



THE HEADLINER

Heritage Christian High School
Friday, December 16, 2005

The True Meaning of Christmas

By: Joanna De Jong

Christmas lights, Santa Claus, and Christmas trees with presents are just a few of the things we see at this time of year. But is this really what Christmas should be about? For the Christian Christmas should be a time in which we celebrate God's gift of His only begotten Son who came down to this earth as a man to live among us. We should not focus on the decorations alone, which is a worldly perception of Christmas.

Where did this worldly perception come from? Santa Claus comes from the St. Nicholas of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. While St. Nicholas (Bishop Nicholas) was alive he threw presents to poor children through their windows. In the Russian Orthodox Church, he came to be thought of as a miracle worker. When the idea of St. Nicholas came to the U.S. he was depicted in poetry the way we see him today with his reds suit, black boots, and white beard. Santa Claus is said to come to the houses of good boys and girls on Christmas Eve to give presents. Our conception of St. Nicholas is that of a mythical figure rather than a real person.

The Christmas tree is a combination of legends and customs in the ancient Baltic countries and what is now Northern Germany. The first Christmas tree to be used in a celebration was in Riga, Latvia in the year 1510. But why do we have a Christmas tree? One legend says that a monk who traveled to Germany to preach used a fir tree to describe the Trinity. The people dubbed it "God's Tree" and by the 12th century it was being hung upside down in homes as a symbol of Christianity. Later Queen Victoria and her family posed for a newspaper picture by a fir tree decorated with candles and tinsel. Victoria was very popular all over the world, and the idea spread like wild fire.

As Christmas approaches, Christians everywhere must think about the true meaning of Christmas. Throughout the ages many people have made it into a showpiece with trees, wreaths, and lights. The world makes such a big deal of Christmas, but when Christ came into this world few people knew and were looking for the Son of God. We must remember that we should not focus on the decorations and Santa Claus. Instead we must remember and rejoice in the fact that Christ was born as a lowly man to walk the earthly way to the cross and die so that the sins of His elect people might be forgiven!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bball Schedule Changes

The basketball schedule is found on the back of this *Headliner*. Changes have been made since the schedule was last published.

Yearbook

Patrons & Advertisers

The Journalism class has been contacting businesses to advertise in our 2005-2006 yearbook. We also have been calling families or individuals to be patrons of our yearbook. If you own a business and would like to advertise, or if you would like to be a patron, and have not been contacted yet, please contact Mrs. Valerie DeKok, yearbook adviser, or a member of the Journalism class. We apologize if we missed you!

December Exams

Because of interim this year, exams will be held before Christmas break, Tuesday Dec. 20 through Thursday Dec. 22. A complete exam schedule is found on the back of this *Headliner* along with related announcements.

Interim

Interim will be held during the first two weeks in January after Christmas break from January 3 to January 13. Several speakers are scheduled for those 9 class days. Students will earn 1 required credit. First semester officially ends at the end of interim.

Snow

By: Lauren Lenting

Winter has come.... With the coming of snow we have started to see many changes take place around school. Faculty and students are wearing darker, warmer clothes (except for the guys who still think they can wear t-shirts). Also, as the ice forms on the ground, everybody drives into the parking lot at a slower speed. And the fallen snow has allowed the freshmen P.E. class to go sledding on a nearby hill. Also, for students snow means space heaters and jackets in class and... exams are just around the corner.

For everyone snow can be very disastrous, as we have seen in the past few weeks. At Midway airport an airplane slid off the runway, hit a car, and killed a child. On the news we see many car accidents that are snow related.

Although snow can be a sign of danger, snow can be a sign of beauty, especially for the Christian. In the Bible, snow is used to picture our sins being taken away. In Isaiah 1:18, Isaiah speaks about our sin. He says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..." This is a great comfort for us. To have our sins "white as snow" before God's eyes, what a wondrous thing!

Thanks be to God that he sent His only begotten Son, for we know that without him our sins would be as scarlet!

2005-2006 Basketball Schedule

* All Games Away

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Dec. 16	Southside Baptist	Girls @ 4:30 Boys @ 6
Jan. 6	Grace Baptist Academy	Girls @ 6 Boys @ 7:30
Jan. 11	CHESS	Boys @ 6
Jan. 12	Covenant DeMotte	Girls @ 5:30 Boys @ 7
Jan. 25	Illinois Lutheran	Girls @ 6 Boys @ 7:30
Feb. 1	CHESS	Boys @ 6
Feb. 3	Luther East	Girls @ 4:30 Boys @ 6
Feb. 9	Ridgewood Baptist	Girls @ 5
Feb. 10	Covenant DeMotte	Girls @ 5:30 Boys @ 7

1st Semester Exams – 2005

	<u>Tuesday, Dec. 20</u>	<u>Wednesday, Dec. 21</u>	<u>Thursday, Dec. 22</u>
8:00 – 9:30 AM	1. All Math	1. General Science Physics US History	1. Church History Cults
9:45 – 11:15 AM	2. All English	2. Western Civ. Spanish I & II	2. HAP

Classes Not Scheduled for Exam Days:

Accounting: 3 Major Tests are given over course of the year.

The exam 2nd Semester will be the 3rd test.

Keyboarding & Publishing: Tests will be given in class periods previous to Exam Days.

Attendance:

- All Students expected at school by 8 AM each day.
- Those not taking an exam first hour will be in study hall.
- Those finished with exams after first hour are dismissed for the day. (9:30 AM)
- School dismisses at 11:15 each of these 3 days.