



Funfilled family entertainment during Christmas in Clark 2024 on Saturday

The Clark Area Chamber of Commerce organized Christmas in Clark, which was held Saturday, December 7. The fun started at 2:00 p.m. at the Clark American Legion Hall. Where kids participated in various games and activities to win prizes, including a cake walk, edible Christmas tree decorating, crafts and many more. There were many fun characters to be seen at Christmas in Clark as well, including Olaf, Elsa and Anna, the Grinch, a Gingerbread Man, a Snowman, a Christmas Tree and Santa and Mrs. Claus. Left, the Gingerbread Man is pictured participating in the cake walk game. Center, Mrs. Santa Claus (Angie Osterloh) helps Gretta Osterloh decorate her ice cream cone to look like a Christmas tree. Right, Tren Bernard plays Pin the Heart on the Grinch, hosted by the Christmas Tree (Ashley Carvajal).

Following the kids activities at the Legion, a free will donation meal that also served as the Best Soup in Town competition was held at the fire station. Winning the Best Soup in Town contest was Mari Jo Alexander with her chicken and dumplings soup. Second place went to Brad Lamb with his zoopa. Victoria Schaack took third place with her lasagna soup. While everyone was enjoying soup, a few friendly games of Bingo were also played. A table full of goodies for prizes were donated by individuals and businesses. Once everyone's tummies were full with good soup, it was time for the Lighted Parade.

Photos by Karli Paulson

Christmas services celebrate 'The Reason for the Season'

The Christmas holiday is fast approaching with many area church services being held to honor the Savior Jesus Christ's birthday.



The Carpenter United Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve services at Good Hope Lutheran Church will be held at 4:00 p.m.

A Christmas Eve worship service at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bryant is set for 4:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vienna will hold a 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. The Sunday School Christmas program will be December 15 during worship at 8:30 a.m.

The Sunday School Christmas program at Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Lake will be held during the 10:30 a.m. worship on December 15. A Christmas Eve service will begin at 6:30 p.m. on December 24.

Pastor Michael Sanchez invites all to the Gospel of Fire Church in Bryant on Friday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. for their Christmas program.

Other area services

In Raymond, the First Presbyterian Church will have a Christmas Eve service beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Raymond Legion Hall.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Raymond will have a 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve service led by Pastor Randy Bader on December 22.

In Henry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pastor Randy Bader will lead a Christmas Day song service at 9:00 a.m.

Nativity of the Lord Christmas Eve mass on December 24 at St. Henry Catholic Church will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Clark

At Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, a children's program will be held December 15 during worship at 9:30 a.m. A Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 24 with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

At St. Paul Lutheran, Preacher Jody Peterson will lead a Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. on December 24. The Sunday School Christmas program will be held the Sunday prior to Christmas on December 22 during worship at 9:30 a.m.

The Assembly of God Church, led by Pastor Mark Cronauer, held their Christmas program on Sunday, December 8.

At the United Methodist Church in Clark, the annual Christmas Concert is set for Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. The Alleuia Bell Choir, Steve Logan and other local talent will be featured. Prior to the concert, a free-will offering meal of soup, sandwiches and bars will be offered from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Pastor Rob Salmonson invites all to Christmas Eve worship services at 3:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Catholic Church will hold Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day mass on December 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Willow Lake area

Pastor Randy Bader invites all to the Willow Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church for the Christmas Eve and Children's Christmas service at 4:00 p.m. on December 24.

Lake Gospel Church in Willow Lake will hold their Sunday School Christmas program during worship on December 15 at 9:30 a.m. and will have a Christmas Eve service on December 24 at 6:00 p.m. led by Pastor Steven Johnson.



Above, the fifth grade band show off their talents near the closing of the Clark Elementary School Christmas concert that was held Thursday, December 5 in the high school gym at 6:30 p.m. Top, the preschool, kindergarten and first grade students wave colored fabric during their performance of "Christmas Lights." Bottom, second and third grade students play various instruments during the performance of "Santa Claus is On His Way." Photos by Karli Paulson

Clark Elementary Christmas concert was held Thursday

The Clark Elementary School held their Christmas concert on Thursday, December 5 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Preschool through fifth grade students were featured in the concert. They were under the direction of Alicia Turnquist, Clark Elementary School music instructor.

Kicking off the concert, were the fourth and fifth grade students. Their song selections included: "Better Bundle Up" by Teresa Jennings, "Beautiful Christmas" by Mike Wilson and "I Hear Those Jingle Bells" adapted by Teresa/Paul Jennings. The students kept the beat up during their performance of "Better Bundle Up" by clapping their hands.

Next, the preschool, kindergarten and first grade students sang "A Kitty for a Present" by Teresa Jennings, "Christmas Lights" by John Riggio and "Merry Christmas Bells" by Teresa Jennings. During their performance of "Christmas Lights," some of the students waved

colored fabric around in a pattern. Zayne, Eisley, Alyssa, Jaxton, Clayton, Rivvan, Elsie, Braelynn, Kristen, Owen, Aria, Roberto, Waylon, Emma, Oliver and Jolie played the bells during "Merry Christmas Bells."

Then, the second and third grade students performed "A Holiday of Music" by Teresa Jennings, "Winter Walk" by John Riggio and "Santa Claus is On His Way" by Teresa Jennings. Emmy, Tinsley, Taylor, Elijah, Bruce, Cullen, Dawsyn and Thalia played percussion during "Santa Claus is On His Way" while Dilam, Sebastian, Everleigh, Nolan, Raegan and Jack played the xylophones.

Following, the fifth grade band performed "Jingle Bells," "Good King Wenceslas" and "When Santa's Away, the Elves Will Play!"

To end the concert, all of the students came together and sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" while also signing the words in American Sign Language (ASL).



Angel Tree in Clark represents the season of giving

By Carolyn Olson

For many people, the Thanksgiving and holiday seasons are a joyous and busy time of year. Calendars fill up with events such as concerts and holiday gatherings. But, for more

and more, American uncertainty and financial burdens often accompany holiday planning.

There are many potential factors that can lead to the extra financial stress of the holiday season,

including inflation and the ending of many pandemic economic assistance programs. Other factors, such as job loss can squeeze the budgets of many Americans, according to Clark County Community Service

worker Cindy Raml. It's at this point in holiday preparation that local resources can provide

Angel Tree
(continued on page 3)