

Bethlehem Village
December 18, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

Part I - The Village

As you stroll through the village watch for shepherds and townspeople. Notice strangers entering town to be counted in the census and looking for rooms for the night. Have your program stamped at each shop you visit.

Tax Collector's Booth: Be counted for the census and pay tax. Our offering project supports MCC's programs for education.

Cloth Merchant: Visit the cloth merchant; borrow a garment to wear.

Potter's Shop: Visit with the village potter. Make a small vase or oil lamp.

Synagogue School: Attend class taught by the village rabbi. Learn the Shema.

Olive Press and Mill: Press olives with a mortar and pestle. Grind grain using a stone.

Herb and Spice Garden: Talk with the gardener about herbs and spices. Put some in a small bundle.

Scribe's Corner: Learn about the role of the scribe in Jesus' day. Make a phylactery

Village Center: Play a game. Spin a dreidel.

Village Bakery: Learn about bread making in Bible times. Prepare a small loaf to bake.

Bethlehem Inn: Visit with the innkeeper

Part II - The Judean hills

Weather permitting, journey outside the village to look at the stars. Follow the light to look through the telescope at the heavens where the magi saw the star.

Part III -The Manger

Gather near the manger to sing carols with us and hear the Christmas story as told by Luke and Matthew.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1)

Luke 2: 1-7

Carols: Away in a Manger (v. 1)
Silent Night (v.1)

Luke 2:8-14

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High (v.1)

Luke 2:15-20

Carol: What Child is This (v.1)

Matthew 2:1-6

Matthew 2:7-12

Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1)

John 1:14

Carol: Joy to the World (v.1)

Closing Prayer Stephen Penner

Bethlehem Village

Cast of Characters:

Chief Tax Collector: Sharon Reimer

Assistant Tax Collector: Ryan Zimmerman

Innkeeper: Rudy Valdovinos

Herb and Spice Garden: Dick and Karen Peterson, Julie Ishimaru

Scribe: Katrina Mireles

Rabbi: Stephen Penner

Bakers: Cathy Ratmeyer, Jayla Sandoval, Deisy Becarra, Nayeli Becarra

Games: Barbara Ewy

Olive Press and Mill: Paul and Ruth Buxman

Potter: Suzi Ewy, LexaMarie Sandoval

Cloth Merchants: Edith Montano, Christi Zimmerman

Star Watching: Alan Ewy

Shepherds: Luke Montano

Angels: Antonette Cruz, Sarah Montano

Magi: April Cruz, Caleb Montano

Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus: Natalie and Bryce Loewen, Archer

Additional shepherds, villagers, angels, magi: FMC/PIM children

Pianist: David Boldt

Narrators: Carolina Valdovinos, Angelica Franco

Coordinator: Barbara Ewy

Special thanks to everyone who helped with setting up the village and providing pop-ups and props.



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First Mennonite Church
1208 L Street
Reedley, California*