

St. Martin's Day Approaches!

St. Martin's Day is one of the most popular German holidays. In November, when it becomes dark in the world we kindle colorful lanterns in the hope that it will be brighter and warmer in people's heart. Children in Germany come together with their lanterns, sing [traditional St. Martin songs](#) and parade after St. Martin who is riding on his horse with his sword and red cape. Throughout history, lanterns became an indispensable attribute of this event, and St. Martin is definitely a celebration of light and hope. It is also an opportunity to put in the spotlight the problems of disadvantaged ones who may need our help.

Because of St. Martin's personality and his story, this day became a celebration of charity and sharing. What's more it was traditionally a day to pay off debts, but also to forgive them.

At the same time, St. Martin's Day was the last big holiday prior to the beginning of the Advent, and therefore it was a time to kick off a party with traditional cookies and goose dishes, and of course it was a time to dance.

People in Germany celebrate St. Martin on November 11th, and this date marks one more event: The beginning of the Carnival Season. On this day at 11:11, the Elferat (Jester Council) announces the official opening of the Carnival Season. Thereafter the Carnival will fall asleep and awake again in February.

In cooperation with the Landmark Center, Spielmannszug Minnesota, the German-American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) and the Germanic-American Institute (GAI), our school celebrates the St. Martin's Day at the Landmark Center yearly on the first weekend of November.

More information about St. Martin's Day can be found online at <http://sites.google.com/a/germanschool-mn.org/music/stage/st-martin>.

You can also find texts of St. Martin songs online at <http://sites.google.com/a/germanschool-mn.org/music/fundus/stmartin>.