

Dear Faith Shapers,

Happy Fall! Besides the beauty of this time of year, it's also a wonderful time to bring the generations together, to worship, pray, play and celebrate the church. And with it being the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, what better way to connect all ages and stages of life together than thru worship and celebrations of this anniversary. Many congregations around the country are finding ways to celebrate this time in fun and exciting ways. In this month's Living Faith @ Home insert we'll share with you what some of these congregations are doing, as well as ways you can celebrate it with your own families and friends. And of course we can't forget that it's also the month of Halloween. So we will look at the History of Halloween and a way your congregation can celebrate this holiday with your children, youth and their families...and even your community. So this October, may you find ways to connect to a different generation than yourself, grow in your faith and have a lot of fun while doing it.

Kristin Johnson
Deacon in the ELCA



Various Ways Congregations are Celebrating the Reformation

- ⇒ United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, ND is having a Reformation Celebration! It will be an Cross+Generational event with various stations where families can do different things to celebrate the Reformation. Some of the stations will be: a photo booth with a cardboard Martin Luther, a cooking station making Luther rose cupcakes, and a collaborative art station using the large coloring posters from Illustrated Children's Ministry
- ⇒ St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE is doing a month of Cross+Generational learning. The first Sunday in October they have a guest musician that will lead worship and a coffeehouse between services. Then the next three weeks they'll be talking about the 4 solas, and the last week they'll be combining education and services into one large celebration.
- ⇒ St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bloomberg, PA is doing a breakfast and instead of a formal learning hour, they'll be having skits, Reformation jeopardy and Pictionary (with prizes!).

What might your congregation be doing and how can you be a part of it? Join in the celebration, have fun and maybe you'll even learn something new along the way.



This information is prepared for you by the **Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network** for use by families and local congregations. Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network ELCA](#)

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Other Fun Ways to Celebrate the Reformation



Luther Playmobil - Get creative with this fun toy! How might you use it with children, youth or at an Cross+Generational event?

Table Talks from Faith Inkubators are giant Cross+Gen coloring posters and conversations starters with the basic of FAITH5 (Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless) built right in. All you need is a table, a box of crayons or colored markers, and 6-8 people from multiple ages and stages.



Take your seats. Share high and lows with someone of another generation. Around the edges you'll find space to literally write your partner's highs, lows and a prayer. Then start coloring the Marvel Comic-style graphic novel as the page walks you through the "share, read, talk, pray, bless".

Along with the cartoon, there's a key scripture for the week, a Catechism Encounter, Bible Time, Questions to Ponder and a fun Role Play.

History of Halloween & a fun way to Celebrate with Kids

HISTORY: Did you know that Halloween is one of the world's oldest holidays? It has gone through many changes. It was originally a Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced sow-in), marking the end of harvest and the beginning of the new year (November 1st). The druids believed that ghosts and spirits roamed the earth at this time, and they lit bonfires as protection. When the Romans took over the Celtic lands, they adapted the day to honor their own deities. Eventually, the Roman Catholic Church adapted the day as All Hallows' Eve. It was the night before All Saints Day, the day they honored saints who did not have a specific feast day of their own. The name gradually changed to Halloween. The tradition of trick-or-treating dates to All Souls' Days parades in England. Villagers gave poor people "soul cakes" in return for prayers for their dead relatives. In 1920s America, kids began going trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. By this time, Halloween lost its religious meaning and became a holiday where people could wear costumes and become, for one night, something fantastical.



Trunk-or-Treat Nite

Gather the generations together for a potluck supper, then head out into the church parking lot for an evening of fun as the children trick-or-treat from trunk to trunk. It's a fun and safe way to celebrate the holiday as a congregation. And it may even bring in (new) families.