

November 29, 2018

Dear Kids' Church Parents (and parents and grandparents of other young people interested in the pageant):

We are excited to begin planning for our Christmas pageant, which will be held right after church, at coffee hour, on **December 16**. This year's pageant, "Gifts for a King" tells the story of a group of shepherds who wonder if they can find a gift fit for a king, only to learn that Jesus just wants them to give to others and to bring Him their hearts. In a new twist, we'll include an opportunity for audience members to offer gifts for those in need this Christmas during the pageant itself. As usual, there are some speaking parts for our readers, but also lots of great costumes and roles for everyone. We introduced the pageant to the children last Sunday and will assign roles in Kids' Church next Sunday, December 2. We will be practising in Kids' Church on December 9 and 16, as well as one **special practice and costume fitting on Saturday, December 15 from 2:30 to 5:00 at the church, in the lower hall (note time change)** Please enter through the back doors near the church office, as there is a concert happening concurrently in the sanctuary. Buzz if the doors are locked and you will be let in. All participating kids and youth ages 5+ are called at **2:30**. Children from the preschool group under age 5 are called for **3:30**.

Our Sat. Dec. 15 rehearsal schedule:

2:30 Kids ages 5+ and youth called, do a warm up with games (10 min)
2:40 to 3:20 walk-through play on stage, figure out entrances/ exits and simple lighting cues
3:20 10 min Snack break (contributions of healthy snacks needed from parents)
3:30 Preschool kids arrive (under age 5).
3:30 to 4:15 Do **all** costume fittings in 45 min (all hands on deck, including parents to help)
4:15 Run the play a couple times in costume, with lights (dress rehearsal)
5:00 DONE

We will send home copies of the script with the older kids' speaking parts highlighted. We'll also send home words for the hymns. Please help them to practice these lines. If they're able to memorise them, that's great, but we will also print out their parts on cards and they're welcome to read from the cards during the pageant itself if they are nervous. Our goal is to have an enjoyable launch of the Christmas season together!

For both the Saturday practice and to perk people up before the performance on Sunday morning, we'll need families to provide some snacks (such as mandarins, muffins, cookies, juice boxes, veggies, cheese and crackers). We'll send a separate e-mail to organize that.

Please let us know if your children will be able to participate. *We encourage older kids in junior high or high school who might be willing to help out or participate (it's good to have some "leaders" in costume) to volunteer as well – do let us know about their interest too.* Our pageant this year includes special parts written for the youth. The goal this year is to increase participation by including roles for youth 11+ and our preschool kids under five.

Please reply to this e-mail or call the church office (780-433-5530) to let us know if your family will be participating. .

Really looking forward to seeing you all on the 16th!

The Kids' Church Team

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