

Trinity News & Views

- TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL -

DECEMBER 2020

Lombard, Illinois



Santa's Mailbox

by Abby Gronwold

One of Trinity's preschoolers, Kenzie Heckinger (*pictured at left*), and her mom, Kelly, were featured on the WGN news! An anonymous Villa Park resident has made a mailbox for Santa so that children can put their letters for him in it. In return, he brings each child a little gift and some reindeer food on the night before Christmas Eve. The opportunity teaches children life lessons, such as being thankful for what you have and remembering what you were thankful for. There could be as many as 500 letters delivered to this local Santa before Christmas. This is a fun little thing to do to get into the Christmas spirit. Santa's Mailbox is located at 550 South Princeton Avenue in Villa Park. If you want to make sure Santa gets your letter, here is the place to do it. Have a great Christmas and New Year!

Our Christmas Celebration

by Kyren Spencer

Trinity's Christmas program will be different this year. We can't gather and sing as usual. We have not been able to do since COVID-19 began to spread. But you can still sing (at home or in your hearts!). And it can be great to sing for Christmas because it is the birth of Jesus. That is the point of the Christmas program and I think it would be better to sing inside school, but this year we won't.



Trinity Lutheran School Christmas Program will not be live and in person this year

The prerecorded celebration will debut online at TrinityLombard.org during the weekend of December 19-20. The difference this year is due to social-distancing efforts to help curb the spread of COVID-19. Mrs. Messina shared, "This year's Christmas program will not be a live program, but it will have the same love and message from the students and staff." Miss Rachel added, "This is a little different this year but we are trying to have fun with it. Instead of dressing up and singing, we are going to have fun with our ABCs and some Christmas props." Here is what the different classrooms are doing for the program: The 3rd through 8th grade will be performing a Christmas skit with each classroom presenting a different scene in the skit, 1st and 2nd grade will focus on Advent, Kindergarten will share the story of the first Christmas, and preschool will present The ABCs of Christmas. Trinity thanks all who helped with this program, including Pastor Wagner who served as video editor. Trinity invites you to share the video with friends and family and reminds us all to keep Christ in Christmas and in our hearts. **Merry Christmas!**

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

Christmas Around the World

by Aidan Harrison

There are so many ways to celebrate Christmas. Traditional ways might include eating home cooked foods, helping those in need, baking, and decorating your house, putting up a Christmas evergreen tree hung with ornaments and lights, drinking eggnog, leaving Santa milk and cookies, giving naughty kids coal, and (for grown-ups) kissing under the mistletoe.



In the **Netherlands**, December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day (children find gifts and candies in their shoes).

St. Nicholas Day is also celebrated in **Austria**, where children are afraid of Krampus, who scares those who have been bad. In **Austria** and **Germany**, families light Advent Wreaths. It's a festive time when they put up their Christmas trees and a famous holiday event in both countries is a ski jumping challenge event.

In **Japan**, Kentucky Fried Chicken is a popular Christmas dinner!

In **Africa** the main focus on Christmas is going to church. Kwanzaa, the African-American cultural celebration that follows Christmas is really only celebrated in the United States.

There are many Christmas traditions around the world.

FUN FACT: Many people credit Martin Luther, with the tradition of the Christmas tree. The story tells how Luther was walking in the woods and saw the stars shining through the trees. Wanting to recreate the effect, he cut down an evergreen, placed it in his home and put candles in it to recreate the starlight adorning the branches. A pretty reminder of Jesus' birth, the tree is also a symbol of His death on the cross. Is it true? No one knows for sure - but it could be!



Tasty Christmas Traditions

by Abby Schnittker

Christmas is all about bringing your family together and remembering the day that Jesus was born. But, the way that our families can celebrate this wonderful holiday can be very different. For example, my grandma is Catholic and she makes fish and other tasty Polish food for Christmas. It doesn't mean that her devotion for Jesus is any less. The way people celebrate Jesus' birth can be very distinct from the more traditional way of celebrating it. But, that's what makes peoples' traditions special. This year, one way that you can celebrate Christmas is baking cookies with Mom, or meeting on a video call with your extended family. You can even try making a different kind of food than what you would usually eat for Christmas. Get creative, stay safe, and have fun.

Christmas Break

Students will be dismissed for Christmas break at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 18. There is no aftercare on that day. School will resume on Tuesday morning, January 5, 2021.

Have Fun - Be Safe!

Homemade How To: Christmas Decorations

by Amelie Harrison

As Christmas approaches many people put up lights and trees. Christmas decorations such as fancy lights and blowup snowmen and other decorations can be costly and are not always targeted for "kid assembly" without supervision. So why not make your own Christmas decorations? Making homemade Christmas decorations saves money and is convenient for almost every age.

One homemade Christmas decoration is a paper chain. This is a simple craft that only requires paper of any color (I suggest Christmas colors such as red and green), glue, and scissors. To start, cut rectangular paper strips of any thickness, based on how thick you want the chains. Then glue the ends together, making a loop. You're then going to repeat but alternate the position between horizontal and vertical. You want each loop to be looped with the next loop so they connect. Once you've done this a couple of times you'll start to form a chain. You can repeat until you've reached your desired length. You can also make alternating color patterns and you can even color designs on the paper strips before starting. There are many fun ways to customize your paper chain! Once you're done you can hang it inside your house anywhere you desire.

Another homemade Christmas decoration is a Christmas tree ornament (*pictured above*). To make this ornament you need paper, glue, scissors, marker/crayons or colored pencils, string and if you wish, colored beads. To begin, cut a long, semi-thick paper about 3" wide. You need eleven strips of paper, and they should decrease in length from 3" on down to 1/2" in width (3", 2 3/4", 2 1/2", 2 1/4", 2", 1 3/4", 1 1/2", 1 1/4", 1", 3/4", 1/2"). You can color the paper beforehand but this is optional. Take the widest strip and roll it long ways and glue it. You should have a 3" long roll of paper. Do this with every strip. Once all the strips are in rolls glue them in a flat triangular shape with the rolls from longest at the bottom to second shortest at the top. You should have a triangle-like shape that looks like a tree. Take the shortest roll and glue it under the tree like a stump and glue. If desired you can glue on colored beads as ornaments and glue a string to the top so you can hang it on your tree.

Homemade Christmas decorations are a fun and easy way to decorate for the Christmas season.



'Tis the Season by Naomi Pulli

It is that time again. That time we all know and love. The time of laughter and joy for it is Christmas season here to stay for only a few weeks or so. The smells and sounds have already started after that one night on October 31st. It is now time to be joyful and merry instead of frightening and scary. It is filled with lights and candy, and all things nice with a touch of snow here and there. The tree is put up and the stockings are hung waiting to be filled with little things of love. For it is Christmas season, a time for holiday joy.

Favorite Christmas Carols and Hymns

by Joe Fitak

Joy to the World

Joy to the World was written by a 15-year-old boy named Isaac Watts. When he was in church he was tired of listening to Psalms over and over. He complained to a church leader, who challenged Isaac come up with something better. He did. **Joy to the World** is based on the last half of Psalm 98.

Silent Night

Silent Night was written by Josef Mohr who was a pastor of the Church of St. Nicholas at Oberndorf. He went outside and when he look at the wintery night sky, he was inspired to create the song that has become a favorite around the world.

O Holy Night

O Holy Night is was composed by a French poet, a socialist, and put to music by his Jewish friend. When the politics of the creators were revealed, the song was banned in France. It was eventually published in the United States, and eventually was popularized throughout France too.

What I'm Doing Over Christmas Break

by Carli Highberger

Christmas break is one of my favorite times of the year. Mostly because I love Christmas - it's my favorite time of the year. What's yours? Over Christmas break I have many things planned. Because we are all trying to safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, and my extended family lives in Iowa, we are going to join together on an online Zoom call while we eat. We are going to make our favorite foods instead of a traditional Christmas dinner. We also did this at Thanksgiving. But over Thanksgiving we also played a Thanksgiving Kahoot! game online. Now we have all downloaded an app that allows us to play games together, like Uno, Gold Fish, and Spoons, even though we are not together in person. I'm sure we will do other activities over Christmas break that are not planned yet, but I know it is going to be fun!



All About Advent *by Ian Lesch*

This year Trinity's Advent Midweek church services were livestreamed for the people who could not be there in person. There were not as many people as in previous years because we have had to practice social distancing.

SOME THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT ADVENT:

- The word ADVENT comes from the Latin word for "coming." This is a time when we focus on Christ's past coming as the Baby Jesus and His future coming at the end of the world.
- Advent is the beginning of the church year and its traditional color is blue for HOPE.
- Martin Luther encouraged families to observe Advent as a time for them to teach their children about the coming of Christ.

TRINITY'S FINAL ADVENT SERVICE IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 1 P.M. Join us online for the livestreamed service on Facebook @TrinityLombard or on TrinityLombard.org.



Trinity's Prairie Path Christmas Tree

by Nathan Pulli

Every year on the Prairie Path there are Christmas trees decorated by the community. Trinity sponsors a tree and it would be a fun project to decorate. Students and teachers could come and we could serve hot chocolate or cookies, while we decorate the tree!

NOTE: Trinity students picked up tree trimming kits (pictured at left) to create garlands for the Trinity's Prairie Path tree. Trinity also hangs hats, gloves, scarves and socks for the homeless on the tree.



The Real Santa Claus

by Kate Schreiman

The real Santa Claus was a man who loved Jesus.

Did you know that the real Santa Claus was a man named St. Nicholas? He was a Christian man from the 4th century. He was a father of children and the Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. His parents died and left him a lot of money. Once a man who had children, but not a lot of money, and there was a possibility the children would be sold as slaves. The day one of his daughters was set to sold, she woke up to find a lump in her stocking. When she looked inside, she saw gold! The daughter was now saved from becoming a slave! The father wanted to find out who was putting the gold in their stockings. When he finally saw who it was he was shocked. It was St. Nicholas! He continued to do that for other families too. Everyone loved Nicholas. After he died, everyone told stories of the good things he had done for them.

Learn more at: StNicholasCenter.org



Favorite Christmas Recipes:

by Riley Baker (Source: AllRecipes.com)

Old Fashioned Gingerbread

Prep: 25 mins Cook: 1 hr Additional: 20 mins Total: 1 hr 45 mins Servings: 9 Yield: 1 9-inch square cake

Ingredients

- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup butter
- 1 egg
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup hot water

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour a 9-inch square pan.
- In a large bowl, cream together the sugar and butter. Beat in the egg, and mix in the molasses.
- In a bowl, sift together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. Blend into the creamed mixture. Stir in the hot water. Pour into the prepared pan.
- Bake 1 hour in the preheated oven, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool in pan before serving.

Aunt Teen's Creamy Chocolate Fudge

Prep: 10 mins Cook: 20 mins Total: 30 mins Servings: 48

Ingredients

- 1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow creme
- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- ⅔ cup evaporated milk
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- ½ cup chopped nuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

- Line an 8x8 inch pan with aluminum foil. Set aside.
- In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine marshmallow cream, sugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt.
- Bring to a full boil, and cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.
- Remove from heat and pour in semisweet chocolate chips and milk chocolate chips. Stir until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in nuts and vanilla. Pour into prepared pan. Chill in refrigerator for 2 hours, or until firm.

Linda's Cranberry Cookies

Prep: 20 mins Cook: 10 mins Additional: 30 mins Total: 1 hr Servings: 36 Yield: 3 dozen

Ingredients

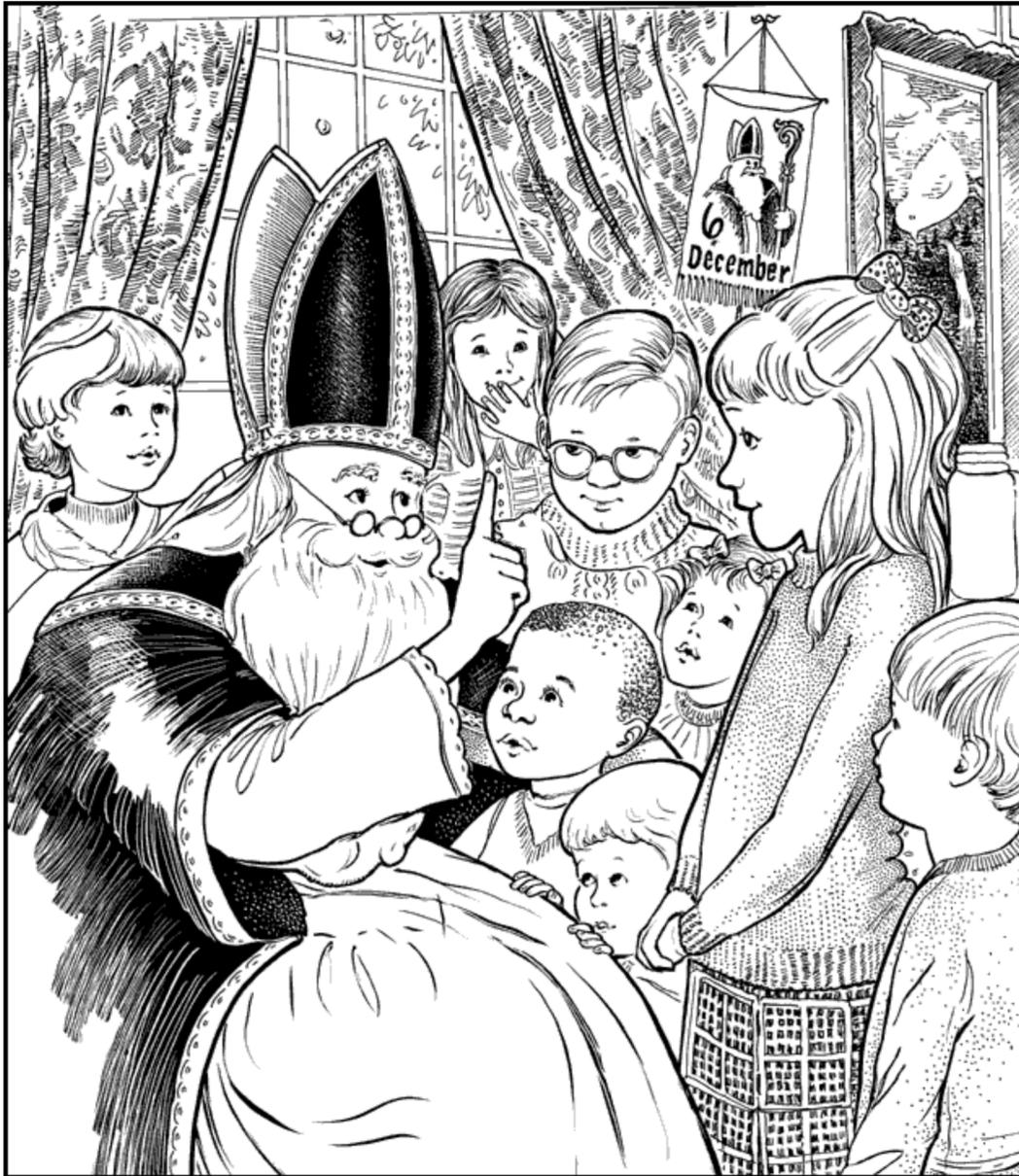
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup butter
- ¼ cup white sugar
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 (3.5 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 (6 ounce) package white chocolate chips and ½ (6 ounce) package dried cranberries

Directions

- Line an 8x8 inch pan with aluminum foil. Set aside.
- In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine marshmallow cream, sugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt.
- Bring to a full boil, cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.
- Remove from heat and pour in semisweet chocolate chips and milk chocolate chips. Stir until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in nuts and vanilla. Pour into prepared pan. Chill in refrigerator for 2 hours, or until firm.

St. Nicholas Day

Can you find these hidden pictures in the big picture?



horse



leaf



crab



crown



cat



boot



bird



question mark



mouse



glove



saltshaker



birdhouse



jar



sailboat



waffle iron



chick

One more Recipe from Riley:

by Riley Baker (Source: AllRecipes.com)

Layered Peppermint Bark

Prep: 30 mins Additional: 55 mins Total: 1 hr 25 mins Servings: 32 Yield: 2 pounds

Ingredients

- 20 ounces white chocolate, coarsely chopped, divided
- 30 peppermint candies, crushed, divided
- 10 ounces dark chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 6 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon peppermint extract

Directions

- Line a 9x12 inch baking pan with aluminum foil or parchment paper.
- Melt half of the white chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching. Spread the white chocolate into the prepared pan. Sprinkle 1/4 of the crushed peppermints evenly over white chocolate. Chill until firm, about 15 minutes.
- Meanwhile, melt the dark chocolate, heavy cream, and peppermint extract together in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently, until just melted. Quickly pour the chocolate layer over the chilled white chocolate layer; spread evenly. Chill until firm, about 20 minutes.
- Meanwhile, melt the remaining white chocolate in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently, until just melted. Spread quickly over the chilled bark. Sprinkle with the remaining peppermint pieces; chill until firm, about 20 minutes. Cut or break into small pieces to serve.

This Christmas,
celebrate what is certain
in uncertain times...

the birth of
CHRIST

Trinity Lutheran Church
In-Person Services (masks required & temperatures scanned):
Christmas Eve - 3 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight - 9 p.m. (also livestreamed on Facebook @TrinityLombard)
Christmas Day - 10 a.m.

trinitylombard.org - Roosevelt & Meyers Rds - Lombard - 630.629.8765

In-Person Advent & Christmas Services:

Wednesday, December 16

- Advent Service: 1 p.m. (also livestreamed)

Thursday, December 24, 2020

- In-person Christmas Eve Family Service: 3 p.m.
- In-person Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 9 p.m. (also livestreamed)

Friday, December 25, 2020

- In-person Christmas Day Service: 10 a.m.