

Good evening, Waupaca! Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and welcome to our annual Yuletide Celebration tree lighting event! I am Mayor Brian Smith, and I have to say that it is so wonderful to see all of you gathered here tonight—families, friends, and neighbors coming together to share in the joy of this beautiful season.

This time of year is all about community, and tonight is a perfect example of what makes our city so special. We are a city that stands together, looks out for one another, and takes pride in the simple things—like gathering on a crisp December evening to light this magnificent tree.

Whether you've lived here your whole life, or are new to our town, this is a place where you belong. It's in moments like this, surrounded by the warmth of friendship, that we're reminded of the importance of community.

The holiday season is a time to celebrate hope, love, and generosity. It's a time to reflect on the blessings we've received and to share those blessings with others. Let us remember that the spirit of Christmas isn't just about giving gifts, but about spreading kindness, offering a helping hand, and showing compassion to those around us.

This tree, glowing with lights, is a symbol of hope and light in the world, and I hope it inspires all of us to bring a little extra light into someone's life this holiday season.

I'd like to take a moment to thank the many volunteers, local businesses, and organizations that helped make this event possible tonight. Your dedication to our town is what keeps our community strong, and we are grateful for everything you do throughout the year.

A special thanks to Danes Hall for providing this beautiful tree, and to the Waupaca Community Choir for the wonderful holiday music that is filling the air tonight.

And, a special welcome to Santa Claus, who traveled far to spread the holiday spirit to all of us tonight and help us light Waupaca's Christmas tree!

Now, before we count down to light the tree, I want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas, a joyful holiday season, and a new year filled with peace, happiness, and prosperity.

Santa, are you ready? Let's count it down together! 5...4...3...2...1...!

(Santa waves his hand and the tree lights up)

(Singing begins—three holiday songs that all can sing along with)