

## Ramblings from the Heart of the Junior Warden

Here we are at the Season of Advent again! Like the Andy Williams song goes, "It's the Most Wonderful Season of All!" It truly is my favorite time of the year. I love seeing all the happy faces, the excitement in the children's eyes and, yes, Christmas lights and decorations! Short of hearing my granddaughter's voice the happiest words I can hear is someone saying "Merry Christmas!" I have to confess that I am one of those who cannot wait to erect my Christmas Tree and hang the holly and ribbons and bows around my door! I wish the season could last throughout the year but as the new year approaches we tend to forget why Advent and Christmas are so important to us. Maybe it's because immediately after Christmas and New Year it's, oh no, TAX SEASON! Alas, all good things must come to an end but I want to take this time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. So, while we can let's focus on celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Without Him nothing could be possible. This happy and wonderful time of the year would be just another day if days even existed at all. This year let's all at least try to keep the season alive all year long. Let's try to make all year long the season for giving; the season for hope and the season of love and the season for understanding and inclusion. I can't count the times I've overheard parishioners say, "I wish some of the newer members would get involved" or "wouldn't it be nice if some of the younger people in church would pitch in and get more involved?" or even "maybe it's time to pass the torch". Believe it or not we DO have newer members and younger members who are more than willing and excited to get involved but we have to do our parts. Our church is growing by leaps and bounds and all our new members need is for some of us older members to let them know that they are truly needed and welcome here at St. Luke's. Our actions and words mean so much to someone who may be visiting St. Luke's. Our very attitudes reflect the atmosphere here at St. Luke's. If we have the attitude that all need to be, should be or are needed at St. Luke's then we are destined for greatness! If someone is sitting in our pew or our seat then it must mean that we have someone who is not familiar with or maybe even someone new at St. Luke's and, perhaps, they need a little extra greeting and kind words letting them know how welcome they are and how important they are to us!

I'll put an end to my ramblings by saying "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is upon us. We will have lots of visitors coming to see pageants, looking for a church home and, who knows, just looking for a friendly face, hand or heart. For those looking we have all the above at St. Luke's. Let's make our faces extra friendly; our hands extra open and our hearts extra warm. Let's all keep in mind that the choir should not be the only "Joyful Noise" that visitors should hear. Imagine how joyful "Welcome to St. Luke's!" or "make yourself at home!" will sound to visitors and new members! We are all ambassadors. Spread the cheer. Spread the word. And please keep in mind that YOU ARE NEEDED at St. Luke's.

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