

Living Faith @ HOME

Light the Night on October 31st

Dear Faith Shapers,

I often get asked...

"How can you be a Christian and celebrate Halloween?" or

"Halloween is an evil day, why would you celebrate that?"

I have a few choices.

I can stay in bed & avoid the day
I can tell others the day is evil and that they should avoid it
Or I can find ways to be salt and light to the world.

As far as I know, the devil or evil does not get a day. Zero days. All the days are God's days & I can & should celebrate Halloween & all days as God's days. I will be salt & light on Halloween & everyday.

Here are some ways my family has had fun being a light on Halloween. Carve pumpkins with Christian shapes, give out Christian toys (my kids are talking me into glow slime with the slime craze going on in elementary school), participate in a trunk or treat, collect money for a cause, make a prayer pumpkin (each meal we hold the pumpkin & pray for others), collect food for the food pantry, celebrate the reformation, make a gratitude pumpkin (each meal write on the pumpkin something you are thankful for), visit a nursing home.

Be a light & have fun,
Lisa Kammerer, Deacon



1. Be the Great House
Kids love Halloween. Why not be the house that kids remember? Give out something special: big candy bars, used books, school supplies, a treat that stands out and surprises kids.

2. Be the Safe House
Make sure your house is well lit. Don't dress scary or decorate in ways that scare kids. Offer non-candy treats and join the teal pumpkin project. Here's some ideas: bubbles, bouncy balls, slap bracelets, tattoos, silly straws, glow items, craft kits, stamps, stretchy toys, slime.



3. Be the Light
On a day that can be scary, spread the love of God & be the light. Give out treats with a message such as: Jesus' love is sweet, God loves you. or Bible verses on candy. Carve your pumpkins with Christian messages. Invite new families to go to a trunk or treat with you. Invite trick or treaters to church. Have neighbors over for apple cider. Reverse trick or treat – give out candy when you visit houses. If your church is in a good location, hand out Christian gifts, bibles, or candy at Church.



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

10 Ways to Get Outside as a Family and Enjoy God's creation!

1

Visit an Apple Orchard

Make apple chips, pie, cider, or caramel apples!



2

Create a Nature Craft



Play Childhood Games on the Lawn
Red Rover, Kickball, Hop Scotch, Jump Rope/Double Dutch, Spotlight, Tag

3
THREE

4

Jump in a Leaf Pile

You're never too old!



5

Eat chili around the campfire



6

Read outside



7

Go to a Farmer's Market



Have a Picnic



9

Go on a Bike Ride



10

Fall Scavenger Hunt

*red leaf *squirrel *acorn
*feather *cricket *pinecone
*moss *gourd *corn cob *rock
*spider web *apple *bird's nest

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Being a Pastor is a very demanding job. Health and family life often suffer. Here are some ideas for gifts that Pastors truly appreciate and might not ask for.

- ◆ A meal when things are tough (set up a meal train)
 - ◆ An extra day off with their family or friends
- ◆ More time or money towards their continuing education
- ◆ Self care opportunities (encourage your pastor to pursue some)
- ◆ A date night or day of fun (if they have kids, remember babysitting)
 - ◆ Handwritten thank you notes (make them specific)
- ◆ Favorite things (it says you have noticed what she or he likes)
 - ◆ Your prayers and unconditional support