

Everything you wanted to know (hopefully) about The 2011 Christmas Play

The play will be presented on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
If you would like to have a role in the play, please call Laura Draper as soon as possible!
We need volunteers in all areas, from set-up to speaking parts to tear-down.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

"A Christmas Story, Simply Told" was written by our own Maggy Cook and Julie Shaver. Our version of the story highlights the **history, mystery, miracles and special effects** of the birth of Jesus as told in the Bible. We believe that the members of our congregation, and especially our children, appreciate this simple telling of the beloved Bible story, emphasizing to our community the true meaning of Christmas. What better way to celebrate the birth of Jesus than to share our gifts of time and talent!

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Anyone 4 and older! Young children enjoy wearing costumes and learning favorite carols. Older children enjoy learning lines and leading the Worship Service. Youth members read Scripture, sing solos and help with the younger children. We even recruit our friends who have moved on to college to return for special appearances. If you know of someone who might like to participate on this MOST SPECIAL NIGHT, please contact Laura.

WHEN ARE THE REHEARSALS?

* **First Read-Through - Sunday, Dec. 4th**
10:40 to 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
(Everybody except sheep)

* **Blocking Rehearsal - Sunday, Dec. 11th**
10:40 to 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

* **Dress Rehearsal - Tuesday, Dec. 20th**
3:45 to 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We understand there will be some scheduling conflicts. **Participants MUST come to the dress rehearsal** in order to be in the play. Exceptions will be made for college students, and possibly for others who can demonstrate a clear understanding of exactly what they are supposed to do.

Please bring your script to rehearsals!

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers should attend the rehearsals when possible. The most important way you can help is to keep people as quiet and as organized as possible. Our time to work together to accomplish this hefty goal is extremely limited. Please encourage your children to cooperate and to be quiet and attentive. And adults, we know you love each other, but please don't chat among yourselves during the rehearsals!

All volunteers will be given specific jobs to do. If you have any questions or ideas for how to make things run more smoothly, please contact Laura or Nancy.

WILL THE CHILDREN MEMORIZE LINES?

Yes, and no. The children who say they prefer to memorize are being given parts that should be easy to work with. Please help your child to memorize lines, and to use the full script to understand when the part comes in.

The children who prefer to read are being given Scripture-reading parts. But they still need to practice reading so that everyone in the congregation will hear the Christmas story as told in the Bible.

If your child has a problem memorizing lines, please feel free to make a prompt sheet to use on the night of the play.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES?

* **Age 4 through kindergarten** — sheep

* **1st through 3rd grade** — shepherds & angels (minor speaking parts available)

* **4th grade and up** — major speaking parts & Scripture readers. If your child is in 4th grade or up, and would like a speaking part, please contact Laura asap! Speaking parts are VERY POPULAR! Yay!

WHAT SHOULD WE WEAR THE NIGHT OF THE PLAY?

Sheep, shepherds, innkeepers and wise men should wear dark-colored clothing that will fit under their costumes. We suggest a black t-shirt (inside out to hide logos) and dark colored jeans, or a dark turtleneck and dark pants. The stage gets hot so dress lightly.

Angels should wear light-colored clothing under their costumes. We suggest a white t-shirt or turtleneck, light-colored pants, or light-colored skirts with white tights.

WHAT HAPPENS ON CHRISTMAS EVE?

We will focus our hearts and minds on the birth of Jesus. Remember that our play is part of a Worship Service in which our community celebrates the birth of Christ together.

At 5 p.m. on Dec. 24th, please bring your child to the designated costume area. We will put on our costumes, have one final rehearsal of lines, and take one large group photograph of the cast for display in our education building. We will provide healthy veggie snacks, fruit juice, and water, but please don't send your child hungry! PLEASE encourage the grandparents not to give out candy before the play! The last thing we need is a room full of wired sheep!

At precisely 5:30, we will assemble the cast on stage for the costumed-cast photo. Timing is critical. Please don't be late for costuming!

The worship service begins promptly at 6 p.m. Invite your friends, neighbors and relatives!

We fully appreciate all offers of help and support! Any questions or ideas, please call or send us e-mail.

Happy Advent!

Laura, Nancy, Brenda and Julie

E-mail Laura or call ASAP if you'd like to participate in the Play!

CONTACTS

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