



*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 Churches of the Great Lakes Conference,

In this season of Advent, as you anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, spend time with family and friends, reflect the light of Jesus to people you serve, and talk about the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace with children, teenagers and adults who are important to you, who join you for worship or who attend special events hosted by your congregation, may you experience the deep peace that only He can give.

We who serve on the staff of the Great Lakes Conference are grateful for your ministry in your community. We are grateful for your partnership with the other 73 Covenant churches in the 8 states of our region as we strive to start new churches and help strengthen existing ones. We are grateful for your engagement in the larger mission of the Covenant Church in the United States, Canada and around the world to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. And we are grateful for the many words of encouragement that you offer to us when we visit your church or answer your phone call. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with everyone you serve.

May Christmas Day be a day of rest and restoration for you. And may God bless you, your family and your church as you begin the New 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