

*Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.*

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we enter into the crisp fall season. As congregations continue to meet the needs of members and invite and serve others while considering the safety of all during the pandemic, the goal of this newsletter from the Synod Home Life Network is to share resources for this season. Some of the seasonal topics this month include: fall, Reformation, pandemic, Halloween, stewardship, and harvest. May your soul be nourished and inspired to share your faith in our loving, grace-filled God.

Robin Souhrada, Home Life Network member

## **We Plow the Fields and Scatter** (ELW 681, public domain)

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:  
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes, and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain.

*Refrain: All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord, for all His love.*

He only is the Maker of all things near and far;  
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.

We thank Thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;  
Accept the gifts we offer, for all Thy love imparts,  
And what Thou most desirest—our humble, thankful hearts.



*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. Genesis 8:22*

Harvest time is here. What are you looking forward to in the fall season? Where have you recently seen God's abundance in your life? How might you share the gifts God bestows upon you?

### **A word for the weary:**

Many of us, myself included, feel the weight of weariness during this time of unrest. Unrest in pandemic, unrest in injustice, unrest in political opposition, unrest in laboring differently, to name a few. Let me remind you of God's desire for us when we find ourselves struggling and anxious.

*Cast all your anxieties on God, because God cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7*

*Come to me all you who labor and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

*We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts...*  
Romans 5:3-5

May you rest in the compassionate love of God, find strength to cast your worries unto Jesus, and hope in the breath of the Holy Spirit that we, once again, are restored to abundant joy.

Live into the fullness of resting and gaining strength, trusting in God's grace.





## THE PUMPKIN PRAYER

**Dear Jesus,  
As I carve my pumpkin,  
help me pray this prayer:**

**Open my mind  
so that I can learn about you.**  
(cut the top off the pumpkin)

**Take all my sin and forgive  
the wrong that I do.**  
(clean out the inside)

**Open my eyes so your love I will see.**  
(cut eyes shaped like hearts)

**I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose  
at what you've given to me.**  
(cut a nose in the shape of a cross)

**Open my ears so your word I will hear.**  
(cut ears shaped like a Bible)

**Open my mouth to tell others you're near.**  
(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)

**Let your light shine in all I say and do!**  
(place candle inside and light it)

Don't have a pumpkin to carve?  
Draw and color a pumpkin to go along  
with the poem.

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## Looking Ahead

All Saint Day will be celebrated in many congregations Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a time to remember the saints who have gone before us and the saints among us. Light a candle and say a prayer to remember and honor the saints who have impacted your faith journey.

## REFORMATION AND MARTIN LUTHER TRIVIA

(for youth and adults)



1. Who was the main influence in the protestant reformation?
2. What reformer was an early advocate for the translation of the Bible?
3. The publishing of what paper by Martin Luther is regarded as sparking the Protestant Reformation?
4. What city were the 95 Theses thought to have been posted on the church door?
5. What was the first protestant church?
6. What reformer expounded on the doctrine of predestination and the absolute sovereignty of God?
7. In the Bible, Martin Luther found that we are saved by what?
8. Who invented the printing press that allowed the reformers to spread their ideas rapidly?
9. Martin Luther translated the Bible into what language?
10. Martin Luther translated the Bible into German for what purpose?
11. Martin Luther left lawyer school to become what?
12. Luther rejected what doctrine that said the bread and wine of communion became the body and blood of Christ?
13. What year marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation?
14. What language was used in the church before Martin Luther translated the Bible into German?
15. Who was Martin Luther married to?
16. The widespread theological division by Martin Luther and many reformers against the Roman Catholic Church is called \_\_\_\_.
17. When is the Reformation celebrated?
18. Who is the man, who was a leader of United States racial reform, that is often confused with Martin Luther?
19. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther says the household is a \_\_\_\_.
20. In the Small Catechism, what phrase does Martin Luther use at the end of each meaning?

Answer: 1. Martin Luther 2. John Wycliffe 3. The 95 Theses 4. Wittenberg, Germany 5. The Lutheran Church 6. John Calvin 7. Faith 8. Johannes Gutenberg 9. German 10. So all people could read it. 11. A monk 12. Transubstantiation 13. 1517 14. Latin 15. Katharina von Bora 16. The Reformation 17. October 31<sup>st</sup> 18. Martin Luther King, Jr. 19. House church 20. "This is most certainly true."

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



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