



parenting CHRISTIAN kids

December 2018



Dear Immanuel Parents,

Where did the fall go?! Hard to believe that we're ready for the season of Advent! We have so many new things planned, as well as our "traditions".

Family tradition is something that Jim and I always wanted to have with our family. Since we married in 2004, we have put up our tree the day after Thanksgiving. No shopping and running around. Just a day for us. Now it's a day with our kids. Christmas movies on and the tree goes up with reminiscing over all of the special ornaments (another tradition). Since I was a child, I have collected "special" ornaments. I now do the same thing for my children. Then each year when we put up our tree, we love talking about the ornaments and fond memories of that Christmas. I would love to hear about your family traditions! Head over the **ILC Youth Activities** Facebook page and share with us your family traditions.

We have a busy calendar in December! A wonderful Advent program for children and their parents to attend, Advent meals, the Angel Tree, Cookie Walk, FROGs Birthday Party for Jesus, the Youth Christmas Program, and more! I will do my best to keep the reminders on the Facebook group page as well as to your inbox. If you're not in the private group on Facebook, please request to be added. And if you're not receiving my "Youth Updates" email, please let me know.

Wishing all of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas and New Year!

~Heather

Make Christmas Come Alive for Children

POWERSOURCE

ASK JESUS:

1. To show your children that Christmas is an actual event featuring people who really lived.
2. To help your family members feel invested and involved in Christmas celebrations.
3. To make the holiday meaningful for your entire family.

When we tell kids Bible "stories," the line between fact and fiction can sometimes get blurry. Use these ideas to emphasize the real-life, real-person aspect of Christmas.

During Advent (the four weeks leading to Christmas), discuss the exciting anticipation of waiting for a special guest.

Visit a living nativity scene, complete with farm animals.

As a family, create your own interactive nativity scene, using costumes and props to put yourselves into the action.

Use building blocks and toys to create scenes from the first Christmas (road to Bethlehem, the inn, the stable). Take a picture of each scene and then compile a computer slideshow.

Create birth announcements for Jesus and include them with your family's Christmas cards.

Make gingerbread nativity scenes. (Marshmallows and stick pretzels make great angels and sheep!)

Take a "census" to relate to Joseph and Mary. Use the questions here: <https://childrensministry.com/census-questions/>

Make ornaments by tying red ribbon to concrete nails. Hang them on your Christmas tree and discuss the fact that Jesus was born so he could die on a tree for us.

Have young children dictate the Christmas account to you. Each year, re-read them as a family.

The next page contains more ways your family can celebrate the true reason for the Christmas season.

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Pick a Pose

Read aloud Luke 2:1-20. Say: **Pick one person or object in this Bible passage you identify with. Maybe you're like an angel, wanting to tell people about Jesus. Maybe you're a shepherd, full of wonder. Maybe you're an animal, seeing but not really participating. Or maybe you're the star, manger, hay... anything!**

Pause. Then say: **Now strike a pose that reminds you of what you chose.** Allow time. Ask: **Why did you identify with that person or object? How do you think the role you identified with affect how you celebrate Christmas?**

Have family members return to their pose and silently talk with God about Christmas and what it means to them.

Say: **Believing in Jesus gives us the gift of eternal life in heaven. There's no better Christmas present than that!** Close in prayer.



How to Keep Christ in Christmas

Although Jesus' birth marks the beginning of the New Testament, he's also present throughout the Old Testament. In fact, the first promise of a Savior occurs in Genesis 3, before Adam and Eve are sent from the Garden of Eden. Throughout the Old Testament, prophets tell of a coming Messiah who will save people from their sins. As we look forward to celebrating again the birth of that Messiah, Jesus, we also can look forward to the day when he'll return to take us to live with him in heaven. What an important message of Christmas hope to share with our children—and our world!

Jesus' Family Tree Gather brown bulletin-board paper, construction paper, scissors, markers, and tape. Twist and shape the brown paper into a tree trunk and branches. Attach green leaf shapes. Cut 10 ovals from construction paper. On each one, write an ancestor of Jesus (see Matthew 1:2-16). Cut a larger oval, write "Jesus" on it, and tape it to the center of the tree. Then tape the rest of the names in order from the bottom up. To show you're part of Jesus' family, write each of your names on a shape and tape those above Jesus' name. Display the tree by your Christmas tree.

Fear Not! Cover light switch plates with chalkboard spray paint. Talk about times you were scared in the dark. Say: "When Jesus' earthly dad, Joseph, was afraid, an angel visited in the night to tell him that God was with him." Read aloud Matthew 1:18-23. Say: "Joseph heard God was with him. He didn't need to be scared." With glow-in-the-dark paint, write on your switch plates a short Bible verse about fear (see Joshua 1:9; Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 35:4; Matthew 6:34; and John 14:27). Use the switch plates as reminders to pray and not be afraid when you turn out the light to go to bed at night.

Walk to Bethlehem Place signs throughout your home to help retell the Christmas story. As you walk, discuss the sounds Mary and Joseph may have heard, how tired they might have felt, where they could have stopped for water, and so on. Cut out five identical triangle shapes. On each one, write a Bible passage: Luke 1:28; Luke 2:1; Luke 2:7; Luke 2:9-10; and Luke 2:15. Use each triangle to tell about that part of Jesus' birth. At the end of the walk, attach the triangles to form a star.

Three Gifts for Jesus Read aloud Matthew 2:2. Say: "The wise men gave baby Jesus gold to show he's a king." Place a gold-colored photo frame or fancy costume jewelry under your Christmas tree. Take turns naming things you love about Jesus. Read Revelation 5:8. Say: "The wise men gave Jesus frankincense, a spice people used when they worshipped God." Set an unlit candle or other fragrant item under the tree. Take turns offering prayers as a gift to Jesus. Read John 19:39-40. Say: "The wise men brought myrrh, an ointment put on bodies that were going to be buried." Set out lotion or perfume. Take turns thanking Jesus for dying for your sins.

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"
—Luke 2:10-11, NLT

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MEDIA MADNESS



MOVIE

Title: *Mary Poppins Returns*

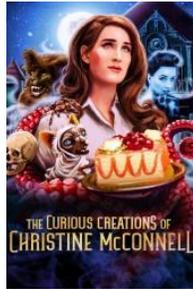
Genre: Family, Fantasy, Musical

Rating: PG

Cast: Emily Blunt, Angela Lansbury, Meryl Streep, Colin Firth

Synopsis: This new film, which director Rob Marshall says is *not* a remake, is set in 1935 London, 25 years after the original. As the Banks family faces financial troubles and grieves a tragic death, an eccentric, cheerful nanny re-enters their lives.

Our Take: The return of the popular Poppins should be a spoonful of sugar for holiday moviegoers. Younger kids will be captivated by the movie's "magic" but may not understand it. Families can discuss what it takes to maintain a positive attitude—and vibrant faith—during difficult times.



TV

Title: *The Curious Creations of Christine McConnell*

Network: Netflix

Synopsis: In this cooking and crafting show that's also part sitcom, social-media star McConnell creates edgy, creepy concoctions inside her enchanted home. She lives with puppets, who sometimes make violent threats or engage in campy innuendo. But the show, rated TV-PG, avoids vulgarity as it inspires young DIY-ers.

Our Take: This twist on the typical "how to" show is aimed at preteens who enjoy the strange and grotesque. It's slightly spooky yet maintains a sense of humor. McConnell says playing around with creepy stuff makes it "less scary" for me. Parents should use caution and preview the show first.

Games, Sites & Apps

Marble It Up!

In this racing platformer for the Nintendo Switch, players roll marbles around mazes and obstacles to earn medals and unlock new levels. Players can jump and collect power-ups. The \$20 game, rated E for Everyone, has no objectionable content or violence.

The Punies

Retired basketball star Kobe Bryant directs this free 10-part series that helps kids build self-confidence and battle negative self-talk. In 15-minute episodes, "Puny" Pete and friends navigate various challenges. Bryant wants families to listen to positive material when driving to sports practices.

Metamorphabet

With this collection of imaginative, interactive letters, children learn about the alphabet's power and practicality. As kids manipulate each letter, it transforms into crisply animated objects and creatures. The \$3.99 app, which has no in-app purchases, is best for ages 3 and up.

CULTURE & TRENDS

Graphic Novels Galore As graphic novels continue to climb best-seller lists, more are being released for kids—and serving as important teaching tools. For example, John Hendrix's well-reviewed graphic novel *The Faithful Spy* is about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Christian who was martyred for resisting Hitler's agenda. (*Amazon*)

Young YouTubers Companies are banking on young social-media "influencers" to build buzz and attract shoppers. Wal-Mart debuted Ryan's World, a line of toys and T-shirts created by a 6-year-old whose YouTube channel gets almost 1 billion views monthly. (*USA Today*)

QUICK STATS

Childhood's End? According to the "End of Childhood Report," the U.S. ranks 36th out of 175 countries for factors such as widespread poverty, conflict, and discrimination against girls. (*Save the Children*)

Comin' to Town? About 85% of 4-year-olds believe in Santa Claus, a number that has held steady for several decades. Experts say the largest drop-off in belief occurs around age 8. (*CNN*)

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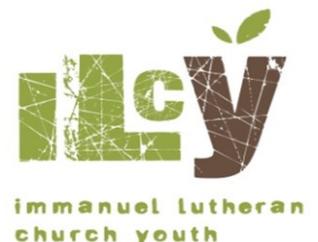
This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our goal is to help you make informed decisions about what your children watch, read, listen to, and play.

December

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2 9:15am - Keepsake Christmas 6pm - HS Hangout	3	4	5 5:15pm-Advent Meal (youth serve) 6:30pm-EPIC Singers & Bells 7pm-Confirmation 7pm-Jr. Lutherans & 76ers	6	7	8 10am-Christmas Program rehearsal 10am-FROGs (IMAC)
9 9:15am - Keepsake Christmas 5pm-Music for the Season (S) 6pm - High School Hangout	10	11	12 5:15pm-Advent Meal 6:30pm-EPIC Singers & Bells 7pm-Confirmation 7pm-Jr. Lutherans & 76ers	13	14	15 10am-Christmas Program rehearsal
16 10am - Children's Christmas Program (S) 6pm-High School Hangout	17	18	19 5:15pm-Advent Meal 6:30pm-EPIC Singers	20	21	22
23 No Sunday School <i>(Christmas Break)</i>	24 5pm-Christmas Eve Contemporary 7pm-Christmas Eve Traditional	25 	26	27	28	29
30 No Sunday School <i>(Christmas Break)</i>	31	JAN. 1ST Happy New Year!	JAN. 2ND Youth groups / classes resume			



- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 9- Larissa Duncan | 18 - Reese Tiemeyer |
| 10 - Nick Petersen
Ledger Swain | 23 - Sarah Butterbaugh
Allixandria Stritz
Jessica Stritz |
| 11 - Jack Wrightsman | 24 - Luke Book |
| 12 - Lila Graeve | 28 - Keagan Dreckman |
| 13 - Drake Traetow | 30 - Ava Smith |
| 14 - Daniel Slaughter | 31 - Vincent Bohardt
Blake Krueger |
| 15 - Ashlee Miller | |
| 17 - Avery Shepherd | |



Sunday School - Monthly News

** We're always accepting new students. Contact Angie Frink to register your child today! (angiefrink@gmail.com) **



Reminders:

- Start time for Sunday School is 9:15am.
- 3-yr-olds through 1st grade meet in the Sanctuary.
- 2nd grade through High School meet in their assigned classrooms.
- Dismissal time is 10:15am.

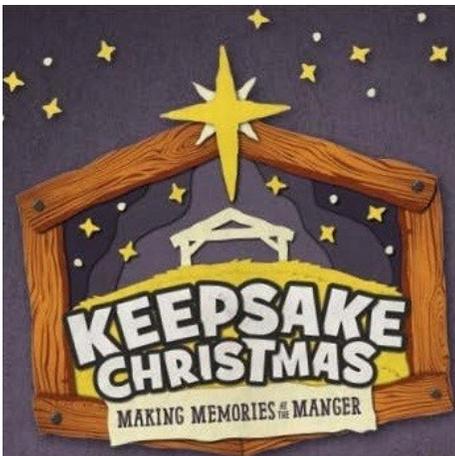
****3-yr-olds through 1st grade must be picked up by an adult.****



3rd Grade Bibles



The 3rd grade class received their Bibles on Sept. 8th and spent three weeks going through them with Pastor Joseph. During their time together, they went through each book of the Bible and highlighted a special verse. It was a great time for parents to spend time with their children during the Sunday School hour. Children look to their parents in many ways, and this faith-based experience was awesome. Thanks Pastor Joseph for sharing your many talents with this group of kids and their parents!



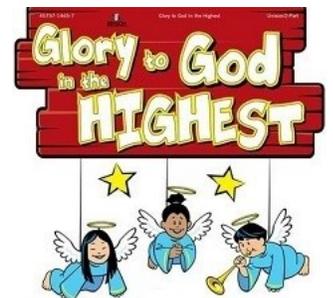
Important Dates to Remember this Month:

Dec. 2nd & 9th: Advent Event during Sunday School
← (ages 3 & up; parents are encouraged to attend)

Dec. 16th: Christmas Program (10:00am) →

Dec. 23rd & 30th: No Sunday School

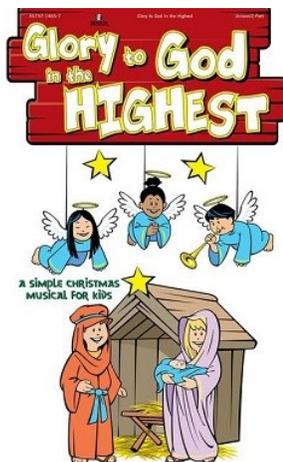
Jan. 6th: Sunday School starts back up



Contact Information for Sunday School:

Education Committee Chair (thru 12/31/18) - Leslie Perrigo • Imperrigo@gmail.com

Sunday School Coordinator - Angie Frink • angiefrink@gmail.com
(Angie will be the new Education Committee Chair on 1/1/19.)



The Sunday School Christmas Program is just around the corner!

Parents, a reminder for two extra practices that have been scheduled:

- **Saturday, Dec. 8th, 10:00am** - Practice for all students in grades 2 through high school. It will last **ONE** hour. The Sunbeam Singers (ages 3 thru 1st grade) will not be needed at this practice.
- **Saturday, Dec. 15th, 10:00am** - Practice for all students in grades 2 through high school. It should last **TWO** hours. The Sunbeam Singers (ages 3 thru 1st grade) will not be needed at this practice.

If you have any questions or concerns, email Diane (diane.beisner59@gmail.com) or call in the evenings (515-758-2808).

Youth Groups and Upcoming Events:



Ages 3 - 2nd Grade: FROGS is a youth activity group that meets once a month in the IMAC. This is a fun time for kids to participate in games, crafts, singing, and stories geared toward developing a love for Jesus.

We will try to keep these to 1 hour.

- Sat., Dec. 8th, 10:00am Birthday Party for Jesus (*Volunteers needed*)
- Sun., Dec. 16th, 10:00am Christmas Program

3rd - 5th Grades: Junior Lutherans meet on Wednesday nights during the school year from 7:00-8:00p.m. The teacher is Lindie Truitt.



- Sun., Dec. 16th Christmas Program @ 10:00am
- Wed., Dec. 19th Christmas Party & Caroling (*Volunteers needed*)
- Sun., Jan. 13th Youth Night Skiing @ Seven Oaks (*Volunteers needed*)



6th - 7th Grades: The 76'ers meet on Wednesday nights during the school year from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The teacher is Heather Wheeler.

**76'ers will have the same fall event/activity schedule as Jr. Lutherans - please see the above schedule for dates.

High School: 8th - 12th Gr.: Impact meets for fellowship, special events, and outings. This group also meets on Sundays at the church, 6-8pm (This month: Dec. 2nd, 9th, & 16th)



- Dec. 5th Youth serve Advent meal @ 5:15pm
- Dec. 16th Christmas Program @ 10:00am
- Dec. 19th Christmas Party & Caroling
- Jan. 13th Youth Night Skiing @ Seven Oaks

Confirmation Students!! You are invited to the Sunday evening High School Hangouts! Dec. 2nd: Bible Trivia World Championships; Dec. 9th: Christmas Movie Night; Dec. 16th: Ugly Sweater Christmas Party w/ White Elephant Gift Exchange. Hope to see you soon!



& EPIC Ringers

EPIC Singers/ Bell Choir Schedule - 2018/19 -

Leader: Diane Beisner

EPIC Singers (voices) and EPIC Ringers (hand bells) are two groups that are open to all students in grades 2 through 7. Students can be in both groups or just one. We meet on Wednesday nights through the school year at 6:30pm.

Please note there is no practice on Oct. 17th or Oct. 31st; and Nov. 14th and 28th have been switched to accommodate Meals from the Heartland packaging..

Sunday, Dec. 2 – Sing for 10:30 service

Wed., Dec. 5 – Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm
Sat. Dec. 8 – Christmas program practice 10-11am
Wed., Dec. 12 – Christmas program practice 6:30-8:00pm
Sat. Dec. 15 – Christmas program practice 10am -12pm

Sunday, Dec. 16 – Christmas program

Wed., Dec. 19 – 6:30-8:00pm Caroling w/hot chocolate
Wed., Dec. 26 – no practice – Winter Break

Wed., Jan. 2 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Jan. 9 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Jan. 16 - Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Jan. 23 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Jan. 30 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm

Sun., Feb. 3 - Sing for 10:30 service

Wed., Feb. 6 - Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Feb. 13 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Feb. 20 - Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Feb. 27 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm

Sun., Mar. 3 - Sing for 10:30 service

Wed., Mar. 6 - No practice (*Ash Wednesday*)
Wed., Mar. 13 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Mar. 20 - No practice (*Spring Break*)
Wed., Mar. 27 - Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm
Sun., Mar. 31 - Bells play for 10:30 service

Wed., Apr. 3 - EPICs practice 6:30-7:00pm

Sun., Apr. 7 - Sing for 10:30 service

Wed., Apr. 10 - Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm
Wed., Apr. 17 - No practice (*Holy Week*)
Wed., Apr. 24 - Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm

Wed., May 1 - EPICs & Bells practice 6:30-7:00pm

Sun., May 5 - EPICs sing & Bells play for 10:30 service

Wed., May 8 - Final activities @ Centennial Park 7:00-8:00pm

This schedule is subject to change. Diane will inform you of changes As they come up, via email and the newsletter.



Sunbeam Singers 2018/19 Schedule

Sunbeam Singers meet during Sunday School opening, sing during 10:30 service, and is open to children ages 3 through 1st grade. *Leader: Diane Beisner*

December 16 - Children's Christmas Program
January 20
February 17
March 10
April 14

FROGS 11/14/18



Jr. Lutherans & 76ers making cards for troops deployed to Afghanistan.

