



Lemont United Methodist Church
Sunday School

Notes to Parents

Dear Parents,

December 2011

Are you scrambling around trying to find the right gifts for your children? Have they circled every toy in a multitude of catalogues? Do they pine for the many items they see advertised on TV? No doubt about it, gift-giving is a big part of the Christmas holiday. There are several theories as to how this tradition started: back in the height of the Roman empire, gift-giving was common during the celebration of Saturnalia; in ancient Europe, people gave gifts as part of their winter solstice celebrations; of course the magi brought gifts to Jesus upon his birth; in the 4th century, Dutch Bishop St. Nicholas was known for his care of children & charitable giving so parents would leave small gifts for their children in his honor; and in America, Christmas gift-giving began in the early 1800s and has blossomed into a retail bonanza.

Prayer Connect

*This month's theme is **Help from Jesus** (Isaiah 9:6)*



Dear Lord,
Thank you for giving my children your son Jesus, a Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

Amen

I admit that I have a tendency to overindulge our children at this time of year. As I shop for gifts, I find more and more items that I think they would like and the pile under our tree grows. I no longer worry about what I'm going to open on Christmas morning because I find so much joy in giving! As I think about it, that's exactly what we should be passing on to our children...not the greed of receiving, but the joy of giving. That's what Jesus wants for us. In Luke 3:11 John explains, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry." If we want our children to truly experience the joy of Christmas, we should help them learn to share with others...especially with those in need. If your children don't already help others as part of your Christmas tradition, I encourage you to look for a way to incorporate that this year. Here are some ideas: buy a present for a needy child in town, donate to Toys for Tots, drop some coins in the Salvation Army bin, bring food to the Open Pantry, stop by an elderly neighbor to visit and see how you can help. There are so many ways to give to others this season. Talk to your children and find one that resonates in their hearts. You will give them the greatest gift of all...the joy that comes from helping others!

Merry Christmas & Happy Parenting!
Yours in Christ,
Karin Peraino & Mary Rohrer

- Mark Your Calendars**
- ✓ 12/05 – Christmas Tree decorating during 10:45 service
 - ✓ 12/18 – SS Pancake Breakfast for children 9:30am
 - ✓ 12/18 – Gingerbread House decorating, 1:30-3:30pm
 - ✓ 12/24 – Christmas Eve services: 4pm & 8pm
 - ✓ 12/25 & 1/01 – Christmas Break: No Sunday School
 - ✓ 12/25 – Christmas Day service 10:45am

Rock Solid

Classes K-6 are using the Rock Solid curriculum. Check it out on www.iamrocksolid.com.

Winter 2011-12

Date	Bible Story	Bible Point	Scripture	Key Verses
12/04	A savior is coming	Jesus is the Savior God promised	Luke 1:31-32	"You will name him Jesus and he will be great!"
12/11	Emmanuel	Jesus is the Savior God promised	Matthew 18-24	"And they will call him Emmanuel (God with us)"
12/18	Journey & birth	We prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth	Luke 2:1-7	"For a child has been born for us... Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"
1/08	Jesus grows & is baptized	Jesus learns what God wants; God changes our hearts & lives	Luke 2:41-52; Matthew 3:1-17	"Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding"; "Change your hearts & lives. Here comes the kingdom of heaven"
1/15	Jesus is God's son; Jesus is tempted	We can choose to serve God	Matthew 3:1-17; Matthew 4:1-11	"You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him"
1/22	Jesus calls the Fishermen	Jesus calls us to follow him & be his disciples	Mark 1:16-20	"Come, follow me"
1/29	Jesus calls Matthew	When we follow Jesus, we must change	Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32	"I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners to change their hearts & lives"

(Note: The Jr. High Class and HS Breakfast Club hold discussions based on Talksheets.)



Thought for the Month

"Give, and it will be given to you."

~Luke 6:38

Scriptures to be used with Advent Calendars

◀ November	~ December 2011 ~						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which is God with us.” <i>Matthew 1:23</i>	2 “And the angel came in unto her and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women” <i>Luke 1:28</i>	3 “And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God” <i>Luke 1:30</i>	
4 “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS” <i>Luke 1:31</i>	5 “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest...” <i>Luke 1:32</i>	6 “And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” <i>Luke 1:33</i>	7 “For with God nothing shall be impossible” <i>Luke 1:37</i>	8 “And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word...” <i>Luke 1:30</i>	9 “And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour” <i>Luke 1:46-47</i>	10 For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His name God’s mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation” <i>Luke 1:49-50</i>	
11 “And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord” <i>Luke 1:45</i>	12 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed his people...” <i>Luke 1:68</i>	13 The Lord has given “Knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins... Through the tender mercy of our God...” <i>Luke 1:78</i>	14 “The Dayspring from on high hath visited us” <i>Luke 1:78</i>	15 “He hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David...that w should be saved from our enemies...” <i>Luke 1:69-71</i>	16 “To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” <i>Luke 1:79</i>	17 “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” <i>Luke 2:7</i>	
18 “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God” <i>Luke 2:13</i>	19 “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them...and said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” <i>Luke 2:9-10</i>	20 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord” <i>Luke 2:11</i>	21 “And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” <i>Luke 2:12</i>	22 “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.” <i>Luke 2:7</i>	23 “And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger...His name was called JESUS” <i>Luke 2:16, 21</i>	24 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” <i>Luke 2:14</i>	