

LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS



DECEMBER: EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

The Best Gift

December finds families stressed by the hustle and bustle of preparations for the celebration of Christmas. Family calendars quickly fill with obligatory Christmas parties, school performances, church activities—and the list grows daily. Families are hard-pressed to find time to decorate the house, let alone cookies, as every song becomes a reminder of the fast-approaching Christmas Day.

One special stress is the quest to find the absolutely most perfect gift—the best gift ever! Even classic Christmas movies feature the search for the best gift. Whether it's a glimpse of Christmas future, a Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle, Zuzu's petals, snow in Vermont, a Christmas bonus, reunion with family, or even surviving the terror of a Los Angeles high-rise, holiday films often center on the pursuit of the best gift. One holiday channel is dedicated to nonstop Christmas movies dedicated to the search for the gift of Christmas love.

Linus captures the best gift ever when he takes center stage and recites the story of the birth of Jesus from the book of Luke, chapter 2.

Yes, God's sending Christ for our eternal salvation is the ultimate gift of all time.

God's penultimate gift is found in the First Amendment—Religious Liberty. With this sacred freedom, families are empowered to raise their children in the faith traditions that shape their identity and hope. It is through this liberty that churches proclaim the Gospel without fear, schools teach with conviction, and communities gather in prayer and praise. Religious Liberty is not merely a legal protection—it is a divine provision that allows the light of Christ to shine in every corner of life.

Since 1847, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established a system of schools to educate children in the tools needed for success in this life and to nurture them in the saving faith found in Christ alone. These schools are more than academic institutions—they are vibrant communities where the Gospel is proclaimed daily, where students are formed in wisdom and grace, and where families partner with educators to raise children who know their identity in Christ and their calling in the world.

Today, the Lutheran school system is being threatened by a big green opponent—money. That is why the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for Educational Freedom made possible by parental choice models.

This Christmas, we ask that you remember the schools of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in your prayers, so that they may continue to walk beside parents as they tell their children about The Best Gift Ever – Jesus.

Let Us Pray:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

GRACIOUS FATHER, Your Son grew in wisdom, stature and favor with God and all people. Bless and guide the children who attend Lutheran schools. Grant that they may grow in grace and knowledge of Your Word, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Lord, keep all Lutheran schools under Your care. Bless us as we praise You as Savior, today and every day in Lutheran schools across the land, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

PRINT – PERSONALIZE – Pray

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for those who serve in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod office of school ministry.

Not only do we ask that you would pray, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

Please see:

<https://www.lcms.org/school-ministry>

for more information about LCMS School Ministry

The LCRL asks that you would also commit to pray for those who serve in a local Lutheran school: educators, administrators, custodians, cooks, aides, office workers, coaches, and volunteers.

Not only do we ask that you would pray for them, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

Thank you

Please feel free to personalize this bookmark with a special Bible verse you would like to use as you pray for LCMS School Ministry, cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference.

LCMS School Ministry

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