

The New Trinity Times

- TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL -

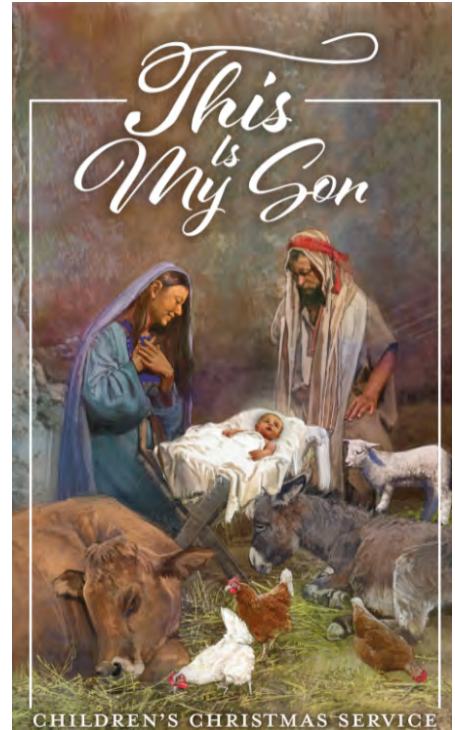
DECEMBER 2023

Lombard, Illinois

TONIGHT: *Trinity Children's Christmas Service* **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** by Ariana Mehrazar

The Children's Christmas Service is presented annually at Trinity Lutheran School, and when we start practicing during school hours, everyone knows that the service is soon! The Christmas Service helps us spread the Word of Christ and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior! Though, old or new, all students need to know where to go and when to get there. Here's what you need to know about when to bring your children. Students should arrive between **6 and 6:15 p.m.** Do **NOT** arrive earlier than that, as the doors will be locked. Parents will go into the sanctuary, where the service is being held. Students will meet in their classrooms.

Read more about the service on the next page



UPCOMING EVENTS

by Ariana Mehrazar

- December 19: Trinity Lutheran School Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m.
- December 25-January 5: NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
- January 7: Trinity Back-to-School from Christmas Break Night, 4-6 p.m. FREE Paying for College Workshop with Pizza Dinner
- January 8: SCHOOL RESUMES, 8:15 a.m.
- January 12: Hot Cocoa & Cookies for a \$1
- January 15: NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 22-26: MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing
- January 28: Tivia4Bibles fundraiser with Pizza Dinner, 4-7 p.m.

a night that changed the world

Celebrate the Birth of CHRIST

Christmas Eve:
9 a.m.*, 3 p.m. & 10 p.m.*
*livestreamed via Facebook@TrinityLombard

Christmas Day:
10 a.m.

Weekly Services
- Sundays 9 a.m.
- Monday 6 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran School
For children age 3 through 8th grade



Trinity Lutheran Church
Roosevelt & Westmore-Meyers Roads • Lombard
630.629.8765 • trinitylombard.org

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

More About Trinity Children's Christmas Service by Ariana Mehrazar

The name of the Christmas Service is "This is My Son." It was written and directed by Mrs. Patricia Perez, Trinity's 3rd and 4th grade teacher. Trinity's Music, Band, and Piano teacher, Miss Samantha Rose, and Trinity's Music Director and Organist, Mr. Kurt Linstead, and Pastor, Rev. Steve Wagner, have all worked with the students and teachers to present this Christmas service.

Here are the songs we're singing (in order):

For the beginning, (when the students enter), we sing *O Come Little Children*

Music through service, sung by the students and the congregation), includes...

- *Christmastime*
- *In this Precious Baby Boy*
- *Little Baby Jesus*
- *Of the Father's Love Begotten*
- *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
- *Away in a Manger*
- *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
- *Silent Night*
- *O Come All Ye Faithful*

At the end, as the students walk out, we all be sing *Joy to the World*.

Musical highlights include a student solo during the song *Christmastime*.

*Scenes from practice for "This is My Son" -
Trinity Lutheran School Children's Christmas Service*



Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Service:

Sunday, December 24 - 9 a.m. (Central), *3 p.m. (Central), Candlelight - 10 p.m. (Central)* - IN PERSON

Christmas Service:

Monday, December 25 - 10 a.m. (Central) - IN PERSON

*livestreamed on Facebook @TrinityLombard or trinitylombard.org



About Advent *by Abigail Pilny*

Advent takes place in the time before Christmas. It lasts four weeks and four Sundays. This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent is actually on Christmas Eve. Advent is a season that we celebrate, knowing Jesus is coming. In our school, we have about one hour of church instead of 40 minutes of chapel. There is an Advent wreath with candles. The pink candle stands for joy (and is first lit on the Third Sunday of Advent), one of the blue candles stands for hope, another blue candle symbolizes preparation, the last blue candle stands for love, and the white candle (often called the Christ candle) stands for purity, regeneration, godliness, light and victory. Advent is the first season of the church year, just like January is the first month of the calendar year. Each year, it begins the church calendar, you get through it and you start all over again.

From the Latin word for "coming," Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ Triumphant. Furthermore, Advent is a time to focus on His present coming to us in the Word and Sacraments. - LCMS.org

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

by Sophia Garcia, Angelina Iverson, and Addison Meredith

Christmas is very popular in Japan, many Japanese people make it a tradition to eat fried chicken. It is also seen as a couples day rather than a day for family, many couples can be seen going on dates or taking walks. There is generally no connection to Christianity or the birth of the Christ Child.

On Christmas Eve, in Poland, the Poles don't eat or drink alcohol and it is tradition to fast on Christmas Eve. The Polish faithful put hay under their tablecloths to represent Jesus' birth in a manger.

In Germany, families gather around the table for a heart warming meal, attend church, the children will play with their new toys, and they will light the last candle on the Advent wreath.

On the eve of Saint Nicholas Day, December 6, in Holland, children leave out carrots and hay in their wooden shoes then go to sleep. The next morning the carrots and hay in the shoes have been replaced with toys and candy. To the glee of the Dutch children, Saint Nicholas has also placed toys and candy in tiny hiding places in the house (including their shoes)!

In China, Christmas is more commercialized because it is new holiday from the west and doesn't have the religious cultural significance that it does in most of Europe. The commercialism drives people to go to stores and buy things. Most Chinese people do not know about the real meaning of Christmas but they do celebrate it.



Christmas Crafts *by Roscoe Barnett*

Christmas crafts eliminate any opportunity to be bored. They bring out creativity and can be really cool and fun. Even very active people can enjoy time to relax with crafts. It's a great activity to do while spending time with friends.

Sock Snowman

Materials:

- 1 white men's sock
- 1 patterned or colored sock
- 3 cups uncooked rice
- rubber bands
- hot glue gun
- glue sticks for glue gun
- funnel
- cotton swab (q-tip)
- fabric scissors (or kitchen shears)
- 2 tiny black buttons or beads
- 1 small piece of orange pipe cleaner (chenille stem)
- small accent buttons
- fabric or ribbon for scarf
- 1 mini pom-pom or cotton ball
- powdered blush or pink chalk



Instructions

1. Use fabric scissors to cut straight across the white sock under the heel. Keep the bottom portion and discard the top. Turn sock inside out.
2. Place funnel inside the sock, then add about 3 cups of uncooked rice inside the sock. Plop the sock down a few times to stretch it out to fit more rice inside. This will make the snowman nice and plump and firm. Close off the top with a rubber band, then use another rubber band to create the head. Trim the excess sock from the top if necessary.
3. Cut a few inches off from the toe of a patterned or colored sock to make the hat. Cut another straight line just underneath the heel of the same sock to make the sweater. Place the hat on the snowman's head and the sweater on its' body.
4. With an adult's help, use hot glue to hold the hat and sweater in place, then add pom-pom to the top of the hat.
5. Hot glue two tiny black buttons to make the snowman's eyes. Cut a small piece of orange pipe cleaner, then use hot glue to press it into the sock for the snowman's nose. If you'd like your snowman to have rosy cheeks, dip a cotton swab into pink blush and gently press it onto the snowman's cheeks.
6. Hot glue buttons onto the snowman's sweater. For a scarf, then cut a long strip of fabric or ribbon, tie it around your snowman's neck and hot glue in place. Use scissors to create fringe on the scarf ends.

Our Classmate's Favorite Christmas Movies *by Ava Harrison and Addison Meredith*

Whether you like a classic Christmas movie like *The Grinch*, *Elf*, or something else, we think you will something here to enjoy:
 Abby: *Christmas Chronicles* - Addison & Roscoe: *Christmas Vacation*
 Aidan, Angelina & Damian: *Home Alone* - Arian: *Home Alone 2*
 Ariana: *Elf* - Ava: *Christmas with the Kranks* - Francesco: *Krampus*
 Sophia: *A Christmas Story*



THE REAL SANTA CLAUS

The real Santa Claus was a man who loved Jesus. St. Nicholas was a Christian man who lived in the 4th century. A father of children and the Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor in the area that is now the southern coast of Turkey, Nicholas inherited a fortune from his parents. Legend tells how a poor man had three daughters, each of which was set to be sold as a servant. As each of the girls was set to be sold, she woke up to find a lump of gold in her stocking, saving her from a life of servitude. Nicholas did many kind things throughout his life, and as the legends of his good deeds grew, he eventually came to be identified as the Christmas figure that is today called Santa Claus, which is of course, a shortened version of Saint Nicholas.

Learn more at:
StNicholasCenter.org



Favorite Christmas Hymns and Carols

by Ariana Mehrazar

A survey of classmates highlighted some beautiful classic hymns and colorful seasonal song choices.

7th & 8th grade:

Angelina: Silent Night and Last Christmas

Sophia: Mary Did you Know and Carol of the Bells

Aidan: Silent Night and Snowman

Tyler: Silent Night and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

5th and 6th:

Ava: Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Silver Bells

Ariana: Magnificat and Carol of the Bells

Abby: What Child is This and All I Want for Christmas is You

Addison: Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Silver Bells

Damian: Hark The Herald Angels Sing and Christmastime

Roscoe: O Come All Ye Faithful and The Chipmunk Song

Arian: Joy to the World and Jingle Bells

Francesco: O Little Town of Bethlehem and Dominick the Donkey

Christmas sweaters and seasonal scenes!



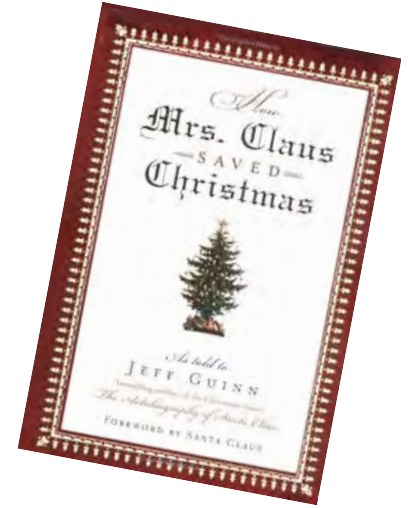
Christmas Book Review:

How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas by Jeff Guinn

by Addison Meredith

The book, *How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas* is a story about, you guessed it, how Mrs. Claus saved Christmas. The book is very interesting and well written, in my opinion. The story tells how Mrs. Claus grew up and wanted to give gifts to less fortunate people, and how, while distributing gifts one night, she bumped into Santa (or St. Nicholas as he is called in the book). This fictional story is based on real historical events in 17th century Europe. The author shares that a group of people called protagonists wanted to ban Christmas. The book

explains how whoever is helping St. Nicholas moves faster than normal people, and also how they stop getting older. Fun fact: this story credits St. Nicholas and all of the people who were helping with their gift giving mission with inventing candy canes. It is true they wanted a small candy to give to people and mint candy was very popular but hard to find at the time, so they made them, and turned into what you know today as candy canes. The book, *How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas*, very very interesting, adventurous, soulful, happy, and joyful. If you are looking for a good book to read over Christmas break, check out Jeff Guinn's *How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas*.



BEST CHRISTMAS MOVIES

by Angelina Iverson

December has now started, and in my house, it's the start of Christmas. We put up decorations, get cozy, but most importantly - we watch Christmas movies!



There is a Christmas Movie for all the days of December and many more, but there are a couple that are a bit more preferable than others. You can either save these for when it gets closer to the 25th or to watch right away.

Elf is one of the best and most popular Christmas movies in my opinion. It is family friendly and has a lot of excitement in it. *Christmas With The Kranks* is a comedy with a lot of adventure. Another popular

Christmas movie to watch in our class is A

Christmas Story. *A Christmas Story* is a movie that kids and adults can all watch during a chilly winter day.

All these movies and many more are good to enjoy a happy and cozy holiday with laughter and fun.

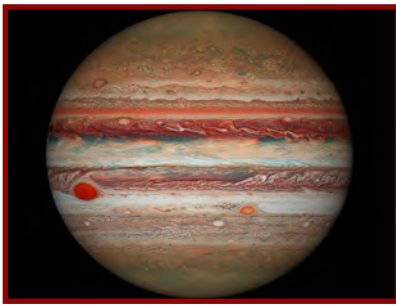


THE RED PLANET *by Ava Harrison*

The red planet, more commonly known as Mars, is very interesting and I thought that it was so fun to learn about. Mars is the fourth planet from the sun. Mars is called the red planet because iron minerals in the Martian soil oxidize, or rust, as we say on Earth. This causes the soil and atmosphere to appear red. But don't let its red color fool you. It may look warm but it's very cold on Mars. Mars is named after the Roman god of war. Mars is also the second smallest planet in our solar system. It is smaller than Earth, Mars having a diameter of only 4,217 miles. I hope you learned at least one cool thing about Mars.



The 5th Planet *by Ava Harrison and Addison Meredith*

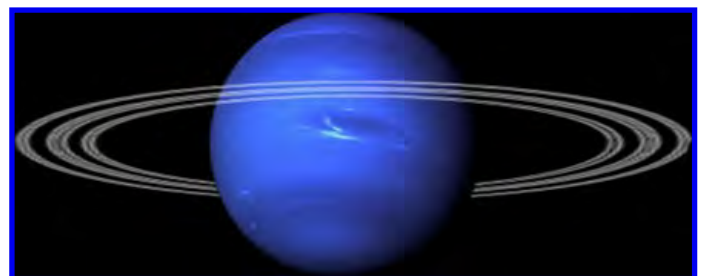


You may be wondering, what is the fifth planet? Well, the short answer to that is Jupiter. Jupiter is the fifth planet in our beautifully created solar system. Jupiter is so interesting and cool to learn about and I hope you feel the same way. First you should know what is inside Jupiter. Most of the planet consists of hydrogen in gaseous, liquid, and metallic form, although there is a small, rocky core. The atmosphere is mainly hydrogen, with some helium, plus traces of methane and ammonia. One interesting feature of Jupiter

is The Great Red Spot. Have you ever heard of the famous red spot? It is a big red spot on Jupiter, or really a storm compacted of pressure. Lying in the south tropical zone, the Great Red Spot is a giant storm, some 40,000 kilometers across - three times the size of Earth. Within this area of high pressure inward-spiraling winds carry gasses to great heights in the atmosphere, where they react with sunlight. Jupiter was fun for us to learn about and we hope it was for you too.

NEPTUNE *by Ava Harrison*

Have you ever heard of Neptune, also known as Poseidon? Does the name Poseidon sound familiar? Poseidon or Neptune was the Roman god of the sea. Neptune is named after the that mythological god because of its blue color, like the sea. But why is it blue? Methane is responsible for the blue color of the planet. This is because methane in gaseous form absorbs all the red wavelengths from the sun and only reflects blue wavelengths. The atmosphere on Neptune is mainly hydrogen, helium, and methane. The picture at right shows Neptune and its six known rings.



MEET PASTOR WAGNER *by Tyler Zita and Arian Gomez*

Q: How long have you been at Trinity?

A: 8 ½ years

Q: What other schools have you worked at?

A: No other schools

Q: What is your hometown?

A: Conroe, Texas

Q: What schools have you graduated from?

A: Conroe High School, Sam Houston University, and Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne

Q: What is your favorite Bible verse?

A: Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Q: What is your favorite hymn?

A: Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

Q: What is your favorite TV show?

A: Live Sports/HGTV Hometown

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: The Bible

Q: What is your favorite kind of food?

A: Mexican food

Q: What car do you drive?

A: 2016 Mitsubishi

Q: What is your favorite vacation spot?

A: Galveston, Texas/Disney World, Florida

Q: Who is your favorite historical figure?

A: Jesus/Vince Lombardi

What is your favorite thing to do after school? *by Arian Gomez and Tyler Zita*

Pastor Wagner: Baseball

Mr. Baerenklau: Go to the gym

Mrs. Perez: Coffee

Mrs. Scott: Drink Pepsi

Mrs. LaMontagna: Watch The Office

Mrs. Allor: Walk

Mrs. A. Solyom: Read

Miss Kraegel: Read

Mrs. Pilny: Spend time with family when I get home

Mr. Allegretti: Go to the gym or play basketball with the boys



Rev. Steve Wagner

Q: What is your favorite Holiday?

A: Christmas

Q: What is your favorite sport?

A: Baseball

Q: Facebook or Twitter?

A: Facebook

Q: Dogs or Cats?

A: Dogs

Q: Beatles or Rolling Stones?

A: Beatles

Q: Calling or texting?

A: Texting

Q: Coffee or tea?

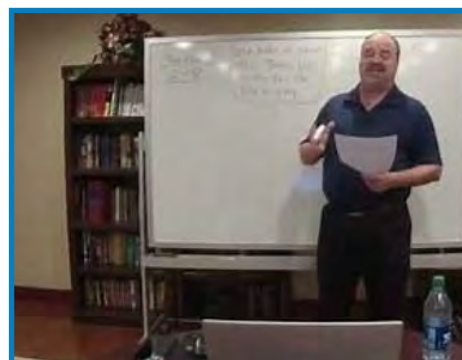
A: Neither

Q: Morning or Evening?

A: Afternoon

Q: Star Wars or Star Trek?

A: Star Wars



MINECRAFT

by Aidan Harrison, Damian Gomez and and Arian Gomez

Minecraft is a SandBox game in which you can build, craft, and destroy whatever you'd like. Minecraft was first produced by Markus "Notch" Persson in 2009. Why did he make the game in the first place? Persson loved computers, programming, and computer games. One day he was working in the computer industry and began to feel disillusioned that his studio wasn't taking any of his advice. So in his leisure he started creating a game where you can craft, destroy, slay, and build whatever your heart desires.

"I DON'T SEE MYSELF AS A REAL GAME DEVELOPER. I MAKE GAMES BECAUSE IT'S FUN, AND BECAUSE I LOVE GAMES AND I LOVE TO PROGRAM"

- MARKUS "NOTCH" PERSSON



FORTNITE - ALL ABOUT IT

by Arian Gomez

Fortnite - I bet you've heard of it, but here are the weirdest facts about the game. First, did you know that Fortnite #epic games got sued for their own poi, meaning point of interest?

It was called Coral Castle, because that was a real place and the owners of the real Coral Castle didn't like they were in a game. But I know that you didn't know that 90% of the game is "mocap" (motion capture)? There are videos of them. And there are professionals that play the game such as Nick eh 30, sypher Pk, Courage JD, and Tim the Tat Man. You can also customize your game weapons. This might also sound weird, but did you know that one episode in the *Big Bang Theory* is dedicated to Fortnite? The television episode shows one of the characters learning how to play.

New Year's Traditions

by Abigail Pilny and Ava Harrison

In our class, we all have different New Year's traditions. Here is what our classmates shared.

5th and 6th grade

Abby: "We have dinner, stay up till 12 a.m. and we sleep out by the Christmas tree, otherwise that is all we do."

Addison: "Shouting happy new years!"

Ava: "Stay up until midnight and drink sparkling grape juice."

Roscoe: "Watching the fireworks."

Arian: "New Year's morning, I twist a bottle and later that day I open the bottle and say Happy New Year's."

Arianna: "We celebrate New Year's with family gatherings."

Francesco: "We celebrate New Year's, and say Happy New Year!"

Damian: "I sleep."

7th and 8th grade

Sophia: "We drink sparkling grape juice."

Angelina: "Stay up till midnight - that's it."

Aidan: "Drink sparkling grape juice or champagne and stay up until midnight."

Tyler: "We drink chocolate fondue and champagne."



Special Invitation for Trinity Families and Friends

Trinity Back-to-School from Christmas Break Night

Sunday, January 7, 2024
4-6 p.m. - Parish Hall

FREE



Paying for College Workshop with Pizza Dinner

Don't cook the night before students return to school!
Let Trinity feed your family while you pick up some great ideas
on planning now to make your children's
college education affordable.

Dinner for all is followed by supervised playtime for children in
the gym, while adults get the help and resources to keep
planning for college stress-free.



**Presenter: Joel Eggerding, CFP® &
Thrivent Financial Advisor**

*This FREE opportunity is co-
presented by Trinity's Board of
Stewardship and Trinity's PwtL
(Parenting with the Lord).*

Trivia4Bibles with Pizza Dinner

Sunday, January 28, 4 - 7 p.m.

Parish Hall

*Trivia4Bibles will be an afternoon of
fun at Trinity.*

*Come enjoy trivia with prizes, pizza,
salad, snacks, and beverages, and
make a free-will offering to help
purchase quality child-friendly Faith
Alive Bibles from Concordia
Publishing House which currently cost
\$33 each. Each year these Bibles are
gifted to Trinity Lutheran School
students as they enter 3rd grade, new
students entering above 3rd grade,
and Sunday School students, grades 3
and above who attend schools other
than Trinity.*

Parent Alert from Trinity Lutheran Board of Education

As you may have heard, we are beginning to see cases of the COVID-19 virus. If your child tests "positive" for the COVID virus, please consider following these guidelines:

1. Notify the school office immediately.
2. *Have your child begin a 5-day isolation at home.
3. *If, after 5 days, your child's symptoms ARE improving and he/she has been fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication), your child can end isolation and return to school. Masking during days 6-10 is suggested but NOT required by Trinity Lutheran School.
4. *If, after 5 days, your child's symptoms are NOT improving, continue to isolate until your child is fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms improve.

*These guidelines are suggested by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Our teachers and staff will continue to encourage frequent hand washing and keep surfaces sanitized in their classrooms. Thank you for your help.

Trinity Lutheran School Board of Education



Trinity Teachers' Favorite Christmas Traditions by Tyler Zita

Mrs. L. Solyom: Spending time with loved ones

Mrs. A. Solyom: Going to the Christmas Eve candlelight church service

Mrs. Perez: Spending time with family

Mrs. Scott: Spending time with family

Mrs. Pilny: Spending time with family

Mrs. LaMontagna: Making buckeyes with family (*buckeyes are a special holiday cookie treat*)

Mrs. Allor: Hanging stockings over the fireplace

Mrs. Niehaus: Going to the Christmas Eve candlelight church service

Mrs. Terrell: Going to church and playing the organ

Ms. Kraegel: Singing Christmas carols

Ms. Moy: Family dinner

Mr. Baerenklau:

Spending Christmas Eve with family

Mr. Allegretti:

Spending time with family

Pastor Wagner: Going to church

Name _____

Shepherds Find Baby Jesus

Read **Luke 2:17** to find out what the shepherds did when they left Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.

Bible

donkey

dove

hay

manger

sheep

shepherd

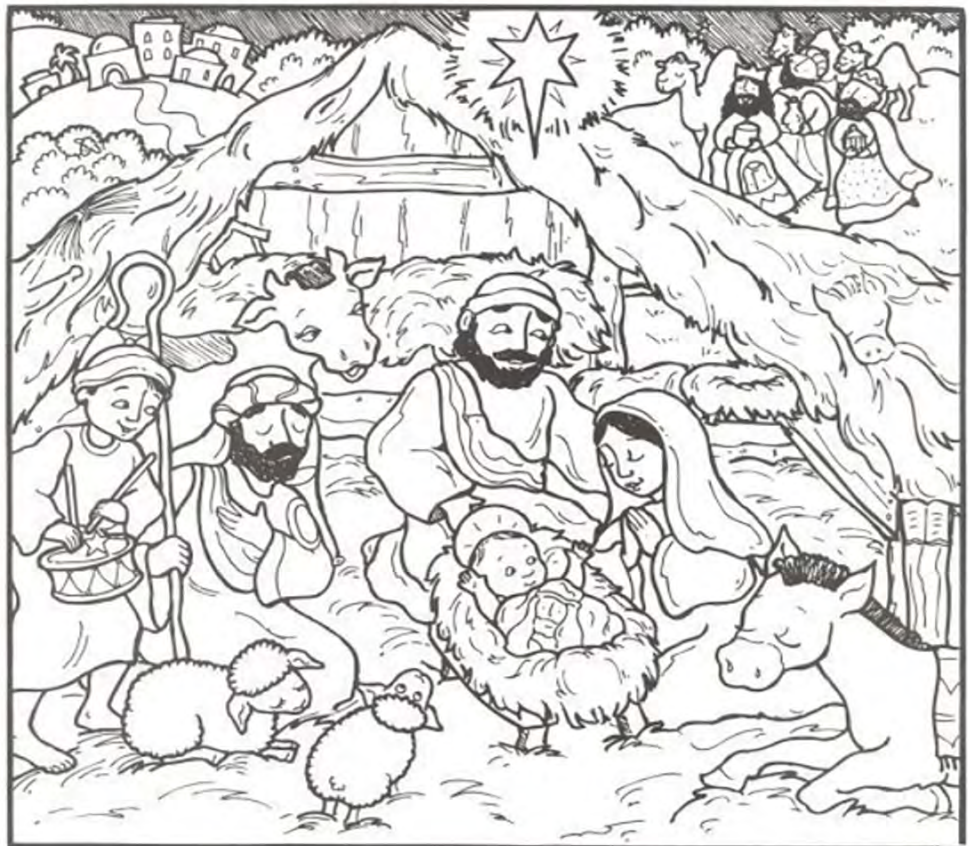
stable

staff

star

trumpet

wise man





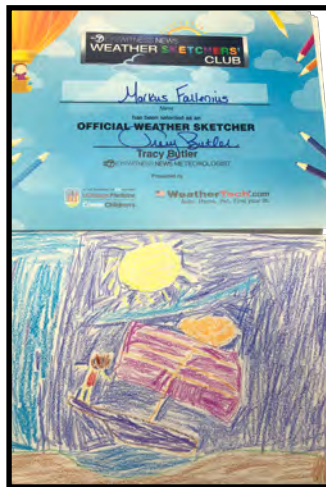
Congratulations to Trinity 7th Grade Student Angelina Iverson for being the VFW Lilac Post winner in the National VFW Essay contest, "How Are You Inspired by America?"



Did you see our television artists? Some of Trinity's 1st and 2nd grade students had their Weather Art featured on Channel 7 News' 5:30 a.m. weather forecast, including: Markus (October 3), Trevor (October 4), Olivia (October 10), Kayli (October 16), and Maya (October 17). Congrats!



Pictures by Maya (top), Olivia (middle), and Markus, Kayli, and Trevor (bottom, left to right).



MERRY CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATE JESUS!



The New Trinity Times is a monthly newsletter produced by the 5th through 8th grade students of Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, Illinois. The 2023-2024 staff members are: Addison, Abigail, Aidan, Angelina, Arian, Ariana, Ava, Damian, Francesco, Roscoe, Sophia, and Tyler, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Solyom, journalism teacher.