

The New Trinity Times

- TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL -

DECEMBER 2024

Lombard, Illinois

THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

by Ariana Mehrazar

The Christmas Service at Trinity Lutheran School is a great time to spread the word of God to those who do not know about Jesus yet. And we, Trinity's students, have come to share the message of Jesus with you. The Christmas Program will be on Thursday, December 19, 2024, and will start at 6:30 p.m. - but students must meet at the school at 6:15.

The songs in our Christmas Service will start with *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and then The Responsive Reading. We will continue with *He Has Come for Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)* by Meredith Andrews. Preschool will sing *In a Little Stable* for us. Students will sing *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, and Trinity's School Band will play the seventh verse - as we will sing verses one and four, and the congregation will sing verse seven.

[continued on page 2]



UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 19: Children's Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m.
- December 20: Hot Cocoa \$1
- December 23 - January 3: NO SCHOOL Christmas Break
- December 24: Christmas Eve Services, 3 p.m. & 10 p.m. (candlelight)
- December 25: Christmas Day Service, 10 a.m.
- January 6: School resumes, 8:15 a.m.
- January 7: Hot Lunch - Pizza
- January 8: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- January 10: Hot Cocoa \$1
- January 14: Hot Lunch - Mac 'n' Cheese
- January 15: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- January 20: NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21: Hot Lunch - Hot Dog
- January 22: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.
- January 22: National Sanctity of Human Life Day
- January 24: Hot Cocoa \$1
- January 28: Hot Lunch - Mostaccioli
- January 29: Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Trinity News & Views is a monthly newsletter created by Trinity's 5th through 8th grade Journalism students.

History of Christmas Carols and Hymns by Angelina Iverson



We sing a lot of hymns and carols during Christmas time, but do we know the history or the stories behind the making of these songs?

Silent Night, a Christmas carol, was first composed in 1818. The composer was Franz Xaver Gruber and the lyrics were by Joseph Mohr. This hymn was composed first in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. Joseph Mohr was a young priest in Austria and wrote this now beloved Christmas song after the Napoleonic wars.

Of The Father's Love Begotten is a hymn that was originally written in Latin in the 4th century. It was

written as a poem by a poet named Aurelius Prudentius. **Of The Father's Love Begotten** was initially written as **Of The Father's Heart Begotten**.

Another Christmas carol that is also very popular is **O Little Town of Bethlehem**. This carol originated as a poem written for children in Sunday school in 1868. Rector Phillips Brooks wrote this song and the music was composed by his church organist, Lewis Redner.

Comfort Comfort Ye My People was composed by a German hymn writer in 1641. Johann Gottfried turned a biblical text into verses for the hymn. He did this in honor of Saint John the Baptist.

Some of these hymns and carols are my favorite classics. Always be assured that all of these have an origin story and the real meanings go back to Jesus.

THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM [continued from page 1]

Afterwards, the children will sing verse one of *Silent Night*, and the congregation will join in on verses two and three. Again, the congregation will sing *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. Then, third through eighth Grade will sing *What Child is This*. In *Angels We Have Heard on High*, children will sing verse one, the congregation will sing verse two, and everyone will join in on the final refrain. During the offering, I will be playing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* on the piano for everyone. We will continue with Prayers, The Lord's Prayer, and the Benediction. The children will then sing *Jingle Bells*, *Christ is Born Today*. We will end with *Joy to the World*. There will also be readings between some songs.

We can't wait for the Christmas Service. The students have worked hard to sing for everyone - and so have the teachers. Dress up nicely, and we will be so happy to see you. Also, I know I'm speaking for everyone when I say this...

"MERRY CHRISTMAS!"



The Original Santa Claus: Who was St. Nicholas?

by Bobby Hawn

You all know who Santa Claus is, but how did he start? St. Nicholas was born on March 6, 270 AD. He was known for helping people, giving his inheritance to the needy, and giving money to the poor. He dedicated his life to serving God and became the Bishop of Myra. Bishop Nicholas became known for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors. Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith. He got banished and imprisoned. The prisons had been so full of Bishops, priests, and deacons, that there was no room for the real criminals! After being released, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea. Known as the one and only Santa Claus, St. Nicholas is credited with coming down chimneys at Christmas to leave presents under the Christmas tree, just as we will anticipate this Christmas.



***The real Santa Claus was a man
who loved and served Jesus Christ.***

The Real Santa Claus

by Sophia Garcia



Santa Claus is very popular in the United States, but in other countries the Christmas holiday features different people or things that represent Santa Claus. In Italy they have a witch named Befana (who does hang out with Babbo Natale - Father Christmas), in Wales there is Siôn Corn (Chimney Jack), and in Iceland it's Jólásveinn (which means Yule Man).

Santa Claus is based on St. Nicholas of Myra (modern day Turkey), who was a bishop in a small Roman town. Nicholas was known for his generosity and kindness. He helped the poor and unhappy and is credited with performing miracles. There is a very scary story about Nicholas resurrecting three children after a butcher had chopped them up and put them in a pickling barrel.

Santa was actually originally portrayed as a bishop in all green and many other colors as he did not have a certain color people saw him wearing, but after a Coca Cola advertisement in the 1920s pictured a jolly old man with rosy cheeks wearing red, it has just stuck.

What 5th-8th Grade Students Are Doing For Christmas

by Abby Pilny and Juliana Rivera

Because Christmas break is coming up, we interviewed Trinity's fifth through eighth grade students to see what they are doing over Christmas:

- Bobby - "Spending time with cousins at my grandma's house."
- Juliana - "Go over to my grandma's house and open presents with my cousins."
- Chloe - "Probably hanging around at home."
- Arian - "Sleeping, eating and playing video games."
- John - "Playing video games with my friends."
- Abby - "My grandma is coming for a while and we will probably also spend some of the break with friends."
- Ariana - "Hang out with friends, dance, play piano and so much more."
- Ava - "Nothing interesting."
- Damian - "Chill at my house."
- Addison - "Being a basement gremlin."
- Sophia - "Not sure."
- Angelina - "Going to Peru."



Christmas Recipe - Peanut Butter Snowballs by Juliana Rivera

You are going to need:

- confectioners' sugar
- peanut butter
- butter
- white candy coating
- chopped peanuts (optional)

First, in a bowl, combine the confectioners' sugar, peanut butter and softened butter. You can do this by hand with a fork. Then chill the mixture in the freezer for 30 minutes, until it has a workable texture.

Next, shape the filling into 1-inch balls and place them on a waxed paper-lined baking sheet. Freeze them for another 30 minutes, until firm.

Meanwhile, melt the candy coating in a microwave-safe bowl or on the stovetop. Dip the snowballs, one by one, into the melted candy, then place them on waxed paper to harden. If desired, sprinkle them with chopped peanuts.

You can store these peanut butter balls in white chocolate at room temperature for a surprisingly long time—up to five days. It's mainly peanut butter and sugar, after all. If you want to keep them cold, you can refrigerate them for about ten days before the sugars start to turn gritty.



Christmas Around the World

by Sophia Garcia, Angelina Iverson, and Addison Meredith

The world is a big planet full of many different places. Not all cultures celebrate Christmas in the same way though. We picked six nations around the globe: Ireland, Turkey, Spain, Japan, Norway, and Argentina. Let's learn how they celebrate Christmas.

In Ireland, people celebrate Lá Nollag which is Irish for Christmas Day. Children leave out a mince pie, or a glass of Guinness for San Nioclás (St. Nicholas) or Daidí na Nollag (Father Christmas), and then open presents in the morning. The Christmas celebrations during the day consist of celebratory eating and drinking, and exchanging gifts. The Irish also have Christmas Day swims and fun runs, and they love donating to charitable causes on Christmas.

Christmas in Spain is typically celebrated by attending midnight mass.

A tradition of eating 12 grapes for good luck is usually practiced at New Year's for a lucky year to come. In most of Spain people decorate Nativities and Christmas trees. On December 28, the Día de los Santos Inocentes, (recognizing King Herod's attempt to murder the babies when Jesus was born) which is the Spanish version of our April Fools but at a different time of year. The Christmas season in Spain doesn't end on December 25 - they continue to January 6, the Day of Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day. In honor of the Biblical wise men, men riding camels or horses in parades toss gifts to the celebrating crowd.

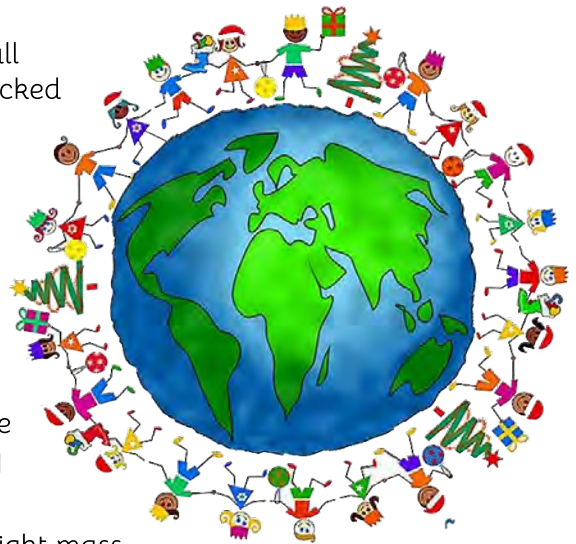
During the Christmas season in Turkey there is very little to distinguish it from any other day aside from the decorations. Some Christian churches have ceremonies and events, but this is usually only in Istanbul (Europe's most populous city!), but don't worry, children still get presents - just not on Christmas. Santa delivers their gifts on New Year's.

Christmas time in Norway is almost the same as in the United States. Most Norwegians go to church on Christmas Eve and engage in some last minute shopping. When December 25 arrives family have a dinner that is usually just attended by relatives. Each year, the Norwegians send a Christmas tree to London. This symbolizes a close friendship between the Norwegians and British.

In Argentina and a lot of other Hispanic countries, people exchange and open gifts at midnight on Christmas Eve. They place the gifts underneath a tree that is usually centered in their homes that's called El Arbolito, meaning Little Tree. The tree is decorated with many ornaments and lights just like in most homes in the United States.

In Japan, Christmas is the time for couples and friends to get together and have dinners and celebrations, and during this time they celebrate as much as they can. On January 1, the Japanese typically go to the temple, bringing food and drink offerings. Not being a Christian society, the holiday is secular rather than about Jesus.

As you can see, around the world there are so many different kinds of Christmas traditions, making it a fun time of season no matter where you go.



All I Want for Christmas... HO HO HO MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Preschool - 3 yr

Kate: Stuffed gummy bear
 Fiona: Toy cat
 Ella: Unicorn
 Oliver: Car
 Jack: Football player
 Anthony: Marble run



by Chloe Doolin

Preschool - 4 yr

Annika: Blue Santa
 Jade: Grinch
 Liana: Bella from Beauty & the Beast bag
 Wesley: Dinosaurs
 Rose: Lego city boat
 Alex: Very big shark
 Morgan: Sonic toy
 Logan: Stuffed pokemon
 Everlie: Grinch stuffed animal
 Ben: Semi Truck

Kindergarten

Avignon: Cars
 Haylee: Toy cat thing
 Alex: Toy cat
 Warren: Gaming setup
 Naomi: Stuffed cat
 Mason: Walking shoes
 Cayden: Cars
 Kinzie: Two Squishmallows, Avocado and Rose
 Elena: Little mini Brats
 Brian: New play kinchen
 Caden: Minecraft gaming setup

First and Second Grade

Lizzie: Princess suitcase
 Declan: Barbie doll house
 Kayli: Stitches stuff
 Vince: PS5 controller
 Anna: Barbie doll house
 Julia: Animagic axolotl
 Karlo: Unspeakable merch

Third and Fourth Grade

Heidi: Gift cards
 Addison: Fluffy german shepherd
 Alice: Titanic Lego set
 Adrina: Eevee plush
 Olivia: ...to see her dad
 Maya: Lego set of cars
 Kenzie: iPhone
 Trevor: PS6
 Gunner: Aircraft carrier
 Zian: PS6
 Floyd: Xbox controller
 Thomas: Geography game
 Markus: Lego Ninjago
 Jacob: Nintendo Switch with games

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Juliana: Mini backpack
 Abby: Real cat
 John: Gaming stuff or Harry Potter
 Arian: Amazon shopping card
 Bobby: Pokemon cards
 Chloe: ...my sister to come from Florida

Seventh and Eighth Grade

Ariana: Anything
 Damian: SH Figure Arts
 Sophia: Hawaiian rolls
 Angelina: Gracie Abrams "Secret Of Us"
 Deluxe Tour Tickets
 Addison: Happiness

Dear Parents:
 We hope this helps!

Advent and Christmas by Ariana Mehrazar

Advent is here - one of the most important seasons of the Church Year - and so is Christmas. At Trinity Lutheran Church and School, our church is decorated in blue. As you can see in the photo, the banners say "JOY," "PEACE ON EARTH," and on the far left, it reads "HOPE." (From left to right). We are glad to have this in our church, and hope you will come to celebrate in person - you can then see for yourself.



Everyone has something specific they like about Advent and Christmas. Here is what Trinity's Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth grade students are excited about.

Fifth Grade and Sixth Grade:

Bobby: "For Advent, church, and for Christmas spending time with cousins!"

Chloe: "In Advent I want to be able to have fun, and for Christmas, celebrate my birthday."

Juliana: "I'm excited for Advent leading up to Christmas."

Arian: "For Advent church services, and for Christmas, presents."

John: "I'm not excited for Advent, but for Christmas I'm excited for presents under my Christmas Tree"

Abby: "To have Christmas break and time off in school."

Seventh and Eighth Grade:

Addison: "Watching each candle light up in Advent, and Christmas break."

Ariana: "In Advent, we get to talk about Jesus coming back, and in Christmas I get to see family and friends - and the Christmas Program."

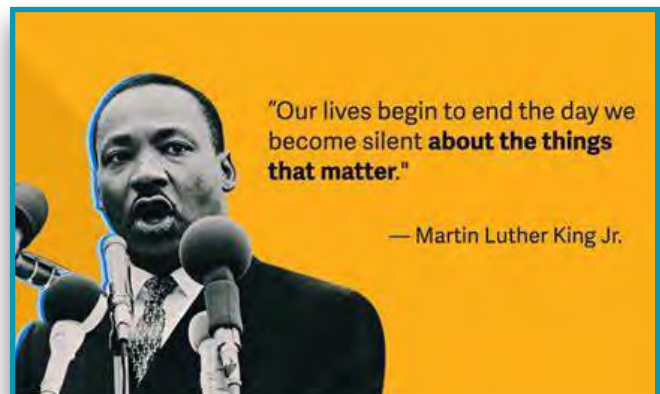
Ava: "I'm excited to sing in Advent, see family in Christmas, and the Christmas Program in General."

Damian: "Nothing for Advent, and sleeping for Christmas."

Sophia: "Christmas break."

Angelina: "We get to go to church in school, and for Christmas to see my family."

January is Sanctity of Human Life Month: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 20



Harry Potter Lore

by Damian Gomez and John Doerries



This is the beginning of the Harry Potter lore. It begins in the books but I've only watched the movies. So I can only explain the movie lore. It begins with a young boy who was nearly a newborn baby and his parents died

due to an evil man. That man's name is a name that not many people would dare to speak, but some people who are powerful say his full name, Voldemort. If, however, you would like to say his full name it's Tom Marvolo Riddle. Harry Potter is the baby. Voldemort decided to spare the child but left him marked with a lightning bolt scar on his head.

Then when Harry gets dropped off at a house, where the people are called Muggles. In the Harry Potter world, Muggles are people that have no magic. Harry gets older and visits a zoo with his "family." They visit the snake exhibit and the glass disappears because of Harry's inborn magic, Harry is unaware of what he has done. His cousin Dudley falls into the snake exhibit, but the snake leaves and Harry realized that the snake could talk to him! The snake uttered "thanks" and then left. Then the glass reappeared and Dudley was stuck in the exhibit. As a result, letters came to his home, along with card for Harry - an invitation to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (a boarding school of magic for young wizards). But his " family" rejected the letter. More correspondence came via the mail - the Dad boarded up the mailbox. Next the mail came through the chimney. Harry caught one and read it. The family moved to escape this, to a house in the middle of the water. Someone arrived to bang on the door - and broke it open. It was a giant man with a beard, and a letter for Harry Potter in his hand. He introduced himself as "Hagrid." And that's just the beginning...

*There are seven books in the original series and a total of **11 movies** in the Harry Potter franchise.*

From the Editor:

"The key to the popularity of the Harry Potter books is not that they are fantasies—there have been many of those that are not nearly so popular—but that they are stories about school. Children read about Hogwarts Academy with a sense of recognition...If the book spoke only of wizards—a profession found only in fantasy books—rather than the clear-and-present danger of witchcraft, most of the problems would evaporate. Christian parents are right to steer their children away from the series. But, if the Potter bug has already bitten their children, they should handle the situation with care. Parents need to make clear that Christians are not Muggles. In other words, Christianity is not a narrow, materialistic, boring worldview such as the one satirized in the Potter novels. It is Christianity that recognizes unseen truths of goodness and beauty and that believes in a genuine battle between the forces of darkness and the forces of light." - excerpted from [The Case of Harry Potter](#) by Gene Edward Veith, Lutheran Witness, 2002

BILLIE EILISH

by Sophia Garcia , Angelina iverson, and Addison Meredith

On November 13, we were blessed enough to be able to attend Billie Eilish's concert at the United Center. This was the most magical concert experience ever, and was such a fun night.

Billie Eilish (full name Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell) was born on December 18, 2001 at 12:17 p.m. in Los Angeles, California. Billie was homeschooled, and that is where she found her love for music. She would write songs with her older brother Finneas. Finneas also makes his own music.

Billie Eilish was very religious growing up, even though her parents were not. As she grew up she became less religious and followed the path of her parents, who didn't believe in anything. Billie, however, says she is open to the idea of believing in something.

The song that gave Billie her big break was *Ocean Eyes*. This song was given to her by her brother. Finneas wrote the song and thought Billie would perform it better so he let her have it.

Billie loves the planet. Even at her concert she had a message before the show persuading people to join her and pledge to eat one plant based meal for 30 days to help climate change so there will be a better future for future generations. Her merch, like records and t-shirts along with other concert gear, is made from recycled plastics and polyester and offered at all of her shows.

Billie Eilish is funny, interesting, and a kind person. And the music she creates is amazing and beautiful, so give her music a listen and watch some interviews because she is a very unique and interesting person.



Editor's Note: *Billie Eilish is indeed creative - that gift was given to her by God, the Almighty Creator, something that she seemed to realize in her younger years. We pray that this young lady will come to know and honor the Lord who created her, and that one day she might use her considerable talents to honor Him.*



A DAY TO REMEMBER by Damian Gomez

December 7, 1941 was supposed to be a relaxing day for the military soldiers at Hawaii Pearl Harbor naval base but then Japanese fighter planes zoomed in and attacked the United States Pacific fleet. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander in chief of the Japanese naval forces and architect of the Pearl Harbor attack, didn't want a fight with America. But much of Europe and Asia, including Japan, was already involved in World War II at the time. Yamamoto wanted to take over certain countries in southeastern Asia and use their oil to help fuel Japan's military vehicles and naval fleet. But The U.S base in Hawaii was close to the countries they targeted. So on November 26, 1941, 31 warships carrying fighter planes and bombers slipped from Pacific. They moved on the Hawaiian Islands. made a loop around the "Pearl Harbor sleeps."

On December 7, 350 waves from Japan's dropped bombs on while the fighter planes targeted the U.S. aircraft on the ground so they couldn't fight back. Following both attacks, 19 U.S. naval vessels were sunk or damaged; 188 aircraft were destroyed. In all, 2,280 servicemen and women were killed, 1,109 were wounded. Sixty-eight civilians—people who are not in the military—also lost their lives. The attack lasted just under two hours.

The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan, officially entering World War II. In the nearly four years that followed, the U.S. Navy sank all of the Japanese aircraft carriers, battleships, and cruisers that participated in the Pearl Harbor attack. Today, visitors can tour the Pearl Harbor National Monument *[pictured at right]*, built on the water above the wreckage of the U.S.S. Arizona, one of the eight battleships attacked and damaged during the fight. From there you can still glimpse the remains of the sunken ship 40 feet below the water, a memorial to the brave people who fought in this important battle.



Meet Miss Emma by Arian Gomez

Emily Litaker serves as part of Trinity's Extended Care team, where she frequently serves alongside her sister, Miss Lauren.

Q: *What's your favorite car?*

A: A Dodge Challenger in **Cherry Red**

Q: *What's your favorite activity?*

A: Going for walk

Q: *What are your goals for the next year?*

A: Get a new car, get rich!

Q: *What's going to be your New Year's resolution?*

A: Make more money

Q: *What's your favorite food?*

A: Salad

Q: *What is your favorite Bible verse?*

A: Psalm 45:6, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness"

Q: *What are your thoughts on the Tesla Cybertruck?*

A: I don't like it

Q: *What's your favorite number?*

A: 7

Q: *What's your favorite color?*

A: **Red**

Q: *Who's your favorite musical artist?*

A: Morgan Wallen

Q: *What's your favorite song?*

A: *Spin You Around* (by Morgan Wallen)

Q: *What's your current car?*

A: A Toyota Camry

Q: *What's your favorite movie?*

A: Elf



Bye Bye Miss Emily *by Abby Pilny and Addison Meredith*



Emily Bramos became a part of Trinity when her mother, Julie Messina, a Trinity teacher and principal until Spring 2023, began serving at Trinity in 2018. Miss Emily has been a Summer Camp teacher here and on staff as a preschool aide since January 2024.

Q: Why are you leaving Trinity?

A: I have to take an internship.

Q: Where will you be interning?

A: I don't know yet, but hopefully, it will be in an interior design firm.

Q: Where will you go next?

A: After my internship I will seek to get a full time job at a residential design firm

Q: What will you miss most about Trinity?

A: I will miss the cute preschoolers, and miss their very unique personalities.

Q: What has been your favorite part about teaching at Trinity in Miss Kraegel's class?

A: The kids' reactions to when they learn something new - and all of their questions.

Q: What excites you most about your future?

A: Pursuing a career, and not only that but being able to be creative.

Q: What is a piece of advice you want Trinity students to know before you leave?

A: The more effort you put in - the bigger the reward.

Q: What is your new year's resolution?

A: To start off my career successfully and to accomplish learning how to do Cricut® projects.

Q: What is your dream vacation?

A: My dream vacation is to be on the beach in Bora Bora.

Q: Do you have any hidden talents?

A: I am a quick learner.

Q: If you were to eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?

A: My Nonna's spaghetti.

Q: Did you have a favorite preschool toy to play along with the preschoolers?

A: Magnet tiles or anything you build, because being an interior designer, we like to design.

We will
miss you

The World's Ugliest Animal by Ava Harrison



The blobfish was voted the world's ugliest animal. What scientists didn't know was the fish they voted for as the ugliest animal was its corpse. Now why does this make a difference? A blobfish lives in waters as deep as 4,000 feet so it lives in an area of high pressure and taking it out of that high pressure area to our pressure area mutates the fish. That's how we get that blobfish photo we see at left.

A blobfish has no bones because the crushing depth gives it the support needed and it barely has any muscles because it just hangs around and catches food from the ocean floor. So when taken out of that depth it mutates and dies and is in extreme pain until it dies.

When marine biologists first discovered the blobfish they studied it and they thought that's what it always looked like not realizing that the creature mutated when taken out of the correct depth.

Fun facts about blobfish you probably didn't know:

- They can control their buoyancy with their skin.
- They are native to Oceania.
- They don't have a swim bladder because the pressure of the ocean would cause it to burst (a swim bladder is an internal gas filled organ that helps modulate buoyancy and is found in most bony fish).
- They don't have brains.
- They can live to be up to 130 years old.



Blobfish don't have scales, instead they have loose flabby skin. They possess large black eyes, along with a sizable mouth and nose, and they have a head that makes up about 40% of its body mass. Blobfish also have a single closed circulatory system - meaning they have at least one heart and a network of enclosed blood vessels.

There is a lot of cool information to learn about blobfish: the world's ugliest animal.

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Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over **the fish of the sea** and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Genesis 1:26

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Nativity Word Search

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| M | G | D | B | A | D | R | E | H | P | E | H | S | L | M |
| D | T | M | Y | R | R | H | J | H | P | Q | M | I | O | D |
| S | T | H | I | I | L | D | W | E | X | Y | N | A | F | U |
| E | M | G | R | R | G | I | C | Y | S | A | E | R | R | B |
| Z | A | A | C | E | S | H | E | U | T | U | A | V | E | Y |
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| A | P | O | M | Y | N | K | V | S | K | A | H | A | O | R |
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- ANGELS
- BETHLEHEM
- DONKEY
- FRANKINCENSE
- GOLD
- JESUS
- JOSPEH

- LAMB
- MANGER
- MARY
- MYRRH
- NATIVITY
- SHEPHERD
- STAR

- THREE KINGS
- WISE MEN



The New Trinity Times is a monthly newsletter produced by the 5th through 8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Illinois. The 2024-2025 staff members are: Addison, Abigail, Angelina, Arian, Ariana, Ava, Bobby, Chloe, Damian, John, Juliana, and Sophia, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Solyom, journalism teacher.