



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026
1209 COUTANT ST. FLUSHING, MI 48433
PH. 810.659.5926 FAX 810.496.2768
WEBSITE: HOLYCROSSLUTHERAN.COM
APP: @THECROSS

Where does All Saints Day and Halloween come from?

There is a lot of new mythology about Halloween that has been invented to claim that Halloween is a pagan holiday. It is not, and it never was a pagan holiday.

Where Did Halloween Start in the Christian Church?

In the first three centuries after Christ's resurrection, the lives of the martyrs of the Church were commemorated on the day and in the place where they were killed. There were so many who were killed because of their faith in Christ during those centuries. Throughout the Christian Church different days were set aside not only for each martyr, but a special day for all Saints.

The earliest reference to a day being dedicated to the commemoration of All the Martyrs and All Saints of the Christian Church comes from the 2nd century. The document is titled "The Martyrdom of Polycarp." Polycarp was a Christian killed because he would not deny Christ. The document says:

"Accordingly, we afterwards took up his bones, as being more precious than the most exquisite jewels, and more purified than gold, and deposited them in a fitting place, whither, being gathered together, as opportunity is allowed us, with joy and rejoicing, the Lord shall grant us to celebrate the anniversary of his martyrdom, both in memory of those who have already finished their course, and for the exercising and preparation of those yet to walk in their steps." (Chapter 18)

Later, a Christian Bishop named Ephraim the Syrian mentions a common All Saints' Day in 373. In 379 St. Basil of Caesarea chose a day when the churches of his bishopric would honor the memories of all Saints known, and unknown, alive or in heaven. Later, John Chrysostom mentions a common day of memorial for the Saints in 407 AD.

In the year 609 or 610 Pope Boniface IV established a date for All Saints' Day on May 13th. And later, in the early 700s AD, Pope Gregory III changed the date to November 1st. Decrees like this took some time to propagate from Rome to the more remote areas where the Church was found. But the change in date had nothing to do with any pagan practices. Pope Gregory IV extended the celebration on this day to the entire Western Church in the early 800s. And again, the change took time as it spread from Rome.

The point is this: a common day for commemorating the Saints has been around throughout the Christian Church from very early times. And the fact that it falls on November 1st today has nothing to do with paganism.

OK, so what does this have to do with Halloween? In the Bible the day begins at sundown or evening. This is why we have Christmas Eve. Halloween is All Hallows' Eve, that is All Saints' Evening. Halloween is the beginning of All Saints' Day starting at sundown on October 31st.

These days we have "Trick or Treat," costumes sometimes too gruesome to describe: witches, goblins, werewolves, vampires, zombies, Jack-O-Lanterns, skeletons, spooky sounds, grave stones, candy and a celebration of gore and all that is un-Holy. Many of the Christian Churches in the Reformed traditions claim that Halloween is a pagan celebration. Very often they do this by referring to Neopagan and Wiccan writings. And there are many in the Neopagan and Wiccan communities who have tried hard to claim Halloween as an ancient pagan holiday that had been stolen by the Christian Church. Don't ever expect truth from Neopagans and Wiccans. They already live in a fantasy world created by their own fakelore.

The typical claims in current sources are that Halloween comes from "ancient Celtic practices, Catholic and Roman religious rituals and European folk traditions." With respect to the origins of All Saints' Day these claims are false. With respect to the modern re-paganizing of Halloween, the Neopagan version of Halloween doesn't really come from ancient pagan sources. It comes from modern sources that pretend to be old but are not. These modern sources are simply fiction and an attempt to hijack an historic Christian celebration.

So Pastor, what should we do in regards to Halloween and All Saints Day? First, know that Halloween is not some ancient festival but a modern (last 100 years) phenomenon. Second, know that All Saints Day is for thanking God for the Christian witness of those believers who have lived before us. Third, remember that the Bible tells us to not associate with witchcraft or the things of Satan. Fourth, if you or your kids want to dress up as your favorite Green Bay Packer for fun, have at it. Fifth, remember and know that Jesus is your Savior from sin, death, and the devil. See you in church on Sunday!

Leaving a Legacy - Giving of RMDs from Retirement Accounts

Did you know that you can make a donation of all or a portion of the **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** from your retirement account to tax exempt charities such as Holy Cross and your donation will be tax exempt? If it applies to you, this is a giving strategy that can benefit you, bless Holy Cross and even elevate your financial giving.

Consider joining others and designate a portion of your RMD to Holy Cross. It's easy and tax-friendly. If you are of the age that you're required to take a minimum distribution from your retirement accounts (IRA, 401K, 403b, TSP, 457) or incur a penalty this might be a solution and a way for you to bless Holy Cross. To contribute all or a portion of your RMD to Holy Cross, all you need to do is instruct your financial institution or adviser to designate a portion or all of your RMD to Holy Cross. The contribution does not count as reportable income for you to the IRS and you get credit for it as a charitable donation. It's a win-win situation. If you have any questions about how this works, Jim Santala would be happy to talk to you and answer your questions.

Read The New Testament in November

We're reading the New Testament in a year at Holy Cross and the schedule for November calls for us to finish reading Mark and then read 2 John, 3 John, and start Hebrews.

Let's briefly talk about each one.

2 John: written sometime between 85-95 AD to "the elect lady and her children." Many scholars believe it to be a "circular letter", ie. one meant to be passed on to several churches. The first or "main" church being the lady and the other congregations the children. It warns against the same false teaching mentioned in 1 John and encourages them to hold fast to truth, love, obedience and hospitality.

3 John: written about the same time as 1 & 2 John to a man named Gaius who was possibly a leader in John's congregation. It applauds Gaius for living out his Christian faith and condemns Diotrephes who was a selfish church leader.

Hebrews: written sometime before 70 AD by an unknown author. Hebrews begins "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." The book of Hebrews teaches that Jesus is the Messiah, the fulfilment of the Word God gave his prophets to proclaim. Hebrews explains many things about Jesus' connection to the Old Testament.

It's still a great time to read the New Testament! Pick up a Read The New Testament devotion card on the table when you enter worship and read a little bit each day according to the schedule. Form a habit. You are blessed by God's Word.

**Holy Cross is collecting
600 Cans of Fruit
for the Flushing
Thanksgiving Food Baskets Giveaway**

**We are collecting the cans thru
November 22nd. Please leave your cans
on the table in the Narthex**

**On the 22nd we will need people to help box and
deliver cans to Flushing Community Church
Please sign up to help.**

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Kids Coat Drive
Holy Cross Is Collecting
Coats for FCOC Kids
They can be new or gently used
Scarves, Hats, Mittens and Gloves
Are also appreciated
All sizes from small children
to large adult

Join the fun in Plarn Mat
production!

The next meetings are
November 3rd @2pm
& November 17th @ 2pm



Happy Hearts will meet on
November 9th for a Pot Luck
at noon in the Fellowship Hall
Our member Wendy Meinburg
will be speaking to us as the
Flushing Township Clerk



You are invited to-
"No One Alone" Thanksgiving Dinner

Holy Cross Lutheran Church will be
hosting a dinner on Thanksgiving Day -
Thursday November 26th at 1:00pm
for singles and couples who would
otherwise be alone for Thanksgiving.

Reserve your place.

Call Holy Cross @ 810-659-5926
or e-mail secretary@holycrosslutheran.com
Limited to the first 60 reservations



Fall Landscape Clean-Up
Saturday, November 7th
9:00am – 12:00pm
Bring rakes, shovels, gloves,
wheel barrows, etc.



Come Celebrate Christmas
With Us
Thursday, December 24th @ 4 & 6pm

Christmas Day Service
Friday December 25th @ 10:30



Ladies Lunchly
November 11th @ noon
Liberty Restaurant on
Pierson Rd.



Family Fun Night
Put it on your calendar!
November 18, 6pm-8pm
BOARD GAME NIGHT
Bring your friends.
Pizza & Refreshments supplied
Signup sheet in the Narthex



