



The lights up 😊

Each year, as I admire my Christmas decorating, I wonder what more I could do or different ways to configure things. That contemplation last year led to some extra extension cords this year; cords that “begged” me to be used, so I obliged. And it is the lights that I enjoy the most. I have some fun inflatables but what I enjoy doing is lighting up my little corner of Buffalo Center (so far, the neighbors have not complained). Actually, there are people who drive by the house slowly to enjoy the lights. One person even told me they like to drive by the house on their way home from work, which is out of their way. So yes, I enjoy doing this, even if it means an extra visit to the chiropractor.

But the center piece of my Christmas display is this...



...my manger scene. Last year it was out on the corner, but the wind broke it, so after some post-Christmas TLC, it is now prominently displayed in a sturdier location. And what is it that highlights my center piece? Light. Imagine that. But

that is what light does. It makes visible that which would be concealed by the darkness. As John 1:5 says, "***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***" Jesus is that light and Jesus is the one who overcame the forces of darkness – sin, death, and the power of Satan - through his death and resurrection. Satan would have you to hide your light, but we are to shine that light brightly. The lights on my home are not about showing off my house, but to shine a light on the season at hand, and the Light the came into the world to save you from your sins. My lights remind me of that. And just as I am always thinking of new lights to add to my display, we, as Christians, should always be praying about new ways we can shine our lights brighter and brighter, not to highlight ourselves, but to shine the love of Jesus brighter and brighter.

Let your light shine this Christmas season and beyond. To God be the glory, always and forever, Amen.