





**Empowering Families to provide a GREAT START for their children to succeed in school and in life.
December 2018**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1
		<p>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Free playgroup for children (birth to 5yrs) and parents or caregivers. Have fun while learning through song, play, friendship, and crafts. Children will enjoy a snack, social time with other children and a free book! Call (810) 664-2737 to register.</p>	<p>11:15 AM - 2:15 PM Lapeer Recreation Center Preschool Playground. Play on our preschool sized playground equipment and enjoy the lunch time swim! Parent participation is required. \$4 per person (1 and under free). Playground is NOT open if schools are cancelled.</p>	<p>7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Sleigh Ride and Dinner with Santa at Big Red Orchard: 4900 32 Mile Road, Washington, MI 48095. Tickets include a tractor pulled sleigh ride through the lighted orchard, dinner in the heated barn, and pictures with Santa!</p> 		<p>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Free coat distribution at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 90 Millville Road in Lapeer.</p> <p>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE themed "A Charlie Brown Christmas"</p> <p>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Following the Christmas parade, Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p> <p>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Lapeer Recreation Center Holiday Fun with SANTA: Come have holiday FUN in the gym & pool with a craft, snacks, & see Santa too!</p>

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<p>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Free playgroup for children (birth to 5yrs) and parents or caregivers. Have fun while learning through song, play, friendship, and crafts. Children will enjoy a snack, social time with other children and a free book! Call (810) 664-2737 to register.</p> <p>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Flint Cultural Center Holiday Walk 2018. This year's festivities include: Caroling and Festive Live Music, a visit with Santa Claus, Planetarium Shows, and more! This is a FREE Community Event, however we ask those who can bring non-perishable food, clothing or personal care items to be donated to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.</p>	<p>11:15 AM - 2:15 PM Lapeer Recreation Center Preschool Playground. Play on our preschool sized playground equipment and enjoy the lunch time swim! Parent participation is required. \$4 per person (1 and under free). Playground is NOT open if schools are cancelled.</p>	<p>10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Ready-Set-Go! This is an entertaining FREE workshop for 3-5 year olds and caregivers. Enjoy FUN learning activities that will help develop your child's skills and prepare them for school. Children also enjoy a snack, story time, and a free book. Siblings are welcome. For more</p> <p>3:00 PM - 8:00 PM Make your own Christmas ornament at Marlette Elementary School! Cost is \$6 per ornament. You may pre-order or just drop in. All supplies will be provided. Ornaments will be ready for pickup on December 14th. All ages are welcome.</p>	<p>5:00 PM - 7:30 PM Lynch Elementary 1st annual "Holiday Extravaganza". HUGE RAFFLE of Gift Baskets, 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction for decorated themed Christmas Trees, Secret Santa Shop, and SANTA! 2035 Roods Lake Rd, Lapeer</p> <p>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p> <p>7:30 PM - 9:00 PM First Annual Books vs. Badges. Lapeer High School Staff vs. Lapeer County Sheriff's Dept. Lapeer High School will be hosting this event. Admission is \$5. Doors open at 7pm.</p>	<p>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Free coat distribution at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 90 Millville Road in Lapeer.</p> <p>12:00 PM - 2:00 PM 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p> <p>2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Metamora Horse and Carriage Holiday Parade: First annual Wassailing Celebration Horse and Carriage Holiday Parade. JUST HORSES!</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Bethlehem: An Original Musical. First Baptist Church of Lapeer, 1212 Knollwood Dr. Free Admission!</p>

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Bethlehem: An Original Musical. First Baptist Church of Lapeer, 1212 Knollwood Dr. Free Admission! Childcare for infants to 3 years old will also be provided.</p>	<p>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Free playgroup for children (birth to 5yrs) and parents or caregivers. Have fun while learning through song, play, friendship, and crafts. Children will enjoy a snack, social time with other children and a free book! Call (810) 664-2737 to register.</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Lapeer County Health Dept. is hosting a 'Tis the Season seminar. This class will look at how to prepare food that makes your taste buds happy while using less salt and more health-friendly seasonings. To register, call (810) 667-0448.</p>		 <p>Rudolph Brownies:</p> <p>Ingredients: 1 Box Brownie Mix Ingredients on back of Brownie mix Pretzels Holiday Mint m&m's they come with red, white and green melted chocolate about 1/2 cup</p> <p>Instructions 1. Prepare brownies as directed and let cool. 2. Cut brownies into rectangles and either frost or use the melted chocolate to stick on the reindeer face.</p>	<p>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Free family film festival at NCG cinemas Lapeer: The Polar Express!</p> <p>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p> <p>7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fa la la Lapeer Symphony Christmas Concert: Join us as we deck the halls with your favorite holiday music! This is a family-friendly concert and FREE of charge. Lapeer High School, 933 S. Saginaw St., Lapeer.</p>	<p>9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Free coat distribution at St. Paul Luteran Church, 90 Millville Road in Lapeer.</p> <p>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Free family film festival at NCG cinemas Lapeer: The Polar Express!</p> <p>12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer. Please note: Santa takes a break from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.</p>

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Free family film festival at NCG cinemas Lapeer: The Polar Express!</p> 	<p>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Free playgroup for children (birth to 5yrs) and parents or caregivers. Have fun while learning through song, play, friendship, and crafts. Children will enjoy a snack, social time with other children and a free book! Call (810) 664-2737 to register.</p>	 <p>Easy Reindeer Handprint Ornaments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Trace your child's handprint onto brown or tan colored felt. Cut out the handprint you just traced. Turn the handprint so that the fingers are facing downwards. Use a hole punch to put a hole at the top of the reindeer's back (bottom of the palm of the handprint). Tie a piece ribbon long enough to hang the ornament from the tree. Use pipe cleaners to assemble the reindeer's antlers. Use a hole punch for this part as well. Attach the reindeer's eye on the head (thumb). Get creative! Use felt, pom poms, and anything else you can find to give the reindeer a nose and other decorations. Use hot glue to attach decorations. Hang your new ornament from the tree. 	<p>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Free family film festival at NCG cinemas Lapeer: The Polar Express!</p> <p>5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p>	<p>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Free family film festival at NCG cinemas Lapeer: The Polar Express!</p> <p>12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer. Please note: Santa takes a break from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.</p>	

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Free family film festival at NCG cinemas Lapeer: The Polar Express!</p> <p>12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Santa House visitation. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be available for children to visit at the Santa House in front of the farmer's market pavilion in downtown Lapeer.</p>	<p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Free family film festival at NCG cinemas Lapeer: The Polar Express!</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p> 	<p>Where can I donate used toys to?</p> <p>1. Resell Charities Charity thrift stores such as Goodwill and The Salvation Army accept toys and then put them on the store floor for others to buy. Any proceeds they collect from the sale of the toys is put back into programs that benefit the needy right in your own community. However, you should call your local store prior to donating – if there's a surplus of toys in the store, your donation may be declined. However, if your donation is accepted, it's a great way to ensure that families have access to low-cost toys while helping to keep funds in your own community.</p> <p>2. Local Shelters and Children's Centers If you know of a shelter or children's charity in your area, there's a good chance that it accepts toy donations. After all, kids will be kids, and children who visit shelters can feel more at ease when there are toys nearby. You just need to call ahead, as some charities won't accept toy donations.</p> <p>Other places to check include a children's social services office, your local Boys & Girls Club, and toy drives organized by schools, hospitals, or even grocery or department stores. You can also use the Homeless Shelter Directory to find shelters in your area.</p> <p>3. Preschools and Nurseries A local for-profit preschool or nursery may not be an EO (exempt organization), so donating there won't net you a deduction on your taxes. Still, it's a selfless gift if you've noticed that a preschool is in need of some gently used toys. Just be sure to call before you bring in a donation, as there may be some guidelines to prep toys.</p> <p>4. Church Charities Churches are tax-exempt organizations, so you can claim a deduction if you donate old toys to a church nursery. Many religious organizations offer daycares or nurseries to their parishioners, and since the service is often low-cost or free, they're often in need of toys. It's a great way to give back, especially if you've had an opportunity to take advantage of a church's childcare services in the past.</p> <p>5. Freecycle If you don't want or need a tax deduction but wish to get rid of an item quickly, look online. You can use a site such as Freecycle to post items that you'd like to give away. Just be wary of posting personal details, and never share your address. Instead, meet people in public places, such as the parking lot of a supermarket, to hand off the items.</p> <p>You can also look for online swap meets and charity garage sales using sites such as Facebook and Craigslist. These meets collect donations and then sell the items to benefit a good cause, so it's an excellent way to get rid of extra stuff.</p>			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5
	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day 				

New Year's Resolutions for Kids

- Instead of:** "I'm going to eat healthier." **Suggest:** "I'm going to drink two glasses of milk each day instead of soda or juice." Or, "I'm going to eat two pieces of fruit at lunch each day."
- Instead of:** "I'm going to exercise more." **Suggest:** "I'm going to join a soccer team." Or, "I'm going to go to yoga class with Mom on Saturdays."
- Instead of:** "We're going to cut down on screen time." **Suggest:** "We're going to read for 30 minutes before bed instead of watching TV." It's not enough to simply say, "We're going to reduce screen time." Quantify how much you and your child will reduce and what you'll be doing instead.
- Instead of:** "I'm going to help out around the house." **Suggest:** "I'm going to set the table for dinner every night." Or, "I'm going to help clean my bedroom once a week." Committing to chores is always smart because it can make kids feel needed and useful. Plus, you'll get a little help around the house!
- Instead of:** "I'm going to be nicer to people." **Suggest:** "I'm going to do one random act of kindness a week." Or, "I'm going to talk to one person at school I've never met each week."
- Instead of:** "We're going to be eco-friendlier." **Suggest:** "We're going to start a recycling program at home." Or, "we're going to shorten our showers to only five minutes to conserve water."
- Instead of:** "I'm going to learn something new." **Suggest:** "I'm going to learn how to make chocolate chip cookies." Or, "I will learn how to sing." Learning new skills is always an exciting resolution that everyone looks forward to.
- Instead of:** "We're going to spend more quality time together." **Suggest:** "We're going to have game night every Friday." Or, "we're going to eat breakfast together on Sunday mornings after church." Commit to spending more family time together having fun (this might be the easiest one to keep!).