



P.O. Box 188, MISSION, S.D. 57555 605-828-3892

10 December 2014

Judy Leavell
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
1520 Oak Road
Snellville, GA 30078

Dear Judy and All of Our Friends at St. Matthew's:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of all of the children of the Rosebud Episcopal Mission GLORY program, as well as the children of the Todd County School Dormitory, *wopila* – thank you – for all of the wonderful hats, scarves and mittens that you sent to us from your church.

There are two ways to say “thank you” in Lakota: *pilamayaye*, which is “thank you” from the lips, as it were, for the small things of life, such as opening a door for someone; and *wopila*, which is “thank you” from the heart, for those God-given, God-driven moments in our lives.

Your gifts to our children definitely deserve a *wopila*, for what you have taken care of so many of our children whose families do not have the means to buy even the necessary items of life here. As you know, South Dakota can get very cold indeed; in November, our temperatures were in the single digits, with wind chills at or below zero, most of the month. Your hats, scarves and gloves were more than just nice little gifts for our children; they were life-savers to so many of them.

In the Lakota tradition, children are sacred, and are to be protected and cared for not just by their immediate families, but by all of creation, for we are all related. Your reaching out to us, via our summer seminarian, Nancee Cekuta, means so much to us, and brings you closer in relationship to all of our children.

We are saying special prayers for all of you, for your love, your generosity, your caring, and all of us join together to say, again, *Wopila!!!*

Blessings in this holy season of Advent, and may your Christmas be filled with God's light and love.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren R. Stanley".

The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley
Priest-in-Charge,
Rosebud Episcopal Mission (West)