

# The Jefferson City Christmas Checklist



**Five Must-Do's for a Picture Perfect Jeff City Christmas**



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

# 5 Must-Do's for a Picture Perfect Family Christmas

1

## **Plan Now**

Don't wait til it's too late

2

## **Give a Magi Gift**

Make Christmas special by reaching out beyond yourselves

3

## **Up the Stocking Stuffer Game**

A budget making idea when the economy is the Grinch

4

## **Memory Making: Light Night**

If you haven't seen the Jefferson City lights lately ...

5

## **Memory Making: Family Focus Night**

The best memories are ones you share

6

## **Rekindle the Tradition**

BONUS Must-Do: Rekindle the tradition for Christmas

**BONUS!**

# A JEFFERSON CITY CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST



## Plan Your Christmas Season Festivities Now



**Avoid the holiday crunch. Spend 20 minutes now and save aggravation later.**

- When will you be decorating?
- How will you handle writing the Christmas Cards?
- What family traditions do you already have?
- What traditions would you like to start?
- Be sure to include holiday baking ... and shopping
- And add the Light Night and Family Focus Night to your Must-Do Calendar

# A JEFFERSON CITY CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST



## ☐ Give a Magi Gift



### **Christmas is about giving ... get the family involved in creating a Magi Gift**

- Put a Giving Jar in the middle of the dining table or on the mantle. Encourage the family to drop in their \$1 bills and loose change to buy gift cards for those in need or to feed the Salvation Army Kettle (and make the donation as a family).
- Plan a Baking Afternoon to make cookies for neighbors.
- Head to Hobby Lobby or your favorite craft store and select a craft kit the whole family can help make.



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## Up the Stocking Stuffer Game



**Save money by shifting your purchases to nicer-than-usual stocking stuffers**

- Go nice – but not diamond jewelry nice (there's no budget for that!)
- Accessories tend to be much appreciated, but less expensive than investment gifts
- Draw names for who fills whose stocking
- Get an agreement that the "main" gift has to fit in a stocking

# A JEFFERSON CITY CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST



## ☐ Plan a Jefferson City Family Light Night



### **Schedule an all-family light night outing and see the Lights**

- Plan your route before you go (avoids stress) OR be spontaneous!
- Start your evening with an easy family meal – chili, tacos, or pizza are popular
- Take popcorn or another snack for the ride (make it an easy to vacuum goodie)
- End the evening with ice cream sundaes or hot chocolate
- Every year, the Jefferson City, MO Christmas Lights Facebook Group posts addresses, images, and maps to light displays in and around Jeff City. Start here to plan your Christmas Light route.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1206923586058558/>



# A JEFFERSON CITY CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST



## Schedule a Family Focus Night



### **Schedule a Christmas family focus night to create forever memories**

- Set a time limit – 90 minutes to two hours is about right
- Ban electronics – even the TV
- Plan on doing something that even the teens will love (or at least tolerate!)
- Bake or decorate a gingerbread house
- Have a contest for the best graham cracker house ... and have enough "prizes" that everybody wins (best tasting, best decorated, best constructed, best ready-to-eat)
- Consider exchanging some simple gifts to keep the focus on family members

# A JEFFERSON CITY CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST



## Rekindle a Christmas Tradition



### **Make a pilgrimage on Christmas Eve to a house of worship**

- The celebration of Christmas has a tradition that goes back 2000 years
- Christmas Eve church services help ground the family in generations of tradition
- Christmas Eve services come in all shapes, sizes, and styles these days – but the most popular still tend to focus on the Christmas story, carols, and candles
- Wrap up your Christmas Eve church experience with simple snacks at home (cheese and crackers are traditional)