

December 2025

The New Trinity Times

Happy Birthday Jesus! Everything Christmas

If we've got it - you'll find it on pages 1 to 8

Which Martin Luther is Which?

Getting it straight on page 10

Imagining Alexander the Great

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page 9



Children's Christmas Service
Thursday, December 18 - 6:30 p.m.

Rejoicing for The Christ Child by Keira Hager

What's the first thing you think of when you hear Christmas? Maybe you think of Santa or presents. You might think of cookies, decorations, or family parties and vacations. Maybe even snow. Even though those are usually parts of Christmas, they are not the main part.

When we hear Christmas, the first thing we think of should be the birth of our Lord. Without Christ's birth there wouldn't be a Christmas in the first place. As some might say "Jesus is the reason for the season", and that is very true. In fact, Jesus is the reason for our joy. Without Him we would be lost and have nothing to look forward to after life on earth.

Sadly, society tries to push Jesus out of the picture. They make Christmas all about gifts, and phrases that leave out Jesus. The problem is not only society, sometimes we forget the reason we have Christmas too. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in all the fun and events, that Christ's birth doesn't even pop up in our heads. When we forget about Jesus, we can get ungrateful, and Christmas can become less enjoyable.

The birth of Jesus is the start of his quest to save us. He is the reason we can rejoice for going to heaven. When sin came into the world, we were desperate for a Savior and that Savior was Jesus. Our Lord died on the cross, went down into the eternal flames, and rose all for us. None of this would have happened if the savior chose to come down as God in a man and become an infant. This is the reason for Christmas, the reason for being joyful, and the first thing we should think of at this time. All because we have a loving savior who died for us.



The New Trinity Times is written by Trinity Lutheran School's 2025-2026 Journalism class. Staff reporters Abby Pilny, Addison Mann, Addison Meredith, Alice Hensley, Arian Gomez, Ariana Mehrazar, Aubrey Miranda, Ava Harrison, Bobby Hawn, Damian Gomez, Floyd Turner, Gunnarr Tully, Heidi Johnson, Jacob Garcia, Joshua Camiola, Juliana Rivera, and Keira Hager, are supervised by Trinity's Journalism instructor, Mrs. Lori Solyom.

Celebrating Christmas Around the World

by Addison Meredith, Joshua Camiola, Alice Hensley, and Addison Mann



Christmas is not just celebrated in America, Christmas is celebrated all over the world. The holiday is celebrated in many places, including Germany, New Zealand, Italy, Great Britain (England), Scotland, and Nigeria.

Christmas in Germany is not too different from Christmas in the United States. Christmas in Germany is depicted as a peaceful family holiday. Germans tend to spend their Christmas season visiting Christmas markets - Christkindlmarts - for mulled wine and treats, singing carols, attending church, decorating trees, and baking cookies. Families tend to come together for a big meal on Christmas day, or eve, and just enjoy the company of their family.

In New Zealand, Christmas is warm, because December is the start of summer for the Southern Hemisphere, therefore Kiwis tend to celebrate with outdoor activities, like beach trips, BBQs, and backyard cricket. They also indulge in traditional feasts (ham, turkey, and pavlova - a fruit topped meringue dessert). They enjoy fun festivities including Santa parades and singing carols.



In Italy, Christmas is a family-focused holiday filled with elaborate nativity scenes, and festive markets for crafts and mulled wine. Italians celebrate with big seafood feasts on Christmas Eve (the Feast of the Seven Fishes), midnight Mass, and lavish multi-course Christmas Day dinners with sweets like Panettone (a sweet bread with raisins, citrons, and almonds) are eaten with loved ones. all culminating with gift-giving on Christmas Eve or the Epiphany.

During the Christmas celebration in Great Britain or England (the southern portion of the United Kingdom), people decorate trees, send greeting cards, and sing carols. A big Christmas Day feast (turkey, brussel sprouts, pigs in blankets, and crackers) is usually followed by opening presents, watching the King's Speech, and enjoying Boxing Day sales (not for "boxing" the sport, but for "boxing" up your leftovers to take to the needy). Families exchange presents, often with treat-filled stockings hung by the fireplace. Pulling paper Christmas crackers or poppers, which contain small toys, jokes, and paper crowns, is a must. Cozy Christmas markets, Santa's grottos, ice rinks, and theatrical pantomimes (campy fairy tale shows) are popular.



Scots exchange gifts, have big meals, and enjoy festive markets, but also honor ancient rituals for good fortune in the winter season. In the UK's northern region of Scotland, a holiday family meal includes turkey or roast beef, and drinks. Leaving snacks for Santa is a popular pastime. There are huge Christmas markets in major cities, like Edinburgh and Glasgow, along with ice skating, light displays, and comedy shows to see on a nice Christmas night. Most Scots get Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day off. The first person to cross your threshold after midnight brings gifts of bread, salt, and whiskey for good luck.

In Nigeria, Christmas is festive and colorful. Nigerians make visits to catch up with family and friends. They feast on traditional Nigerian foods such as chicken rice (Jollof), fish, Moin-Moin bread, and Chin-Chin which is like crackers or cookies. Nigerians dress in festive clothes, women often wear colorful headscarves, and all people dress in their best new outfits and sparkling shoes. Children often visit Santa at malls and small village events to receive small goodie bags. At Christmastime, the streets of Nigeria are filled with firecrackers, sparklers, and colorful masquerade groups performing dances for money. Homes, churches, and streets are decorated with lights, tinsel, and traditional palm fronds leaving streets looking colorful and happy all season long.





Gingerbread Houses

by Heidi Johnson

Trinity students are making gingerbread houses! They have been collecting their empty milk cartons and washing them out for use in creating the gingerbread house structure instead of recycling them.

Here are some things your class might need to bring for gingerbread houses:

- White frosting
- Colored M&M candies, round peppermints, mini candy canes, and gumdrops
- Graham crackers



Make sure to check your emails and notes sent home in Friday folders to see what your class is to bring for gingerbread house making. Please note that this activity takes place Friday morning, December 19, the last day of school before Christmas break. **Yum! Fun!**



MERRY CHRISTMAS-CHRISTIS BORN!

HISTORY NOTE: The spice ginger, the distinctive flavor in gingerbread, has roots in ancient Chinese, Indian, and Greek cultures, where it was originally used as medicine. In the 11th century, medieval crusaders brought gingerbread to Europe, and professional bakers in Germany perfected the art of gingerbread house creation in the 16th century. The 1812 publication of The Brothers Grimm's fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" inspired the inclusion of candy-decorated gingerbread houses as a Christmas tradition.



- Monday**
Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- Tuesday**
Dress Like a Christmas Tree Day
- Wednesday**
Christmas Hat Day
- Thursday**
Christmas Socks Day
- Friday**
Children's Christmas Service
Pajama Day
Gingerbread House Making

Trinity Lutheran Church Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24, 2025
3 p.m. Family Service - 10 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25, 2025
10 a.m. - Christmas Service



Decking the Halls!



#ChristIsBorn



Here We Go A'Caroling

by Aubrey Miranda

Christmas Caroling has been around since before the 14th century while the custom of midwinter singing seems to date back even further than Christianity. Here is a look at the history of three beloved carols still found in our hymnals.

O Holy Night: In the 1800s, a local French priest asked one of his laymen to write a hymn, and the text for *O Holy Night* was born. During the first ever voice radio broadcast, “O Holy Night” was played along with a reading from the Gospel of Luke. The hymn got much public attention, and in the years since then it has been sung in countless churches.

Of the Father’s Love Begotten: This hymn comes from a Spanish poet of the early Christian church named Aurelius Prudentius Clemens. The hymn uses the tune *Divinum Mysterium* - which is Latin for Divine Mystery. This beautiful melody appears in Italian and German manuscripts from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries.

O Come, All Ye Faithful: The text and tune for *O Come, All Ye Faithful* were written in the 1700s by John Francis Wade. A French abbe, Jean Francois Borderies, first heard the tune sung in England. Fun fact: the hymn tune originally used triple rhythm. It wasn’t until 1782 that a version in duple time appeared.

Why do people like Christmas caroling? These songs are loved by many people because they bring them happiness, peace, and love. People also love Christmas carols for the power of nostalgia and the memories they awaken. They tell the Christmas story, offer comfort, and provide a break from the freezing cold.

Five Ways to Share Jesus’ Love During Christmas

by Bobby Hawn and Damian Gomez

1. First, when you attend church regularly (and it’s never too late to start doing so!) you will hear and learn about the miracle of Jesus’ birth. You can use what you learn to share the Good News with others. And this is a wonderful time of year to invite others to join you for holiday church services. Invite someone to join your family for Trinity’s Children’s Christmas Service!
2. If you go to a Christmas celebration, you could be a helping hand - help prepare, serve, and clean up after delicious meals, hand out presents, and be a good listener.
3. Offer to help family, friends, neighbors, or local organizations set up outdoor Christmas trees or other decorations. (More helpers make the work go faster and gets everyone in from the cold quicker.) Provide hot cocoa and cookies for a treat after the work!
4. Deliver treats (for people and pets) to those who live nearby. Be sure to include a Christmas card that shares Jesus as the reason for the season.
5. You can top it off by being polite and kind to everyone you meet, wishing others a Merry Christmas!, praising God in all you do, and telling others about the birth of Jesus who came to save us from our sins.

Take time to talk with your family about how you can work together to show Jesus’ love during Christmas.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Real Santa - St. Nick!

Who was he? How is he connected to the Santa of today?

by Gunnarr Tully

We all know the story of Santa and his reindeer [Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen...and of course Rudolph!] But the real Santa has a very different story and a different name too, St. Nicholas.

Nicholas' story begins in Greece around 270 A.D, when he was born into a family that always helped other people. One day, his parents helped care for a very sick person, after which they became ill and eventually died. Nicholas was still young .

He grew up to become the Bishop of Myra, and was credited with many acts of kindness during his life. One story recounts how he saved a poor man's three daughters from a life of slavery by tossing three bags of gold through their window, providing a dowry for each girl so she could marry.

St. Nicholas, is connected to the Santa we know today because he was a man who loved Jesus and gave gifts to the poor. Today's Santa in 2025 sleighs all the way around the world, giving toys and gifts.

Celebrate the REAL Santa, the first Santa - St. Nicholas - because they are both about giving!



Winter Activities: Sledding & Skating by Alice Hensley and Addison Meredith

Winter is an activity-packed time of year. With the snow and cold weather, you can always find something to do, like sledding!

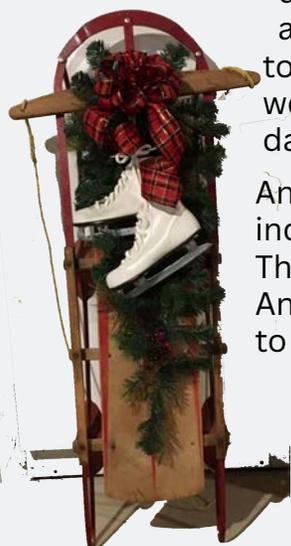
Wherever there are hills packed hard with snow, children love to go sledding. Sledding, or coasting, is a favorite winter sport. For thousands of years, sleds have also been used to carry heavy loads of food, supplies, and people across the snow and ice.

Some sleds and sleighs have runners on which they move. Others glide along on iron or are pulled by dogs. The sleds used by children for coasting down snowy hillsides developed from the sleds of ancient times. The first sled was merely a strip of animal skin stretched between smooth strips of wood. From this came the toboggan of the North American Indians. "Toboggan" comes from an Algonquian word, "odabaggan," meaning a drag made of skin, so if you're stuck at home one day and have nothing to do - if there is snow outside, try sledding!

Another fun activity to try in the winter is ice skating. Year round you can visit an indoor ice rink, but in winter, you can also find outdoor ice rinks in cold climates. This is a fun thing you can enjoy with friends or family to enjoy a nice winter day. And don't worry, if you don't know how to skate, it doesn't take too much practice to can get the hang of it, and if you go slow, a soft fall shouldn't hurt too much!

There are many other options of things to do during this wonderful time of year, such as cross-country skiing, nature walks, or tubing, so don't waste the day, get out into the winter wonderland, and live!

**The Lombard Park District maintains sled hills at:
Four Seasons Park (Finley Rd & 16th St) and Sunset Knoll (820 S Finley Rd).**



Chrismons

by Floyd Turner

Have you ever seen Christmas tree decorations that are simple, white, and trimmed with gold? These may be *chrismons*, each a sign or symbol that point to Jesus.

The word *chrismon* comes from the words *Christ* and *monogram* (a design created with someone's initials).

The symbols used in *chrismons* have been used throughout history to represent Christianity. In 1957 a Lutheran woman from Virginia, named Frances Kipps Spencer, created the first *chrismons*. The white stands for Jesus' purity and the gold represents God's majesty.

One *chrismon* [photo at left] is the Chi-Rho, which symbolizes the name of Christ. The Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P) are the beginning of the Greek word, for Christ - *Christos*.



The Greek word for fish is *ichthus*. In Greek, it is spelled "IXΘYC." These are the first letters of words, that in English spell out, "Jesus (I), Christ (X), God's (Θ), Son (Y), Savior (C)." Early Christians who sometimes had to hide their faith used the fish symbol in this *chrismon* as a code with one another [top right image].

In the Bible, a dove is used to represent the symbol of the Holy Spirit. In this *chrismon* [bottom right image], the dove is pictured descending from heaven to live in us.



The Bible's Influence on Our Traditions

by Arian Gomez

The Bible is full of things that we copy in our celebrations even today. We sing today, at Jesus' birth, like the angels did at Bethlehem. We collect and create manger scenes and reenact what happened in the stable there. We re-live the Last Supper when we celebrate communion. In the Epiphany season we mark the wise men who came to honor the Baby Jesus as King. They brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, something we repeat on a small scale when we give our own offering.

CHRISTMAS RECIPES by Addison Mann, Joshua Camiola, and Addison Meredith

Christmas is a great time to have family and friends over for meals. Here are some recipes you might want to try this season.

No-Bake Eggnog Pie

This no-bake eggnog pie is a simple pie recipe, great for Christmas entertaining.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Refrigerate: 4 hours

Ingredients

- 1 prepared pie crust
- 1 (3.4 oz) box vanilla instant pudding mix (NOT stovetop)
- 1 ½ cups eggnog
- 2 cups whipped topping, such as Cool Whip, thawed, (NOT LIGHT or LOW-FAT)
- dash of nutmeg

Instructions

1. In medium-sized bowl, combine eggnog and pudding mix, and beat with electric mixer until thick.
2. Sprinkle in some nutmeg.
3. Fold in whipped topping until mixture is fluffy and color is pale yellow.
4. Spoon mixture into pie crust, and smooth with spatula until even.
5. Refrigerate for 4 hours, until firm, or overnight, until ready to serve.



Reindeer Cookies

Festive and flavorful...fun for cookie exchanges!

Yield: 36 cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 72 small pretzel twists
- ½ cup chocolate chips

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375° Fahrenheit.
2. Beat butter, sugar, peanut butter, eggs, vanilla extract, and salt together in a bowl until smooth and creamy. Stir flour and baking soda into creamed butter mixture until well mixed.
3. Roll dough into 36 balls. Flatten each ball and shape into an upside-down triangle.
4. Press two pretzels into the two top corners of each triangle for the antlers. Press two chocolate chips into the center of each triangle for the eyes, and one chocolate chip or M&M candy on the bottom of the triangle for the nose. Arrange cookies on baking sheets.
5. Bake in the preheated oven until cookies are golden brown, about 10 to 15 minutes.

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on page 8



Jollof Rice

A spicy and beloved West African favorite



Ingredients

- ½ white onion
- 7 Roma tomatoes
- 1 red bell pepper
- 4 habanero or scotch bonnet peppers, use more or less depending on your heat preference
- ½ cup water
- 8 cups parboiled rice
- ¼ to ⅓ cup palm oil, olive oil, or avocado oil
- 8 ounces tomato sauce
- 4-6 ounces tomato paste
- 4 Maggi cubes crushed into powder
- 3 cups chicken and/or beef stock
- 2 teaspoons powdered white pepper

Equipment

- 1 knife
- 1 cutting board
- 1 Blender
- 1 8-quart cooking pot
- wooden kitchen spoon

- 2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 bay leaf or one teaspoon powdered bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon powdered thyme
- sea salt to taste

Instructions

1. Cut tomatoes, onion, and red bell pepper into chunks, discarding bell pepper seeds.
2. Add to a blender with habanero or scotch bonnet peppers and water then blend until completely liquified.
3. Meanwhile, rinse the parboiled rice in plenty of warm water until water starts to run clear
4. Add rice and oil to a large pot over medium flame, followed by blended tomato mixture, tomato paste and sauce, chicken and/or beef stock, and all the spices.
5. Stir well and cook for about 40 minutes, until rice is fluffy and cooked through, and all liquid has dissipated. Stir frequently to help prevent sticking and burning.
6. It may be necessary to add more liquid along the way to prevent the rice at the bottom from burning excessively. NOTE: The bottom layer of rice in a pot of Jollof Rice often burns, which is where the smoky flavor comes from. Some believe that the rice tastes best when this happens. As you stir the rice and expose any burnt portions, you can simply discard them if you don't want them in the rice.

*** You can cook Jollof Rice at home up to three days in advance. Keep refrigerated in an airtight container. Jollof Rice is an important part of the Christmas meal, serving as the iconic centerpiece dish, symbolizing unity, family, festivity, and cultural pride.

Maggi is a spiced bullion cube with distinctive seasonings, that replaced home-fermented locust bean products in 1908.



Epiphany

by Addison Meredith and Josh Camiola.

In the church calendar following Advent we celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany is about the revealing of Jesus as God. When Jesus was born, God sent his only Son into the flesh to our world to save us all so that one day, we as believers will be able to be with Him forever in heaven. Epiphany is important because we need to know exactly who Jesus is and why He came to earth. This year you can celebrate Epiphany by going to church during the Epiphany season, where we hear from the pastor that Jesus is God. *Each year, Epiphany falls on January 6.*

New Year's Resolutions

by Ava Harrison

The ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions, around 4,000 years ago. They were also the first civilization recorded to have celebrations in honor of the new year.



During Akitu, a massive 12-day religious festival, the Babylonians crowned a new king. They made promises to pay their debts and return borrowed objects to their gods, and if the Babylonians kept their word, their gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. These would be considered the forerunners of our modern New Year's resolutions.

A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after emperor Julius Caesar adjusted the calendar and established January 1st as the beginning of the new year. Believing that Janus, a two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, symbolically looked backward into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to be better in the future.

Despite various religious roots, instead of making promises to God, most people make resolutions only to themselves - often focusing on self-improvement.

Times Square's Famous New Year's Eve Ball

by Juliana Rivera and Abby Pilny

There are exactly 5,280 Waterford crystals and LED lights covering the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball. The famous dropping of the ball is viewed by millions of people in the last minute of the year, and that will be the case again on December 31, 2025. This year, the Constellation Ball (that's its official name) is even bigger and better than ever before!

This festive tradition of the ball drop has been going on for 118 years. This year's ball measures 2.5 feet in diameter and weighs about 12,350 pounds and doubles the number of crystals that adorned its predecessor.

You can go to see the ball anytime of the year. On New Year's Eve, it will drop 139 feet down a flagpole at the top of the One Times Square building to alert people that it is now the start of the new year. The current Waterford crystal ball can display more than 16 million colors. The drop starts at 11:59 p.m. and the brilliantly shining ball lands at the bottom directly at midnight.

The traditional ball drop has occurred each year since it began in 1907, except for 1942 and 1943, due to lighting restrictions during World War II.



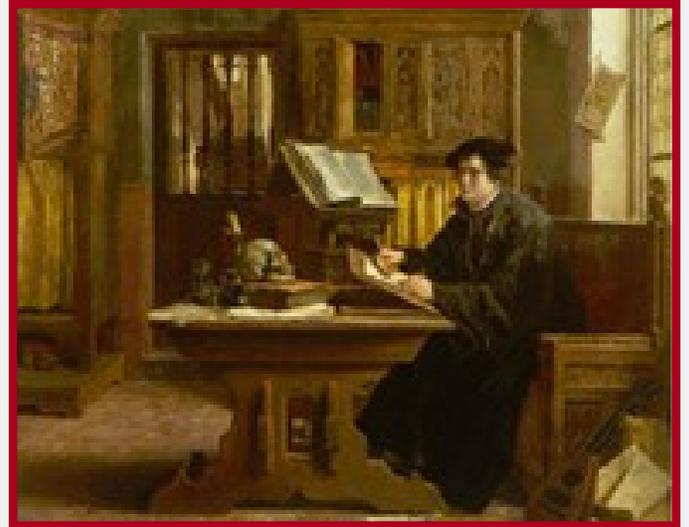
Happy New Year!

Two Martin Luthers, Two Leaders

by Ariana Mehrazar and Keira Hager

Many people know about The Great Reformer and Civil Rights Hero, both by the name of Martin Luther. Although some might mistake them as the same person, they are two very different leaders. However, they are not completely discrete and share quite a few similarities.

Let's begin with the original Martin Luther. He was born on November 10, 1483, and died on February 18, 1546. It was speculated that he either died from a heart attack or stroke. Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany, and became a Augustinian monk. He was a theological scholar. Luther often approached problems by writing letters, such as his famous 95 theses. He openly criticized the fact that the Church said that you must pay for the forgiveness of sins (as the Bible made it clear that Jesus paid for our sins). Luther's actions were instrumental in starting the Reformation and also led to the Christian practice of faith now known as Lutheranism.



Luther changed the world by writing of the truths that he found in the Bible and sharing the message of love that was not being told by the Church at the time. He also translated the New Testament into German so that the people could read God's Word themselves.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, and was assassinated on April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, a racially segregated state. He was a Baptist minister and pastor, serving at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. King was sociopolitical and approached problems by leading peaceful marches and delivering impassioned speeches. His faith and commitment to preaching the Gospel directly informed his philosophy and strategies for nonviolent social change.



Both men were reformers, leaders, and men of faith. They grew up to be committed Christians with a great love for God. In later years they went to universities and received doctorates in Theology. They both were leaders in the church, one an ordained priest of the Roman Catholic Church, the other a Baptist minister. In both Luther and King's lifetimes they grew unhappy with the people in authority, and by trying to do what's right, they succeeded in changing history. These Martin Luthers were both great leaders - and both left a significant impact on the world.

Martin Luther's "Here I Stand" speech launched the Reformation in 1521, but his last words were found on a scrap of paper in his pocket— "We are beggars. This is true."

Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech on April 3, 1968. However, his last words were uttered the next day, just hours before his assassination. — King turned to his friend, American Jazz musician Ben Branch, saying, "Ben, make sure you play 'Take My Hand, Precious Lord' in the meeting tonight. Play it real pretty."

In 2026, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is January 19. There is no school on this federal holiday.



Reimagining History

ASSIGNMENT GRADE SIX: After learning about Alexander the Great... Imagine what might have happened if Alexander had not led his men home after entering India. Where do you think his armies would have gone and what do you think they might have faced there? How far do you think his empire would have expanded? Continue the story of Alexander's conquest using your imagination. Your story should not be limited to real history or geography.

**HISTORY IS
awesome**

Alexander the Great: What If? by Keira Hager

After Alexander's soldiers marched into India, he planned to take over the whole country. He had arrived in India with great ambition, and hunger. Many Indians overlooked him, but... that...was... a big mistake!!! He had already posed a threat, and soon was a monster amidst them, in their territory. The Indian people were filled with terror, as neighboring villages were being torn to pieces.

In a little island on the South tip of India, a stupid, attention-seeking prince decided to take advantage of this frightening time. You see, he wants to make a name for himself. He wants to be glorified. Therefore, this hottie prince, this Prince Sheban (Shebín), longed to fight this Alexander and save India. Although, he was not going to do this to save India, his real reason was to become as famous as Alexander. That night, without his father's consent, he gathered some of the king's soldiers and rode a huge fishing ship to India. He hoped his father, the king, would not find out he was gone. Of course, his father had found out, after all those men had disappeared. The king had also found out, after some time, that his son had suffered a major defeat after fighting Alexander the Great. The prince, sadly for the king, was captured by Alexander, and no one knows what happened to him.

In pursuit of his lost son, the king set out in his great royal ships and sailed desperately to India. There, King Tokyo (Toke-yoe) met with the great Alexander for the first time. He knew he could not win, but he hoped he could ask for his son back.

Now, King Alexander saw the army coming nearer and was ready to attack right away. That meant that the king, otherwise known as King Tokyo, was attacked as soon as his armies stepped foot in Alexander's domain. The battle went well for Alexander. Only a couple of people escaped his wrath, including King Tokyo. Although, King Tokyo had realized how smart and tactical Alexander was and thought they could use him to conquer China.

Continued on page 12

Alexander the Great: What If? by Bobby Hawn

After Alexander's soldiers marched into India, he moved north into China. Well, he tried to, but got blocked by the Himalayas. So he moved south, made some boats, and got to Sri Lanka. He then took his boats to modern day Singapore. He kept moving southeast into Australia with boats. He then went to modern day Melbourne City and took boats to Tasmania. They kept going south and found a big block of ice, right when they were running out of food. Antarctica! They had to just leave.

They went north for a few days and turned left and travelled a bit more and they found Madagascar. They stayed for a while, so that they could restock on food like zebu cattle. Then they took the boats to Mozambique, then Zimbabwe, Congo, South Africa Republic, Chad, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, and the Sahara.

Then they took a boat to Brazil. They went through Paraguay and Argentina. Then they took the boats up north and west and then northwest to China. They then went through Russia and went through Europe to Portugal where they took a boat west to the U.S. and Mexico and went to Colombia and Peru.

They lost track of where they were, so they went upwards back to the U.S., where the Americans got mad at them. So, they quickly went to Canada and then Greenland and Iceland. They were getting tired, so they went through Europe and found Greece again.

ALEXANDER continued from page 11

King Tokyo sent the best ninjas and assassins to capture Alexander the Great, and bring him to his castle on the island of Sri Lanka. The ninjas and assassins disguised themselves as village people and snuck into the camp in the middle of the night. They snuck past the guards, who were falling asleep, and found Alexander unarmed. In his tent they found a fruit that, if you explode it, will spread a sleeping gas. (This fruit has been lost so nowadays we use chemicals to make this gas.) They also found gas masks, so the ninjas and assassins put the masks on. Then they threw the fruit on the floor. Now they could escape with Alexander and not fight anyone.

Alexander awoke in the castle dungeon, like the ones of his childhood. Suddenly a man unlocked his cell. He was ready to jump at the man, but then he realized he was chained to the wall. The man took him to a beautiful castle throne room. There was a king and queen sitting on two gold thrones. The king greeted him and said, "Hello, your highness Alexander. As you see you are held prisoner in my castle. The reason you are here is because I would like your assistance in conquering China. This will also be punishment for taking my son captive. Do you understand?" Alexander did not respond. Instead, he pondered how he would take China and then throw over the king. The king continued on, "As a reward and thank you after you conquered China for me, I, King Tokyo, will let you marry my eldest daughter."

After king Tokyo had spoken, he summoned a beautiful princess and privately spoke with her. Alexander was surprised at how curious he was about her and pushed those feelings away. After the king was done talking to the princess, she walked over to Alexander and had a quick look at him. He could see as she was looking at him that there were tears in her eyes, but the princess smiled when she saw him then walked away.

Several weeks went by, and Alexander and the princess grew quite fond of each other. He even knew her name, Elexcia (Eh-lex-see-uh), and thought it was beautiful. Her father saw this and did not want them to actually get married, so he sent him to China. In China, Alexander thrived! He created a new empire for himself, and the king's soldiers loved him. Although, when he was almost halfway through China, he began to miss Elexcia. In this case, he sent messages to the king, but he didn't respond. Alexander then sent a soldier to see what was the hold up, and found out the kingdom had been destroyed. The only survivors were women and children captives, including Princess Elexcia.

Now, Alexander the Great was devastated at this news, so he put his best chief in charge. That way he could go after the tyrants who captured the princess and other captives. Alexander the Great rode ships back to the island of Sri Lanka, with a third of the army given to him by the king. In Sri Lanka he found out from townspeople that the captives were taken by pirates to Australia. In desperation, King Alexander and his armies rode in a massive fishing boat to Australia.

They faced many humongous waves and lived a grueling three months at sea. At last, when they got to the land of Australia, they were taken in and cared for by villagers. Alexander told the villagers why they were there, and they had pity on him. The villagers offered to show him where these pirates lived; they even offered some of their men as soldiers, but Alexander refused their men. After they did so much for him, he did not want to take their men too. Therefore, the villagers showed him the pirates' camp, and he did the rest.



Alexander the Great: What If?

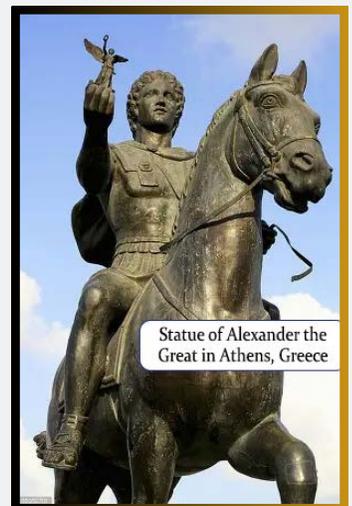
by Juliana Rivera

After Alexander's soldiers marched into India, Alexander made some enemies in India. He got killed by the Indian people - by throwing a bomb at him. He is laying on the ground with a hole through his chest. The soldiers don't care about his death.

Five months later, they made a boat. That day they pushed the boat into the ocean of Popular Water. The soldiers got in the boat and made their way to Zebra Town. They got to Zebra Town and found some food. Zach, one of the soldiers, went to go find souvenirs. While the others went to find a lot of food. They found fruit, vegetables, and meat. Zach came back with a zebra tail for each one of the soldiers. They went back on the boat.

They went to Australia to see the koalas. Zach held a koala. They left but the koala came with them. They named him Snuggles. They went to Giraffe Kingdom. They got on giraffes and rode them through the kingdom, while dragging their boats. They got off the giraffes and put the boats in the water.

They made their way to the USA. They got off the boats and are now in Illinois to play Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza, the game. Then they went to Canada for maple syrup.



Statue of Alexander the Great in Athens, Greece

Continued on page 13

ALEXANDER continued from page 12

Alexander prepared for battle, pondering on what his tactics should be. By nightfall, he and his soldiers were prepared and ready to attack so they did. And... it didn't go as planned. Alexander had a very skillful plan. He would attack the guards at night, sneak into the prison chambers, and free the captives. Although the pirates had bombs, and they hurt most of Alexander's men without engaging. Alexander ran back to the villagers desperately, and this time accepted their offer of men. Most of the men in the village became soldiers, and this time Alexander had a different plan. There was a harbor near the pirates' land and bombs would come in and out on ships. He planned to raid one of the ships before it got into the harbor, then use those bombs to blow up the other bombs surrounding the city. In the night, Alexander raided one of the ships, and the next night did the rest of his plan. When the pirates heard the commotion and saw the devastation of the bombs, they attacked. This time, without their bombs, they were no match for Alexander's tactics, and he freed the captives.

Now that Princess Elexcia was freed, Alexander and she got married in the in the village. They became the most famous warriors in Australia, Elexcia especially, and soon enough most of Australia made Alexander king.

But after some time, Alexander became tired of ruling, and traveled with his wife, soldiers, and friends to North America. They built big ships to get there. Once Alexander arrived in America, he and Elexcia settled in the mountains of the Carolinas, in the U.S. Now, this once great king lives with his beautiful wife, two sons, and one daughter in a land that reminds him of his homeland, Greece. *The End*



*** Why does everyone love Frosty the Snowman?**

Because he's so cool!

*** What do you call an elf wearing earmuffs?**

Anything you want—he can't hear you!

*** What did Adam say the day before Christmas?**

It's Christmas, Eve!

CHRISTMAS Christian Word Search



M F C P Y D M W K Z N E J P Q G Z L Z S U K M
V F I D D R R Y T H X R K J O Y T O W O R L D
R J C C E M M A N U E L M E S S I A H O Q Y Q
G E V S S J F N U V R A S R T D C T I H J Q A
I E T A U G R E Y O W W V I R J T V E D H Z N
E T E R N A L L I G H T P E U Y A E X C D N A
F Y I Y C T M V Q Q L N H D N S B L A H E A G
Q X M J Y P A Y L H W P A F E S K Z A R W T P
W H O L Y S T A R X E T B H T W P J A I I E
U D P W N T D S Q H D Y T C P P U R R S S V A
O Z R R Q R G I S K M T V X L L K F O T E I C
M R O G H J H L I G S W U Q E P V W H M K T E
I B P J T L U Q S I L W H L C V H K L A I Y O
N Z H G K F J X R G Z X L R S H O H L S N S N
R B E T H L E H E M M A N G E R L E Z B G T E
B K T M C C E M D H A T N A U Y Y E L O O A
W W I S S T A R R Y S K Y X O G N G Y E Q R R
H A C K S B D J R K I N G O F K I N G S G Y T
F T S S H B K O Y J J N D J P J G F F S Y M H
D K T K S U L Q S U M V U T U B H W K I G B
Q D A A N G E L G A B R I E L E T Y N N J K L
X R R O L C L F X S Y N Z D I V I N E G I F T
C P G X C O P T B M E C Y D I J Z M W J K E V



CHRIST THE SAVIOR
ANGEL GABRIEL
HOLY NIGHT
PEACE ON EARTH
KING OF KINGS
GLORY HALLELUJAH
FAITHFUL SHEPHERD



EMMANUEL MESSIAH
HOLY STAR
JOY TO WORLD
BETHLEHEM MANGER
WISE KING
NATIVITY STORY
STARRY SKY



ETERNAL LIGHT
BORN SAVIOR
DIVINE GIFT
PROPHETIC STAR
CHRISTMAS BLESSING
HEAVEN'S PROMISE

Christmas Search

There are lots of Christmas items on this page. See how many of each you can find. Write your answers in the box under each picture.













dates to Remember

UPcoming EVENTS

Thursday, December 18 - Christmas Socks Day

Thursday, December 18 - Children's Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 19 - Pajama Day & Gingerbread House Decorating

Monday, December 22 through Friday, January 2 - NO SCHOOL - Christmas break

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve church services, Family, 3 p.m., Candlelight, 10 p.m.

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day church service, 10 a.m.

Monday, January 5 - Classes resume, 8:15 a.m.

Tuesday, January 6 - Epiphany

Tuesday, January 6 - Hot Lunch: Pizza

Wednesday, January 7 - Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 7 to Tuesday, January 20 - In-school Roller Skating

Friday, January 9 - Hot Lunch: Hot Dog

Tuesday, January 13 - Hot Lunch: Mac 'n' Cheese

Wednesday, January 14 - Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Friday, January 30 - Hot chocolate and cookies for \$1

Monday, January 19 - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 20 -

Hot Lunch: Tacos

Wednesday, January 21 -

Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Friday, January 23 -

Hot Lunch: Pizza

Tuesday, January 27 -

Hot Lunch: Mostaccioli

Wednesday, January 28 -

Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Friday, January 30 - Hot

chocolate and

cookies for \$1



These preschoolers are way too cute in their “ugly” Christmas sweaters!