



ELWART FAMILY

Big Bear Baptist Church - PO Box 237 - Big Bear City, CA 92314

Our church's first full Jan-Dec!!

We love the end of the year for many reasons. It always seems like such a special time in our lives and the people we are blessed to minister to. Our family was blessed to travel and be part of a missions conference in central CA in November. It was not only refreshing, but served as a bit of a revival for us. The preaching and fellowship with the host church, pastor & family, and missionaries encouraged us with a renewed excitement about what God is doing in our little part of the world. We are thankful for times like these.



Thanksgiving week brought our family some major sickness that took over a week to get through our whole family. It was a bummer since we had to cancel family and church plans that we had scheduled for many months. This didn't surprise God. It was a blessing in that we were able to rest as a family during that time, so we will count that blessing for sure. Our youngest daughter, Sadie, turned 13 in November, and we are so thankful for her and all God is doing in her life. We are praying that God uses her for Him, as is her desire.

As December came into full swing, our church was blessed to host a missionary couple going to Japan. They were given the opportunity to present the work God called them to do there. It is always wonderful to keep missions in front of God's people. While we aren't at a place to support missionaries just yet, it has been a blessing to see our church's excitement when they come. It is also wonderful to see their giving hearts. We look forward to being able to support missionaries monthly some time in the future as the Lord continues to grow His work here in Big Bear. We were also able to have a wonderful church Christmas party, and it always brings joy to our hearts as we watch our little church bond and grow together in their relationships with one another. This has been a really neat part of church planting that we didn't really think about happening or being able to experience in this way. So many times, we go into churches where relationships are established, many times for many years. For us though, we have the privilege to watch these relationships take form from the very beginnings of them. It is pretty awesome!!

One of Jackie's favorite times of the year is the week between Christmas and New Year. It is always an awesome time to look back at what God has done, the things we have done well, the things that need

improvement, and so on. It is a great time of re-evaluation as a believer. It is also wonderful to look forward and pray for God to do some amazing things in the New Year. Would you pray with us as we strive to be "Serving Together" as a church family? This is our theme for 2024, and we are looking forward to God growing us like last year and moving us into serving Him together. Hallelujah!!!

Praises

- Great Missions Conference in central CA!
- Church growing together!
- Health of our family!
- God's continued goodness and provision!