

Blessing of the Trick or Treaters

Pastor Linda Pedersen, Synod Minister, SW MN Synod

Reformation Day, Oct 31, falls on a Sunday this year. Consider adding this blessing ritual to your Sunday Reformation worship celebrations. It also serves as an opportunity to invite those who may celebrate Halloween to learn more about this Hallow (Holy) Eve of All Saints Day on Nov. 1. Enjoy this blessing liturgy outline as a gift from Marilyn Sharpe and check out her website:

<http://marilynsharpeministries.com/>

If you can afford to do it, give each child a light stick to use for trick or treating (or change the wording of the second to the last Leader's piece to read, "Tonight, in the dark, it is important to carry light with you to keep you safe. To carry a flashlight or a light stick to keep you safe and to remind you that in your baptism you were told to "Let your light so shine before others that they will see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Let your light shine tonight and every day of your life."

(Consider inviting the kids to wear their costumes to worship and bring their empty bags. Invite them to come forward for a blessing.)

LEADER: On the night, in which we celebrate the fun of Halloween, let us celebrate the gift of children in our midst - their joy and creativity and delight. May all of us catch this joyous celebration from the children.

CONGREGATION: Dear God, we give you thanks for the joy and creativity and delight of your children.

LEADER: As the children anticipate all of the sweets and treats that will fill their bags, may we share with them the sweetness of the faith, a belief in Jesus that transforms our lives and invites us to share the sweetness of God's love with others.

CONGREGATION: Dear God, we give you thanks for the sweetness of faith in Jesus and the opportunities to share Jesus' love with others.

LEADER: On this night before All Saints Day, when we celebrate the gift of all those Christians who now celebrate eternal life with Jesus, who have left us with such powerful and life-giving memories, and who surround us with their memory and their model of faithful lives, may we remember them, give you thanks, and strive to live lives that inspire others.

CONGREGATION: Dear God, we give you thanks for the gifts of the saints who are now with you, who live in our memories, and inspire us to follow you.

LEADER: Tonight, in the dark, it is important to carry light with you to keep you safe. We give you each a light stick to keep you safe and to remind you that in your baptism you were told to "Let your light so shine before others that they will see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Let your light shine tonight and every day of your life.

CONGREGATION: Dear God, we give you thanks that you let your light shine through us, so that others see you, Jesus.

LEADER: Go, be safe, bear your light into all the world. AMEN



Cross of Calvary, Olivia