

It's Spooky Season everyone! At least that's what it looked like when we went grocery shopping this week. Pumpkins were on sale to carve into jack-o-lanterns. Big bags of candy were shoved into the middle aisles so you can prepare yourself for trick-or-treaters. Silly costumes and ghoulish decorations can now be bought to ensure you really have a delightfully creepy, but safe Halloween.

Halloween was the best holiday when I was a kid. My brother and I would spend a solid month plotting our costumes. Would we be Dr. Frankenstein and his Monster? Or maybe Quasimodo and a gargoyle? It was so much fun dressing up and eating way too much chocolate.

Yet, no matter what our costume was, at the end of the night we could take them off. We could dress up as zombies, but that didn't mean we were monsters. The masks we wore weren't real. They could be taken off and no matter how cool they were; in just a few weeks, they would lie forgotten in the basement. We could put on the clothes of a ghoul, but that didn't change who we really were.

Sadly, it's far too easy to treat Sunday like Halloween. We put on our Sunday clothes, plaster a smile on our faces, say the right words, and call it a day. We stand and loudly proclaim that Christ is our Lord and Savior and that we are called to follow His teachings. We discuss how we are called to love everyone as we love ourselves.

Yet, come Monday we're back to yelling about the car in front of us being too slow. Instead of caring for the least, the last, and the lost around us, we ignore them at best. At worst? We blame them for being lazy, or for being what's wrong with the world or anything else so we can justify not having to deal with them. Our busy lives get in the way of prayer and study because who could carve out fifteen minutes a day to set aside?

When we do this, what we are saying with our actions is that church, being a Christian, is merely something we do for one hour on Sunday morning. It's like dressing up for Halloween.

However, being a Christian isn't just a mask we put on. No, to be truly a follower of Christ means so much more. It means that our hearts are transformed, and we are made anew in the Spirit. That is not a costume that can be taken off when we want to.

What we say and do on Sunday morning should be an example of how we live our weeks. We are called to live lives that care for others. Lives that make time for our relationship with God. Our lives are not focused on ourselves and earthly things, but on God, neighbors, and heavenly things.

That's not easy. We can say the words on Sunday morning, but for them to be how we live? That takes work. It means walking with Christ and trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit. Thankfully, we have the promise that no matter what God will be with us. Always. That means the Lord will be there to help us be the people we are meant to be. The people that follow Christ, love God completely, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Halloween is just a few weeks away. That night we all get to pretend to be something else. Let us remember, though, that our faith is not a mask we put on for Sunday. No, we are Christians on Sunday morning at church, and Monday afternoon at work, and Friday night at the store. God Bless, Pastor Ed

Howard Heines Memorial Arrangements:
Visitation Friday, Sept. 29, 5-7 PM at LUMC and Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 -11 AM at LUMC.
Memorial Service on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 11 AM at LUMC.

Donations of candy for Trunk or Treat are needed please.
Thank You!

Coming Up Next!

Rummage for the sale may be brought to the church now.

Lakeville Fall Festival – Saturday, Sept. 30

Work Day for the Rummage Sale - Wednesday, October 11

Fall Rummage Sale - Saturday, October 14

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, October 17, 7 PM

Preschool Fall Break – October 18 – 23

Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, October 25, 10 AM

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 28, 4-6 PM

Fifth Sunday of the Month – October 29
10:30 Worship Service followed by
Beef & Noodles lunch

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

October 1 Dale & Judy
October 8 Martha and Bill
October 15 Chris L.

Food Pantry Needs:

canned tuna/chicken, cereal, canned fruit, rice, pasta or potato sides, Hamburger Helper, soup with meat, shelf stable milk, canned vegetables, family sized items are appreciated.

Thank you for all the donations!!

TOPS Club is meeting at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Room 206, use north east door. Looking for new members to join us.