

## Pr. Jeanie

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.”

--John Wesley

So ...I know that we are Lutheran and beginning the Pastor's Letter quoting John Wesley might strike you as odd. But in times like these that seem to be directed by forces beyond my control, to ends that feel contradictory to my sense of God's vision for the world I am reminded that...WE are not powerless.

It is easy to feel like we are powerless. Easy to feel small, and unable to make a

difference. So much of our world tells us that immediate change is the only kind of change. But that isn't true. And we only have to look at our yards, our trees and our children to see that it isn't true. Nurturing life makes a lasting difference. Fertilizing soil in the fall fosters growth in the spring. Offering love in the quiet moments strengthens our children so that the messier, noisier moments are more manageable.

February 17th is Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Day. The week that surrounds it is slowly becoming RAK week. A time to consciously interrupt isolation. Smile at your neighbor. Open a door for a stranger. Make eye contact and truly see your neighbor.

A time to intentionally rebut hatred. Write a Thank You note to a waiter, or a bus driver. Sweep your neighbor's walk. Buy a coffee for the next person in line.

A time to break into the story that the world is falling apart. Write your spouse a love letter. Put a note in your kid's lunch. Buy a plant for your office mate. Yield for a person crossing a busy street.

A time to change the world one random act of kindness at a time.

Martin Luther wrote: “We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light” (Small Catechism). In times like these I know that fear and dissension pull us to talk smack. I also know that God is inviting us to another way and to

envision another world. One where love is the currency of our daily life and where we are known first as followers of Christ.

Our theology tells us that God's love is changing the world. Let us live like we know this is true.

In Faith,

Pr. Jeanie