



10+ Questions

for Santa Claus *by Lisa Biedenbach*

This is a busy season, Santa. What is your schedule like in Middletown?

I started in mid-November and have 30 events total this holiday season in Middletown. This increase from last year is because I passed out business cards earlier this year. I go to private parties in homes and to corporate events and retirement communities in the Middletown area. Some families invite me every year for their family celebrations.

What are popular toys and gift items this year?

My grandkids tell me about popular toys and keep me in line. I walk through stores and look at toys and gifts to see what's hot and what's not.

What do you do for fun in the off season?

I ride my army green Harley Davidson 1994 softail custom motorcycle. I hit a route and get lost on purpose. I've ridden to Texas, Florida, New Orleans, Spokane, and to Sturgis, SD, for Bike Week. I visit people I know and care about. I roller skate several times a month. It helps me work off all the milk and cookies children leave for me.

When not making toys, delivering gifts, or managing elves, what has been your other work?

I've done many and varied things, such as work for a sanitation company, a towing business,



Santa, aka Leon Ingabrand, also works as a driver in Transportation Services and spreads goodwill and cheer wherever he goes.

a bowling alley, a cardboard company, a mall, among others. I managed an auto wash. It is important to know how things work, since assembly is a huge part of the North Pole's daily operations.

You also drive a different kind of sleigh—a Central Connections van. Where do you take people?

I like to drive so have been working more than 3 years as a driver for Transportation Services. I like taking people to their medical and nonmedical trips. Sometimes I am the only person a client talks with. These passengers are my family too.

How many Santa suits do you own?

I own 5 suits, including a Father Christmas suit, a Hippie Claus suit, a corduroy suit, and the usual modern Santa outfits.

Have you had any unusual requests from children you meet?

No weird requests but I have discovered that kids like telling on their parents! And to tell on themselves. I often must say to children who want a pony or a horse that Santa can't bring livestock on the sleigh. It is up to Mom and Dad to do that.

Who is family for you in the Middletown area?

My mom, Anna Thier, is an active member at Central Connections, and my nephew, Mike Earach, works in Dining Services. My daughter, Terry, and 3 grandchildren—Kyle, 11, Carson, 9, and Kinley, 3.

What is one thing that most people do not know about you?

My great, great grandfather was a founder of Germantown, OH.

What is your favorite Christmas movie? "Rudolph." Your favorite Christmas carol? "Jingle Bells."

Your favorite Christmas food?

Milk and cookies. **Your favorite holiday tradition?** Sitting at home with family and eating. **Your favorite holiday?** Christmas, of course! Ho! Ho! Ho! 🌿