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**HUNDREDS FLOCK TO “A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM”:
RESURRECTION, GARDEN CITY, HOSTS HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE**

GARDEN CITY, NY – Imagine taking a walk through Bethlehem during the time when Jesus was born. Suddenly, shepherds appear, telling you they have good news, and they invite you to come and see the miracle with your own eyes.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, in Garden City, Long Island, recently hosted “A Night in Bethlehem,” a hands-on Holy Land experience. This year Resurrection extended the event to two consecutive evenings, recreating the scene of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. With the aroma of freshly baked bread and the sounds of the bustling village, a total of over 400 people joined in the event and experienced Christmas in a whole new way.

During “A Night in Bethlehem,” visitors met the Census Taker – just as travelers on that historic eve – and registered their families. They had traveled from as far away as the eastern end of Long Island and from Manhattan and the Bronx. They made toys in the carpentry shop and clay creations in the pottery shop. They kneaded bread and sampled items from the spice shop and leatherworking shop. Throughout the evening, they heard the good news from the excited shepherds who led them to the holy stable for a visit with Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus.

“A Night in Bethlehem” is one of several community outreach events scheduled throughout the year. Resurrection Lutheran Church is a Christian community of faith, with its main campus located at 420 Stewart Ave., near Clinton Rd., in Garden City. All are invited to worship at 5:30 PM on Saturdays and at 8:30 and 11 AM Sunday mornings, with Christian Education at 9:45 AM. For more information, please visit www.resgc.org.

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Joseph (Nathan Erb) and Mary (Lisa Dettling) tell visitors to the stable about the good news of Jesus' birth.



Shoppers stop by the Farmers' Market where shopkeepers (Janice and Rick Waters) serve up refreshments.



It takes a large crew of volunteers to make the Village of Bethlehem.



Children participate in hands-on activities at many of the village shops, including stringing beads on leather wristbands.