



Why are we having the Sunday School Christmas Program in January?

Sometimes you discover important truths totally by accident (or so it seems). That's kind of what happened with our Christmas Program.

Last year the Sunday School Christmas Program was scheduled at the traditional time - during Sunday worship a week prior to Christmas. But we had to cancel worship that day due to really bad weather. What to do with the Christmas Program??? The options were either to cancel it or re-schedule it for after Christmas. We decided that the birth of Christ is so important that it didn't matter if we had to celebrate it after Christmas, we needed to do it!

That posed the challenge of trying to find a date that worked for most of the participants - not an easy thing with all the typical Christmas events and family celebrations and traveling. So we re-scheduled at a time when the kids were back in school and most all the celebrations were in the rear-view mirror: Friday evening, January 5. Which just happened to be the eve of Epiphany - the day that is referred to as "The Gentile Christmas." It's the day Jesus was revealed (which is what "epiphany" means) as the true God to the non-Jewish Magi (Wise Men).

Things couldn't have gone much better! Attendance was great, and because all the hustle and bustle of Christmas activities was over everyone was much more relaxed, and no one had to rush off to another event. As a result, we received quite a few comments like, "*We should think about doing it after Christmas every year*".

So, like Mary, we "treasured up all these things and pondered them in our hearts," and when it came time to plan for the Christmas Program this year, we made the decision to intentionally plan it to coincide with Epiphany again. The only change is that this year we will hold the program on *Saturday*, so the kids and parents won't have to rush here from school and work.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net