ECC who want to renew their membership. At ECC, we ask our members to prayerfully reflect on their membership and make a conscious decision to renew each year. Place completed forms in one of the black mailboxes.

LOOKING AHEAD

There will be no Kids Church on December 28 or January 4, for Christmas break. Busy Bags will be available to use during the service. The Nursery and Tots room will remain open for our littlest ones.

MEN'S MONTHLY ADVANCE - Tonight

This group is open to all men looking to form and strengthen friendships, improve their faith walk, and enjoy time together. We meet on the last Sunday of each month, starting today, November 30. Join us at 6:00 pm at the ECC Office (513 Tanglewood Drive, Shoreview). Questions? Contact Bryan Jamison (bryan@jamisonlaw.net).

NIGHT OF WORSHIP & PRAYER - Saturday

Join us for our next Night Of Worship & Prayer, an unscripted time of pressing in to Jesus through music, prayer, and Scripture. We'll meet December 6, from 7-8 pm at Rice Creek Covenant Church (125 Ash Street, Shoreview).

ECC TEEN & TWEEN SNOW CAMP

The registration deadline of December 14 is approaching fast! Invest in your faith, strengthen your relationships, and get in some quality broomball at Covenant Pines Bible Camp, January 2-4. We are offering separate tracks for Tweens (5th & 6th grades), Junior High, and Senior High students. It's the same camp, same dates, same leadership team, but a customized experience for each group!

ECC CRAFTERS

A few ECC women are planning a weekend away to a craft house (nowthengetaway.com), just north of Anoka, January 30 – February 1. Be one of six women enjoying a weekend of scrapbooking, card making, beading, or other craft of choice. Sign up by January 11, with \$80 payment, at the Connection Table. Contact Dori Juliette (dorisday57@gmail.com) for more information.

WOMEN'S RETREAT – SAVE THE DATE

ECC women – carve out space on your calendar now for the upcoming Women's Retreat, February 20-22. Let's retreat and rejuvenate together at the beautiful Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch, just south of Rochester. More details will be coming soon!

2014 YEAR-END GIVING – The IRS deadline is December 31

Thanks in advance to those of you who are prayerfully considering an end-of-the-year gift to ECC. Please keep in mind that IRS regulations require churches to recognize gifts in the month they are received. If you would like your end of the year gift to be recorded on your 2014 ECC Giving Statement, it must be received or postmarked by December 31.

ACE IN THE CITY

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Ace in the City seeks to build **COMMUNITY**

by investing in education and relationships. This Christmas, walk alongside Ace in the City's efforts to share Jesus' message of **JOY & HOPE** by helping provide toys & scholarships to the kids and teens of south Minneapolis.

Ace in the City's **GOAL** is to provide every child enrolled and participating within their programs with a Christmas gift or scholarship.

READ THE BACK TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP!



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

From November 16th-December 14th, A Christmas tree will be set up in our lobby. The tree will be decorated with ornament tags that list both an Ace student as well as a personalized wish list—gifts that the student would really enjoy this Christmas. From the wish list provided, please select any arrangement of gifts, making sure to keep it in the \$20-\$25 range (in trying to keep all gifts equitable).

After taking an ornament tag off the Christmas tree, and upon purchasing the gift(s) identified on it, please bring the gifts back to ECC on a Sunday morning by December 14th, placing them back under the Christmas tree. . PLEASE WRAP THE GIFT, FILL OUT THE TAG, THEN RIBBON THE TAG

TO THE GIFT (SEE EXAMPLE UNDER TREE) so Ace staff can correctly identify which gift belongs to whom. (In efforts to serve Ace in this process, please refrain from supplementing anything from the identified wish list.)

NEW THIS YEAR: We know summer trips for teens can be catalytic in spiritual formation and developing a broader sense of God's mission in this world. Ornament tags for scholarships will also be on the tree to help Ace's efforts in sending ten students from Powderhorn to go to Juarez next spring. ***For every scholarship gift made***, the CJM team will match dollar-for-dollar (up to \$2,000) in ECC's efforts to help send our own teens to CHIC next summer! LET'S LET OUR LIGHT SHINE BRIGHTLY!