



*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.....
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. Isaiah 9:2, 6 & 7*

Advent, 2023

Dear Fellow Servants of Christ,

We who serve on the Great Lakes Conference staff are thankful for the gifts God has given you to reflect the light of Jesus to people in your community and your church. We are grateful for the daily sacrifices you make to tell others about the one who is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace so that the followers of Jesus may be built up and so that people who don't yet know Jesus may come to know him, follow him, and grow in their relationship with Him. We are grateful for your work to equip people to use their gifts for God's glory and neighbor's good. We are thankful for your faithfulness to your calling, and for your partnership in the Gospel.

In this season of Advent as you offer words of eternal hope to others, embody the love of Christ to the broken people of your community, and share the meaning of Christ's birth with people who come to a worship service or participate in a special event, may God bless you with wisdom, strength, courage and grace.

And then on Christmas Day ~ after you have given so much of yourself away for weeks on end so that others might experience the rich and abundant life that Jesus has to offer ~ may God bless you and your loved ones with His rest, His peace, and His joy. And may He fill you with His Spirit as you prepare to serve Him in the coming year.

Respectfully and on behalf of my colleagues who serve our Conference Pastors and Churches:
Alan Tumpkin, Jody Eidnes, Jani Gustafson, Peg Wolter, Jack Nichols, Kim Carlson, Peg Cichon
Dan Wolter, Phil Carr, Kevin Butcher, William Mack and Pam Pangborn,

Garth McGrath