



'Christ's Family Reaching Out In Love'



WHAT ABOUT HALLOWEEN?

One dark night two guys were walking home after a party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery. When they got to about the middle of the graveyard they were startled and stopped moving. They heard this terrifying "tap-tap-tap" sound coming from the shadows. Trembling with fear, they spotted an old man with a hammer and chisel, chipping away at one of the headstones.

"Hey Mister," one of them said after catching his breath. "You scared us half to death. We thought you were a GHOST! What are you doing working here so late at night?" "Those idiots!", the old man grumbled, "They misspelled my name!"

You always seem to know when October is getting close; because you've seen Halloween items in the stores for more than a month. Aisles of ghost, witch and devil items can be found in many stores. In fact, at this time of the year you'll see temporary stores opening up that sell nothing but Halloween items. It's no longer just a holiday, it's a season! And we're told that Halloween is now the second most popular holiday in America; and second only to Christmas for sales of candy and decorations.

But we are Christians...so: WHAT ABOUT HALLOWEEN? - Halloween's beginnings preceded Christ's birth; when the Druids, pagan worshipers in the area of the British Isles, observed the end of summer and the start of a new year by making human sacrifices to the gods, especially to "Samhain" the lord of death. The waning of the sun and the approach of dark winter made this a time of fear. Most of our Halloween practices can be traced back to various old pagan rites and superstitions. Present-day Satanists and witches still consider Halloween to be their "high holy day" ...like Easter is to us. They say it is the ideal time of year to cast spells, see into the future and communicate with the spirits of the dead.

Centuries ago the Church tried to offset Halloween by introducing "All Saints Day" on November first. It was also called "All Hallows Day." Then it became the custom to call the evening before: "All Hallow E'n" ..."Halloween". - Trying to Christianize a pagan calendar certainly isn't working well today. In fact, you might say that "All Saints Day" has been almost obliterated in favor of Halloween.

Halloween is a celebration of darkness. In the Bible, darkness symbolizes evil. Ephesians 5:8-11 says it well: *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light; for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth; and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."*

The whole concept behind Halloween involves death, darkness, deception, fear, and pagan rituals. Yet millions of people, even Christians, will be participating in Halloween activities and dressing up their children in little ghost, witch and devil costumes. Unfortunately, many folks don't believe that such things really exist. But as Christians we know that the devil and evil is all too real. We know that the Bible warns us about the devil.

Read also what the Bible says about evil practices connected with the devil (what we today call the "occult"):

"When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you." (Deuteronomy 18:9-12)

So, what in the world do all these evil things of darkness have in common with the people of God, who the Bible refers to as "Children of Light"? Is Halloween simply a child's celebration, a night of good, innocent fun...or should we think more seriously about honoring Satan and his evil hosts? - Let me suggest some ALTERNATIVES.

1. The trappings of Halloween don't have to be of dark, scary, evil things. And there are other costumes that your children, grandchildren, (or you) can wear instead of ghosts, devils and witches.
2. Maybe celebrate the Fall Season instead of Halloween. The end of October is a perfect time to celebrate the beauty of God's Autumn artistry. It's also a good time to think about the Harvest Season and all that God so bountifully provides for His children. - Read Psalms 65 and 104 among others.
3. Celebrate the Saints. Take some time to reflect on those who have influenced you greatly, such as Bible characters, pastors, church members, your parents and others responsible for bringing you to the Christian faith and helping you grow in your faith. Thank God for them. And for those saints in heaven, honor their memory.
4. Celebrate your Savior. Rejoice and thank Jesus that He has overcome the power of Satan. On earth Jesus demonstrated over and over again His power over the evil one. And on the cross His victory was sure. Now, in faith, we no longer need to fear Satan, death and hell, for Christ has given us the victory also. Martin Luther is right when he wrote about the devil: his "doom is sure, one little word shall fell him."
5. And speaking about Martin Luther...Celebrate the Reformation. It was on Halloween night in the year 1517 that Luther posted his 95 Thesis on the church door in Wittenberg. And so, began the Reformation of the Christian Church...and the rediscovery from God's Word that: *"the just shall live by faith"* through God's grace in Jesus. Certainly, a topic that we as Lutherans should know about and celebrate.

WHAT ABOUT HALLOWEEN? - Well, for the Christian...it's not really our holiday; any more than the Russians celebrating July 4th. Now I don't want to be a "spoil-sport" about Halloween...but I do hope that I've given you something to think about come this October 31st.

With you always in celebration of the grace and love of our Savior Jesus Christ,



Pastor Jeff G. Gavin



We hope you will come and join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** for our **ADULT Sunday Bible Class** in the lower level of the school building . . . **open question forum**.

Please join us for our **Mid-Week Bible Class** on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the school building.

PASTOR . . . has resumed taking Fridays as his "Day Off". Even though he may sometimes be in his office, he is scheduling no work; so Please do not Visit him, or Phone him on Fridays. If there is a true Emergency, call him on his Cell: (630) 776-2382. Thank you.

ALTAR FLOWERS . . . ALTAR FLOWERS CAN COST AS LITTLE AS \$20.

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar, (or confirm your "standing order") please contact please call the **CHURCH OFFICE** at **(847) 593-7670** or email Pastor at jeffgavin@sbcglobal.net **NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE PRIOR TUESDAY!**



Please Note: When you donate flowers for our worship services, you are welcome to bring the flowers home after the 10:30 service.



OUR WELCOME PICTURES

Each Sunday you are welcomed with a slide show of pictures on our large screen monitor.

Please come early enough to look at these pictures; as they are not just random images, but carefully selected images that reveal the theme of the day, and are designed to depict and enhance the spoken content of the day's sermon.

SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

Don't forget to set your clocks **BACK 1 hour** on **Saturday evening, November 1, 2025** before you go to bed so you won't be early for church on Sunday morning!



It's that time again!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Along with "Birthday Greetings", we also wish a "Happy Anniversary" to those couples who were married during each month by printing their marriage date.

If you are unsure if we might have a record of your wedding date . . . please contact the church office (847-593-7670, ext 1) with this information. We would like to include all of our married couples and wish to them . . . **"Happy Anniversary"**:

Curt & Audrey Gerlitz	October 6
Chuck & Loan Glen	October 10
Timothy & Lynn Koeppen	October 12
Chuck & Roda Schrum	October 14
Christopher & Julie Klatka	October 17
Mark & Rebecca Ruwe	October 28



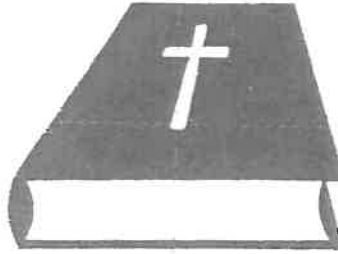
Leo Neggers	October 1
Terilynn Adams	October 2
Matthew Galla	October 2
Larry Brockie Sr.	October 5
Jan Anderko	October 7
Eileen Christensen	October 9
Kathy Fiorito	October 10
Cathy Schubkegel	October 13

Betty Kijak	October 16
Junet Graves	October 17
Anna Weissgerber	October 19
Celeste Graves	October 21
Stephanie Hetrea	October 22
Audrey Gerlitz	October 29
Julieth Nagunwa	October 29

If your birthday has not been listed, please contact the Church office for a correction...Thank You!

May God Bless You on Your Birthday

You don't
become a
Best Seller



by being
boring.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

SUNDAYS at 9:15 AM

WEDNESDAYS at 10 AM

+ Every Wednesday Class starts with an
"Open Forum" for your questions
to be answered

+ A wide variety of study topics available

+ Frequent usage of media to watch to
supplement our studies

+ Every Sunday Class is an "Open Forum"
for questions to be discussed with
Pastor and answered

October 2025

St. John Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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