

St. Lucia Festival

Second Saturday in December.

December 9, 2017

Downtown and Bethany Lutheran Church

According to legend, the story of Lucia came to Scandinavia when Sweden was in the midst of a famine. In the darkness and misery of that winter, Lucia sailed a ship shining with light and filled with food came across the waters of Lake Vännern in the province of Värmland. Thus, the people of Sweden were saved from starvation.

Therefore, to honor Lucia, whose name is derived from lux meaning light, the eldest daughter of Swedish families awakens early on December 13th to serve saffron buns, ginger cookies and coffee to her family. She wears a white gown with a red sash and a crown of lingonberry branches with seven lit candles. The green and light represent new life during the Winter Solstice.

A favorite Swedish holiday tradition, also observed in Lindsborg, the St. Lucia Festival celebrates the bringer of light on a long winters day. Lindsborg honors Lucia on the second Saturday of each December. The day begins at 10:00 a.m. with live holiday music downtown. A processional of girls in white carrying candles and stjärngosse (star boys) lead the crowd to the Bethany Lutheran Church where the annual St. Lucia is crowned. The new Lucia goes among the crowd serving ginger cookies and coffee.

Time	Event
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Star Boy and Lucia crafts and Jan Brett story time at the Lindsborg Community Library
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancer bake sale at Turner Photography. Proceeds benefit TACOL Christmas basket project.
10:00 AM	Woodwind Duet at Turner Photography. Paula Patterson, flute and Ellen Neufeld, oboe
10:15 AM	Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancer performance, 100 block North Main Street with special guests, Soderstrom 4th graders, Lucia, and Star Boy
10:30 AM	Dala Camerata Trio at Turner Photography, Henry Littich, violin; Ann Samuelson, violin; Lillian Green, viola
10:45 AM	4th grade St Lucia & Star Boy procession to Bethany Lutheran Church
11:00 AM	SVHS Band Ensemble at Turner Photography
11:30 AM	SVHS Band Ensemble at Turner Photography
11:30 AM	Soderstrom 4th grade "St. Lucia Program" at Bethany Lutheran Church
12:00 PM	SVHS Chamber Orchestra at Turner Photography
1:15 PM	Folkdanslag performance in front of Bethany Lutheran Church
1:45 PM	Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancer performance in front of Bethany Lutheran Church
2:30 PM	Brass Ensemble in the bell tower at Bethany Lutheran Church
3:00 PM	Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancer "St. Lucia Program" at Bethany Lutheran Church
5:00 - 8:30 PM	Old Fashioned Christmas at Old Mill Museum - Mill tours, music & drama, children's crafts, shepherd's story