

The Chronicles of Trinity

December 2021



Silent Night by Riley Baker and Alex Harris

This year's Trinity Lutheran School Christmas program was a hit. December 16 was NOT a silent night as 1st through 8th grade students celebrated. There was a little bit of everything in this program: songs, acting, and narrative parts. The students did really well! The preschool and kindergarten students presented their Christmas program on December 14. They did amazing!

The beautiful songs the 1st through 8th grade children sang included (not in specific order):

O Come All Ye Faithful * God Loves Me Dearly * Little Children, Can You Tell? * Hark The Glad Sound * Still Still Still * Silent Night * Angels We Have Heard On High * Away In a Manger * Mary Had A Baby * Joy To The World

We asked some of our amazing teachers what song from this program is their favorite:

Mrs. Messina: "Away in a Manger" * Mr. Baerenklau: "Hark the Glad Sound" * Mrs. Perez: "Silent Night" * Mrs. Allor: "God Loves Me Dearly" * Mrs. L. Solyom: "Still Still Still"

The preschool and kindergarten children did recitations and sang **Gentle Gentle Jesus, In a Little Stable, Glory to God, Christmas is a Time to Love, and Miracle of Love.** **Mrs. Scott, Mrs. LaMontagna, Miss Kraegel, Mrs. Pilny, and Mrs. A. Solyom** did a wonderful job with their students.

Thanks to **Pastor Wagner, Mr. Lindstead, Miss Rose, Mrs. Graves** and **Mrs. Moy** for their work on the programs too.

Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Church Services:

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

3 p.m. - in person

10 p.m. - in person &
livestreamed*

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

10 a.m. - in person

*Trinity livestreams on
Facebook@TrinityLombard

My Favorite Holiday Foods by Grace Sabourin

I love making food with my family around Christmastime because the foods are very delicious. Both of my grandmas make roasted apples with cinnamon. They are delicious because they remind me of spending time with my family. They are also very easy to make because they use household ingredients. The first step is to cut apples into slices as if you were going to eat them. Next, put cinnamon in a bowl. You might want to wash your hands before you do this next step. Put the cut apples in the cinnamon, put your hands in there and mix it around. Finally, set the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 25-30 minutes. When done, take the apples out of the oven and enjoy warm.

I asked some of my classmates what their favorite holiday foods are and this is what they said:

- Sofia - Pumpkin Pie
- Riley - Stuffing
- Mckenzie - Cinnamon Rolls
- Lina - Pumpkin Pie
- Joe - Pumpkin Pie
- Sophia - Mashed Potatoes
- Abby - Christmas Cookies
- Alex - Christmas Cookies
- Aidan - Eggnog
- Angelina - Turkey
- Ian - Pumpkin Pie
- Nathan - Pumpkin Pie
- Angel - all of it
- Josie - Cake



Christmas Activities by Ian Lesch

There are many Christmas activities that you can do by yourself or with your family. Consider baking Christmas cookies, constructing a gingerbread house, hosting a holiday game night, or writing a letter to Santa. There are many more but you probably have your own favorite activities. You could also decorate your house door with a Christmas theme or even plan a family photo shoot for a Christmas card.



Reminder:

NO SCHOOL:

Monday, December 20 through Friday,
December 31, 2021.

RETURN TO SCHOOL:

Monday, January 3, 2022

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



St. Nicholas: The REAL Santa Claus *by Angelina Iverson and Josie Woods*

The story begins in Patara, Asia Minor - at the time it was Greek, but it is now known as the southern coast of Turkey. It is believed that St. Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. The legend began when St. Nicholas started to help the poor and needy, because he was a Christian who loved Jesus. He was even a bishop in the church. Today, Santa Claus is thought of as a jolly man dressed in red, black, white, and gold, who brings toys and goodies to good girls and boys on the night of Christmas Eve. There is a tradition on December 6 - St. Nicholas Day - that if you put one of your shoes by the foyer, you will find a small gift like candy or a toy from St. Nicholas. Now, it has become a Christmas belief that on December 25, Santa Claus, today's version of the real St. Nicholas, comes down your chimney while you're sleeping and delivers you presents - if you're nice!



stnicholascenter.org

Learn more
about how the
real **St. Nicholas**
became jolly
Santa Claus -
visit:
stnicholascenter.org



Family Christmas Traditions by Nathan Pulli

A lot of families have special traditions every year for Christmas, like a family dinner or a special song you play. But my family is has all of our relatives come over to our house and we throw a huge party. Every year I feel like I meet a new family member that I haven't met before. That just goes to show how big this party is. I think that over a 100 people show up every year. And the dinner that my mom cooks is huge.

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I interviewed my classmate Joe about his Christmas traditions:

What are some of your Christmas traditions?

Joe's family tradition is to have a big party.

What is your favorite memory from Christmas?

Decorating the tree.

What is your favorite present that you have received?

An Xbox.

I interviewed my classmate Ian about his Christmas traditions:

What are your favorite Christmas traditions?

Ian goes out to dinner with his family, then he goes to church, finally he goes to sleepover at his grandparents house, and then he opens presents on Christmas.

What is your favorite Christmas present that you have received?

An Xbox.

What is your favorite memory from Christmas?

When he got home from his grandparents house and found there was a huge 8-foot stuffed monkey.

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Those are some traditions and memories from my Christmas, and from Joe and Ian's Christmases. What's your family tradition on Christmas?

Christmas Break Plans by Aidan Harrison

Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birth - but what will people do during the break off of school this year? During Covid we want to avoid large gatherings. Over Christmas break you can invite relatives (family and friends) but still avoid large public crowds.

People like to play in the snow, but we are well on our way to breaking the world record for most time without a measurable amount of snow. The latest that the first snowfall has come in our area is December 21 and we are well on our way to passing that. Christmas break begins on Saturday, December 18, and people will be **CELEBRATING LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.**



WILL IT RAIN?

WILL IT SNOW?

I LIVE IN Chicago

I DON'T KNOW!



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS by Lina Cotcamp

Now that we are in the month of December, the Christmas holiday is on our minds. Many are looking forward to getting together with family, eating a wonderful dinner, and exchanging gifts. However, most of us get distracted from the real meaning of Christmas: The birth of Jesus.

Every year we decorate our houses with Christmas trees, garland, tree topper, ornaments, twinkling lights, and Santa Claus figures, but I believe the most important decoration is a nativity scene.

A nativity scene is an arrangement of figures, replicating what the night of Jesus' birth was like. This scene is very heartwarming and can add so much to a room. Whether this is a life size set or one for the living room coffee table, the nativity will always be my favorite decoration.

Because our school is really getting into the Christmas spirit, I have ask some of our fifth through eighth graders what their favorite decorations are.



- Sofia - Tree ornaments
- Riley - Christmas lights
- Mckenzie - Lights
- Joe - all of it
- Sophia - Star on top of the Christmas tree
- Abby - Star on top of the Christmas tree
- Alex - Christmas tree
- Aidan - Icicles
- Angelina - Star on top of the Christmas tree
- Ian - Stockings
- Nathan - Lights
- Grace - Christmas tree



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12



The History of Giving on Christmas

by Mckenzie Brain

Many Christmas traditions involve giving gifts and spending time together, but why is this? Many children will say it's because it's Christmas, others will say because Santa gives gifts, and some will say they don't know. But we celebrate Christmas because it's Jesus's birthday. To many, Christmas is a very special day, the day the promise was fulfilled.

Many people give presents because it's Jesus's birthday (and the wise men brought the Baby Jesus gifts), some celebrate because "Santa" comes to visit them. While the concepts are similar, one reason should stick out the most. The promise was fulfilled, because Jesus the Messiah was born, Mary the mother of Jesus was a virgin (a miracle), and Jesus was sent to pay for our sins. This is why we give gifts on Christmas.

These are both good reasons for giving gifts: we know Santa is coming and we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

What are your reasons for giving gifts?

Christmas Trees

by Joe Fitak

Christmas trees are trees that you decorate with your family. You put Christmas lights on them and all sorts of decorations. But, this year it's going to be hard to find a Christmas tree if you don't already have one. There is a shortage of both real and artificial trees. If there are any Christmas trees left, the prices are going to be higher.

One reason they are hard to get is because of climate changes in the areas where suppliers grow the Christmas trees.

The Covid-related impact on shipping has made it hard to get the trees to where people want to buy them.

Don't wait! Consider buying a tree right now if you find one. Suppliers are saying that Christmas trees are selling out fast and it's going to be harder to restock them.

History of the Christmas Tree

A 16th century Renaissance legend tells how Martin Luther was walking in the woods. He saw the evergreen trees with the stars twinkling in the sky behind them. He tried to recreate the effect by putting candles in the evergreen branches.





by Abby Gronwold and Sophia Garcia

There are a lot of different places with many different ways to celebrate Christmas, but we are going to look at Mexico, Germany, Australia, Peru, Canada, Liberia, and Israel.

First up is Mexico. They sing Spanish Christmas carols, dance, and watch fireworks.

Next, we look at Germany.

Their stockings are filled with gifts on

December 6, instead of the 25th. The Christmas tree is decorated last, going up on Christmas Eve. They place an Advent wreath on the table throughout the month, and they celebrate on Christmas Eve.

In Australia... People eat decorated hams, roast turkey, roast chicken, salads, and roasted vegetables for Christmas.

And in Peru... Christmas dinner includes turkey, tamales, salads, applesauce, and a sweet bread called Panettone.

Next up is Canada. Canadians decorate the tree and exchange Christmas gifts. And on Christmas Day a special meal is prepared often including roast turkey, seasonal vegetables, mashed potatoes and gravy.

In Liberia... Liberians go caroling, put up lights, decorate Christmas trees and even paint their houses (if they don't paint them by mid-December they can be fined).

Last but not least is Israel. In Israel people take part in church services, join the Patriarchal procession to the Grotto of the Nativity (where Jesus was born), decorate a tree, buy stocking stuffers, watch the Nazareth parade, get baptized in the Jordan River, go to a liturgical concert, or dine at a Christmas banquet.

That's a quick look at Christmas around the world, with these are seven countries from Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, South America, and Australia.

Oh, and don't forget to be good this year!

Trinity Christmas Projects

by Sofia Arroyo

This year we had the Christmas door decoration competition for which class who has the best decorations on their door. Personally, this is my favorite part of the year in school.

Preschool doors featured a paper ring Christmas tree and a starlit nativity. Kindergarten used a candy cane to tell the story of Christmas. 1st & 2nd grade decorated gingerbread people.

There was a three-way tie for the WIN! First prize went to the 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, and 7th & 8th grades!

The 3th & 4th grade decorated a Christmas tree that Mr. Woods cut out for them. Speaking of trees...Trinity sponsors a Christmas tree on the Prairie Path in Villa Park. 5th & 6th created a cozy lit fireplace with Christmas stockings (it's also the entrance to the North Pole). 7th & 8th created a beautiful entrance to Christmastown! Friday was Christmas Pajamas Day and we made gingerbread houses. We also enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



The Chronicles of Trinity is a monthly newsletter produced by the 5th through 8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Illinois. The 2021-2022 staff members are: Abby, Aidan, Alex, Angel, Angelina, Grace, Ian, Joey, Josie, Lina, Mckenzie, Nathan, Riley, Sofia, and Sophia, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Solyom, journalism teacher.



New Years Traditions *by Angel Turner*

New Years is a holiday that is celebrated across the world. There are many different traditions celebrated throughout different families and countries. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes, each grape represents one of the 12 months of the year. They eat one grape at each stroke of the clock on New Year's Eve.

In the Philippines, they have a similar tradition. To wish for a year filled with luck and success, some people will eat exactly 12 fruits at midnight, and grapes are the most common fruit chosen to eat. Other families will display piles of fruit on their tables. People also will place round things throughout houses. The most common round things to find are coins.

In other countries, the new year is ushered in by carrying empty suitcases across the block. This New Years tradition is from Columbia. They do this in hope for a travel- filled year.

So when you celebrate the New Year, you might want to try one of these!



Trinity's students shared the real meaning of Christmas with two children's Christmas celebrations, one presented by the preschool & kindergarten classes and the other by the 1st through 8th grade students. Enjoy these photos from the joyous events.



Christmas Color by Number

