

# A Mexican Posada

During the days immediately before Christmas, it is traditional for Mexicans to celebrate “Posadas.” “Posada” means “inn” or “lodging,” and this celebration recalls the way in which Joseph and the Virgin Mary sought lodging in Bethlehem. This custom in Mexico dates back to over 400 years.

These are photos from a Posada that we celebrated several years ago at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

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After gathering, people first light their candles.



They then sing as they walk in procession.



At the head of the procession are the “pilgrims,” Joseph and Mary, who are seeking lodging in Bethlehem.



Some of the people participating go inside, representing the inn keeper, and close the door behind them, while the other group remains outside with the “pilgrims.”



Those outside sing the traditional Posada song, asking to be let into the inn. They alternate stanzas with the group that is inside the house.



In the stanzas sung by those on the inside, they tell the pilgrims to go away because there is no room in the inn.



Finally, however, when they learn that it is the Virgin carrying God's Son, they let the pilgrims in, and the group outside enters with the pilgrims into the lodging.





After that, there is traditional Christmas punch, lots of good food and warm company (it is quite chilly in December!), sparklers, and several Christmas piñatas to break.

