

“The true light that gives light to everyone....”

John 1:9

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones! May you cherish the gifts of faith, hope and love throughout the Christmas season. A time filled with traditions and the joy that surround the month of December. Everywhere we go, signs of the season abound with all their glitter and tinsel - sleigh bells ringing, children singing, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, and stockings hung by the chimney with care.

It is truly the season of giving, receiving and reflection, and with the memory of Thanksgiving turkey rapidly fading, we excitedly pull out decorations, write Christmas cards, and wrap carefully selected gifts. Our hope is that you can find a few quiet moments during the “busyness” to cherish Christmas memories from the past. Do you remember trimming the Christmas tree years ago and the final and most exciting step was placing the tinsel? The tinsel was always silver and it was so shiny and shimmery lying neatly in the box. Remember grabbing a handful and then static cling would take over making it nearly impossible to get it onto the tree? It was with repeated instruction and experience that we learned to patiently and carefully handle and place the tinsel in clusters of only 2 -3 strands at a time. Oh! That hard work and effort were worth it as the tinsel made the tree sparkle and shine!!

Ideally, the Christmas season should be a time of joy and good cheer, one of the happiest times of the year. But for many, it can be a lonely and sad time; expectations can be unrealistic, money seems to run short or a loved one is unable to be at the traditional family celebrations. Yet, in the midst of the darkness, it is important to remember that we have a light, one that burns and glows, a light that shines in the darkness. That light is Jesus, and on Christmas we are blessed to remember the Christ-child who was born to take on the “darkness” and overcome it for us. We have been saved from the darkness by God’s gift of His Son. Through His suffering, death and resurrection, we have the gift of light and of hope. As we prepare our hearts this Christmas, let us focus on the one true light of the world and the joy that it brings us.

Our hope is also that you will remember in your hearts the Lutheran Home families at our Vinton and Davenport campuses and the variety of ways that you can bring light to the lives of our elderly. Can you take the opportunity to visit, come and sing, play cards, read, go for walks, or just sit and chat? These activities are so appreciated and help to light up our world, bringing sparkle and shine to our everyday lives year-round!

The Christmas season of gift giving and receiving is also the perfect occasion to say “Thank You” to each and every one who has provided time, talent financial gifts and continued prayers to support our Mission and Ministry of “Providing Quality Christian Care and Service” to God’s elders. May the spirit of Christmas fill your heart with joy!



Diane Gloede, COO