

Man Storms Church's Live Nativity, Allegedly Wanting to 'Kill Everyone,' Police Say

A congregation in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is praising God after members and locals escaped what could have been a deadly assault during a live nativity event.

Tyler Leavitt has been arrested and charged for allegedly pointing a gun at a police officer providing security Saturday night at Central Ministries of Fort Wayne, where the man purportedly wanted to "kill everybody," according to court documents obtained by WPTA-TV.

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The 40-year-old suspect is now facing multiple charges stemming from the incident.

In a statement posted to Facebook, the church wrote, "We are praising God for His protection tonight. We are ready to show up in the morning for a time of worship to the God who is our peace, our protector, the only God who can turn a tragedy into a beautiful time for the body of Christ to come together."

The pastor noted the alleged assailant came toward the end of the living nativity presentation and church members were beginning to dismantle set pieces.

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According to legal filings, Leavitt arrived at the church-

hosted event with his wife and pointed a gun at the police officer providing security. He then drove around the property, which was holding about 100 attendees. The officer told law enforcement the man told him he “wanted to kill everyone there.”

Security then allegedly prevented the man from driving into the crowd and successfully disarmed him. At that point, Leavitt crashed his pickup truck into a nearby ditch and continued resisting restraint, wielding a knife.

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