

THE GOSPEL IS RELATIONAL – AND PRACTICAL! SHINE BRIGHT!!

Your English District Evangelization Team would like to encourage, equip and empower you through God's Word and His accompanying Spirit for sharing the Gospel - right where you are and in the midst of your daily life. Acts 17:28 reminds us that in God, we live and move and have our very being. That's the Christian's NEW NORMAL. While COVID has spread sickness world wide, caused fear and death, separated us from loved ones, led to unemployment and added financial stress, thrown our day to day lives into upheaval and canceled event after event, **it has not canceled the spread of the Gospel.** In fact, it has heightened the importance of it. There is a void in our world that can ONLY be filled with the saving grace of Jesus Christ. This coming week, we have some awesome opportunities for super spreader events - not spreading COVID but the light of the Gospel.

If you plan on handing out candy to the "little goblins" on Reformation Day (the celebration of our Lutheran Heritage in the truth founded upon GRACE ALONE through FAITH ALONE in JESUS CHRIST ALONE as revealed in SCRIPTURE ALONE), be sure to intentionally share the Gospel message. How often does the world come to your door? The Gospel couldn't be more relational. Be creative, genuine and pray for the Holy Spirit to be present in and bless your witness with every costumed friend who visits your doorstep. With every handful of candy, say things like, "God loves you!" "Jesus is the Real Treat" "This candy won't last long but God's love lasts forever!" "You are precious in God's eyes!" or "It truly would be scary out there if it weren't for the saving grace of Jesus!" Decorate a pumpkin with a Cross or with a face with hearts for eyes, a cross for a nose and a fish for a mouth. Don't let this opportunity go by without sharing God's love.

Sunday is All Saints' Day. We will remember all those who have passed away in the faith and who are now enjoying the blessings of God as eternal saints in glory. One of my favorite definitions of a saint is: Those who make it easier to believe in Jesus Christ and walk in relationship with Him. **THAT'S YOU!** You make it easier to believe as you intentionally share the Gospel by comforting someone who has recently lost a loved one or the family of someone remembered in your congregation who has passed away since the last All Saints' Day. Refresh their hearts with the salvation message: Thanks be to God through the life, death and resurrection of Christ that those trusting in Him die deaths that result in eternal life with Jesus Christ.