

The procession

Tärnorna wear a white gown with tinsel around their waists and head. They carry a candle in their hands. They carry a candle in their hands.



Stjärngossarna derive from the story of the three wise men. They wear a pointy hat on their heads and carry a star on a stick "to show the way" -just like the star of Bethlehem once did!



GLAD LUCIA!
(=Happy Lucia Day!)

Lucia brings light to the darkest time of the year.



Back in the day December 13th was considered a dangerous night in Scandinavia. Many supernatural powers were in motion. People would stay awake to guard off the evil powers.



Saint Lucia Day

-the Festival of Lights in Sweden

Today we celebrate December 13th by walking in processions, singing christmas carols. A traditional "Lucia-tåg" (Lucia procession) will have:

- one Lucia bride
- tärnor (maidens)
- stjärngossar (star-boys) and
- tomtar (gnomes or Santa's helpers).



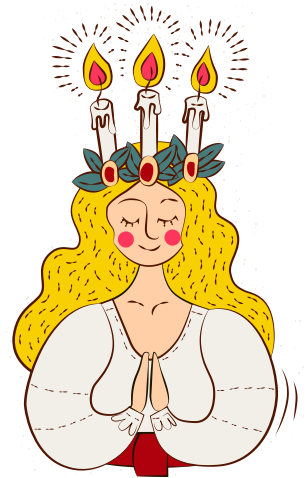
Lucia processions spread their joy and light at schools, churches, old people's homes and hospitals. Even a national Lucia is chosen and the procession is being broadcasted on national TV.

Lucia and her crown

Lucia wears a white gown with a red ribbon around her waist. She also wears a crown of candles on her head.

Legend says St Lucia carried candles on her head, because she needed her hands to carry the food she brought to the people who lived in hiding underground.

Lucia's crown is decorated with lingonberry branches. Lingonberry is an evergreen (meaning it stays green in winter) and symbolizes new life.



On December 13th every year we celebrate St Lucia Day in honor of a girl who lived a long time ago in Syracuse (in Sicily, Italy).



Her name was Lucia and she helped the poor people who lived in hiding for their Christian belief.



We eat lusse-katter* (saffron buns) and pepparkakor (ginger-bread cookies) and drink glögg (a sweet, warm drink, served with almonds and raisins) to keep warm on Lucia Day.



*Lusse-katter means "lucia-cats", if direct-translated from Swedish!