

Christmas Eve Service— Attend your church's Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service as a family to seal the reverence of the celebration of Christ's birth as a valued family tradition.

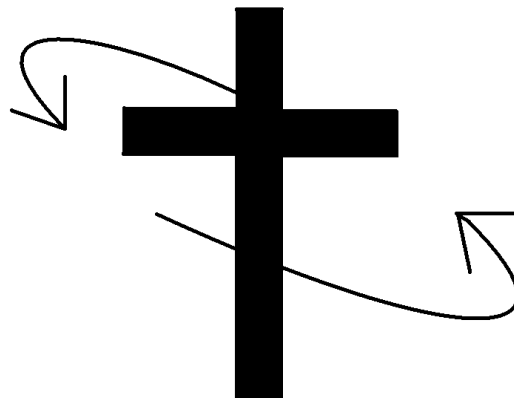
This year we will highlighting the children of our church as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

As part of your family Christmas traditions, take time out on Christmas Eve to join with other believers as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Eve Service
here at River of Life
6:00– 7:00 PM



We want you to know that we **gather** together to worship God and to be equipped in life and ministry. We **go** into our community to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through words, deeds and actions.



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**KEEPING CHRIST
AT THE CENTER OF
YOUR FAMILY
CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATIONS**

*River of Life
Baptist Church*



*Connecting to Christ-
Connecting to Others-
Connecting to Life*

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



1. Have family members dress in biblical-type clothing and act out the Holy Night for family and friends (Many young children will love being part of this.) Take photos and use one for next year's Christmas card.

2. Family Christmas season calendar: Make or buy a large wall calendar dating from Thanksgiving through the first week of the New Year. Decorate it with Christmas stickers or your own illustrations. Hang it in a high-traffic area. List all invitations, announcements, concerts, and other events you will attend as a family.

3. As a family, choose some charitable activities you can do together, such as volunteering at a homeless shelter or helping with a toy drive. Note the dates on the family Christmas season calendar and designate them as "everybody must show" dates.

4. Identify an elderly or low-income person or couple who might not have family support during the Christmas season. Invite them to one of your family gatherings, offer to take them Christmas shopping, or invite them to attend a Christmas church service with your family. You might also take them food gifts

over the course of the festive season.

5. Plan times to bake Christmas goodies for special family dinners, parties, and gifts. Look for cookie cutters that are Nativity related, such as stars, angels, camels, sheep, and Nativity silhouettes.

6. Make the purchase of the Christmas tree and Christmas wreaths a family event. Afterward, go out for hot chocolate together.

7. Make family craft keepsakes and heirloom ornaments imprinted with the year they were made and the name of the maker. (Many craft stores sell simple ornament kits). Consider adding a Christ-centered phrase, such as "Christ, Our King, 2008" or "Jesus - the Heart of Christmas." Over the years you will build a family keepsake collection to treasure.

9. Family Christmas movie nights: Poll your family for favorite Christmas movies, make a list, and schedule a few dates on your family Christmas season calendar as "family movie nights."

10. As a family, bake, make, or buy a special gift for your pastor and his family.

11. Hang a large Christmas stocking, intended for a designated needy person or family, in a central location. Beginning at Thanksgiving, family members

and friends can deposit small gifts and bills into the stocking. Close to Christmas, the gifts and money are wrapped and presented to the intended recipient). Consider doing this anonymously.

12. Invite members of your family, people from church, or neighborhood families to a potluck carol sing. Prepare copies of favorite carols, and set a loose schedule so that you have time to sing all the songs distributed. As an alternative, consider caroling at a hospital, nursing home, or around the neighborhood. Then return to your home for dessert and hot chocolate.

13. When setting your Christmas dinner table, set a literal place (chair, plate, glass, and silverware) for Jesus as an honored member of your family. Place a golden paper crown on the place setting for Christ.

14. Before opening presents on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, read Scripture aloud together. Dedicate the occasion to Jesus.

