

Mom's Joy Room

2964 Fairmont Road • Morgantown, West Virginia 26501 • (304) 282-3671

Lighted Nativity Scene Glitter Water Lantern

by Winter Lane • Musical (Optional Play) • circa 2015–2022

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$30 – \$60



The lantern lit, with the nativity scene suspended in swirling glitter



Underside of the base, showing the operating switch

History

The lighted water lantern became one of the most beloved holiday decorating forms of the 2010s. Building on the old snow globe tradition that dates back to the Vienna Exposition of 1878 — where the first known glass snow globes with ceramic scenes were introduced — modern makers replaced the fragile glass dome with a sealed liquid chamber inside a freestanding lantern frame. Inside, a small motor keeps fine glitter swirling continuously around the scene, so the piece plays "snowfall" on command rather than requiring a good shake. A warm LED light glows behind the figures, and a battery-powered design means no cords or flames — a practical elegance that made these a staple of seasonal catalogs and television shopping channels.

This lantern is a product of the **Winter Lane** brand, a holiday house line produced in China and sold principally through the American television shopping networks QVC and HSN from the mid-2010s onward. Winter Lane pieces were designed to look like vintage European Christmas décor — aged bronze finishes, blackened frames, and ornate scrollwork — while using modern, safe, maintenance-free materials. Their nativity lantern was among the most popular versions of the form, pairing the swirling-glitter effect with the Christmas story itself. As televised shopping has waned, these pieces have passed into the secondary market, where complete, working examples — light, glitter motion, and music all functioning — remain steady Christmas-season sellers.

This example joined the Mom's Joy Room collection in

October 2026 and is reported by its prior owner to be in full working order, with both the light and the optional music playing as designed.

"The first Christmas story, retold in falling light — a small galaxy of glitter, and a stable glowing in the middle of it."

Features & Description

- Rectangular lantern with pyramidal roof and hanging loop, antiqued bronze-gold finish over a black frame
- Sealed liquid chamber with continuously swirling silver-white glitter ("snow globe" effect)
- Three-dimensional painted nativity scene inside: Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus
- Warm LED interior lighting, battery operated (no cords)
- Optional music feature, with separate operation switch on the underside of the base
- Multi-tiered base with ornate raised scrollwork trim
- Reported fully working: light, glitter motion, and music

Collector's Notes

Winter Lane is a modern television-shopping house brand rather than an antique maker, and this lantern is valued as a decorative working holiday piece rather than a rarity. Value assumes all functions operate; pieces with failed music mechanisms or cloudy liquid sit toward the lower end. Display away from freezing temperatures and direct hot sunlight to keep the liquid chamber sealed and clear. The window panels are clear acrylic — clean gently, as they can scratch.

Mom's Joy Room — *Where Obsolescence Ends and Wonder Begins*

Sandy Wade, Proprietor