

# Miracle of Christmas

Branson Fall Retreat

Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

Our retreat will focus on lessons and discussions on the birth of Jesus Christ and some of the events leading up to and following this miraculous event in history. With different pieces of the Christmas story being segmented in different Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), we will pull these pieces together to create a chronological timeline of the story of Christmas. Throughout the lessons, we will take parts of the Christmas story and discuss the ways it applies to the student's lives right now.

## Lodging

- Kimberling City located about 30 minutes from Branson (Kimberling City, MO 65686)
- Lodge overlooking Table Rock Lake that holds 54 guests
- 3 stories
- 12 bedrooms
- 12 bathrooms
- 2 Game Rooms (ping-pong, foosball, air hockey, arcade game, pool table, shuffleboard table)
- Indoor Pool and indoor lazy river
- Indoor theatre
- 2 Hot Tubs (a girls-only and guys-only)
- Browse our lodge at: <https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/978038492913088855>

## Retreat Structure

- We will have a posted daily schedule with times for worship, group discussions, ms/hs breakouts, games, free time, meals, showers, lights out, trip outings, etc. Very similar to a crossings camp schedule the students are familiar with.
- There will be enforced house rules that students will need to be fully aware of:
  - No rough-housing, throwing things
  - Assigned same-sex bedrooms. No opposite sex allowed in bedrooms at any time. There are plenty of places (2 open game rooms, huge living room, etc) to congregate.
  - Basic Rule: Keep hands to yourselves.
  - No drinks or food in bedrooms
- We will provide you with a packing list a month before we leave that will have all the information you will need on it including a full list of house rules for you to read over with your child.

## Chaperones

- For sure 9 adults (male and females), possibly more depending on number of students attending
- Volunteers going will all be helping with meals and transportation so the leaders can focus on overseeing activities with the students. Thank you volunteers!

## OUTINGS

- On Saturday, we will go watch the theatrical production of *Miracle of Christmas* at the Sights and Sounds Theatre in Branson. The Esther production we attended last year was superb! <https://sight-sound.com/>
- On Sunday, we plan on going to Fritz Adventure with 80,000 square feet of attractions; zip lines, rope courses, climbing walls, extreme slides, aerial bridges, etc. <https://fritzsadventure.com/>

## FAQ

- **When would we leave Benton?** Around 8am on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>
- **When would we return to Benton?** around 5pm on Dec 30<sup>th</sup>
- **What does a trip like this cost for 40 people?** For the lodge, tickets to theatrical, tickets to Fritzs' Adventure, meals, etc... Around \$16,000. (Divided by 40 people, this would be \$400)
- **What will be the cost for the student to go?** \$150.
- **How so cheap?** generous donations to 412 youth group, 3 Crosses and PG giving us money for our youth budgets, and 3 Crosses graciously will pay for half of our lodge separate from our youth budget.
- **What all does this cover?** Everything (lodging, all meals, all tickets, etc.)
- **When would the student fees be due?** (these are non-refundable after paid) \$75 in August/\$75 in October

## What do we need from you right now?

**\*Getting a tentative number now, give or take some drops/adds, is really important to help us prepare and plan. Thank you for your help!\***

- If you know right now your child cannot attend, please let Shannon know so he can go ahead and mark them down as a "no".
- If your child plans to attend, given no unforeseen circumstances and knowing you will need to plan family activities around Dec 27-30, please let Shannon know so he can mark them down as a (tentative) "yes"

**Note: The first deposit of \$75 in August is non-refundable as we will be using those deposits towards tickets. If your plans change either way from what you originally think, please try to finalize your plans BEFORE the deposit is paid in August.**

## 412 YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE

**May 8<sup>th</sup> Last regular Wednesday night 412 Youth : 5:30 – 7:30pm**  
times. No class, just fun, food, games, and fellowship.

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Recognition Sunday : 8:30-10am**  
Recognition during morning service with a meet and greet afterwards in Gant Hall

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Maggies Miniature Golf : 2-4pm**  
(Weather Permitting) Meet at Maggies. All expenses covered by 412 youth.

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Vacation Bible School : 5:30 – 7:30pm**  
Students, please come volunteer to help work with the children of VBS and give back to the church. Whether just one day or all the days, we can use you! Give Shannon a shout!

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Crossings Camp**

**June 29<sup>th</sup> Holiday World**  
This will be an all day event. The cost will be \$25 per student, with 412 youth group picking up the balance of costs. This covers their park ticket, a buffet meal at lunch, and supper on the way home. More details as time approaches.

**August 7<sup>th</sup> ReFocus Youth Conference 5-10:30pm**  
Area youth groups will come together for food, worship, games, and workshops. Altar Vue band from Madisonville will lead worship with Pastor "E" bringing our message. Various workshops provided students can choose from. [www.refocusyouth.com](http://www.refocusyouth.com)

**August 14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night 412 Youth Resumes for Fall**  
5:30pm meal and worship/activities 6-7:30pm.

**If you haven't yet, please join our parent text group to be sure and not miss any important announcements or updates this Summer.**

