

## **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.

Next Tuesday is election day. I pray that you have either voted early or plan to cast your vote on Tuesday. Let people know that you have first prayed for God's will to be done **then voted**. We are reminded that we live in two kingdoms simultaneously. We are called to serve God and neighbor. Again, be creative but intentional. Here is where people need to know that whoever wins the election, **GOD IS IN CONTROL**. Write on your "I voted" sticker - I prayed. Wearing this truth may give you the opportunity to share the hope that you have to all those who may question what your sticker means (1 Peter 3:15). You live in both Kingdoms for the purpose of peace and sharing the Good News.

In the coming weeks, your Evangelization Team will be encouraging you to make use of the tremendous resources produced by our church body: "Every One His Witness [E1HW] (along with the accompanying modules)" "Re:Vitality" and "Making Disciples for Life". We will be surveying you to see if you have used E1HW or have a story where you have put to use the L.A.S.S.I.E. witness tool. We want to hear from congregations that have participated in "Connecting to Disciples" or "Shepherding of the Strays". But most importantly, we want to encourage, equip and empower through God's Word and Spirit every member of every English District Congregation to share the relational Gospel as the NEW NORMAL. For there was never a time like this to share the practical blessings of God's saving truth.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about these resources, don't hesitate to simply reach out to the English District on the website. May God bless you as you SHINE BRIGHT in practical ways this coming week.

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