

# Living Faith

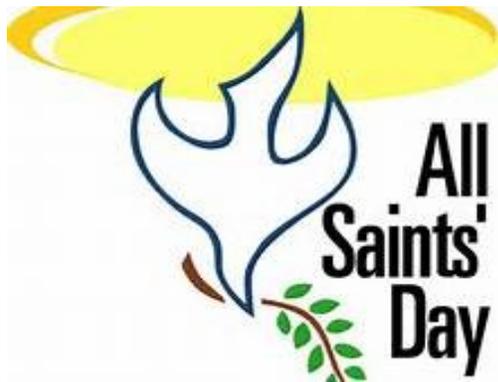


Dear Friends,

I just love fall! I love the sounds, sights and tastes of the season. I'm continually reminded of God's awe inspiring handiwork. I have been really trying to count my blessings daily and to be a blessing to others. I have recently rediscovered the joy of storytelling. As Christians, our lives are centered around a story- the story of God's creation, humanity's fall into sin, and Christ's work of redemption. Without this story, our faith would not exist. And even within our personal stories- singing songs around a campfire, attending Bible camp, experiencing forgiveness- we can see God's work in our lives. I have been trying to share those stories with my kids. I'm trying to intentionally connect my story, God's story, and my kids' story. When I recognize and tell my kids how and when I have experienced God at work in our world, then my kids have the words and experience to see it in their own lives. The extra bonus is just how much fun it is telling my kids about my childhood. Without telling the stories, they will be lost. Soon we will be gearing up for the big holiday season. Try out some storytelling about your family's holidays.

May you be blessed and filled with joy and stories to share.

Lisa Kammerer  
Associate in Ministry



November 1st is All Saints' Day. This is a day when we celebrate and honor the lives of Christian saints and martyrs. Here are some ways we can celebrate All Saints' Day with our families.

### Candle Lighting

Give each person a candle in a candle holder. Talk about your favorite saints from the Bible. Honor these men and women by lighting a candle for them. Let the candles burn throughout the evening. Before you blow them out, thank God for the witness of the saints.



### Saints of Today

Celebrate the godly men and women you know. As a family, honor the living saints in your life. Talk about the people that have helped you walk in your faith. Put your words into action by writing a note, sending a card, texting, or messaging them on Facebook. Tell them how much their faith has made a difference in your life.



### A Walk Down Memory Lane

Pull out the old photo albums and talk about family members that have died. Tell the stories you know about their life and their faith. Encourage your kids to tell their favorite memories of this person. When we tell stories of our friends and family, we are creating memories and modeling ways of living that glorify God and love God's people.



This information is prepared for you by the **Northwestern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network** for use by families and local congregations.

For more ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go to:  
[http://www.neiasynod.org/synod\\_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp](http://www.neiasynod.org/synod_resources/YouthFamilyResources.asp)



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# Light of Christ

Halloween is often celebrated as a dark holiday. As believers, we can celebrate the light of Jesus in our lives. Here's some inspiration for you.



Fall is abundant with God's blessings. Let's make thankful hearts a fall tradition in our homes.



- \* Our favorite Bible Verse for the fall: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:1
- \* Share your blessings by donating toys and clothes in the fall.
- \* Invite someone who might otherwise be alone on Thanksgiving Day to your family's thanksgiving dinner.
- \* Take your kids to the grocery store to buy food for your local food pantry. Food pantries are often in need of extra non-perishables during the holiday season.
- \* Make a thankful list as a family. Take turns adding to it. Post the list wherever your communication center is. Date and save the list as a testimony to the amazing things the Lord has done for your family.
- \* For the Pilgrims, Thanksgiving was a time for peacemaking. Cranberries were a symbol of peace and friendship among the Indians and Pilgrims. With a blunt needle and coarse thread, string cranberries. Put the string on a tree in your yard for the birds.
- \* Notice God's bounty. Visit your local farmer's market or grocery store. Point out which fruits and veggies are in season. Appreciate the color, textures, and shapes of the bounty. Maybe even try a new food for dinner!

## TABLE TALK

Conversation Starters: Use these when you gather for a meal or you are driving in the car.



- ✓ Describe a meal you most like to eat with your family.
- ✓ The things I value most about my family are...
- ✓ What event are you most thankful for this year?
- ✓ If you came to my house or room, a meaningful possession I would show you is...
- ✓ When you hold a Bible, what comes to your mind?