

# LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS



## DECEMBER: EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

### Christmas Traditions

Each December families partake in their particular Christmas traditions. Perhaps it is watching a special movie together, decorating the house and yard, visiting Santa, preparing holiday treats, or attending a children's Christmas concert. Some traditions have been discarded and replaced: circling the ads in the department store "Wish Book" has been replaced by emailing a link to a store's registry; single strands of tinsel have been replaced by garland; and an elf sits on the shelf once occupied by Christmas cards received from relatives and friends.

One Christmas tradition that has not been discarded is the Lutheran school's children's Christmas pageant. Each December the students memorize carols, hymns, and Bible verses that tell of the birth of Jesus. In addition to the songs and recitations, a young girl student is dressed in blue and a boy in brown. They take their places next to a wooden manger containing a baby doll wrapped tightly in a white cloth as the entire student body recites the memorized words recounting the birth of Jesus as recorded in Saint Luke, chapter two.

The message of Jesus is not just a message Lutheran school students hear at Christmas. The teachers teach the life of Christ each and every day in religion period. However, the story of God and His creation is not limited to just religion time, but is presented in every subject. Bible truths are not just taught, but they are caught as students see their teachers live the faith in word and deed.

One January after the students returned from Christmas vacation one unbaptized student told his teacher, "My parents loved the Christmas service I was in. They really like how I hear about Jesus each school day. They wanted me to ask if it would be possible for me to be baptized."

Over the history of Lutheran schools that request has been repeated many times and Thousands of students have become brothers and sisters in Christ through the water and the Word of baptism.

However, Lutheran schools are in danger of going the way of the department store "Wish Book", tinsel on the tree, and Christmas cards. Each year another Lutheran school closes its doors due to the high cost of providing and operating a school.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for a funding model that will allow parents to determine which educational institution will be funded by their tax dollars.

Christmas traditions are a good thing, for they keep us grounded in the history and customs of our past, but they are not the best thing. It is the message of the greatest gift given to mankind – the Babe of Bethlehem – that gives us the hope of eternal life!

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 would like to share that you are praying for those who serve in the LCMS office of School Ministry. We plan on informing them that there are many people praying for their ministry. In order to do that, we need your help.

Please let us know the number of people who prayed. For example: if you pray with your family of 3 for LCMS School Ministry, please send us the count of 3 for that school. If you publish a prayer request for the office of LCMS School Ministry in your church bulletin and pastor prays with 234 people in attendance, then use the number 234. Please count all numbers and send them by December 27.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NUMBERS TO:

[LCRLPray@gmail.com](mailto:LCRLPray@gmail.com)

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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