

Living Faith @

November is a time to be thankful!

*We give thanks for the Saints
(All Saints Day)*

*We give thanks for abundance
(Thanksgiving)*

*We give thanks for what is yet to come
(Advent)*

What are you thankful for??



November Blessings

+++++

All Saints Sunday



Do you observe All Saints Sunday in your church? In my church, we remember church members who have died in the last year - since the previous year's All Saints Sunday. We light a candle for each person (saint) and recite a prayer or litany. We also sing the hymn "*For All the Saints*" at the beginning of our service. If you have children in your home, it might be a great time to talk about what a "Saint" is! They are not just people who have died. Saints are ordinary baptized people who love and serve

God! That includes us! Because of our Savior Jesus Christ, we are all one big family of saints in God's eyes!

This might be the perfect time to take out old photo albums and show your children pictures of family members who are now in heaven. Explain to them how they are related and even share a story that you remember about them!

All Saints Sunday is also a great time to talk about the famous saints that we read about in the Bible, like St. Paul, or St. Peter; or others whom the church recognizes as saints: St. Teresa, St. Patrick, St. Francis, etc. - There are many! You can research online to find out more about them – or ask your pastor or a faith formation leader in your church for resources on the religious saints.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite Holidays. It's a time to reflect on all of our blessings. And the food is usually pretty good too! 😊

Take some time with your family to count your blessings – even if it hasn't been a very good year for you or your family – take time to talk about where you *did* see God working in your lives – even in the not-so-good times. Gratitude has a way of lifting our spirits and warming our hearts.

If the kiddos get a little bored while you are cooking the turkey – take a sheet of paper and write “HAPPY THANKSGIVING” on it – and see how many other words they can make out of those two words. The one with the most words gets an extra big slice of pumpkin pie!



Advent begins this year on November 27th. Advent is the four weeks that lead up to the birth of Jesus Christ. The word Advent originates from a Latin word “Adventus” which means “coming” or “arrival.” Advent Season is focused on preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ in

several different ways: his birth over 2,000 years ago; his second coming in the future as the Messiah; and also, as he comes into our hearts every day. There are all kinds of ways to celebrate Advent with your family – there are special Advent calendars that mark each day in Advent with a special bible verse, or an activity like a doing a random act of kindness, (See Pinterest!) or my favorite Advent activity: Get a large box, and each day, add a non-perishable food item to it, Then donate the items to your local food pantry before Christmas so that those in need will have food for the Holidays.

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 [Home Life « NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD \(neiasynod.org\)](http://neiasynod.org)

