

All Saints Eve

Step one, get one of the pastors (or a funeral director or an “old timer”) to take you out to the cemetery and tell you the “faith stories” of some of those buried there. Specifically, you are looking for people who held onto their faith through a time of suffering, or served others, or was a witness to their faith.

Step two - on All Saints Eve (October 31) go to the local cemetery, after getting permission from the appropriate board. Bring flashlights, Bible, and dress warm.

- Read from Hebrews 11:32 - 12:4.

Here Paul is telling them that people of great faith have gone before us but they are not getting to heaven any faster than us because in Christ we already have a room waiting. However, the “great cloud of witnesses” watches us and cheers us on so that we may not slack off in the fight against sin.

- Stand on the grave of 1-3 of the faithful pastor told you about earlier. Introduce the youth to this “saint” and tell their story of how they lost a child, fought a sickness, went through financial trouble - whatever, and held fast to the faith and now cheer for the youth.

- Use the analogy of a cross country race where people are lined-up on both sides pointing the way and encouraging us as we run to the “finish line.”

- Close by singing the hymn “For all the Saints.” Let the youth wander around “meeting” the saints of the church. Serve snacks and have Feast with the Saints. Be sure to talk about All Saints Sunday and what they should look for in Worship like special music, hymns, remembrances, candles, etc. For More Information on [All Saints, and its connection to All Hallows Eve – Halloween](#).

[Martin Luther](#) picked All Saints Eve to nail his 99 thesis to the church door, thus beginning the [Reformation](#). So another option is to ditch the annual Halloween party and have a Reformation of the church party. Old Lutheran is selling a very amusing [Reformation Party Kit](#).

The [Jack-o-lantern](#) has long been a symbol of Halloween. Here Old Lutheran helps us make it a symbol of salvation by grace. Use these [patterns](#) to carve a pumpkin yourself for decorating the youth room or Narthex. Another option would be to have a pumpkin carving party to create decorations for Reformation Sunday (10/28) or as gifts for your pastor.

Pastor Mark Anderson