

Children's sermon: December 6, 2009
"Santa for all SEASONS ... and RELIGIONS"

My friends ... Santa is a bit "down" today. He's here ... just for a few moments ... and he needs some encouragement. Can you believe it? ... I was talking to another minister. And he says to me ---- "Don ... Santa Claus and Christmas trees have nothing to do with Christianity ... so, they shouldn't be in our churches!!"

This isn't a very festive attitude.

Christmas trees are beeeeeootiful ... and Santa Claus ... well, he's just plain FUN.

Anyway ... what does Santa Claus do???? ... what's his "job"???

You say "be JOLLY" ... perfect ----- Santa's job is to be "JOLLY." I like this ... don't you???? We should be "jolly" in church. I remember back in my "Swedish Lutheran" days oh, we weren't supposed to be "jolly" in church. Serious, yes ... pensive, yet ... but not JOLLY!@!!

God forbid we were "jolly" in church!@!!

And look over here ... Fred and his sister Agnes are arguing:

Fred says Santa Claus is a Christian.

Agnes says Santa Claus is Jewish.

Their friend Bernard is trying to keep the peace between them.

Finally ... Bernard's light goes "on" blink, blink and they all discover: SANTA CLAUS isn't any particular religion ... he is part "ALL OF US."

Santa's job? ----- yes, be jolly ... why? ----- because he is a GIVER.

He spends his whole life making toys for kids.

This "jolly" senior citizen ... comes down your chimney ... to BRING YOU JOY!!

Santa belongs in our churches ... he's jolly, he's a giver so, HERE HE IS!@!!!

He's a little short. Maybe that's because he feels kind-of "beat-up" ...

After all ----- if someone doesn't want you in church ... if they are arguing about what "religion" you are ... well ----- they are missing the point. So, Santa is a "little down."

But you ... my friends ... YOU HAVE LIFTED HIS SPIRITS.

And now ... thanks to you: HE FEELS BETTER HE IS STANDING TALL.

Look ----- Santa is growing ... he is standing up ... he's singing ... he's dancing ...

YES: THE JOY IS BACK!!

In the spirit of Jesus.

In the spirit of Christmas.

In the spirit of giving unto others I have for you: YOUR VERY OWN SANTA HAT.

Take it. Enjoy it.

And ----- SPREAD THE JOY!!