

So here it is, the weekend before Christmas. The shopping is done; well, for gifts anyway. I wrapped the last presents on Sunday. It felt good to put all the paper and accessories away and free up that corner of the living room. Whew.

We had our gift exchange at work on Friday. Everyone seemed pleased with what they got. We may shake it up next year and play some games with the bounty.

I'm hoping we get to do a little light-gazing tonight. I want to show my hubby the house in Ottoville for sure. It's pretty neat. If you haven't seen it, it's worth the drive.

We love Christmas lights and enjoy seeing how creative people are and what's new. In our estimation, the house on the corner of Franklin and Sixth streets is the best-decorated house. It's a personal favorite. You don't have to agree - just drive by and give it a chance.

A few years ago, we actually stopped and knocked on the door and asked if we could look at some of their lights so we could buy them the next year. As luck would have it, we still haven't found them. I think they have a double-secret store they shop at and they're not giving it up.

They've added a star this year - very cool. Yes, that's us sitting at the stop sign watching it to see what all it does.

The Deitering home off 309 is amazing - again. I can't even imagine the time it takes to do all that. He must start before Halloween.

Thanks to everyone who submitted their Top 10 Christmas Songs lists. I'll have those put together and the results will be in Monday's paper. We may have to make that a tradition or do something similar each year. You'll also see the coloring contest winners. Cute, very cute.

A blessed time of year

Saturday, December 22, 2012 2:04 AM -

As I looked through the lists, I had to rearrange my own a little. There are just so many you forget one or two you really like and have to move things around.

So here is a little something I want everyone to do on Tuesday. First, as your feet hit the floor say a little "thank you" that your feet hit the floor. As you spend time with your families, say another "thank you" for them and the fact you can be together. Many will spend Christmas alone because they have lost loved ones or they can't be together.

It's a joyous time of year full of wonder and delight and a time to gather with those we love and let them know how special we think they are.

Merry Christmas! May you all feel as blessed as I know I am.