



ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

OCTOBER 2021

MUSINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

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IS HALLOWEEN CHRISTIAN OR EVIL?

Almost every Halloween, someone asks me about the Christian perspective on whether we should mark it in some form or another. After a review of numerous sources, here is what I discovered.

Some do not see Halloween as an issue while others refuse any participation in it whatsoever. Of course, there are many positions in between, including some churches that hold "Harvest Festivals," while others will hold some sort of event within their churches that include decorations, costumes, and candy. To be sure, one's position upon the matter is personal and others should not be critical for a personal position based upon belief. Though I think it is hard to imagine a problem with a 4yr-old dressed like a Transformer using a home-made box or a 3yr-old Cinderella or even teenagers dressed as ghouls of some sort, some have told me that their children will not, under any conditions, go "Trick or Treating" because it celebrates evil in some form or another. That is, they believe children will be worshipping

the devil and pagan gods; yet one can also not deny that there are some who have turned the night into some form of deranged or evil practice.

So, what are we to do? The best way to decide is to have some understanding of the day's origin. Generally, we have heard that Halloween is a pagan rite dating back to a festival among the Celtic Druids. Perhaps you have heard Halloween was a festival celebrated to the goddess of grain, Ceres. Perhaps you have heard of another god. There seem to be several options available, but the facts teach us that the origins of Halloween are Christian and rather uniquely American.

Halloween is marked on the last day of October because the Feast of All Saints, or "All Hallows," (literally means to make holy) is celebrated on November 1. In some churches, All Saints Sunday is marked by remembering those of their congregations who have transitioned to the heavenly kingdom. All Saints was originally marked on May 13, but Pope Gregory III (d. 741) moved it to November 1, which was the dedication day of All Saints Chapel in St. Peter's Cathedral at Rome.

Our tradition on this holiday centers on dressing up in fanciful costumes. This tradition began in France sometime between the 14th and 15th centuries. Late medieval Europe experienced recurring occurrences of the "Black Death" where about half its population died. Because of the plague, more Masses were said on All Saints Day, and numerous artistic works were developed to remind everyone of their own mortality. These representations became known as the *danse macabre*, meaning, "dance of death." Sometimes the dance was presented on All Saints Day itself as a living display with people dressed up in the attire of various states of life.

But, while the French dressed up on All Saints, the Irish, who marked Halloween, did not dress up. How the two became associated likely happened in the British colonies of North America during the 1700s, when Irish and French Catholics began to intermarry. The Irish focus on hell (meaning, how to avoid it) gave the French masquerades an even more ghoulish variation.

As every young trick-or-treater knows, dressing up isn't the point (though it is fun); the point is getting as many goodies as possible. So, where did "trick-or-treat" come from? Here is where it gets interesting. Between the 16th and 18th centuries in England, Catholics were largely shunned and had no legal rights. They could not hold office and were subject to all sorts of penalties. It was a death sentence to celebrate Mass and hundreds of priests who refused to comply were martyred. One peculiar act of resistance included a plot to blow up King James I and his Parliament with gunpowder. This would, in theory, begin a Catholic uprising against the protestant oppressors. The Gunpowder Plot was summarily derailed on November 5, 1605, when the man guarding the gunpowder, Guy Fawkes, was captured and arrested. He was hanged and thus ended the plot.

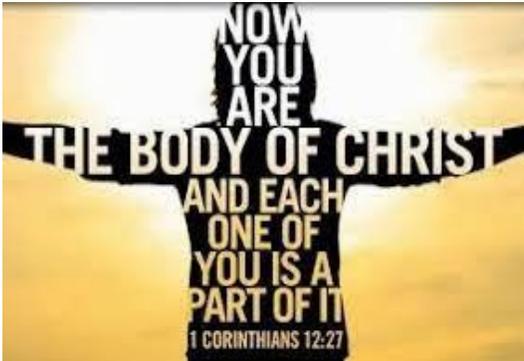
Because of this, November 5, Guy Fawkes Day, became a great celebration in England. Revelers would put on masks and visit local Catholics well after sunset, demanding beer and cakes for their celebration: trick or treat! Guy Fawkes Day arrived in the American colonies with the first English settlers, but King James and Guy Fawkes would soon be forgotten. Trick-or-treat, though, was not forgotten and was moved to October 31 to correlate with the French masquerade and the Irish celebration. A bit convoluted perhaps, but that's how it is.

The mixture of immigrant customs that is so typical of American culture is why Halloween has become a part of our annual celebrations. To this day though, Halloween as we mark it is largely unknown in Europe even though some of our customs originated there. To mark the night or not is a personal decision. It has Christian roots, though the mingling of cultures through history has distorted it and to some extent, it is disturbing. The thought that people would harass Catholics demanding treats or they would be tricked hardly seems reasonable. Yet Christians can use the opportunity to present a biblical worldview in the ways in which we mark it to counter the bizarre aspects of our time. Bear in mind the season of Advent and its Christian basis; yet most of us know people who celebrate the Christmas Season with no thought or consideration to the One who was born that precipitated the season in which we Christians celebrate. To be sure, this article's purpose is not to persuade the reader into wanting to celebrate Halloween as much as it is to elucidate the reader as to its history. After all, as Christians we have control over how to incorporate Christ into every aspect of our lives, even if it is sharing a treat with the neighborhood children in Christ's love on one night.

Pastor Dan

Our Shared Life

We Worship as One Church (every now and then!)



Thanks to the many people who made our worship as “One Church” so special last month, and who made our church picnic a great opportunity to fellowship together. It has been a blessing to gather together as one church (which is filled with individuals who very much like our three services!)

We have two more Sundays coming up when we will have one worship service followed by fellowship.

Anniversary Sunday—Oct. 24

10am Worship in Sanctuary/11am Luncheon

St. Luke's United Methodist Church will celebrate 205 years of ministry in the Denton area. There will be a dedication of memorials given in memory of our deceased church family members, and following this service the UMW will host a reception in Fellowship Hall. **(Please bring an appetizer or hors d'oeuvre to share; cake and drinks will be provided.)** Please join us for a time of fellowship and remembrance.



Brainstorming and Sharing

Sunday—Nov. 21st

10am Worship in Sanctuary/11am Brainstorming



Immediately following the service there will be a strategic planning brainstorming session to discuss prior and future goals for the church. Drinks and light snacks will be provided. We would encourage everyone to participate to share ideas for improving our church and community in the coming months and years.

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Prayer Concerns for October



Maura Todd, Tracy Berrigan, Pete Miller, Linda Turner, Janet Boecker, Cindy Nicklin, Kay Koenig, Patsy Kemp, Debbie Riggan, George Lacy, Pastor Greg Barrier, Annistan Roten, Kitty Patrick, Susan Fink, Owen Wevodau, Joe Little, Holly Slaughter Foster, Charlene Robbins, David Nagel, Judy Allen, Rob Cohee, Cricket and Glenn Williams, Michael and Ryan Alexander, Ed Parry, Vicky Winter, Helen Vogt, Hollis Cantwell, Brooke

Schroder, Colleen MacFarland, Archie Carroll, Susan Bunker, Josh Breeding, Gary Simpson, Sylvia Holland, Alan and Gloria Vandam, Pat Browne, Lisa Barge, Carol Stockley, Hayden Semans, Conrad Rosemere, Elaine Friel, and Sarah Price. May we also remember our citizens and friendly Afghanistans facing persecution and death who were left behind when our military was withdrawn; as well as the victims of storms that have killed and injured thousands in Haiti; plus the immigrants who are camping under bridges in the most unsanitary conditions at the border or caged in overcrowded facilities with Covid rampant or being transported through the country with no vaccinations. Also there have been many who have lost everything in this country due to natural disasters. May we show Christ's love through our prayers and any other way available to help the unfortunate.

Sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since the last issue of the Voice: Geraldine Loving, Robyn Smith

Prayers for those serving in the U.S. Military: John Biddle, Jake Brown, Chelsea Bunker, Seth Gill, Brockman Harris, Ethan Lister, JR Mann, Mitchell Mann, Justin Moore, Matthew Parker, Andrew Robbins, Dale Tuel, and James Wright,



To add names to these lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), e-mail (stlukes@goeaston.com), or drop-off/mail to 100 South 5th Avenue, Denton. Please be sure to include your name and telephone number so that we can contact you regarding the status of the person needing prayer; otherwise, the name will be removed after a couple of months.

Thank you to all who remember those named on our prayer lists. Only God knows how many are blessed because you care enough to pray.

Faith Formation at St. Luke's

Growing in faith from birth through adulthood



Thanks so much to our Sunday School teachers for a great start! Classes start at 9:30am and we look forward to seeing the children each Sunday.

Nursery - Miss Alex Penn

PreK & Kindergarten—Mrs. Amanda Dean

Grades 1 & 2—Mrs. Jennie Hoover

Grades 3 through 5—Mrs. Stacey Reid and
Mrs. Roselyn Parker

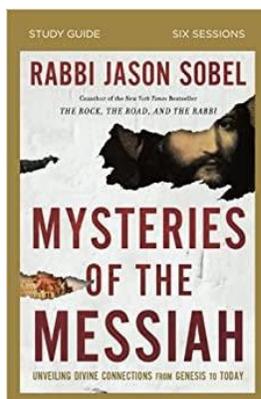
Middle School—Mr. Walt Palmer

St. Luke's UMC is seeking godly men and women whose hearts are focused on today's youth, to work together as a team that oversee our Methodist Youth Fellowship program. This would involve meeting periodically to plan Sunday evening MYF activities and being available twice a month to help supervise MYF.

Please speak with Pastor Dan for more information.



Adult Bible Study—All are Welcome! **Rooms 1 & 3 at 9:40 AM**



The Old Testament is not just a collection of old archaic stories and out-of-date prophecies and teaching. Every page of the Old Testament reveals divine mysteries about Jesus.

Walk with Rabbi Sobel as he fills in the connections.

Mysteries of the Messiah is a six week study with video and discussion format.



Musical Notes

What abounding joy was experienced when the Chancel Choir came into the choir loft for the first time in over a year at the end of the combined service last month! Seeing their radiant, smiling faces and hearing the congregation join them in joyful song was a special treat. Thank you to our choir for sharing their enthusiasm with us in worship each week!

Quotes from the Choir:

“Music is our life, our gift.”

“We missed it and each other.”

“...rehearsal on Wednesdays is like worship in the middle of the week.”

“[Having choir again] is a healing return to ‘normal’.”

Thanks be to God for the Ignite Band and their afternoon of praising the Lord at *Sunday in the Park* on Sept 26th! We will keep you posted for upcoming events where you can see them beyond the Ignite service on Sundays.



“...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Ephesians 5:18-20)

**UMW Giving Sunday
October 10, 2021**

The primary purpose of the United Methodist Women (UMW) is to **support local church and community ministries**. Our income is mainly from the sale of Easter eggs in the spring and nuts in the winter season. Due to the Covid pandemic, we have been unable to sell Easter eggs for two years, resulting in loss of approximately \$9,000. This shortfall has greatly impacted our planned giving.

Several of our annual planned donations:

Camp Pecometh Scholarship Fund
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence
Samaritan House
Denton Child Development
Compass Regional Hospice
Board of Child Care
St Luke's Teacher Appreciation
St Luke's Church and Kitchen Needs
Vacation Bible School Snacks
Miscellaneous: baby showers, Mother's
Day flowers, Father's Day candy



We are asking our church community to prayerfully consider this special offering on Oct 10th and thank you in advance for your support for UMW ministries!

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”
~ 2 Corinthians 9:10



St. LUKE'S UMC LEADERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

The Leadership Committee met on Thursday, September 16, 2021. The following was discussed:

Property & Investment (Trustees)

Stoltzfus Roofing has been contracted to replace the Education Building roof at a cost of \$19,494.00. The work will begin soon.

An evaluation will be made the week of September 20th regarding the placement of the upstairs Restroom in the Education building.

Two outside electrical outlets have been installed around the kitchen area.

Notice to those utilizing the parking lots will be given prior to the commencement of the pavement repairs.

Parsonage sale preparation continues. We hope to list the house in October.

Fund Management

Current cash balance: \$10,698.03

Monthly offering average: \$19,700

2022 budget was approved.



Upcoming Events

Charge Conference is September 29, 2021. All church members are encouraged to attend.

November 21, 2021 will be a combined service at 10:00. Immediately following the service there will be a strategic planning brainstorming session to discuss prior and future goals for the church. We would encourage everyone to participate to share your ideas for improving our church and community in the coming months/years.

The full minutes from the Leadership meetings can be found in the church office. Our next meeting will be October 21, 2021.



St. Luke's Parking Lot will be closed for paving from Monday, Oct. 4th, through Friday, Oct. 8th

Should you need to visit the church building or the offices, please **park on the left side of Franklin Street** across from the church and cross over to the sidewalk that takes you to the office entrance. (If you park on other streets, you will not be able to cross the parking lot to get to the church.) The Dept of Rec & Parks parking lot will also be closed for paving. Please call the office if you have any questions.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDER: _____

~ One Form for TOTAL Order ~

2021 U.M.W. ANNUAL HOLIDAY NUT SALE

The United Methodist Women of St. Luke's are now accepting orders for holiday nuts. Payment MUST accompany your order. Please complete this order form and make your check payable to: **U.M.W. of St. Luke's** and mail it to the church office at 100 S. Fifth Ave., Denton, MD 21629. You may also order through any U.M.W. member. The deadline for ordering is **Monday, October 11, 2021**. The nuts will be available for pick-up before Thanksgiving. You will be advised as soon as they arrive. Thank you for your support of this important U.M.W. fund raising project.

YOUR..NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

Selection (1 pound-size bags unless otherwise noted)	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
60000 Pecan Halves	\$13.00		
60010 Medium Broken Pecans	\$12.50		
60015 English Walnuts	\$13.50		
60020 Black Walnuts	\$14.00		
60025 Mixed Nuts	\$12.50		
60030 Giant Whole Cashews	\$12.50		
60045 Colossal Natural Pistachios	\$13.00		
60080 Heart Healthy Nut mix	\$13.00		
60095 Harvest Medley Mix (pecans, pistachios, cashews, dried cherries & cranberries)	\$13.50		
62023 Mixed Chocolate Cranberries (milk, white & dark)	\$11.50		
62027 Dark Chocolate Cranberries	\$11.50		
62019 Dark Chocolate Almonds	\$13.00		
62038 Praline Pecans	\$13.50		
GRAND TOTAL			

Cash Total: _____ **Check Total:** _____



October 2021



Sun

Mon

Tue

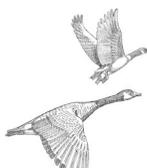
Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



	PARKING	LOT PAVING	OCT. 4th -8th	Use Franklin Street Parking to access Church office	1	2
3 Communion 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	4	5 10am Prayer Team	6 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir 7:30pm Sarah's Circle	7 6:30pm Boy Scouts	8	9 11am "Faith & Blue" (Denton Police Dept)
10 UMW Fundraising 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	11 Columbus Day	12 10am Prayer Team	13 10am Staff Mt 1pm Cookies & Cards 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	14 6:30pm Boy Scouts	15	16 10am Share Shop 12pm Breaking Bread
17 Veteran's Sunday 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	18 Veteran's Day	19 10am Prayer Team	20 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	21 6:30pm Boy Scouts	22 Voice Deadline	23 
24 Anniversary Sunday 10am Worship in the Sanctuary 11am Congregational Brainstorming & Sharing	25	26 10am Prayer Team	27 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	28 6:30pm Boy Scouts	29	30 Denton Trick-or-Treat 6-7pm
31 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship						Nov 6 8am Men's Breakfast

St. Luke's United Methodist Church Treasurer's Report

For Period January through December 2021 as of August 31, 2021

Description	Annual Budget 2021	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 67%	Budget through August 2021	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 67%
				% Budg Used				% Budg Used
Income								
Offerings	242,307.00	164,760.62	77,546.38	68.00%	161,538.00	164,760.62	(3,222.62)	101.99%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	39.00	61.00	39.00%	66.67	39.00	27.67	58.50%
Interest Income	25.00	21.49	3.51	85.96%	16.67	21.49	(4.82)	128.94%
Building Use	3,000.00	3,751.00	(751.00)	125.03%	2,000.00	3,751.00	(1,751.00)	187.55%
Administrative Building Use	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Income	245,432.00	168,572.11	76,859.89	68.68%	163,621.33	168,572.11	(4,950.78)	103.03%
Expenses								
Pastor Expenses								
Salary	58,000.00	38,666.64	19,333.36	66.67%	38,666.67	38,666.64	0.03	100.00%
Travel Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Cable TV at parsonage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Hospitalization/Dental	18,180.00	13,600.00	4,580.00	74.81%	12,120.00	13,600.00	(1,480.00)	112.21%
Bishop's Retreat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Continuing Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pension Plan	9,512.00	6,341.36	3,170.64	66.67%	6,341.33	6,341.36	(0.03)	100.00%
Pastor Expenses - other			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Pastor Expenses	85,692.00	58,608.00	27,084.00	68.39%	57,128.00	58,608.00	(1,480.00)	102.59%
Staff Expenses								
Staff Salaries	71,400.00	45,444.07	25,955.93	63.65%	47,600.00	45,444.07	2,155.93	95.47%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,140.00	3,847.91	3,292.09	53.89%	4,760.00	3,847.91	912.09	80.84%
Worker's Compensation	1,428.00	951.00	477.00	66.60%	952.00	951.00	1.00	99.89%
Expenses - other		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Staff Expenses	79,968.00	50,242.98	29,725.02	62.83%	53,312.00	50,242.98	3,069.02	276.20%
Other Operational Expenses								
Accounting & Legal	400.00	496.59	(96.59)	124.15%	266.67	496.59	(229.92)	
Annual Conference expense	500.00	150.00	350.00	30.00%	333.33	150.00	183.33	45.00%
Christian Education/Sunday School	1,200.00	63.47	1,136.53	5.29%	800.00	63.47	736.53	7.93%
Conference Apportionments	22,379.00	10,406.50	11,972.50	46.50%	14,919.33	10,406.50	4,512.83	69.75%
Easton District Office	1,343.00	783.00	560.00	58.30%	895.33	783.00	112.33	87.45%
Janitorial Supplies	1,000.00	145.64	854.36	14.56%	666.67	145.64	521.03	21.85%
Electricity/Oil	12,000.00	9,849.65	2,150.35	82.08%	8,000.00	9,849.65	(1,849.65)	123.12%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	6,500.00	4,017.46	2,482.54	61.81%	4,333.33	4,017.46	315.87	92.71%
Kitchen/ParsonageFuel	4,000.00	2,207.94	1,792.06	55.20%	2,666.67	2,207.94	458.73	82.80%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	1,800.00	2,105.00	(305.00)	116.94%	1,200.00	2,105.00	(905.00)	175.42%
Insurance	10,300.00	8,774.00	1,526.00	85.18%	6,866.67	8,774.00	(1,907.33)	127.78%
Maintenance and Repairs	5,000.00	2,693.01	2,306.99	53.86%	3,333.33	2,693.01	640.32	80.79%
Miscellaneous	100.00	412.29	(312.29)	412.29%	66.67	412.29	(345.62)	618.44%
Music Committee	1,200.00	338.00	862.00	28.17%	800.00	338.00	462.00	73.16%
MYF Program	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%	133.33	0.00	133.33	0.00%
Office Supplies	3,000.00	402.46	2,597.54	13.42%	2,000.00	402.46	1,597.54	20.12%
Postage	1,300.00	788.55	511.45	60.66%	866.67	788.55	78.12	90.99%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pastor's Moving Exp Escrow Acct	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Stewardship	1,300.00	895.07	404.93	68.85%	866.67	895.07	(28.40)	103.28%
Telephone	2,000.00	2,361.95	(361.95)	118.10%	1,333.33	2,361.95	(1,028.62)	177.15%
Water and Sewer	1,500.00	828.61	671.39	55.24%	1,000.00	828.61	171.39	82.86%
Spiritual Life	1,750.00	1,088.90	661.10	62.22%	1,166.67	1,088.90	77.77	93.33%
Worship Materials	1,000.00	215.01	784.99	21.50%	666.67	215.01	451.66	32.25%
Total Operational Expenses	79,772.00	49,023.10	30,748.90	61.45%	53,181.33	49,023.10	4,158.23	92.18%
Total Expenses	245,432.00	157,874.08	87,557.92	64.32%	163,621.33	157,874.08	5,747.25	96.49%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	10,698.03	(10,698.03)		0.00	10,698.03	(10,698.03)	