



December 7, 2007

Dear Immanuel families:

Conquering the Christmas Gimmies

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshiped him . . .” Matt. 2:11a

Every Christmas sermon, Christmas hymn, and children’s Christmas service reminds us that Jesus is the focus of Christmas. God, in His perfect agape love, came down to earth as a baby to save us from the sinful world we live in and help create. Our response to this immeasurable gift is to worship Him.

“. . . Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” Matt 2: 11b

This, however, is the half of the verse that our society has latched onto in order to create the Christmas sales season. We have twisted this simple act of worship into something that serves our own desires and furthers the local economy.

Christmas has become about gift-giving and spending more money than we have. We have wrapped the Baby Jesus up in ribbons and bows and tucked Him under the tree behind the doll that talks, the gift cards, and the mp3 players.

Our challenge is to live in the world but not be a part of the world. It is definitely a challenge to keep our children sheltered from the world on this matter. The “gimmies” are everywhere— on television, radio, computer, in the words of friends, and in the examples of us as parents. We live in a materialistic society that thrives when money is spent. We are daily encouraged to believe that we need things to be happy. Why should our children be exempt from these same pressures and influences?

Yet, we cannot surrender to the world. We are children of God and His Spirit lives in us, feeding our faith and showing us the way to the Baby Jesus and His saving love. As we begin the season of Advent, let your prayer, your worship, and the Word of God help you to keep the Baby Jesus as the true gift of Christmas.

Worship is the key to modeling for our children the true reason for Christmas. December is a very busy time, and dealing with busyness is often a matter of priorities. The world is telling you to shop, and bake, and shop, and decorate the house, and shop, and pack up gifts for mailing—and did I mention shop? God whispers in your heart to come to Him and worship. Plan on family attendance of advent services and be faithful to your family devotion schedule. God’s Word will feed you and fill your heart, keeping the influences of the world at bay.

Environment is a key influence on a child’s development. Evaluate your Christmas decorations. Are they about Santa and gifts or do your decorations promote a heart of worship? Perhaps your Santa decorations can be the subject of a family devotion. You can use them to explain to your children that Santa is the world’s invention, but Baby Jesus is God. This message will be brought into focus when you light the candles on your family Advent wreath.

Remember this when you are watching TV or shopping with your children, and use these opportunities to remind them about the faith side of the holiday. Remember that advertisers are working overtime to reach your family with their take on the season. You, however, work with the power of the Spirit.

Set pre-determined limits for gift giving as a way to counteract the gimmies. Before our children were old enough to count and compare gifts, my husband and I decided that each member of our family would receive one gift from each other. That kept our gift giving down to three gifts each.

Changing a gift-giving policy when children are used to piles of gifts is a challenge. Again, this is a great topic for family devotions. The Spirit will help your family to see that getting gifts is not what Christmas is about. Bring your children into the gift-giving process so they can derive enjoyment from choosing a special present for Dad or Sister.

Purchase extra gifts for people in your community who do not have the means for gift-giving at this time of the year. God will help you replace the “gimmies” with a heart of gratitude that enjoys giving. *(To be continued next week)*

“Parent Pages” is published by LCMS District and Congregational Services—School Ministry
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; 1-800-248-1930;
www.lcms.org
Kim Marxhausen, Lincoln, Neb., Writer • Frank Kohn, Editor and Layout
Vol. 7, No. 4 • December 2007

In Christ,

David Ingwersen, Principal

IMPORTANT ACTION ALERT: Let’s have this phone ring off the hook. Get this information to your parents and everyone in the congregation willing to help. **How does \$32 a student to pay for health and safety measures in school sound? That is what is at stake!** If the Governor signs the recently passed SB 783, which opens the School Safety Block Grant to nonpublic schools, each of our schools will receive roughly \$32 a student annually to pay for health and safety measures -- this could include the costs of background checks, school nurses, fire safety equipment,

etc. **Please CALL, SEND THE ATTACHED LETTER or USE THE LINK BELOW to express your concern to the Governor's office. Identify yourself and the school you are from and ask him to "sign Senate Bill 783 so that nonpublic schools can receive reimbursement for mandated health and safety measures. The health and safety of our children are as important as any!"**

The Governor's office numbers are:

217-782-0244 in Springfield

312-814-2121 in Chicago

<http://www.illinois.gov/gov/contactthegovernor.cfm>

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – GRADES 1 – 8 -- Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.

School Gymnasium -- All students in band, chancel drama, chimes, and Praise/Worship classes meet at 6:15 p.m. in the gym to set up. The students in grades 1 – 4 and the 5th – 8th grade choir meet at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. All students are required to dress appropriately for a worship service. NO jeans, t-shirts, jerseys, or hoodies.

SUPPORT THE 7TH AND 8TH GRADE WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP -- Join us for Casual December! There are 12 casual days in December (not including Fridays) available to your child for \$1.00 each day. Stop by the office to sign up.

BABYSITTING & GIFTWRAPPING ARE HERE!! The 7th and 8th grade are doing babysitting and gift wrapping for a fundraiser for their Washington, D.C. trip. On Saturday, December 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the 7th and 8th graders (with the help of adults) will baby sit children ages 4 years and up so parents can go Christmas shopping, out to lunch or just have some alone time. A pizza lunch will be provided. If you have a special snack you want for your child, please provide it. This will be a free-will donation. Then on Sunday, December 16th from noon to 3:00 p.m. the 7th and 8th graders will wrap presents for you. Just bring your gifts and wrapping paper and they will do the rest. This will be a free-will offering also. Please come support the 7th and 8th graders and their parents. Thank you and bless you! Please call Tim Moffatt 847-658-8985 for questions or concerns.

MEIJER COMMUNITY REWARDS -- Immanuel Lutheran School participates in the Meijer Community Rewards program. Through this program, Immanuel Lutheran School receives cash rewards from purchases. In order to have your purchase help us, you simply have to join Meijer Community Rewards (**our organization code is 392814**). It's free and can be done on-line at Meijer.com/rewards or by mailing in the application (applications are going home today). Enrolled members then pay for their Meijer purchases with cash or a PIN-debit card and their Meijer 1 Card or with their linked Meijer Credit Card. ***In addition, from now until December 31, 2007, Meijer is offering double rewards for their program!!*** Join today!! The sooner you join, the sooner we will begin receiving rewards!!

ADOPT-A-BOOK – What a success!! Yet another book was adopted this week by Grace Burke . . . that brings our total to 84 new books in the library. Thank you all who participated. We still have more to adopt, see Mrs. Lawin if interested. Please remember to send in your checks and mark envelopes Adopt-A-Book! God Bless!!

LIBRARY CORNER – This week we got out all of our Christmas books. We plan to read, tell stories, and maybe even sing (with Little Ark) about the big Birthday Celebration. Stories about Santa, reindeer, presents, and trees pale in comparison to the story of love and peace that the Lord gave us on Christmas Eve. Have your students tell you the story or share it with the family. It is the greatest true story ever told . . . We need to pass it on!!

IMCL COOKBOOKS -- WOW! We have sold 340 cookbooks!! That is the total number of cookbooks in our shipment due mid-December. All orders placed before November 26 will receive a cookbook with this shipment. But don't despair if you did not yet order your cookbook. We will be placing another order that will be delivered sometime mid-January. If you wanted a cookbook as a Christmas gift, we have gift certificates available to present that special someone until the cookbook arrives. We will continue taking cookbook orders in the school office and after church services on December 8 and 9. The cost of the cookbook is \$20.00. Checks can be made payable to Immanuel Lutheran. Don't miss out on this treasured cookbook filled with wonderful recipes! Any questions call or e-mail Julie Goschey at 815-356-6267 or jegosch@aol.com.

MANNA!! Manna order forms are going home today! Orders and payment are due Monday, December 10rd. Delivery will be Friday, December 14th. We also have some inventory available in the school office for "cash and carry".

Orders Due

Monday, December 10

Pick Up

Friday, December 14

If you have any questions, please contact Joni Haldeman (815-459-4275).

ILS ALUMNI SEARCH -- ILS is working on a project to find Alumni of our school. We have class lists from many graduating classes of the past. We are locating Alumni of ILS to invite them to events, ask for their support, and reconnect them to our school. Additional help is needed to find the alumni. If you would like to help search the internet or if you have information regarding past students, contact Sharon Tieman.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Fannie May fundraiser. We raised over \$1,200! Candy will be available for pick up on Monday, December 17th. Thanks again!!

YEARBOOK AND SCRAPBOOK PICTURES – We are looking for pictures to use for the school scrapbook and the 2007-2008 yearbook. If you have any photos that we could use, please send them into the school office. We will accept actual photos or pictures on a CD. We could use photos from anything related to school, such as the following: chapel, field trips, sporting events, class parties, concerts, first day of school, special events, etc. Thank you for your help!! Tarna Eskoff

CENTER FOR THE GIFTED has provided us with brochures for their upcoming winter programs. If you are interested in a brochure, please contact the school office. You can also obtain information on their website at www.centerforgifted.org.

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM – Bring your friends and join us for Journey to Bethlehem, a living nativity this Saturday and Sunday evening. We present this as our annual Christmas gift to Crystal Lake and the surrounding community. The journey is open from 7 – 9 p.m. on Saturday and 6 – 8 p.m. on Sunday here at the Church and School. Join us after you've experienced the journey for refreshments in the church! To all who signed up to help with Journey in any way, THANK YOU! I do appreciate your time and energy. Ginny Illich

No Youth Night this week due to Journey to Bethlehem.

MARKET DAY -- Thank you for all of your Market Day orders this month! We're looking forward to seeing you when you pick up your Market Day order on Saturday, December 8th, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. You can find us in the school cafeteria. If you have any questions please contact Mary Matthei at 847-669-5513. Thank you for supporting Market Day at Immanuel.

PARENT SURVEYS – Please return all parent surveys by Friday, December 14th. Thank you!!

JAMZ-Jesus and Me Zone

We invite everyone to come and join us as our JAMZ students share the message of Jesus birth at our upcoming JAMZ Christmas programs.

DECEMBER 9th- Pre-3's, Pre-4's and Kindergarten will perform their program during the 11:00 service. Regular JAMZ classes will be held that morning.

DECEMBER 16th-JAMZ students grades 1-6 perform their program at 3:00 in the afternoon in the Church. Regular JAMZ classes will be held that morning.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM EVERYONE AT JAMZ!

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT!! Immanuel Crystal Lake Panther decals are in the office! They are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00. You can use them on your car window or stick them on just about anything! Show your ***Panther Pride*** all over town!!

Immanuel Lutheran Church Worship Services:

Saturday	6:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 & 11:00 a.m.
JAMZ, Confirmation & Mid-Pointe	9:30 a.m.

Lunch items offered daily are:

Hot Dog on Bun	Chicken Patty Sandwich
Salad Entrée	Soup w/Roll
Pepperoni Pizza	

SCHEDULE AND LUNCH:

Saturday 12/8	Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament at Cross Yorkville 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Market Day Pick Up 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Journey to Bethlehem
Sunday 12/9	4:00 p.m. Kindergarten & Little Ark 3-day Class Christmas Program – Church 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Journey to Bethlehem
Monday 12/10	Hot Turkey Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Carrot/Celery Sticks, Fruit Mix, Milk 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Practice 4:30 p.m. Jr. Varsity Girls Basketball Game at Westminster 5:30 p.m. Jr. Varsity Boys Basketball Game at Westminster
Tuesday 12/11	Mexican Grandido, Tossed Salad, Green Beans, Fresh Apple, Brownie, Milk 2:00 p.m. PTL Meeting 2:15 – 3:00 p.m. Kids of the Kingdom 2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Jr. Varsity & Varsity Girls Basketball Practice 3:45 – 5:00 p.m. Varsity Boys
Wednesday 12/12	Taco Salad w/Tortilla Chips, Salad, Dinner Roll, Applesauce, Milk 9:20 a.m. Chapel 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship

- Thursday 12/13** **Corn Dog, Tater Tots, Carrot/Celery Sticks, Peaches, Rice Krispy Treat, Milk**
2:30 – 3:45 P.M. Jr. Varsity & Varsity Girls Basketball Practice
3:45 – 5:00 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Practice
5:00 – 6:15 p.m. Jr. Varsity Boys Basketball Practice
- Friday 12/14** **Cheese Pizza, Tater Tots, Pears, Goldfish Crackers, Milk**
PACK THE GYM NIGHT!!
4:30 p.m. Jr. Varsity Girls Basketball Game at Home vs. Immanuel, Dundee
5:30 p.m. Jr. Varsity Boys Basketball Game at Home vs. Immanuel, Dundee
6:30 p.m. Varsity Girls Basketball Game at Home vs. Immanuel, Dundee
7:30 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Game at Home vs. Immanuel, Dundee
- Monday 12/17** **Hot Dog w/Cheese Sauce, Tater Tots, Applesauce, Cookie, Milk**
2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Game
5:00 p.m. Jr. Varsity Boys Basketball Game at Good Shepherd, Elgin
- Tuesday 12/18** **Chicken & Bean Burrito, Spanish Rice, Pears, Dinner Roll, Pudding, Milk**
5:00 p.m. Varsity Girls Basketball Game at Good Shepherd, Elgin
6:00 p.m. Varsity Boys Basketball Game at Good Shepherd, Elgin
- Wednesday 12/19** **Egg Muffin w/Cheese, Hashbrown Potato, Peaches, Coffee Cake, Milk**
8:00 a.m. Chapel - Gym
7:00 p.m. Advent Service – School Christmas Program (Grades 1 – 8) - Gym
- Thursday 12/20** **Dinosaur Pasta, Corn, Pears, Dinner Roll, Milk**
4:30 p.m. Jr. Varsity Girls Basketball Game at Home vs. Immanuel, Palatine
5:30 p.m. Jr. Varsity “A” Boys Basketball Game at Home vs. Immanuel, Palatine
6:30 p.m. Jr. Varsity “B” Boys Basketball Game at Home vs. Immanuel, Palatine
- Friday 12/21** **Chicken Sticks, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Corn, Peaches, Cookie, Milk**