

St. John Lutheran Church, Zimmerman



Takin' it Home!

www.green-church.org

FAITH 5



SHARE



READ



TALK



PRAY



BLESS

We do not want to add more “to do” to your already busy days.

But, we do want to help you grow faith at home.

These blessing bags are a part of our “Takin’ it Home” Sunday School offering to St. John families. In October, we focus on the scripture---Genesis 12:2

We are Blessed to be a Blessing.

There are 4 simple blessings here for your family to share together in October.

It is our prayer that these blessing bags will help you, as a family, acknowledge the ways that God is present with us every day. These blessings are for the entire family.

Color together, pray together, bless together.

1	October Blessings	
2		
3		
4	Animal Blessing	<i>St. Francis of Assisi Day “In the beginning, God created every living creature and said: It is Good”! Genesis 1:1, Job 12:7-10 & Acts 17:24</i>
5	*even if you don’t have a pet, you can use this blessing to thank God for all animals*	
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11	House Blessing	<i>As for me & my house, we will serve the LORD! Joshua 24:15</i>
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18	Mail Blessing	<i>We are blessed to be a blessing. Genesis 12:2</i>
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25	Pumpkin Blessing	<i>Let your light Shine as a blessing! Matthew 5:16</i>
26		
27		
28	The only supplies you will need for these 4 October blessings are---	
29	Color crayons [if your family enjoys coloring, do this together, not just the “littles”! Coloring together give	
30	time for talking together. If you don’t enjoy coloring----just use the words!	
31	A candle [real or battery—even a flashlight could work] for the House Blessing.	



THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

October 4, 2020

Saint Francis was born in 1182, the son of a wealthy merchant of Assisi, Italy. His early youth was a life of ease. As he grew, his encounters with beggars and lepers touched Francis' heart. Despite his father's intense opposition, Francis decided to give up all material goods and devote himself to serving people living in poverty. Today we remember Francis for his compassion for people who were sick, his generosity to those in need, and for his love for animals and nature. Francis is celebrated every year on October 4. One reason we honor his life and ministry with pet blessings and creation care is because his love of animals and the natural world was expressed so deeply in his writings.

READ

Job 12:7-10: "But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of God has done this?"

In God's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being."





BLESS

The animals in our lives, whether pets or those we see in our neighborhoods, remind us that God's creation is big and beautiful. We can ask God's blessing on our pets or animals at any time, but the Feast of St. Francis is a special opportunity to do so. You can simply say the words of blessing provided below or add what you'd like. If outside, you might invite other neighborhood pets to join you. Consider beginning with a prayer of thanksgiving for the animals who have been in your life.

You may choose to lay your hands upon or near your animal, depending on the animal's comfort.

Words of blessing: "[Pet's Name], we give thanks to God for your life and for your companionship in our life. We ask the God who created you to bless you. May we continue to enjoy life together in God's beautiful world. Amen"

PRAY

Prayers for Our Animals

Thank you, God, for all of the significant for the wonderful lessons we learn from



the gentleness of the rabbit, the working ability of the beaver, the courage of the lion, the cunning of the fox, the bravery of the tiger and the fortitude and resiliency of the coyote. May we always have the lovely family life of the wolf, whose members care for one another with sincere devotion. Grant us the common sense of the horse, the strength of the ox and especially, God, we ask for the humor, comedy and playfulness of the sea otters and the squirrels. Inspire us each with the mastery of good grooming and relaxation of our cats and with the loyalty and devotion of our dogs. Best of all, God, fill us with the sheer joy of the songbirds at dawn, heralding a new day and forgetting the past. Help us to awaken to and learn from all animals:

animals in our lives, past and present, and all of your wondrous creatures. Give us, God,

their wisdom and their sweetness, their loyalty and particularly their seeming inability to judge human beings unkindly. *Amen.*

Blessing the Animals: Prayers and Ceremonies to Celebrate God's Creatures, Wild and Tame edited by Lynn L. Caruso.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

Created by The Rev. Jennifer McNally, priest at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church and convener of dinner church Table 229, St. Paul, Minnesota, and The Rev. Anna V. Ostensio Moore, Associate for Family Ministry at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis, and author of the picture books "Today Is a Baptism Day" and "We Gather at This Table." Please share freely!





Blessing of our Homes

October 11, 2020

Home is sacred. It is the place we feel safe, loved, and treasured. We are blessed to have a home, and should daily remember those who do not. Not only in our thoughts, but also in our actions to help prevent the occasions that cause homelessness in our communities.

This is a service for you & your family to remember all the ways that God's Peace Surrounds you always. You will need a candle [real or battery]. You will begin outside and walk together through the rooms of your home.

This blessing can be done all at once, or you may choose to go to 1 room/space each night for a week or spread it out over the month. Make it work for you & your schedules.

Begin outside by making the sign of the cross and praying together:

Heavenly Father we dedicate this property to You and we ask that You continually strengthen all who live here so that we may serve You all the days of our lives. May this be a welcome place for all who visit, that they may know the love of Christ through our hospitality and kindnesses. This we pray through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, Amen.

As you enter your home

All: Peace to this house and to all who enter here. Amen

Reader: Jesus said: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them, and make our home with them." **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Light a Candle or use a battery-operated candle:

(Matt. 5:14–16) Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lamp stand and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

ALL: Eternal God, as this candle gives light to this home, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hallway or Stairs Reader: (Psalms 121:5–8) A reading from the Psalms-- "It is the Lord who watches over you; The Lord is your shade at your right hand, so that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil. The Lord shall keep you safe. The Lord shall watch over your going out and you're coming in, from this time forth forevermore."

All: Gracious God, keep watch over us. Over our going out and our coming home. May we dwell here, secure in your peace, extending your hospitality to all. Amen.

Living Room/Family Room (Psalms. 90:1–2) Reader: A reading from the Psalms--“Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

All: Loving God, continue to make us aware of your love that fills this room every day. May all who share this space be strengthened to serve you and one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kitchen/Dining Room:

(Psalms 104:27-28) Reader: A reading from the Psalms: “The eyes of all look to you to give them their food in due season; and when you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.”

All: Blessed are you, God of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Make us grateful for all your gracious gifts, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bathroom

Reader: As the waters cleanse us may it also offer relaxation, healing and comfort and remind us that we are baptized children of God.

Parent/s Bedroom

(Psalms 4:8) A reading from the Psalms--“I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.”

All: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may walk with Christ, and asleep we may rest in his peace. Amen

Children's rooms

(Matthew 19:14) Reader: Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

Parent/s: Heavenly Father, Your son, our savior, took young children into his arms and blessed them. Embrace (Names of children) with your unfailing love. Protect them from all danger by guiding them with wise choices, and bring them in safety to each new day. Guide them in your ways and keep them ever mindful of your great love for them in all places, Amen.

Guest rooms

(Hebrews 13:2) (1Peter 4:9) Reader: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Be hospitable to one another without complaining; serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

All: Loving God, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us. We ask for your blessings on those who share the hospitality of this home. Amen

Patio / deck:

May this doorway extend into this home the elements of God's amazing creation. surroundings letting t May this be a place of relaxation, comfort, reflection, fun, and fellowship.

Basement/laundry other rooms:

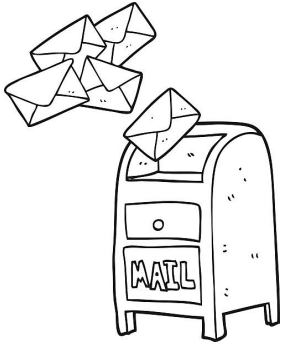
In the name of Jesus Christ we ask for your peace and joy to inhabit this room

Closing words (prayer of gratitude):

(John 15:4–5) A reading from the Gospel of John---Jesus said: “Abide in me as I abide in you.”

All: Gracious God, in you alone do we find our true home. Make this house your abiding place, and bless all who live and visit here. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, send us out in your love. Bless this house as we come and go. May the strength of its walls provide safety, keeping strife and trouble outside, but may the door always be open wide to welcome friends and family. May this home be a place of rest and comfort, filled with love, laughter, peace and an abundance of goodwill. This we pray through Your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen!





October 18, 2020

Mail Blessing

Create drawings for Color-a-Smile

COLOR-A-SMILE, PO BOX 1516
Morristown, NJ 07962-1516

1. Color—your own creation or go to www.createasmile.org for free templates. No glitter, please.
2. Sign—1st name only, please.
3. Send a Blessing by Mail! [more than 1 drawing? Website has UPS address]

Do this as a whole family—not just the kids.

Create a blessing for kids in the Hospital

Cards for Hospitalized Kids
7290 W. Devon
Chicago, IL 60631

Consider messages like: I hope you have a great day, Never forget how amazing you are, I believe in you, Always know you are awesome, You are loved, sending a smile blessing from me to you!

Create a blessing for our soldiers

A Million Thanks
17853 Santiago Blvd. #107-355
Villa Park, CA 92861

No glitter. Address to: Dear Hero, Dear Troops. No store bought cards. No care package items. Mail goes to all branches. Send more than one in large envelopes.

Go to amillionthanks.org for more info & ideas

Create a blessing for a St. John member

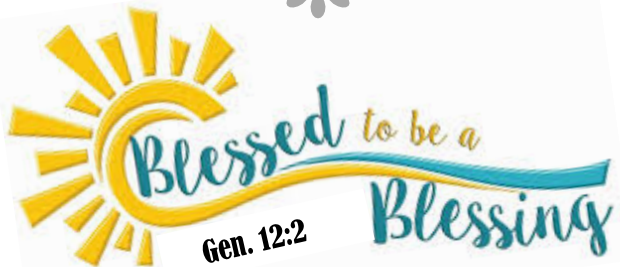
Use your church directory for names/addresses

OR

Mail/Drop off at St. John

****Please include postage****

[plastic bin on West side of building]



October 25

Pumpkin Blessing

It looks like Halloween will be different this year. So, why not add a new tradition?!

Takin' it Home & making you faith a part of every day is easy when you take traditions you already have, and help your family think about "God sightings" –or put another way---about how God is active in our daily lives. This year, how about adding these fun blessings to your tradition of carving a pumpkin? Do you draw instead of carve? Same idea applies. Remember not to take yourselves too seriously & enjoy the moment these blessings can create!



We choose our pumpkin for Halloween & it brings a smile to our hearts. Do you know that God chose you to be His very own? "For God chose us before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight" (Ephesians 1:4).



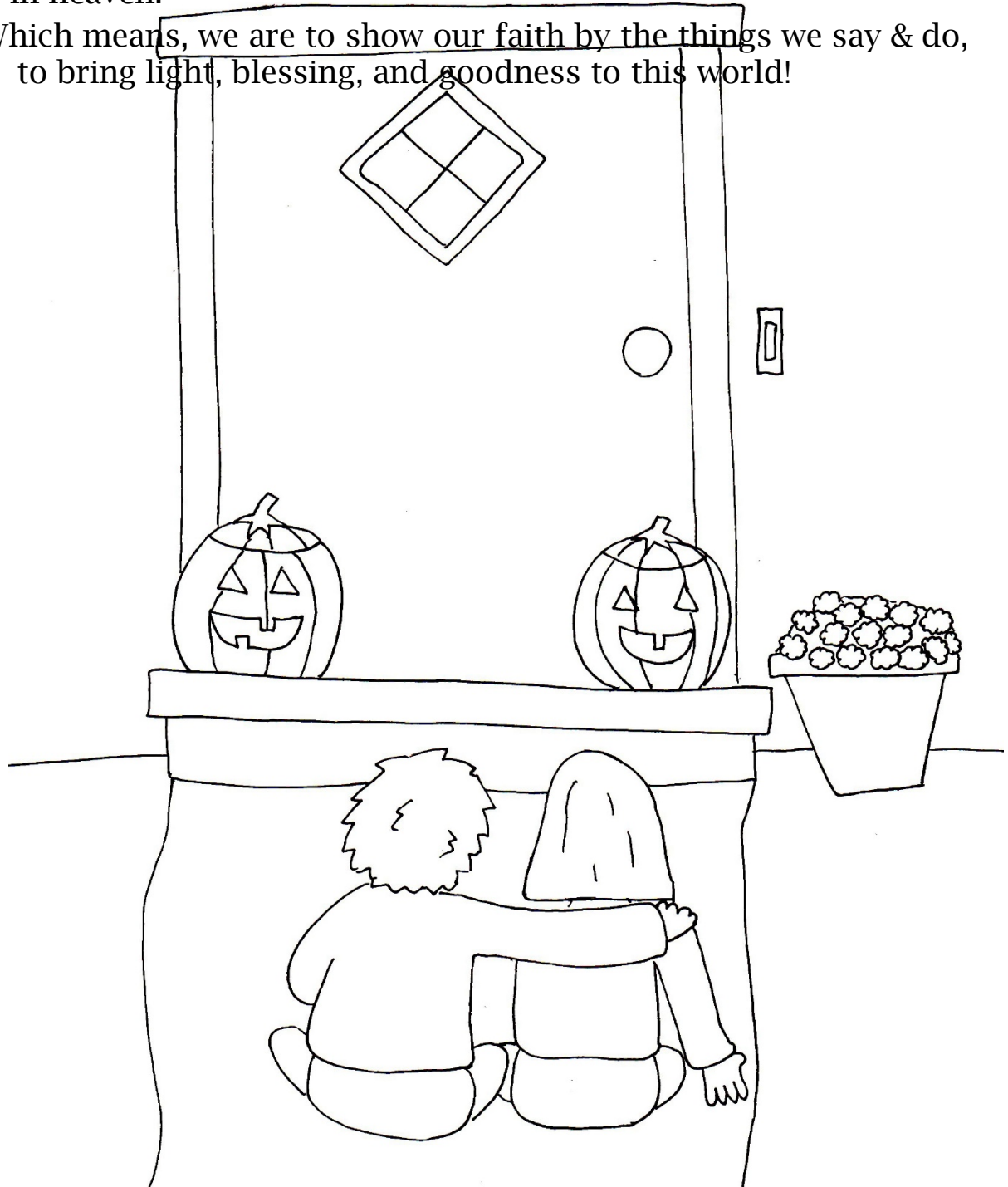
As we carve [or draw] happy faces on our pumpkins, we are reminded of the joy that God gives us! "Though you have not seen God, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy" (1 Peter 1:8).



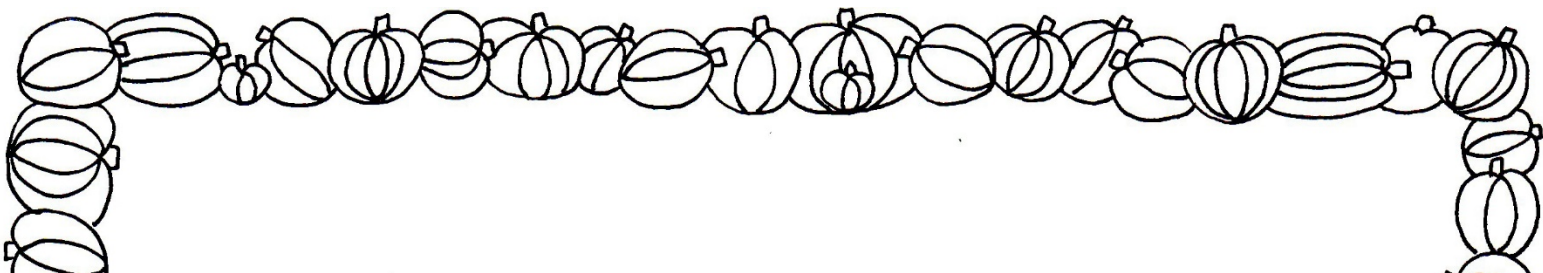
As we place a candle or a light inside our pumpkins, we are reminded that Jesus doesn't leave us empty inside, He fills our hearts with His love and His light.

Lights remind us of our Baptism, when a candle was lit in celebration of God's promises, as the pastor said: "Let your light so shine before others, that you may bring glory to God in heaven."

Which means, we are to show our faith by the things we say & do, to bring light, blessing, and goodness to this world!



In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).



Did you know?

Halloween, or “All Hallow’s Eve” is the night before All Saints Day?

All Saints is the day we remember those who have taught us about faith & shared God with us! It is the day we remember those who let the light of Christ shine through them.

Who first taught you about God?

What was the first prayer you learned?

Tell each other about these special people! They have blessed your life!

Our worship on Nov. 1st will celebrate the “saints” in our lives who showed us Jesus.



Our next Drive in Worship is October 11th 10 AM

Online worship happens every Sunday at 10 am

&

Every Wednesday at 7 pm, we have a very short Bible reading and reflection called

G.P.S.

“God’s Peace Surrounds”

Both on our

St. John Facebook Page

Links/info available on our **updated website.**



As for me and my
HOUSE

we will
Serve

the
LORD

JOSHUA 24:15