

# Sweetie-licious™

## Sweetie News – Holiday 2007



Good Food, Good Deeds Good Lives... by Linda Hundt

Welcome, welcome, welcome to our Sweetie-licious newsletter. Our mission is to celebrate home-life through stories of good food, good deeds, and good lives. Each issue will also present a delicious and simple recipe. I am thrilled to share my treasured library of recipes, stories and traditions with you all! So friends, here is to making our lives meaningful, our homes happy, and our palates joyous!

Happy Holidays!! I hope everyone is having a beautiful and merry holiday season. We are as busy as elves at our little café-bakery, making wonderful goodies for us all to enjoy. We break out the old favorite Christmas recipes this time of year, so come in and enjoy our charmingly decorated "Christmas Wonderland" and indulge in our delicious holiday treats!!

As far as gift giving – shop no more. We have it all at Sweetie's – a gift for that special someone – your neighbor, your co-worker. Everyone loves homemade food, especially ours in our beautifully designed packaging! We hear all the time how excited people are when they see a pink box coming their way...nothing says you care more than a Sweetie-licious pie or other baked goodie!



Yes Virginia.... I believe in Santa Claus

I love vintage Christmas stories and poems and have a huge collection of them. I remember my mommy reading the following letter to me when I doubted the

existence of Santa Claus. This little article set me straight and has to this day. I still get good bumps every time I read it. Think about reading this letter at the dinner table tonight and/or at the water cooler at work tomorrow. For a true and meaningful life comes from believing in God, the good in people, the good in yourself, and the impossible. Believe...



Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia O'Hanlon

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus - Francis P. Church  
(Published in the New York Sun – Sept. 21, 1897)

Virginia your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible in their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life it's highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary is if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men

to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## Easy Egg Nog French Toast

This issue's recipe is ever so appropriate. Our family is big into egg nog, so I am always creating new recipes to satisfy our egg nog desires! This is the perfect holiday breakfast. Serve it on any of the holiday mornings and everyone will be happy to get out of their warm and cozy beds! The best part of this simple recipe is that you can make it the night before. Enjoy!

1 loaf of any type of cinnamon bread, cut into cubes  
3 1/3 C of really good Egg Nog (we use Quality Dairy)  
3 tsp of real vanilla  
1 tsp of brandy (optional)  
fresh nutmeg

Butter a 3 quart shallow baking dish. Place bread cubes in dish. Mix the egg nog and vanilla and pour over bread, making sure all bread is covered with liquid. Sprinkle entire dish lightly with freshly ground (or pre-ground) nutmeg. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour or overnight. Uncover. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min. or until the center is set. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Serve with real maple syrup and real butter on your best china or holiday plates. Using the best of everything makes the morning that much more special. Yummy!

*Merry*  
A  Morning

*A Merry Christmas morning  
To each and every one!  
The rose has kissed the dawning  
And the gold is in the sun.  
And make Christmas splendor  
A joyous greeting bear  
Of love that's true and tender  
And faith that's sweet and fair! - Anonymous*

(Maybe you can recite this poem at breakfast)

## Time to Boast

Media - Noise magazine (Nov.14-21, 2007) recently voted our 'Pumpkin Custard Praline' pie the very best in the area though a blind taste test. Our pie scored highest in crust - "impressive, fresh and flakey, just like Mom used to make." As for the filling, one judge added, "The pumpkin melts in your mouth." Everyone here at Sweetie's was proud and excited about our ranking. We do our very very best and it keeps showing. Yeah!

Sales - We had record sales at Thanksgiving, selling close to 500 pies this year. This is quite an accomplishment given that we have just two little ovens. We had several shifts to ensure that almost everyone who wanted one received an award-winning Sweetie-licious pie! As always, place your orders early!

Sweetie Staff - We have the best crew of any business in the whole state - and I mean that! Every single one of our Sweetie women is hard-working, professional, and loving. I know they live those tenets both at home and at work. Somehow they mix fun, great service, and love in all they do. We simply have a great staff at the shop and I am completely blessed and humbled by them all. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Here is wishing you  
and yours a beautiful  
and meaningful  
holiday season!  
God bless us all!!!



## About Linda Hundt



Linda resides in a century old farmhouse with her sweet husband and two lovely teenage daughters. She is the owner of Sweetie-licious Pie Pantry in DeWitt Michigan, is a first place winner at the 2007 National Pie Championships, recipient of the 2006 SBTC Small Business of the Year, in addition to other regional and State awards. She is also the co-founder of the Downtown DeWitt Farmers Market.



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