



“Light Up the Holidays in Lindsborg”

In a certain way, Christmas everywhere begins with anticipation, and this year in Lindsborg expectations begin early, with an optimism that this season will be one we remember among all others.

The Lindsborg Christmas Committee has planned a six-week holiday festival, highlighted by weekend events that begin Saturday, Nov. 14, and continue through December. All weekend outdoor events will be directed from a special holiday stage, ablaze with color and anchored by Swedish cookie trees. The central stage will be in front of the Blacksmith Coffee Roastery, 122 N. Main. Many more weekday and evening events are planned during the six-week holiday festival, and will be outlined in coming editions of the *News-Record*.

For now, here is a brief look at “Light Up the Holidays,” and the *weekend* plans, to date, for Christmas in Lindsborg. (Look for more events as they are confirmed):

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 14, 15 ***“LINDSBORG IN LIGHTS”***

The Saturday activities cap the first weekend of most merchants’ extended holiday hours (to 8 p.m.), with open houses. Events at the central stage begin at 5 p.m. with a welcome from the mayor, and the start of music and entertainment, with refreshments available.

At 6 p.m., the annual bridge lighting ceremony begins at the Old Mill Bridge, with activity returning downtown for ceremonies to light the trees downtown. Entertainment and open shops continue.

Among the activities **Sunday**, Nov. 15, are a reception at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.) and a Bethany College Symphonic Band concert (7:30 p.m.) at Presser Hall on the Bethany College campus.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 21, 22 ***“KIDS’ WEEKEND”***

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, barrel train rides, pony rides, children’s crafts and entertainment and – of course – refreshments.

At 5 p.m., musical entertainment from the stage, with more refreshments nearby.

On **Sunday**, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m., the TACOL community worship service will be at Trinity United Methodist Church.

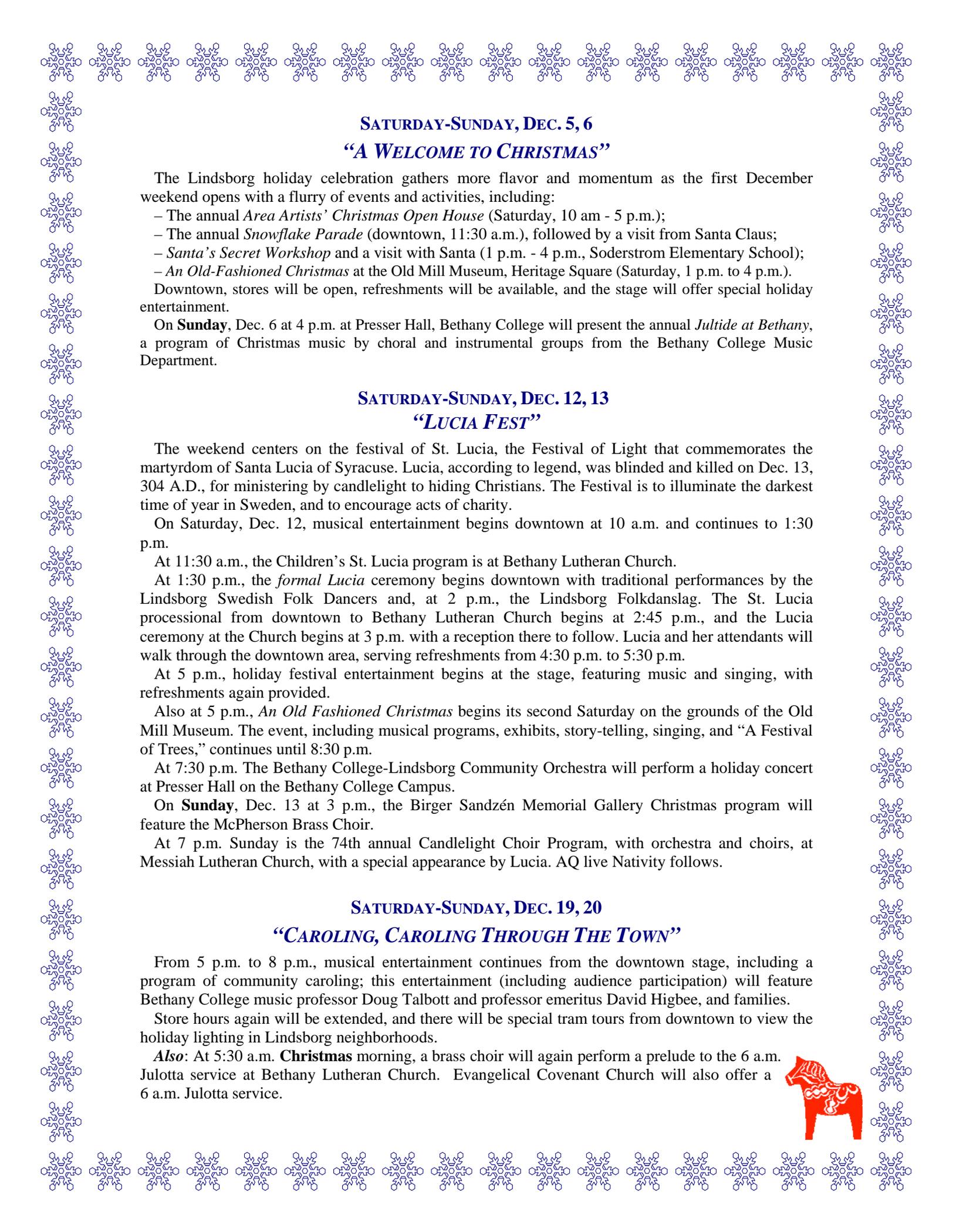
SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 28, 29 ***“A TASTE OF LINDSBORG”***

From 11 am to 8 p.m., merchants will offer samples and tastings of holiday treats available in their stores and throughout Lindsborg. Bake sales are planned. Restaurants will offer specials to mark the event.

Music and entertainment continues from the downtown stage, and stage coach rides will be available.

The weekend precedes the opening of the annual Festival of Trees at the Swedish Pavilion in Heritage Square at the McPherson County Old Mill Museum. The month-long Festival of Trees begins on Monday, Nov. 30, and runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. The Festival features displays of creatively themed and decorated Christmas trees, always a favorite and a special feature of the Old Mill’s Old Fashioned Christmas.





SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 6

“A WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS”

The Lindsborg holiday celebration gathers more flavor and momentum as the first December weekend opens with a flurry of events and activities, including:

- The annual *Area Artists’ Christmas Open House* (Saturday, 10 am - 5 p.m.);
- The annual *Snowflake Parade* (downtown, 11:30 a.m.), followed by a visit from Santa Claus;
- *Santa’s Secret Workshop* and a visit with Santa (1 p.m. - 4 p.m., Soderstrom Elementary School);
- *An Old-Fashioned Christmas* at the Old Mill Museum, Heritage Square (Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.).

Downtown, stores will be open, refreshments will be available, and the stage will offer special holiday entertainment.

On **Sunday**, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at Presser Hall, Bethany College will present the annual *Jultide at Bethany*, a program of Christmas music by choral and instrumental groups from the Bethany College Music Department.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 12, 13

“LUCIA FEST”

The weekend centers on the festival of St. Lucia, the Festival of Light that commemorates the martyrdom of Santa Lucia of Syracuse. Lucia, according to legend, was blinded and killed on Dec. 13, 304 A.D., for ministering by candlelight to hiding Christians. The Festival is to illuminate the darkest time of year in Sweden, and to encourage acts of charity.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, musical entertainment begins downtown at 10 a.m. and continues to 1:30 p.m.

At 11:30 a.m., the Children’s St. Lucia program is at Bethany Lutheran Church.

At 1:30 p.m., the *formal Lucia* ceremony begins downtown with traditional performances by the Lindsborg Swedish Folk Dancers and, at 2 p.m., the Lindsborg Folkdanslag. The St. Lucia processional from downtown to Bethany Lutheran Church begins at 2:45 p.m., and the Lucia ceremony at the Church begins at 3 p.m. with a reception there to follow. Lucia and her attendants will walk through the downtown area, serving refreshments from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m., holiday festival entertainment begins at the stage, featuring music and singing, with refreshments again provided.

Also at 5 p.m., *An Old Fashioned Christmas* begins its second Saturday on the grounds of the Old Mill Museum. The event, including musical programs, exhibits, story-telling, singing, and “A Festival of Trees,” continues until 8:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. The Bethany College-Lindsborg Community Orchestra will perform a holiday concert at Presser Hall on the Bethany College Campus.

On **Sunday**, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m., the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery Christmas program will feature the McPherson Brass Choir.

At 7 p.m. Sunday is the 74th annual Candlelight Choir Program, with orchestra and choirs, at Messiah Lutheran Church, with a special appearance by Lucia. AQ live Nativity follows.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 19, 20

“CAROLING, CAROLING THROUGH THE TOWN”

From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., musical entertainment continues from the downtown stage, including a program of community caroling; this entertainment (including audience participation) will feature Bethany College music professor Doug Talbott and professor emeritus David Higbee, and families.

Store hours again will be extended, and there will be special tram tours from downtown to view the holiday lighting in Lindsborg neighborhoods.

Also: At 5:30 a.m. **Christmas** morning, a brass choir will again perform a prelude to the 6 a.m. Julotta service at Bethany Lutheran Church. Evangelical Covenant Church will also offer a 6 a.m. Julotta service.

