



# New Homes' Eve



## Blessings for new homes from our community.

We've compiled here a collection of blessings we received from members of our collaborative and recognize that many of them are based in the Christian faith. We encourage all attendees to add blessings from your own cultures and faith traditions as you celebrate with us on New Homes' Eve, and to please share those blessings with us if you feel inspired to do so. To share a blessing, please email Craig Freeman at [cfreeman@beaconinterfaith.org](mailto:cfreeman@beaconinterfaith.org).

*From Lani Willis, Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners*

May this home offer a stable foundation for health, hope and happiness of those who will live here.

May the community that surrounds it offer welcome, safety, and connection.

May we all enjoy the peace that comes from deep belonging together.

*From Deacon Lauren Morse-Wendt, Edina Community Lutheran Church*

As we enter into a new year, a fresh start, a blank page, may the land upon which Cranberry Ridge, Bimosedaa, Lydia, and American House also offer the start of something new. May this be a place of hope. Of new life. Of renewal. May the dignity of all God's people be honored here. And, as this land is transformed into home, may transformation occur for all who call this place home.

*From Deb Lande, Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners || [www.universalintentions.org](http://www.universalintentions.org)*

**Home Begins Here, A Universal Intention for New Homes' Eve**

Home begins here, precious God.

May this

Affordable, beautiful community

Be a beacon of hope,

A sign of welcome,

A caring reminder that here,

In this place,

We believe and make possible,

Homes, without exception, for all.

Great Creator of all things safe and good

Bless this sacred ground.

May memories love-laced

And laughter joy-filled

Abundantly be found.

Bless these homes,

So that families

Strengthen and strive,

Setting the foundation

For entire neighborhoods to thrive.



# New Homes' Eve



*From Sarah Staiger, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative*  
***Saint Francis and the Sow*** by Galway Kinnell

The bud  
stands for all things,  
even for those things that don't flower,  
for everything flowers, from within, of self-blessing;  
though sometimes it is necessary  
to reteach a thing its loveliness,  
to put a hand on its brow  
of the flower  
and retell it in words and in touch  
it is lovely  
until it flowers again from within, of self-blessing;  
as Saint Francis  
put his hand on the creased forehead  
of the sow, and told her in words and in touch  
blessings of earth on the sow, and the sow  
began remembering all down her thick length,  
from the earthen snout all the way  
through the fodder and slops to the spiritual curl of the tail,  
from the hard spininess spiked out from the spine  
down through the great broken heart  
to the sheer blue milken dreaminess spurting and shuddering  
from the fourteen teats into the fourteen mouths sucking and blowing beneath them:  
the long, perfect loveliness of sow.

*From LaDonna Hoy, Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners*

The heart of our whole community leaps with joy and gratitude for the miracle of Cranberry Ridge.

We give thanks for the passion, patience and persistence of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and its multiple public and private partners whose investment of time, energy, influence, heart, will, and funding moved Cranberry Ridge from vision to reality. No small thing. We pray a blessing on this site, the builders who construct it, the neighborhood that surrounds it, and the families and kids and individuals who will find new hope, a fresh start, a chance to become all they can be at Cranberry Ridge and within a community that can't wait to welcome them home.

*From Pastor Jen Nagel, University Lutheran Church of Hope*

Prelude: I walk each morning in our neighborhood in North Minneapolis. Prayer walking, I call it. Praying for those I know well and those I know not so well, for neighbors and situations, for our broken world, and listening for the way the Spirit rises up in me and around me. It's one of my favorite times of the day. This blessing grew from these walks.

God bless the homes, the big, old ones, with luscious colors and gangly gardens, with stories the spill from the attic windows.





# New Homes' Eve



God bless the homes, the ones that lean and sway, so ramshackle they are, with doors that never seem to shut right, and toys in the dust in the front, and drafty windows where frost will grow.

God bless the homes, the apartments, where kids race and neighbors share walls and nothing is quite private, where the smell of breakfast simmering mingles and life is shared.

God bless the homes, the little camper, permanently parked in the shadow where the church and garden meet, with its tarp stretched tight and a lawn chair ready to watch the evening come.

God bless the homes, the tent neighborhoods and hotels, where strangers are friends, where safety is double edged, where waiting is the way and change must come.

God bless the homes, the sheltering places that aren't forever and yet are for now, with a warm meal and a mattress, the stepping stones to something else.

---

*From Pastor Javen Swanson, Gloria Dei St. Paul*

God who makes a home among the people  
and draws near to all who suffer  
awaken us to the needs of those  
who struggle to find housing  
who struggle to keep a home  
whose struggles are with addiction or mental illness—  
for all who feel they have been left behind or forgotten.  
Renew in us a commitment to our neighbors.  
Grant policymakers compassion and courage.  
Inspire us with a vision of homes for all  
and guide us along the path of love and justice.  
Amen.

