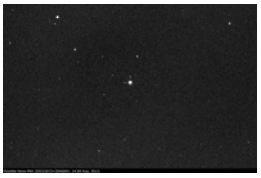
122413 11pm Christmas Eve Sermon ‘What’s Really Important’
Isaiah 9:2-7 John1:1-14

Prayer: Alleluia, the light of the world has come. YHWH-Creator, tonight we celebrate your gift of light. From the very beginning you have gifted light; real light when you separated light from dark; and you have gifted us Your Son – Christ the Lord. In the mysterious way of faith He is our light – leading us home in Salvation, with joy for ourselves and our world. This is what really important for us, so dear Lord enable us to share light, your light that all people can see your Good News in Jesus. Amen.



This is a picture of a new star explosion. It’s called a nova, and flared up in the night sky, on Weds 14th August 2013. It was even visible to spot with binoculars from earth, and we were told that it could potentially be seen even with the naked eye! It is called Nova Dephinus 2013, the new nova (Latin for "new star")

Found by amateur astronomer Koichi Itagaki of Yamagata, Japan, at 2 p.m. EDT (1800 GMT) in the constellation Delphinus, the Dolphin. Itagaki used a CCD camera attached to a 7-inchreflecting telescope. A nova is a powerful eruption from star, but is not as strong as a supernova, which is a catastrophic explosion that signals the death of a star.

Some of the first data from a new orbiting infrared telescope are revealing that the Milky Way - and by analogy galaxies in general - is making new stars at a much more prolific pace than astronomers imagined.

The findings from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope were announced today (May 27) at a NASA headquarters press briefing by Edward Churchwell, a University of Wisconsin-Madison astronomer and the leader of a team conducting the most detailed survey to date of our galaxy in infrared light.

Focusing the telescope on a compact cluster of stars at the heart of a distant nebula known as RCW49, Churchwell and his colleagues discovered more than 300 newly forming stars. Each of the stars, known to astronomers as protostars, has a swirling disk of circumstellar dust and creates ideal conditions for the formation of new solar systems.

"In this one small area, we have a stellar nursery like no one has ever seen before," says Churchwell, an expert on star formation. "The sheer number of objects is astounding, and may force us to rewrite our ideas of star formation and how much of it is going on in the Milky Way.