



Sophomore Lily Disney glides her way through The Christkindlmarkt in Carmel. Christkindlmarkt is open through Dec. 24 from 4 - 9 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from Noon - 9 p.m. on Fridays, and Saturdays and from Noon - 8 p.m. on Sundays. **Lily Disney photo**



**By Makena Cruse**  
editor-in-chief

Christmas bells are ringing, and the Carmel Christkindlmarkt is open.

The Christkindlmarkt is a German Christmas market located in Carmel. At the market, visitors can purchase assorted Christmas items, such as ornaments, mugs, and traditional German trinkets. There is also an ice skating rink in the center of the plaza.

I started my review with a drive to Carmel; from the high school, it is about a 45 minute drive. I took 69 and 465, and the drive was relatively easy with little to no traffic.

We arrived at the market at 3:30 p.m in time for our reserved ice skating time. Ice skating tickets are sold in 1.5 hour sessions and there are 30 minutes between each session to clean the ice. Tickets are \$15 with skate rental or \$11 with no skate rental. Because it was raining, the rink was wet, and it made it difficult to skate; however, it was significantly less busy than when I had been in the past. The rink is surrounded by Christmas lights and the stores from the market, which truly made me feel like I was living in a Hallmark movie.

Christmas music played throughout the market which added to the ambiance. It was rainy and cold; however, this did not taint my experience. Conveniently located around the rink were heaters and fires that visitors could stand by, even while skating. Upon entering the market, I was cold and dreading the rain, but by the time I was on the rink, it felt as if the rain and cold had gone away and all that was left was me and the rink. The ice skating was the highlight of my Christkindlmarkt experience, and I will definitely be going back again.

After I finished the ice skating session, I decided to walk around the market and

look at all of the different items being sold. I saw a lot of handmade ornaments, German steins, and other delicately made trinkets. Most of the items I saw were expensive, so I did not end up purchasing anything.

The market also has a lot of traditional German foods. I opted for an apple tart and a caramel hot chocolate. The apple tart was \$7; however, I only paid for one, and they gave me two. I was expecting the tart to be warm and comforting; however, it was cold and did not taste very fresh. The flavor of the overall tart was good, and it reminded me of a croissant with apple pie filling in the center. I also bought a salted caramel hot chocolate for \$7. The hot chocolate was 12 oz. and came topped with a light, fresh whipped cream, salted caramel flakes, and a sugar cookie that reminded me of a Scooby Snack on top. The whipped cream, cookie, and caramel were delightful; however, the hot chocolate itself did not have any notes of caramel, which was disappointing for me. All of the food smelled amazing, and the entire market was filled with smells of freshly baked pastries, pastrami and brats. There were also igloos in the corner of the market where visitors could sit and eat their food in warm enclosures away from the cold.

Because the market is located in the center of downtown Carmel, there were many restaurants and activities nearby. The streets were lined with Christmas decorations and lights. I decided to eat dinner at Bazbeaux Pizza, which was within walking distance of the market. I ordered a margherita pizza, and it was one of the best pizzas I have ever had.

Overall, the Carmel Christkindlmarkt is a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas and can be made into an entire experience. It will be open until Christmas Eve.

## Downtown Indy offers so many places to see holiday displays



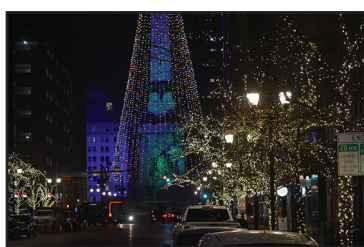
**By Deiana Forde**  
copy editor

Lights twinkle and flash red, green, and gold, luminating the streets of downtown Indianapolis.

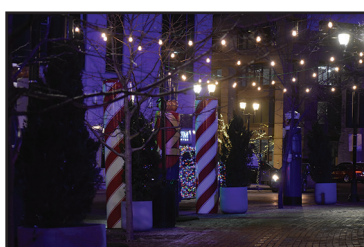
Initially, I was scared to go downtown alone, so I invited a friend to trek with me. It was under 20 degrees, so I hoped that going to see the lights on the Circle would be worth suffering in the cold. We went on a Wednesday, so it was not

very crowded and not hard to find parking. We had to take a short walk to get to the Circle, but we did not mind because the trail was beautifully decorated. The trees lining the sidewalk were covered in twinkling gold lights, and I felt like I was in a magical winter wonderland.

Once we made it to the Circle, I was told that a light show would present itself on some of the surrounding high-rising buildings. There were a lot of carriages decorated with Christmas lights and many shops, like a cool candy shop. My favorite was a chocolate shop decorated so beautifully. The hot chocolate was amazing. There



photos as they prepared to be married under the big tree of lights in the Circle's center. It was magical. It represented how people come together and express their love for one another in the heart of Indianapolis. Watching that couple get married spoke to the part of me that loves Christmas rom-coms, and the light show was pretty entertaining, so I rate The Lights at Circle Center as 10 out of



were also people dressed up as Santa and the Grinch offering motorcycle rides.

The most magical part of the Circle was a couple my friend and I met as we were walking. They were taking

10. I absolutely will be attending again before this Christmas season comes to an end.

People have always talked about the White River State Park Christmas displays. Since it was only a 6-minute drive, we decided to head down to the park after warming up and blasting Christmas music in my car. There were just simple gold lights decorating light poles and fences. Despite it being basic, the lights were lovely. My friend and I walked around the park in awe of how magical it felt. However, the park did not entice any feelings of Christmas. It was just a comforting and calm site to see. With that, we decided to rate White River Park a 6 out of 10 because we probably came before they put up the intricate displays, but it was still beautiful to experience.

Being relatively new to Indiana, I was excited to see what Christmas in Indianapolis was like without spending much money on different attractions. I am highly impressed with the city; it has completely transformed into the Christmas City of lights, and I look forward to exploring and soaking in all of the festivities offered.