

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

HEILIGER ABEND / CHRISTMAS EVE

Heiligabend



Gifts are traditionally exchanged on Christmas Eve, called in German "Heiligabend" (literally, holy evening). Christmas itself translates as "Weihnachten," which is derived from ancient Germanic dialect and means the holy nights. The term is plural, as the celebration was traditionally one that covered 12 days. Now in Germany it runs from the evening of December 24 through December 26.

Holy gifts



Children can hardly wait to open their presents on Christmas Eve. The German word for the activity is "Bescherung," which comes from the ancient German word, "beschern," or bestowed by God. To this day, many children, particularly in southern Germany, still believe that their gifts are brought by the Christkind.