



Christkindlesmarkt – 2020 Review

The first Christkindlesmarkt was an enormous success, with about 2000 visitors, and over 40 booths. Many vendors sold out completely and did far more business than they anticipated--even in the middle of a pandemic that kept many people away. Visitors were especially delighted by the authenticity of the German Christmas market atmosphere. Strolling throughout the market, one enjoyed the smells of foods such as fresh crepes, warm roasted almonds, and Kartoffelpuffer. The high quality of the artisans, with handmade wares and crafts, ranging from wood, ceramic, leather, glass and ceramic creations to edible treats like handmade Lebkuchen (German Gingerbread), German chocolate, international Christmas cookie specialties, German pretzels, among a few things, was impressive. Of course for many a highlight included drinking the traditional German Bier, sponsored by KC Bier Company, and the favorite Christmas market drinks such as Gluehwein and the special Concordia Eierpunsch (hot rum drink) sponsored by Concordia's own local 1832 Distilling Company. Live entertainment on the market stage featured the Concordia High School Jazz Band, which opened the Friday evening market, a Community Brass Choir, the Singing Saints from SPLHS, and various dance groups, soloists and ensembles presenting Christmas and winter-themed performances. The Concordia Christkind (Bailey Dunkin) graced the market with her presence, giving gifts to children, telling stories and bringing joy to all she encountered.