



**NORTH DAKOTA  
SUPPLEMENT**  
www.ndyorkrite.org/gckt  
**SK David Bickel**  
**RE Grand Commander**



### A Grand Commander's Christmas Message

This holy day has grown over the past few centuries into a most important Christian season of togetherness and celebration with family and friends. Early Christians changed celebration of Christ's birth from its actual time in the early spring lambing season to early winter to help the conversion of northern European peoples. Its modern commercial overtones disturb some; although, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century writers who did much to promote its popularity, Dickens, Nast and others, were motivated by personal gain. How the birth of Jesus Christ evolved into our most important of religious holiday and how it is celebrated today are unimportant. The true importance of religious holidays, ceremonies, and other acts of faith is that they help make us aware of our relationship with God. The birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the Great Lessons of that relationship. Please find at least a moment to reflect on God and you amid the anxiety of preparations, travel, joyous gatherings, worship, the pandemic, feasting, fun and football. That moment of God Awareness fulfills the spirit of Christmas. The rest of it is a blessed experience of God's domain and is meant to be enjoyed.

We pray that the peace, joy and presence of our Lord and Savior be with us all throughout this Christmas Season. Amen.

Dave



**Sir Knight Chris Christianson**  
Passed away on October 18, 2020

With sadness we report the passing of SK Chris Christianson of Fargo on October 18, 2020. MW Chris was a Past Grand Master of Masons in North Dakota, Past Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons, Past Illustrious Grand Master of Cryptic Masons, and Past Grand Commander (1999) of Knights Templar in North Dakota and 33° Scottish Rite. He is survived by his wife, Mary, who has always been an active supporter of Chris' Masonic work. Although facing health issues, SK Chris remained active in Freemasonry and his work up to his unexpected death. He was a mentor and beloved giant in North Dakota Freemasonry. A Masonic memorial service was held for him on October 24 by his home Lodge, Sunrise Lodge, 130 with its Master, SK Mark Gauslow, presiding. He will be missed.

