



Annual Live Nativity

The Journey to the Manger



Come with us on a journey...





...a journey to the nativity.

The annual live nativity is an ongoing project that we at Saint Peter Lutheran Church consider to be a core ministry to our community. Grandparents bring their visiting families, parents make it a Christmas teaching moment, and we also receive guests who are grieving or struggling at Christmas time. After the nativity journey, we offer refreshments and music. There are always folks on hand to minister to those in need.



Setup

The work begins well ahead of time. Our property staff review the premises and bring a report to the event committee. Decisions are made about what we can improve from previous years, such as path lighting, set lighting for each stop along the way, in addition to parking, refreshments, petting zoo, and of course entertainment. With that information, the property team purchases supplies and sets to work.



Actors

We begin discussions with our main actors in August, engaging as many as we can from our youth group. With three scenes that involve Mary, we're especially on the lookout for young girls who are interested in making Christmas special for our neighbors.





Costuming

The costume team performs an inventory to be sure all of our slated actors have what they need. This is also a time when we reach out to crafters in the church who can add special pieces to our collection, such as the hats we used during Vacation Bible School.







Getting Ready

November is a busy month as the property team brings our stages out of storage and performs any needed maintenance. They also build new structures and review the planned lighting for the event. Meanwhile the event organizers line out the planned entertainment (our choir practices for weeks!) as well as refreshments and pamphlets we give out to our guests.



Final Steps

When the week arrives, the property team erects tents, lays out the lighting, and a corral for the animals.





Getting the Food Out



You won't see an event without food in this church! The folks in the kitchen provide sustenance for the actors in the dressing area and treats for our visitors outside.



Lights, Camera...





Action!



We receive hundreds of guests each year, with increasing interest as the years go by.



The Journey

A guide leads visitors to each of the scenes that portray a portion of the nativity story. For each tableau, a narrator reads the related scripture.



A close-up photograph of a baby Jesus figurine in a nativity scene. The baby is lying on a white cloth, wearing a white diaper, and has a golden halo. The background shows green leaves and straw.

The Annunciation





The Innkeeper



The Manger



The Shepherds





The Wise Men





Journey's End?

The guide brings visitors to a petting area where they can greet the llamas.





The Cocoa

Treats, Christmas music, and merry fellowship cap the journey with a pleasant ending.



A close-up photograph of a baby Jesus figurine lying in a manger, surrounded by straw and a white cloth. The baby has a halo and is wearing a striped diaper. The scene is illuminated with warm, golden light and starburst effects.

Volunteers Needed!

- Construction
- Stagecraft
- Costumers
- Actors
- Guides
- Llama Wranglers
- Musicians



It takes a village to create an event of this scale. Interested in joining? Contact us and mention “Nativity” in the message field!