Martinmas celebrates the life of St. Martin and reminds us that we each have a light inside of us that we can share with the world. This celebration is intended to both observe the changing of the seasons and inspire generosity of spirit.

St. Martin was a soldier in Rome in the 4th century. Legend says that one wintry night, he met a poor beggar, half dressed and freezing. Martin removed the heavy cloak from his shoulders and, drawing his sword, cut it in two, and gave half to the beggar. Martin became the patron saint of beggars and the poor, dedicating his life to helping others.

The Lantern Walk coincides with the feast of St. Martin of Tours on November 11th. Throughout Germany and other European countries children and their families walk through the night with lanterns, singing songs. They often gather in the town square to see St. Martin and his horse.

The lantern is symbolic of each of our light shining out into the darkness. This festival is a wonderful one to bring into your home and start a family ritual around it. Lighting candles that night, planning to give to those that have less—perhaps donating clothing or blankets to those in need.
Sankt Martin, Sankt Martin, Sankt Martin ritt durch Schnee und Wind, sein Ross, das trug ihn fort geschwind. Sankt Martin ritt mit leichtem Mut, sein Mantel deckt ihn warm und gut.

Im Schnee saß, im Schnee saß, im Schnee, da saß ein armer Mann, hat Kleider nicht, hat Lumpen an: „Oh helft mir doch in meiner Not, sonst ist der bittere Frost mein Tod!“

Sankt Martin, Sankt Martin, Sankt Martin zieht die Zügel an, sein Ross steht still beim braven Mann. Sankt Martin mit dem Schwerte teilt den warmen Mantel unverweilt.

St Martin Song in German  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMsfKnjwBwE
And in ‘aussie’ english ☞  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fYwxSXA084
Traditional Songs:

Ich geh' mit meiner Laterne-I walk with my lantern

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Volkslied

English version (not exact translation)

I go outside with my lantern, my lantern goes with me. Above us shine the stars so bright, down here on earth shine we.

So shine my light in the still dark night, Rabimmel, Rabammel, Raboom. 'Neath heaven's dome till we go home, Rabimmel, Rabammel, Raboom.

We walk with our little lanterns, our lanterns so shiny and bright. We wander through the darkness, with winking, twinkling lights.

Like stars that swing are the lanterns we bring, Rabimmel Rabammel Raboom
Laterne, Laterne Sonne, Mond und Sterne.
Latern, lantern, sun, moon and stars

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Volkslied

J=140

F
Dm
F
La - ter - ne, La - ter - ne, Son - ne, Mond und
Dm
C
Dm
Ster - ne. Brenn - ne auf, mein Licht, brenn - ne
C
Dm
F
B
Am
Auf, mein Licht, aber nur mei - ne lie - be La - ter - ne nicht.