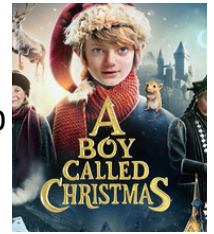




December 10, 2023
www.fabricmpls.com

SANTAFLIX: A Boy Called Christmas - This 2021 film is one we vote to become a classic. No, it doesn't tell the Bible's story, but it doesn't have to. It bears witness to the heart of Christmas in a language all its own. You will enjoy this fun and exciting fairytale story of Nikolas' brave adventure to make sure love, hope, and the spirit of generosity aren't lost. All in the midst of real and deep loss. We hope you already say it but no problem if you didn't. You'll want to afterward for sure!



WHAT TO EXPECT

We're glad you're here

Music with Chris Tripolino and the Fabric Band

Welcome & Say Hi

Message – Greg Meyer

Connecting with and supporting Fabric & more music

Closing Thoughts

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

The Velveteen Rabbit - 10:30am on 12/17

Christmas Eve - 10:30am (Field) & 9pm (Outside)

Chili Cook-Off - 11:30am on 12/31

Greg's Send Off Party - 7pm on 1/21

Learn more at FabricMpls.com

Miss a week or want to hear the message again?

Check our podcast fabricmpls.podbean.com



Kids - What's Happening Today? Kids are busy rehearsing and preparing for this musical production each Sunday leading up to the presentation on Sunday, December 17. Kids should report to the gym at 10:15am and will meet families back in The Commons at the end of the gathering. First time? Stop by the check-in table to find out how you can participate. More info at fabricmpls.com/velveteen.

COMING UP AND MORE



Next Sunday: The Velveteen Rabbit When we really sit down to make our Christmas wish list, aren't we all just hoping that those feelings of connection, hope, and love are able to last more than the time it takes to rip open the wrapping paper on the gifts under the tree? Next Sunday Fabric Kids will share their version of this musical tale to help us all consider how we can be part of a Christmas that lasts.



Join us for a Christmas Eve gathering...or two!

10:30am at Field. Will you bring cookies to share? Want to help tell the story as a Caroler or help behind the scenes? Write it on your communication card!

9:00pm Outdoors. Quiet, simple, candlelit by the creek. More at fabricmpls.com/christmas2023.



New Years Eve's Hottest Lunch Plans - Fabric's Chili Cook-Off! Dec 31, 11:30-1:00pm.

Tell your neighbors and friends to meet you at Field for a NYE lunch date! Delicious chili, spicy competition, and raffle prizes to from local artists and businesses. All proceeds will support the inspiring work of South Minneapolis Nonprofit, Full Cycle!



Your Financial Gifts & Fabric As 2023 closes, we know that many of you are making decisions about end-of-year giving. If Fabric is a part of your plans, you can learn about ways to give (including how to give stock) by visiting fabricmpls.com/give. Email katy@fabricmpls.com with questions. Thank you!



Where we are and the story of our land matters. Most of us live in, and we gather in land that was part of the Dakota people for centuries, but from which they were forcibly and dishonorably removed by the US government. It is an honor and a responsibility for us to live on and care for this land today.



Twelve Messages

1. The universe is made of stories, not atoms.
2. “Where’s his mommy?” “Ah, well, she died.”
3. But I want more.
4. There is no such thing as elves. And there is no such place as Elfhelm.
5. An impossibility is only a possibility that you don’t understand yet.
6. To see something you must believe in it. Really believe.
7. You could you know. You can handle anything because you’ve already handled everything.
8. Being good is better than being rich, Papa. Better than anything.
9. Happiness isn’t compulsory. And nothing ever ends.
10. Grief is the price we pay for love. And worth it ... a million times over.
11. The only thing in life that is simple and clear is the truth. But it can be painful.
12. I asked for something new. You brought me something we’d forgotten we already had. Thank you.

Do you believe because you see? Or do you see because you believe?

*In the beginning was the “Logos”
Word / Idea / Understanding / STORY,
and the Story was with God,
and the Story was God.
The Story was in the beginning with God.
John 1.1,2*

Loss, and worst of all losses, death can take your greatest joy and brightest hope and make you not believe it.

*All who heard were amazed at what the
shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all
these words and pondered them in her heart.
Luke 2.18*

*And then a few days later, Simeon said to
Jesus’ mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for
the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be opposed so that
the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul too.
Luke 2.34-35*

*What was come into being in The Story is
life, and the life was t he light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness did not overcome it.
John 1.3-5*

Maybe the magic you are asked to believe is that the story is never finished, and as dark or hopeless as things may seem, light and hope will find their way into it again. They won’t make all the pain go away, but they won’t let them be the end of the story.

HOMEWORK - Watch the movie. Again, if you already had. Where does it speak to your life? Think about it, share the movie and your ‘aha!’ with someone else to spread the movie’s vision for the hope and joy of Christmas with others. And most of all, whatever you learn, find a way to practice it!

R.O.A.M.

ROAM (Read, Observe, Apply, Meditate) through these two tellings of the Christmas story this week.
John 1.1-5 and Luke 2.8-35