

*“For I know the plans I have for you”, says the Lord, “plans for your peace and wholeness and not for harm, plans to give you hope and future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13*



Dear St. Luke's on the Lake,

In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord reminds his people that his intention for them is a life of flourishing. In the above verse, the word I have translated “peace and wholeness” is actually the Hebrew word *shalom*. In the Hebrew scriptures, shalom is a word of great depth, evoking the Peace of God which surpasses all understanding. Shalom is harmony where one is in right relationship with God, creation and neighbor. Shalom is wholeness, a completeness that fills us with God's Grace. This is the Lord's intention for us. This is God's dream for you and for me, for the whole family of St. Luke's on the Lake and for the community we endeavor to serve.

As I begin my tenure as the rector of St. Luke's, I am filled with hope for our shared future. I am so excited to meet each and every one of you and to learn about your hopes and dreams for our community. I am bursting with wonder, curiosity, ideas; I know that you are, too. Our future is one that we will create together, by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Through our relationships of love, we hold hope in the midst of brokenness and find the joy of a life lived in Christ. With God's help, I believe we can discover anew, our individual and common gifts, and have the courage to use them, so that the light of Christ shines from this community for generations to come.

As we move into this season of giving, I invite you to step into our shared future. Let us share from the abundance of who we are and all that we have been given, to the Glory of God and for the world God loves. Together, let us take a mighty leap of faith and seek the Lord with all our hearts. For the Lord knows the plans he has for us: it is a future of hope.

God's Peace,

Kathy+

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“I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” + Jeremiah 29:10-11