



## Christmas Dad, Dad Jokes, and Shepherd Dad by Matt Noetzel

*\*This article was first published on our [MosaicNWA blog](#). You can find other great content written by our Mosaic staff and body.*

Christmas season is upon us! With it comes holiday parties, tacky sweaters, white elephants, chestnut roasting, cancelled classes, final exams, shouts of "you'll shoot your eye out," long drives to see distant family, and Jell-O molds. It's a time that massive families draw together and dinner tables all but collapse under the weight of side dishes and casseroles. Even in the ministry world, December is a full month, as the season marks a time to reflect on the year and celebrate the year's end. It's during this noisy, busy time of the year, with jingle bells ringing in my ears that the still, small voice of our infant Messiah whispers to be heard. I'm grateful that every so often something forces me to stop and listen.

Becoming a dad has changed my perspective on a lot of things. For example, I'm no longer the Hamburger-Helper-eating-and-barely-bathing-weekly bachelor Noetzel I was in college. And I see Christmas through a whole new lens. The Christmas story is a story of a dad far superior to me, loving a Son far more perfect than mine, revealing a plan I could never make to people who don't understand what He's up to. Perhaps as a dad, I should engage the story of a loving Father and His begotten Son - but the characters often feel lofty, and God's model of Fatherhood humbles my own experience of it. I have trouble engaging it, because I'm not the hero. Enter [Slugs & Bugs!](#)

Dewey, my little man, loves *Slugs & Bugs*, Randall Goodgame and Andrew Peterson's music group out of Nashville. They write silly, fun, thought-provoking children's music. They've also happened to write one of my favorite Christmas songs - one that I can relate.

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## What's Happening?

### DECEMBER:

#### December 23 Services

5:00 and 6:45pm

*Family Services, no classes or service for birth-middle school; attend with your family.*

## December 24 Services

Family Services:

3:00 and 4:30pm

Traditional Services:

6:00 and 7:00pm

*No classes or service for birth-middle school; attend with your family. RSVP cards available at the Info Booth.*

## December 30 Services

5:00pm, One service only.

*Classes for birth-preschool only.*

*Kindergarten and older worship with families in service.*

*For more information on any of the events above, email [mosaic@fellowshipnwa.org](mailto:mosaic@fellowshipnwa.org)*

[Shepherd Dad](#) tells of a dad and son who are visited by the angel Gabriel on that hillside outside of Bethlehem. He tells them to "go and see the King," and the dad leaves the son in charge of the flock while he goes to the inn to inspect (dad joke...) what the angel has told him about. The song always moves me at this part:

*The shepherds found the stable there  
in quiet Bethlehem.*

*But one look in the manger,  
and one shepherd turned and ran.*

*The shepherd dad ran through the streets  
back to the fields where tending sheep*

*he found his shepherd son  
and leaping like a mountain cat*

*he scooped his son up on his back  
and said "Hold on tight!*

*Our Savior is born tonight!"*

It moves me because it's a father flinging duty to the wind and running with abandon to draw his son into the majesty of God's great revelation in Jesus Christ. It moves me because it's a father drawing his son into a grand adventure. It moves me because it's a dad showing his son how little self matters and how much Christ matters. This is the kind of dad I aspire to be.

May you be swept off your feet and rushed to the Savior's side this holiday season.

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## RESOURCES

### Books

- [The Biggest Story](#)
- [The Biggest Story ABC](#)
- [Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas](#)

### Music

- [A Slug and Bugs Christmas](#)
- [Sing the Bible - Family Christmas](#)

