



Concordia Christkind Information and Requirements

The Concordia Christkind is selected to represent the *Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt* in Concordia, Missouri, on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School. The market takes place from December 11-13th. The following are requirements for the applicant:

- Must be a full-time female student in grades 8-12 in any school in Concordia, MO.
- Must wear the headpiece and gown while serving as the Concordia Christkind on campus and for events
- Must be present for the following dates and times:
 - *Christkindlesmarkt* opening ceremony at 6pm on Friday, 11 December to recite the Saint Paul Christkindlesmarkt *Prologue* and officially welcome the guests
 - Saturday, 12 December, from 11 to 3pm and from 4 to 8pm for pictures, story time with children, giving out of small gifts for children, and other activities (a detailed schedule will be given out upon selection of the chosen Christkind)
 - *Christkindlesmarkt* closing concert, Sunday, 13 December at 3pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church to draw and announce the winner of the children's scavenger hunt
- Visits during December to: (this may first happen in future years, post-COVID-19)
 - Hospitals
 - Grade schools
 - Nursing homes and care facilities

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Submit the following by November 15, 2020 to: christmasmarket@splhs.org

- Completed and signed application
- Quality headshot photo (in jpg or png format only)
- Required essay (see attached)
- Statement of faith (see attached)
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher, pastor or youth group leader

The Concordia Christkind panel of 3 judges will select a total of 5 young women by November 21st to be interviewed on Tuesday evening, December 1st in Concordia. In addition to their interview, they will be required to recite from memory the *Christkindlesmarkt Prologue*. The young lady will be selected following the interviews and featured in the local newspapers.

Some history of the German “Christkind”

Christkind literally means “Christ child” and began as a tradition in the late 15th century during the time of the protestant reformer Martin Luther. At that time, the biggest Christmas gifts were received on St. Nikolaus Day, which celebrated a saint who was traditionally thought to have brought gifts on the evening of December 6th. Martin Luther wanted to move away from celebrating saints and move towards the concept that Christ was the gift of Christmas and therefore the “Christkind” brings gifts. Today in Germany, Santa Claus does not bring gifts on Christmas Eve in Germany, but rather, the Christ Child. Children today in Germany anticipate with great excitement the arrival of the gifts from the “Christkind.”

This tradition gained popularity throughout the middle ages, and over time, with the tradition of angels taking on the form of both male and female in art and sculptures, the German Christkind was portrayed by a young girl. Today in Nuremberg, a young girl between age 14 and 19 is chosen to play the part of the Christkind. She presides over the Christmas market and is actively involved with the children. The Nuremberg Christmas market is named for her—the “Nuremberger Christkindlesmarkt.”

She wears a traditional headpiece that is blond curly hair and a tall star-like crown. She also wears a white and gold robe, with long white gloves (because it is cold in the winter!). She always opens the Nuremberg Christmas market by reciting a prologue about the city, welcomes the guests, and then visits kindergartens, hospitals and nursing homes throughout the month. Her job is to bring the message of hope, love and joy to everyone, but especially to those who are less fortunate.

The Nuremberg Christkind also acts as an ambassador to other cities and often visits the US German Christmas markets. She is chosen for 2 years to play this role and her most famous task is to visit a children’s hospital on Christmas Eve.



Nürnberg Christkind