

Lutheran FAQ: What is Christmas About?

What is your favorite Christmas song? What makes it special to you?

What is one thing your congregation does to make Christmas meaningful?

We give gifts to each other on Christmas because Jesus is God's gift to us and to remember the wise men who brought gifts to Jesus. What is the best gift you have received? What's the best gift you have given? _____

The Incarnation is God with us, not near us or far off watching us, but really with us as a sibling and friend. When do you most need to know that God is with you? How does that change things? _____

Did you know that St. Nicholas was real? You can learn more at <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>. What surprises you? Where do you see the original story showing through in Santa Claus traditions? _____

The Christmas story comes to us in Luke 2 (with prequels in Luke 1) and Matthew 1-2. They're really different versions of the same events. What do we learn about God in each telling? _____

What questions do you have about Christmas? _____

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When has Christmas been especially joyous? When has it been hard? What helped you to celebrate or as you struggled? _____

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One of the stories for the Sundays in the Christmas season is about Herod's horrible massacre of the infants (Matthew 2:13-23). The people in power reacted to God's love with violence. What does that say about humanity? About God? _____

What questions do you have about Christmas? _____

Deeper Dive:

Your local library is bound to have good books for children and adults on St. Nicholas. Check them out, even if you have to borrow a child to read them to. You can also learn more at <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>.

David Lose's Making Sense series is a very readable introduction to all kinds of Christian topics from a Lutheran perspective. He has a chapter about the Incarnation (titled "God Con Carne") in *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* (Augsburg Fortress: 2010).

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video "Lutheran FAQ: What is Christmas About?" found at scsynod.com/teaching-resources.