



Dear St. Luke's Family,

My favorite time of the year is the upcoming holiday season, and I have been reflecting on why these last five or six weeks of the calendar year, in particular, have become a season where I feel loved and fulfilled and renewed. I thought I would share with you what I have learned:

I cherish the gathering of friends, family, and friends that have become family.

I look forward to the many traditions – no matter how small – and the wonderful memories and experiences they evoke.

It is a time each year where we focus on the needs of others and how we can support them.

I'm eager to participate in the seasonal liturgies and join my church family in joyful worship!

Are you as surprised as I was when I realized that all the things about my "favorite time of the year" are really just the foundation our Christian calling – be in a closer relationship with God, be in active relationship with one another, and helping those in need?

There is no denying that holiday season can be an extremely difficult time for many, but the literal Good News is that we are not restricted to a few weeks on the calendar to be intentional in our work to be Christ to the world!

The future that lies ahead of St. Luke's is one where we have the ability to offer hope to all who cross our path. We can be the friend who becomes family to someone separated from their loved ones. We can welcome newcomers into our existing traditions and create new experiences to reflect the voices of all who have joined our community. We can lift up our neighbors in need, not just financially, but also in sharing the unwavering grace and love of our Savior.

We speak often of St. Luke's on the Lake being a place where all can come to meet God, love God and to love and serve one another. That calling has never been more important in today's world, and that opportunity has never been more within our reach.

With all of this in mind, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all of the gifts – spiritual, physical and financial – that make our current work possible and allows us to create a future that is filled with hope!

On this webpage you will find an electronic pledge card, a giving chart, and we've also included a special prayer below. For now, I encourage you to set aside the pledge card and allow yourself the time and space for prayer and discernment. We hope you will pray this prayer daily over the next few weeks and listen for how the Holy Spirit is helping to guide us all in His work.

In His Service,  
Darren Grissom, Senior Warden

*Gracious Father, the creator of all things, I come to you with a grateful heart for the abundant blessings you have given me. I acknowledge that everything we possess ultimately belongs to you and the profound reality that we are only temporary stewards of your treasures. You have set the ultimate example of sacrificial love by giving your only son for my salvation. Guide me in my own sacrificial offering and help me embrace the joy and blessing that comes through selfless giving.*

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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