



When the commune prepares for the Christmas season...

While Lena Gries is still at home with her children getting ready for the new school year, a completely different task has already begun for her at the office. As the main organizer of the Niederanven Christmas Market, supported by a whole team of employees from almost all services of the commune, she starts planning this major event as early as late summer. Over the years, it has become a fixed part of the commune's event calendar.

Many things need to be organized well in advance: the wooden chalets for the various stalls, the Christmas trees decorating the courtyard, the lighting in and around the buildings, and the transparent canopy that ensures a pleasant atmosphere even in unstable weather. This year, the Christmas Market celebrates its fourth edition.

At the very first edition, around 18 associations and clubs took part – a number that has steadily increased since then. The Christmas Market will once again take place this year in the courtyard between the town hall and the centre polyvalent “A Schommesch.” The decision to include “A Schommesch” in the plan was made quickly, not only because of the larger space but also thanks to the infrastructure that makes organization much easier. The theatre hall “A Schommesch” plays a central role: on Fridays and Saturdays, hobby artists exhibit their handmade works there – pieces made of wood, fabric, or other materials, all unique and crafted with great attention to detail.

On Sunday, the school takes over the hall, and the children present their self-made decorations, which they have prepared with great dedication in class. What used to be the “Sandmäertchen,” organized every two years at “Loisi,” has now become an integral part of the Christmas Market. This collaboration not only adds a creative touch but also brings many families to the event. In addition to the “Sandmäertchen,” the children provide a wonderful musical atmosphere every year. School classes take turns singing a selection of beautiful Christmas carols, creating a festive mood and giving visitors a taste of the upcoming holiday season.

Alongside the familiar elements of the Christmas Market, Lena strives to introduce new ideas each year. She focuses particularly on variety in the musical program to offer something for every taste. Last year, the children's band ICE CLIC was part of the program, featuring a young resident from our commune. For them, it was their first major performance – which makes us even happier that they will be back again this year! Saint Nicholas will also return on December 6 to delight the children. New this year is the local dance association IDEA, whose children will fill the outdoor stage with plenty of dance and rhythm.

Organizing the Christmas Market is truly a team effort. Although Lena coordinates the entire event, she emphasizes that such an undertaking is only possible with a broad and diverse team from various services of the commune: *“Every year, it's wonderful to see that I can rely 100% on each person, who is just as enthusiastic and committed as I am. The Christmas Market is practically the last major event of the year organized by the commune. We put all our energy and effort into making it a beautiful moment for the citizens and all visitors in Niederanven.”*

Almost every service of the commune is involved in one way or another, making the Christmas Market a genuine community project.



Electricians ensure atmospheric lighting that gives the market a festive setting. The gardening service carefully handles greenery and decorations to create the right ambiance. The secretariat team manages coordination with associations to guarantee many attractive stalls. The communications department is responsible for publications and spreading information to residents. Without the associations and clubs that participate every year and fill the wooden chalets and the “A Schommesch” foyer – whether with food and drinks or decorations perfectly suited to the Christmas season – the market would not be as lively and popular as it is every year.

Trust, coordination, and the commitment of all involved make the Christmas Market what it is: a vibrant, diverse celebration that brings people together and reflects the commune as a community. This year, the Christmas Market also features a new visual identity. *“It was important for us to give the design a personal touch so that it doesn’t just look like a generic Christmas Market design but is clearly connected to Niederaanven,”* says Lena. So, if you drive through the commune’s streets in the coming weeks, take a look at the banners and flags – you might recognize some familiar elements.

When the Christmas lights sparkle, the scent of mulled wine fills the air, and music echoes through the commune, one thing is clear: it’s Christmas Market time in Niederaanven again! Make sure you join us this year.

