



What is *Your* Favorite Christmas _____?

I recently asked someone what their favorite Christmas song was and I got the question tossed back at me. That led to a conversation about all sorts of other "favorites" of Christmas. I've listed some of mine below. I'd be interested to hear about your favorites. (You'll get a chance to share some of them at our Advent devotional services on December 14 and 21st).

... song? That depends. Christmas seems to bring out the best (and in a few cases, the worst) in people musically. There are so many great songs and hymns. I'll have to put my favorites into a few categories.

As for "songs on the radio" I'd have to pick two:

- 1) "What A Wonderful Beginning" by Kathy Mattea
Amazing Voice - Great Words!
- 2) "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" by Roger Whittaker
Amazing Voice - Great Bells!.

Songs from TV shows

Schroeder's Christmas song from "A Charlie Brown Christmas"

Songs from our hymnal

- + Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- combination of great words and great tune.

Songs not in our hymnal

- + Good King Wenceslas - I love the story and the tune

... TV special?

- + A Charlie Brown Christmas.

That's an easy one. Every year Linus cuts through all the traditions and the buying frenzy and reminds us once again that it's all about Jesus! (Plus I like Charlie's tree.)

... food?

- + Oyster Stew - But it has to be on Christmas Eve. Doesn't taste nearly as good any other time.
- + Spritz cookies - These taste just as good any time of year.

... church tradition?

+ The Christmas Eve Candlelight worship.

The Christmas story, the Christmas songs, the entire service by candlelight. Hard to beat that.

... family tradition?

+ Cutting a Christmas tree.

We've had this tradition since Anthony and Becca were little. Each year a different family member gets to choose the tree. After cutting the tree the kids used to have us take a picture of one them under the tree as though it had fallen on them. This year with the kids at college Violet and I will go cut the tree. I volunteered to get my picture taken under the "fallen" tree. Violet says she thinks we should get a General Sherman Sequoia this year. Not sure why....

... characters in the Christmas story ?

+ The shepherds and wise men

It's a toss-up. (I know the Magi aren't *technically* part of Christmas, but they have a way of showing up in Christmas programs). What I like is that both groups dropped what they were doing to come and worship the Savior. They received a message about the Messiah being born and simply believed it. They showed their belief was genuine by acting on it - by coming to Jesus. That's an example for all of us.

...part about Christmas ?

+ The fact that it happened!

It boggles my mind every time I stop to think of what Christmas really is: God leaving the comforts of heaven to come to earth to be with us... for the express purpose of suffering death and hell... so that we selfish, ungrateful sinners can be with Him for eternity!!! What a comforting thing it is to know that God loved us enough to become human and experienced everything we do. That means we can be sure that when we go to Him we are going to One who really understands - He gets it, because He lived it!

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net