

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church and Schools



A USO TRIBUTE A Salute to our Troops and Remembering

What: This coming Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11th, Mt. Calvary will be staging an unprecedented celebration—two special performances at the historic Tudor House in

Lake Arrowhead to pay tribute to the USO and our men and women in uniform, past and present. **Cathy Lee Crosby, noted USO performer,** will be in person at the show, sharing her stories of Bob Hope and other entertainers at USO shows. She will have a jacket worn by Bob Hope at the show from USO. We will have remembrances of local people on the mountain their times of service and letters and pictures of what they experienced. Mt. Calvary has become acclaimed for its yearly Broadway musical shows that bring together mountain performers to create exceptional family entertainment. Director Janie Cummings believes that this is a perfect year to recreate a USO show to honor this wonderful organization and the Armed Forces.

November 2014 Update

Our Mission:

Connecting People to Jesus.

That All Might:

Love God

Love Others

Serve the World

Who: This event is for the entire community. We will be remembering and honoring all who served our nation.

What: A show of songs, dance and story telling, that honors the work of the USO shows and the sacrifices that our troops have made to keep us safe.

When: November 11th.

Where: Historic Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead.

Time: 11:30 AM & 5:30 PM Lunch or Dinner can be purchased from the Tudor House as part of the show.

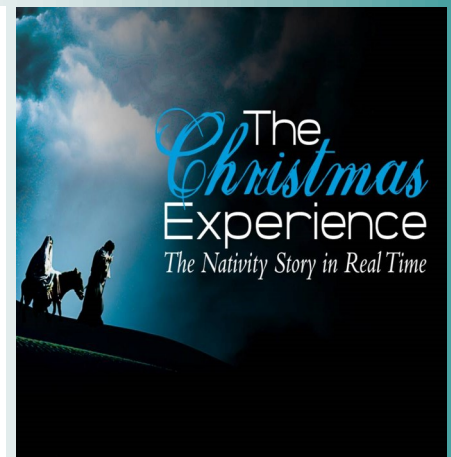
Tickets: You can purchase a ticket through the Tudor House website tudorhouseentertainment.com or call (909)336-5000. **YOU NEED A RESERVATION TO ATTEND.** Cost is \$29.00 per person, Burgers, beverages & \$5 processing fee additional.

Women's Boutique is Back!

Still looking for home-made goodies and gifts for Christmas? Do your holiday gift shopping at the Mt. Calvary women's fundraising boutique on Sunday, Nov. 9th. Craft, quilted arts, gifts baskets will be on sale to fund church charitable projects. All funds raised will go back into ministries of the congregation. You can see the boutique in the Fireside Room in the church. Bring a friend.

The Christmas Experience Bible Study and Sermon series Starting this November. Don't Miss it!

This November we will begin a journey in church and in Bible study that examines the important truths discovered in the first Christmas. There is an important truth that we discover as we experience that first Christmas: God always keeps His promises. For all of us that find ourselves feeling like it is always winter and never Christmas, we often feel distanced from God. But through this study, and the story of Christmas, we find out that we can always trust God's timing. Join *The Christmas Experience* and discover what it truly means to experience Christmas. **Bible Study Nov. 5, 12, 19 at 4:15 PM** in the church, **Sunday Sermons beginning Nov. 16** continue until Christmas and through our Advent Services. Join us as we experience Christmas.





Thrivent Action Teams Bless Our Church!

Over the past six months our church has been blessed by Thrivent Action Teams. What action teams? Action teams are groups of people who participate in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or education event to help unmet needs in the community. If you have products like life insurance, retirement plans, investments etc. with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you can apply for up to two \$250 debit cards to facilitate your event or service project. Thrivent Action Teams have sponsored Elders Breakfasts, Two Trunk or Treats, VBS, flower planting in the community, church BBQ, & church dinners. Time is running out for this year, and we have many events that can be sponsored as Action Teams. **We need Thrivent members to call the office and learn about the events.** For more information, visit www.thrivent.com/actionteam/index.html or call Nancy Buecheler at 744-9513.



Questions about the Christian Faith

Will our souls be with God when we die?

Q: Recently, both my sister and father have died (separately). While I truly believe that Jesus died for our sins, those who accept Him as their personal Savior, I have been troubled as to where my sister and father are now. Are they asleep until the end of the world? Are their bodies asleep, but their souls with God? Or, are they in Heaven with God now?

A: What Scripture teaches concerning the death of the Christian is summarized as follows by Lutheran theologian Edward Koehler in his book, A Summary of Christian Doctrine:

In the moment of death the souls of the believers enter the joy of heaven. Jesus said to the malefactor: "Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Stephen said in the hour of death: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59). Whoever dies in the Lord is blessed

"from henceforth" (Rev. 14:13). Paul desires "to be with Christ," and adds that this is "far better" for him than to continue in the flesh (Phil. 1:23, 24). For this reason we pray that finally, when our last hour has come, God would grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven. On the day of the final judgment, the redeemed souls in heaven will be reunited with their own (now glorified) bodies, and will begin to enjoy the bliss of heaven in both body and soul (John 5:28-29; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15). The Lutheran church has always rejected as unscriptural the idea that the soul "sleeps" between death and Judgment Day in such a way that it is not conscious of heavenly bliss.



Our annual Breakfast with Santa Event sponsored by our Senior and Jr. High Youth Group is set for Saturday, Dec. 6th. This is an event for all the children in our church and community.

Time: Saturday Dec. 6th 8:30 –10:00 AM

Cost: \$5.00 for adults, children under 16 eat free. free tickets available if needed, no one will be turned away.

Place: Ministry Center of the Church

What: Full Breakfast, cookie decorating, and time to visit with Santa.

Church Christmas Decoration Sunday, Nov. 30th after 11:00 AM service.

Need Prayer?

We have a group of people ready to pray for any need you may have. Call Raullene 336-4673 or Rosie 337-5168 to make your prayer request known. We will keep your request as confidential as you desire. Let's see God work mightily in response to our prayers. We offer prayer after each church service, you can write out a prayer card or you can join the prayer team. We also have a prayer room next to the church.



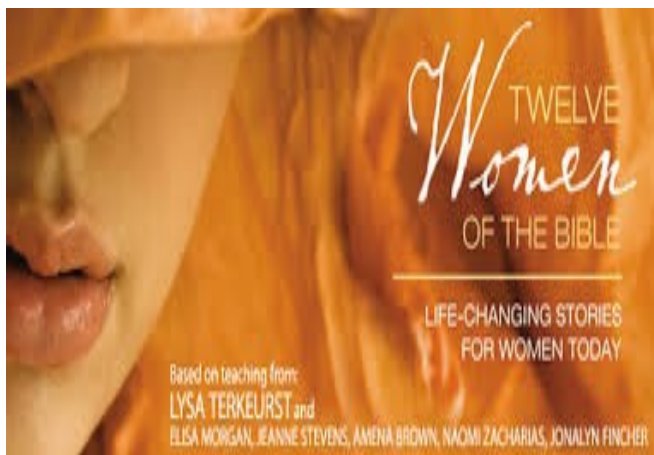
Need Healing Prayer?

Remember, we also have a anointing healing prayer service on **Monday, December 1st**. Come to church at **6:15 PM** for a time of worship, and then those in need of healing prayer can come forward to have our prayer team pray for you. Our Church Elders are being taught the art of healing prayer at their Elder Meetings, and we will have a time for all Members to learn the ways of healing prayer this Winter.

Want to join others in Prayer?

We have a prayer circle every **Monday night at 6:15 PM at church**. Prayer begins with looking at God's Word. It then continues with prayer for individuals, our church, and the world.

This November we will be starting some new Bible Studies and Fellowship Groups. If you are interested, come on out and be blessed and then be a blessing to others.



Twelve Women of the Bible

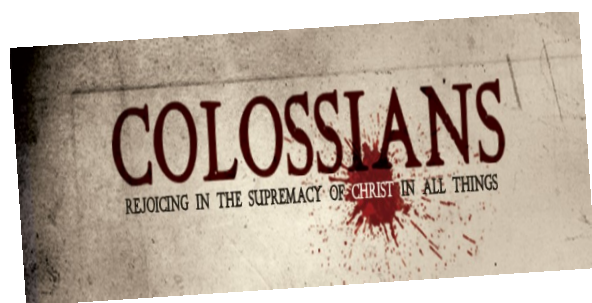
Join other women to focus on one biblical woman each week, discovering insights and providing a powerful witness to God's gracious love. Study the lives of:

- Mary, Mother of Jesus:** Moving from Comfort to Courage
- Mary Magdalene:** Transforming from Outcast to Follower
- Mary of Bethany:** Putting Our Faith into Action
- Martha:** Finding Our Identity in Jesus
- The Woman at the Well:** Turning Our Messes into Messages
- The Syrophenician Woman:** Approaching God with Persistence and Boldness

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM in the Ministry Center.

The Christmas Experience

An imaginative Bible-based study that examines the important truths discovered in the first Christmas. There is an important truth that we discover as we experience that first Christmas. God always keeps His promises. For all of us that find ourselves feeling like it is always winter and never Christmas, we often feel distanced from God. But through this study, and the story of Christmas, we find out that we can always trust God's timing. Just in time for Christmas, join Kyle Idleman in a six-part DVD study entitled *The Christmas Experience* and discover what it truly means to experience Christmas. **When:** Wednesday 4:15 PM.



Study the Book of Colossians with Les Sogorka

Purpose of Writing: The Book of Colossians contains doctrinal instruction about the deity of Christ and false philosophies (1:15-2:23), as well as practical exhortations regarding Christian conduct, including friends and speech (3:1-4:18). The theme of this book is the sufficiency of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in meeting our needs in every area.

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.

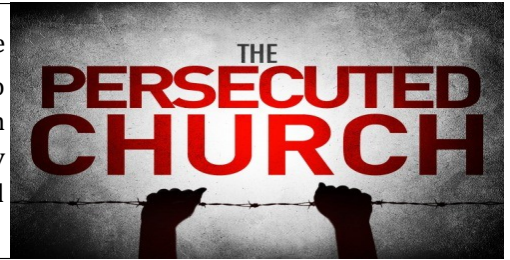
Sunday Morning Bible Classes

Join a large group of Christians who gather for study of different Bible topics every week **after the 8:00 AM Worship Service**. Led by Dick Kopecky, everyone is welcome. This group meets in the Fireside Room around 9:15 AM. This group develops deep friendships between the members that lead them to support each other through the highs and lows of life.

A second Bible Study group meets for in-depth study of God's Word after the **9:30 AM service in the same room**. This group, led by Wilhelm Wolfsohn, is a deeply spiritual group that wants to live a joyful, committed life for Jesus. They study and share each other's journey of faith.



There are over 50 nations where Christians are persecuted for their faith. What they ask for more than anything materially is that we would pray for them. Pray that they will be strengthened to stand for their faith in the midst of persecution. By contacting Voice of the Martyrs (VOM), you can receive the name and photo of a front line worker so you can pray for them. God works mightily through prayer. Jer.33:3. We in the USA forget that the freedoms we have are not found all around the world. Every day Christians are being put to death for the name of Jesus.



Operation Christmas Child

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal.

Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. We are out of boxes, but you can make up your own shoebox and fill it up with things for a boy or a girl and return it in two weeks. Please don't forget, there is a \$7 charge to send them to the children. We need all the boxes back on Sunday, Nov. 9th, to get them shipped out in time.



A Way to Honor or Remember Loved Ones

A memorial or tribute gift to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church will carry a double benefit. This gift is a lasting and meaningful memorial or tribute to someone you hold dear. Also, it is a helpful contribution to our church.

Making a gift in honor of someone can mark such occasions as wedding anniversary, a birthday, the arrival of a newborn, a graduation, an achievement such as becoming an Eagle Scout, etc. A memorial gift lets the bereaved know that you care about their loss while also honoring the departed.

When you make a tribute or memorial gift, please include your address as well as that of the person you want to have notified that such a gift has been made. The amount of the gift will not be listed in that notification. A volunteer from the church will be responsible for sending out the notes to the individuals who made such a gift and to the family of the person who is being honored or memorialized. As years' end approaches, this would be a good time to take advantage of charitable giving tax deductions, as well as showing a loved one or friend that you care.



Do you have an act or songs in our Church Christmas talent show?

Auditions! Auditions! Would you like to be part of our *Mountain Home Christmas Show*? Maybe you would like to do a poem, monologue, tell some jokes, dance or sing? The show will be on Sunday, December 14th at 1:30 – with a potluck lunch before the show.

Auditions will be on Saturday, December 6th from 4:00-6:00pm in the Sanctuary. If your act requires music, please bring a track or your sheet music. You can show up at anytime between 4:00 & 6:00 PM.

Nativity Story: Also, if you would like a speaking part in the Nativity Story on Christmas Eve at the 5:00 service, please drop by at the auditions and we will set you up!

Every Wednesday is Family Faith Night at Mt. Calvary!

- **Jr. and Senior High** hangout time after school until 5:30 PM.
- **Youth Choir** 6th – 12th grade on Wednesday afternoons 4:00 to 4:30 PM.
- **Pastor Buecheler's Bible Study** 4:15 PM to 5:30 PM.
- **Children's Choir:** grades 1st -5th 4:45-5:30 PM.
- **Pit Stop dinner** served at 5:30-6:00 PM to all who attend (adults and kids). No need to cook on Wednesday Night. Suggested donation: \$3.00
- **Jr. High Youth Group** 6:00-7:30 PM. Games, Prayer, Confirmation Class for 7th and 8th graders. In the Youth Group Room.
- **Sr. High Bible Study** 6:00 –7:30 PM in the Church.
- **Bible Study on the Book of Colossians** with Les Sogorka 6:00-7:30 PM. In the Fireside Room.
- **AWANAs** for children preschool to 6th grade, 6:00—7:30 PM. **AWANA** is a children's program that has an objective :to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and to train them to serve Him! So, what does AWANA mean? **A** – Approved **W** – Workmen **A** – Are **N** – Not **A** – Ashamed. We have 60 children enrolled in the AWANA program this year.



A Week at Mt. Calvary

Mondays

- **Grief Share** Morning Group 9:30 AM
- **New Member Class** 5:00 PM
- **Prayer Circle** 6:15 PM
- **Grief Share** Evening Group 6:00 PM

Tuesdays

- **Ladies Bible Study** 9:30 AM
- **New Members Class** 2:00 PM
- **Church Staff Meeting** 3:00 PM (1st & 3rd)
- **Caring Meeting** 3:00 PM (2nd & 4th)
- **Social Committee Meeting** 5:00 PM (1st & 3rd)
- **Church Choir Practice** 6:30 PM

Wednesdays

- **CBS Bible Study** at Lake Gregory
- **Pastor's Bible Study "The Christmas Experience"** 4:15 PM
- **Sr. & Jr. High Youth Group Fellowship** 2 PM
- **Youth Choir** 4:00PM
- **Children's Choir** 4:45 PM
- **Pit-Stop Dinner** 5:30 PM
- **AWANA** children's program 6:00 PM
- **Jr. High Faith Ink** 6:00 PM
- **Sr. High Bible Study** 6:00 PM
- **Growth Group Bible Studies** 6 PM

Thursdays

- **Girl Scouts** 4:30 PM (1st & 3rd)
- **Boy Scouts** 6:30 PM (2nd & 4th)
- **Divorce Care** 7:00 PM
- **Praise Team Practice** 7:00 PM

Sundays

- **Worship Service** 8:00 AM
- **Adult Bible Study** 9:20 AM
- **Contemporary worship** 9:30 AM
- **Nursery/Sunday School** from Preschool to 6th grade
- **Worship Service** 11:00 AM
- **Adult Bible Study** 10:45 AM
- **Big Group Sunday School** 11:00 AM
- **Make-Up Confirmation Class** 12:15 PM

The Letter's in the Mail

November is a month where we think about giving thanks. November is also the month we would like you to make your giving plan for a year. How much will you give to charity? Will it be the left over money in your pocket or will it be your best for God and for others? Look for a letter from our Stewardship Committee in November. **Nov. 9th is Stewardship Sunday.** Pastor Eide will be giving a Faith talk and we will give you the opportunity to think about what you will give joyfully to others.

Mt. Calvary Cub Pack 264 website is www.cubpack264.com.

Do You want to be a Lutheran?

Pastor Buecheler is starting a NEW MEMBER CLASS on Monday at 5:00 PM or Tuesday at 2:00 PM.



Holidays and the Broken Heart

Nov. 23, 12:30 PM

If you have experienced a loss in your life the past year or two this seminar presented by our grief ministry might give you some of the answers you need.

Divorce Care Support Group

Divorce Care is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Don't go through separation or divorce alone. DivorceCare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable DivorceCare resources to help you deal with the pain of the past and look forward to rebuilding your life. **Thursdays at 7-8:30 PM.** Leave a message for Roger to sign up, 519-8984. This group has open enrollment.

Social Ministry Committee

What is that? A group of volunteers in our church that help feed the hungry, help the needy, minister to the grieving and help the hurting.

NEW Food GIVEAWAY program. Starting!

Saturday, November 15th 9:00 am to 11:00 Am we will be passing our food to those in need. Come early to get your #. We will serve 30 families. Free groceries and refreshments, fellowship and prayer available.

Registration required, no income verification needed.

Locate in the Church Support Center. Call 1-626 755-5004 for details.

Committee Meetings for November

- **Stewardship Committee**—Monday, Nov. 3 1:00 PM
- **School Board Meeting**—Monday, Nov. 3 6:00 PM
- **Elders Meeting**—Sunday Nov. 9th after Church 12:15 PM
- **Sunday School/AWANA Teachers**—**Sunday** meeting Sunday Nov. 16
- **Church Council Monday**—Monday Nov. 17th

Women's Craft Day

Sat. Nov. 8—Make dresses from pillowcases for girls in Africa. Come ready to sew. If you have a sewing machine bring it to the Ministry Center.

LWML—Dec. 7th, all services, return your Mite offerings.

And you shall be my witness . . . Jesus

Our Lord and Savior calls us to be witness of what he has done for us. In the book, "More Ready than You Think" the author says that many people you know are more ready to come to worship than you realize. They just need someone to invite them, and then pick them up and then talk to them after church about what happened. **November and December are great months to invite people to worship.** You will be receiving an invitation at church to hand out the next two months. Start praying for you someone can witness to.



“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”

- C. S. Lewis, [*Mere Christianity*](#)

Have you ever noticed how children emulate their parents? Children watch their parents and they do what they see them doing. This is how they learn to speak. They watch the shape and form of their parents' mouths and they try to make the same shape so that they can make the same sounds.

But children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything; and children try to copy it. This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable, and sometimes rather embarrassing, situation where a child does or says what one of their parent's have done or said...something that is not too flattering! Sitcoms thrive on this sort of thing. And it only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents. And they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father." We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs; heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, because of His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to lead holy lives. We are strengthened to emulate the generosity of our heavenly Father by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven. More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

"Give us this day our daily bread. *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, he gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week, and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. Not because He has commanded us so to do. But rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

Advent and Christmas Eve Service Information.

Advent Services start on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd. **6:00 PM Potluck dinner** in the back of the church and **6:30 PM Advent Worship Service**.

Annual Christmas Luncheon and Show Sunday Dec. 14th at 12:00 PM.
Potluck dinner with ham provided. **Mountain Home Christmas Show** starts at 1:15 PM.

Christmas Eve Services Times

- 3:00 PM Early Christmas Service with Youth Choir.
- 5:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service with Children's Choir.
- 7:00 & 8:30 PM Candlelight Services with Church Choir.



Our trip to Castle “Dark” was amazing! We had 6 adults and 27 kids that ate yummy Straw Hat Pizza and then headed over to the park to ride rides and do scary mazes. We were blessed to have parent drivers and I want to thank **Whitney Wolfsohn, Jessica Mazakas, Bob Scholz, Cindy Sola and Pat Congiardo** for helping out! We sure could not have gotten all those kids down there without them!

Youth ministry can play a vital part in the revitalization in the life of a congregation. Mark Cannister, Christian ministries professor at Gordon College, Boston, has written a new book ***Teenagers Matter: Making Student Ministry a Priority in the Church*** (Baker Academic Books). The very first paragraph of the preface makes the case for youth ministry:

Teenagers matter! When teenagers matter, the church comes alive! Teenagers bring life and vitality to nearly every sector of society when they are valued. Have you ever been in a nursing home when a group of teenagers arrive to sing Christmas carols to the residents? The place comes alive. Have you ever witnessed teenagers playing with children in an orphanage? The place comes alive. Have you participated in a Youth Sunday when teenagers lead the whole congregation in worship? The church comes alive! When they feel valued, young people bring an innate vitality to every setting.

Teenagers are amazing. I thank God for the children, youth and young adults who are a part of our congregations. I pray for their spiritual growth. They do matter and I pray that congregations look for ways to build bridges across generations, and that we get to know and celebrate each other. I pray for young people without spiritual moorings. How can we reach the un-churched and marginally-churched young people? This last question is a very big deal. How do we share Jesus with young people who don't have a clue about him?

Finally, love the teens you live with or work with or worship with. Get to know young people who don't know Jesus. They are all wonderful gifts from God. —Terry K. Dittmer is the director, LCMS Youth Ministry, where he is responsible for administering the Synod's youth organization, Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF), which supports youth group ministry in the LCMS and promotes leadership skill development in teenagers. He also oversees the triennial LCMS National Youth Gathering.

Fall events:

November: Turkey Olympics and Thanksgiving dinner, Saturday, November 22, 2 to 5 p.m.

During November we will be doing food drives in the Crest Park neighborhood to help fill up our food pantry.

December Christmas Party and lock-in, Friday, December 5th. Followed by Breakfast with Santa Servant Project the next day

We are on a waiting list to work at Samaritan's Purse in Processing the Christmas Child boxes on Saturday, December 20th—more info to follow.



*all events are for Jr and Sr High

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