

## **A Great Day in the Kingdom – 10/27/23**

Every year, I am asked by a member of the community if our Church celebrates Halloween. This inquiry is always from a non-member of our Church family. Every year, I give the same response when someone mentions the origin of the celebration. The Celts were the original celebrants of the event. I say event because this is not a holiday. School is not cancelled, nor sporting events. We keep going on with our normal schedules (pretty much) as we have our party.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor Saints. The evening before this celebration was known as All Hallows Eve. By the way, did you know Jack-o-lanterns were originally carved from turnips and were meant to scare away evil spirits? I love this idea and will remember it, as I ask you do as well, when carving your pumpkin this year.

**Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who Love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called, according to His purpose.**

Every year I see joy at our Halloween party! I see people working together with the common goal of showing our children a wonderful time. By the way, we adults have fun as well! We need not worry about little Johnnie or Suzy dressing up as a character. I have never seen the Devil show up because someone dressed up in a Woody costume.

We do not fear or give credit to evil, because Christ conquered sin and death with the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The Church staff even dressed up as characters during this year's party, and it was a joy to participate!

Remember **Psalm 23:4 ...I will fear not evil...**

We have stolen numerous practices from Pagan cultures. We have all heard of the Christmas Tree, as it points to Heaven, honoring the God of Abraham and Isaac, who sent His Only Son, our Savior, to save us all from sin and death.

**PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the celebration of fellowship. Help us to encourage others not to fear but live in faith. Help us to show the world that fear is a waste of time, as we work to build our faith. Thank You for Loving Us!!! In the name of the Risen Christ Jesus I Pray!!! AMEN!!!**