The



Sanctuary

You are God's Temple ...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church + 1205 North Lincoln Ave. + O'Fallon, IL 62269 + 618=632-0126 + www.mybslc.org

Upcoming Events October 2023 Sun., Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45

Mon. Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Support Group 7 pm

> Tues. Oct. 3 Elders Mtg 7 pm

Wed. Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 Ladies Bible Study

Wed. Oct. 4, 11, 18 Adult Choir 7 pm

**Sat. Oct. 7** Prayer Vigil 6am-6 pm

> Sun. Oct. 8 Quilt Blessing

Tues. Oct. 10 Church Council 7 pm

Sat. Oct. 14 Basket Guild 10-2 pm

**Tues. Oct. 17** Christian Ed 7 pm Youth Board 7 pm

Thurs. Oct. 19 Fellowship Mtg 430 pm Bunco Night 6 pm

Sun. Oct. 22 Fall Festival Trunk or Treat 3 pm Chili Cook-off 4 pm

Tues. Oct. 24 Stewardship Mtg 6 pm

Tues. Oct. 31 Happy Halloween!

# Family Fall Festival

Sunday, October 22 Fun for kids starts at 3:00 p.m. Games, Activities, Hay Rides, the balloon lady, Trunk or Treat, etc. Bring your chili for the chili cook-off by 4:00 p.m. Dinner by the bon-fire at 5:00 p.m. Sign up in the Narthex to bring: Chili for the cook off, Other food items, and/or Cake Walk donations





# Trunk or Treat 2023 Sun. Oct 22—3– 5 p.m.

Sign up in the Narthex to bring your trunk! Kids—wear your costumes! Invite your friends!

# **Day Light Savings Time Ends**

Sunday, November 5 Don't forget to turn your clocks back!





As a child I remember getting dressed up in a costume and "trick or treating" around the neighborhood with my two older sisters, or friends, in order to go door-to-door to gather as much candy as we could and then devour it as quickly as we collected it. I never gave any thought to what Halloween or All Hallow's Eve was all about besides being a Costumed -Clad-Candy-Fest.

Occasionally we would see kids dressed in a skeleton costume like the one pictured above or if you hadn't planned anything to wear, you might hurriedly grab a bed sheet and poke holes for your eyes to become a ghost character. It was quick and easy. It was a fun day but to be honest I never connected it to November 1<sup>st</sup>, the church's traditional celebration of All



Saints' Day. There was no religious connection and, for reasons unknown to me, my parents saw it as a harmless and fun Fall Festival event.

As you know we are having our own Fall Festival in the parking lot of the church on Oct 22nd, where kids will dress up and play games for prizes, while the adults will participate in our competitive chili cook-off for the coveted "Silver Ladle." The Fall Festival is a fun event and a great opportunity to fellowship with our members and to meet people from our community. That's why I hope you'll attend!!

But that skeleton picture gave me pause as I thought about the message it might be conveying subliminally. If all we have to look forward to in this life is to become a lifeless collection of bones, we are to be most pitied. The beauty of the living in God's kingdom is that we know the grave is not our final destination. Scripture teaches us that God, who is all-knowing and all-powerful, infinitely ingenious, inventive and resourceful, has planned to make of us a "resurrected" people. But when people think of the saints who have gone before us, it's hard not to think of the images we have seen in archeological digs, that is, dead men's bones. And whether we know it or not, this can play negatively on our spirits. But our bodies will not remain a pile of bones because God will raise us from the dead, and not just spiritually or ethereally, but physically and materially. Our souls will be reunited with our transformed physical bodies, brought back to life from the dead. Listen to what Scripture tells us about the resurrection.

Jesus said, "When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. *For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.*" (Luke 14:13–14). The "resurrection" of the dead means just that: physical and not just spiritual.

St Paul under inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote of the Day of Judgment: "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thes-



salonians 4:16-17).

Philippians 3:20-21 teaches us that Christ's resurrection body is the pattern of our resurrection body: "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, *who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body,* by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."

We know that Christ was raised in a physical body because the disciples ate with Him after the resurrection (Acts 10:41) and touched Him (Matthew 28:9; see also John 20:27). Also, Jesus outright declared that His resurrection body was physical and touchable: "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). If Christ's resurrection is the pattern of our resurrection, we are assured that we also will be raised in a physical body as well.

Our bodies are not going to be thrown away. They are going to be renewed, restored, revitalized.

Again, Jesus says, "Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28-29). This is another indication Jesus of a physical resurrection speaks of the resurrection as involving the coming forth of individuals out of their tombs, which clearly indicates a physical concept of the resurrection: (cont. page 4)





## TRUNK OR TREAT

SIGN UP to participate!!

Trunk or Treat was a big hit last year so we will do it again this year! But, we need your help!

You are asked to provide candy or trinkets to pass out.

### WHEN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 FROM 3:00-5:00



### WHERE: BSLC PARKING LOT (Please be in place by 2:30 pm)... we will direct you where to go with your car. WHY: COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND FUN FOR THE KIDS

We are looking for 20-30 individuals/families who would be willing to decorate their vehicle's trunk and hand out candy at the Trunk or Treat activity? If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex!

If you need ideas, all you have to do is google "Trunk or Treat" and a million ideas will pop up. Otherwise, you can just decorate in a Fall theme, a Bible Story theme, a Storybook theme, a Disney Theme, a Children's Game theme....the options are really endless and up to you! We just ask that you leave out the spooky gore theme because....this is for the KIDS!!!

Keep it simple or go all out...ALL ARE WELCOME and remember IT'S FOR THE KIDS....

so LETS HAVE FUN!!!

If you have questions, see Gwen Borsch or Ginger Kieffer!



## Fall Festival

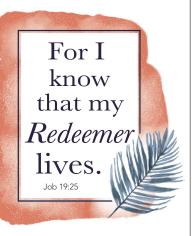
Join us for fun and fellowship at church on October 22 for the Fall Festival. The activities will begin at 3 pm with the kids participating in "Trunk or Treat", and continue through our campfire dinner. There will be games, hay rides, a cake walk, the balloon lady and, of course, plenty of chili for dinner. Mark your calendars now and watch for future updates and sign-up sheets for donations.

Pastor Vern continued from page 2

Finally, a favorite text of mine from Job reads: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. *Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes shall see and not another.* My heart faints within Me" (Job 19:25-27).

So while you walk with the kids this Halloween and greet your neighbors, keep this one thing in mind: There are no skeletons in heaven!

Glory be to Jesus, our Resurrected and reigning Lord, Pastor Vern



### **Fellowship News**

Please welcome our newest member to the Fellowship Committee- Bethany Herran. Bethany will be a great asset to the committee.

On September 29th, @ 6pm, we will be helping the Youth with the Friendship Dinner & Dessert Auction. The turnout Fellowship looks pretty promising and the decorations are going to be spectacular. Chef Noah Geis, will be preparing a great meal and I know how much fun the dessert auction al-

ways is. Hope to see you there. This event always promises to be a great time.

The Basket guild meets every 2nd Sat of the Month. Next meeting will be held the 14th of Oct at 10 AM, in the Fellowship Hall to make Indian Corn. All are welcome and if you want to make the Indian Corn, let us know the Sunday before so we can get the materials for you. Please contact Ginger at gkieffer24@charter.net or text 618-407-2639 if you need assistance or want to know more.

Next Event will be the Trunk or Treat/ Chili Cookout and Fall Festival. Get your trunks and costumes ready for a great time. We have already gotten a lot of reaction on the O'Fallon, II Facebook List. If you would like to register for a spot for Trunk or Treat,

please let me know. Also there will be a sign-up sheet for the goodies for the items needed for dinner. This is always a fun event co-sponsored by the Youth Committee, so please come out and Support the youth.

As Always, if you have questions, comments or suggestions, please let the Fellowship Committee know.

You can contact us: Gwen Borsch n@ 618-304-2338 or Ginger Kieffer @ 618 -407-2639. Have a Blessed Day and we will see you at the Events.





Welcome back! Choir will meet Wed Oct 4, 11 & 18 at 7pm NO Choir Wed Oct 25 Thank you!

Marty



# **Pastor Calling Committee**



The reason for this column is to keep you the congregation informed of what is happening in the calling pro-**COMMITTEE** cess of our new Pastor. I would like to introduce the com-mittee members to you. The lead is RJ Kinsella, Phyllis Miesner, Ginger Kieffer, Sandie Rust, Tyler Owens, Ben Lesire, and me Keith Szolga. We met one time right after the Church Picnic in the Park to discuss our goals and our

way forward. We have not met since, but we have stayed connected via chat and email. But we need all of your help.

RJ announced at a Church service that the District President was going to provide us candidates that he felt would be a good fit for our Church. What the District needs from us is names of candidates from our membership. So, if you know of a Pastor that you feel would be a good fit for our Church, please forward their name to one of the committee members above or drop the name in RJ Kinsella's mailbox at Church. This is short notice, but we need the names by 10 October 2023 before we meet with the District Visiting Pastor, Chris Spelbring from Zion Lutheran Church in Belleville, IL on 11 October 2023. Through our Lord's guidance we will find the Pastor that is right for our Church. Peace be with you all.

Keith Szolga, Calling Committee



### The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod

### It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a

game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!-

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: Icms.org/stewardship





### Attention all 20-35 year olds!

Holy Cross Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord! We cordially invite you and your young adults to join us on 8 October at 3pm in fellowship to discuss what our young adult ministry looks like moving forward. We know we want to encourage and support our 20-35 year olds in strengthening their faith through building relationships, increasing understanding of scriptures in order to give them peace, courage and joy as they live out their various vocations in the challenges of today's world. We will meet in the Fellowship Center

here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 304 South St, Collinsville, IL 62234.

In Christ, Dawn Werner, Deaconess Intern

Holy Cross Lutheran Church 618-344-3145



- 1 Buffi Gass
- 2 Ellen Schutte, Jessica Gass
- 3 Michaela Drouin, Tom McManus
- 4 Eric Stake, Jr., Lydia Feary
- 4 Loriann Reynolds
- 6 Bethany Ellington, Gogo Sanchez
- 7—Keira Longhorn,
- 8 Sandie Rust
- 9-Carlin Schefelker , Jazlyn Heiden
- 10– Theresa Longhorn, Ashton Gorney

- 11—Joetta Witkowski
- 13 Heidi Brady, Muriel Mayer
- 13—Hannah Williams, Jessica Carron
- 14 Rochelle Monaco, Zachary Monaco
- 15—Wayne Kemp
- 17 Jonathan Heiden
- 18 Ben Hodgson, Matt Morton,
- 20—Matt Lloyd
- 21 Justin Conrad
- 24—Ginger Kieffer
- 25 Michele Hollenbeck
- 29—Becca Couture
- 31 Tonya Bowman



Happy Anniversary to:
4—Shaun & Heidi Brady
9—Rev Perry & Diane Schefelker
14—Joe & Marci Monaco
15—Jim Christi Carron
17—Nathan & Keatyn Schefelker
24– Bob & Marsha Strohm
26—Jessica Schmidt & Andy Feary

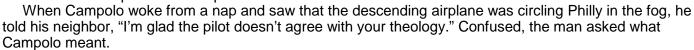
We are sorry if your birthday or anniversary has been overlooked. Please call the church office, 632-0126 or email Nancy at nancy@mybslc,org so we may add your name to our list. Thanks for your help.



Join the Lutheran World Relief QUILTERS on Tuesdays, October 3, November 7, December 5 from 9:30- 12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc. you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.

### One-way ticket

While on a red-eye flight from California to Philadelphia on a stormy night, evangelist Tony Campolo sat near someone who wanted to chat. Upon learning that Campolo was a Christian, the seatmate said, "I believe that going to heaven is like going to Philadelphia," meaning you can get there by various modes of transportation. "We all end up at the same place."



"The people in the control tower are giving instructions to the pilot: 'Coming north by northwest, three degrees, you're on beam, don't deviate from the beam.' I'm glad the pilot's not saying, 'There are many ways into the airport. There are many approaches we can take.' I'm glad the pilot's saying, 'There's only one way we can land this plane, and I'm going to stay with it."



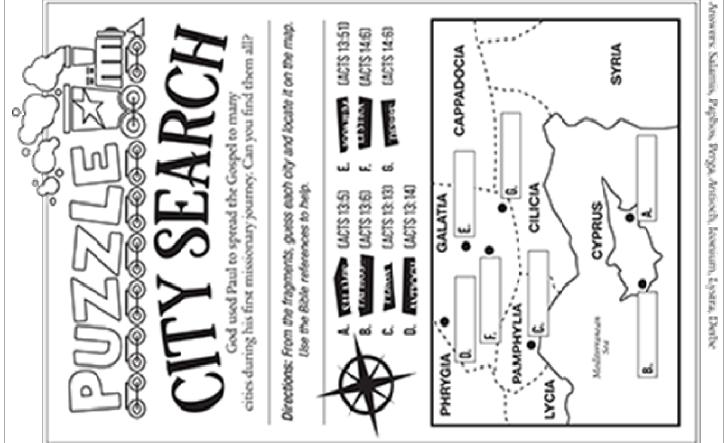


The Sanctuary Blessed Savior Lutheran Church 1205 North Lincoln Ave. O'Fallon, IL 62269









**Taking awe breaks** Many of us are juggling so many things that we are run by our lives rather than living them as gifts from God. What if we could learn to stop for a moment many times a day? What if in those moments we could decide to notice the sheer miracle of being alive? We would then be taking awe breaks instead of coffee breaks.—Gunilla Norris, Weavings, July/August 2008

The following prayer, included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and other hymnals, is often used in Protestant churches on Reformation Sunday. But it's an important petition for all Christian denominations at all times of the year, for we constantly need God's truth and peace, direction and reformation.

"Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

### Hidden blessings

Dear friend, God may send you some valuable gifts wrapped in unattractive paper. But do not worry about the wrappings, for you can be sure that inside he has hidden treasures of love, kindness and wisdom. If we will simply take what he sends and trust him for the blessings inside, we will learn the meaning of the secrets of his providence, even in times of darkness.— A.B. Simpson

### God's helpers

God's providence is not in baskets lowered from the sky, but through the hands and hearts of those who love him. The lad without food and without shoes made the proper answer to the cruel-minded woman who asked, "But if God loved you wouldn't he send you food and shoes?" The boy replied, "God told someone, but [they] forgot."—George Buttrick

### Living in the present

During Martin Luther's great struggle to reform the church in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Holy Roman Emperor sought to silence him. So he spent some lonely months in Wartburg Castle under protective custody. There, as he fought despair, Luther scribbled the words "I am baptized" on his desktop as a reminder that he was living according to an ongoing call from God. He did not write, "I was baptized" but used the presenttense verb. For he rightly understood that in his baptism, God had adopted him as his son, and no human could take that from him. Later, in his Large Catechism, Luther wrote: "To be baptized in God's name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God's own act."from The Wired Word

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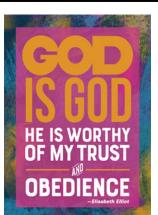
# Starting a ripple effect

Shortly before his death. 80-vear-old farmer Hody Childress asked his daughter to continue a practice he'd quietly conducted for years: taking a \$100 bill to a local pharmacist on the first of every month. For years, Childress anonvmously came to the aid of neighbors in Geraldine, Alabama, who couldn't afford medications. "Don't tell a soul where the monev came from," he instructed store owner Brooke Walker. "If they ask, just tell them it's a blessing from the Lord."

Thanks to the farmer's generosity, Walker could fill prescriptions for about 24 uninsured or underinsured people each year. "I was honored he allowed me to do that," she said, "and it really encouraged me to do the same in my life."

Childress wasn't wealthy but "always gave what he could," said daughter Tania Nix. "I think he felt like he couldn't not give," she added. "Giving that way, that just got on his heart." After word spread about Childress' generosity, other people were inspired to perform stealth outreach and a fund was established in his name.

A man in Oklahoma who shares Childress' surname said a story about the farmer caught his attention. They're probably not related, he wrote, but he'd feel proud if they were. "A man like that surely tried to follow the example of Jesus," the Oklahoman wrote, and "[his] story inspires me to be a better man."-adapted from The Wired Word



### Total trust

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot says our sovereign God is worthy of unquestioning obedience in matters both large and small. Such trust yields mighty results, she adds, providing Christians with rest, peace and guidance.

"God is God," says Elliot. "Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience. I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

About the role of obedience in prayer, Elliot asks. "Does it make sense to pray for guidance about the future if we are not obeying in the thing that lies before us today? How many momentous events in Scripture depended on one person's seemingly small act of obedience! Rest assured: Do what God tells you to do now, and, depend upon it, you will be shown what to do next."

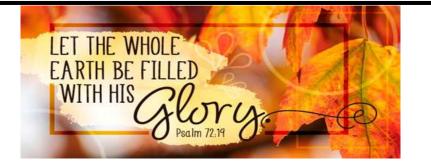
### What is lament?

The spiritual discipline of lament may not come naturally, and churches rarely teach it. Because we're raised to stay silent if we can't say something nice, passionately pouring out our sorrow just doesn't seem right.

My opinion changed when I heard author Sharon Garlough Brown explain this spiritual practice from God's perspective. As parents can attest, toddlers have an innate ability to find foreign objects and put them in their mouths. Concerned parents bend down and coax the child to remove the toy, bottle top, coin or rock. "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

As a concerned parent, God sees and knows what's troubling us. He knows that this world's woes and trials will hurt us if we keep them all inside. God, our good and gracious Father, wants us to passionately pour out our grief, so he bends down, looks us in the eyes, and says, "Spit it out." "Let me have it." "It's not good for you to swallow that."

Spend time with God, sharing your laments. God loves you and is faithful to listen well.—Janna Firestone



# **Cents-ible stewardship**

During a children's sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. "With full hands," he asked, "how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?" They'd have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to "let go" of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)



The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, "NO! I need more money!" (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn't sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away "worthless" pennies.

When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. "Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight," she said. God's prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.—Julie Lee

## **Be-attitudes**

Be understanding of your enemies. Be loyal to your friends. Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

- Be open enough to believe in miracles.
- Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

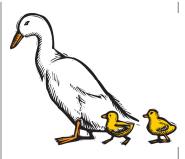
Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.

Be yourself, above all.—Author unknown



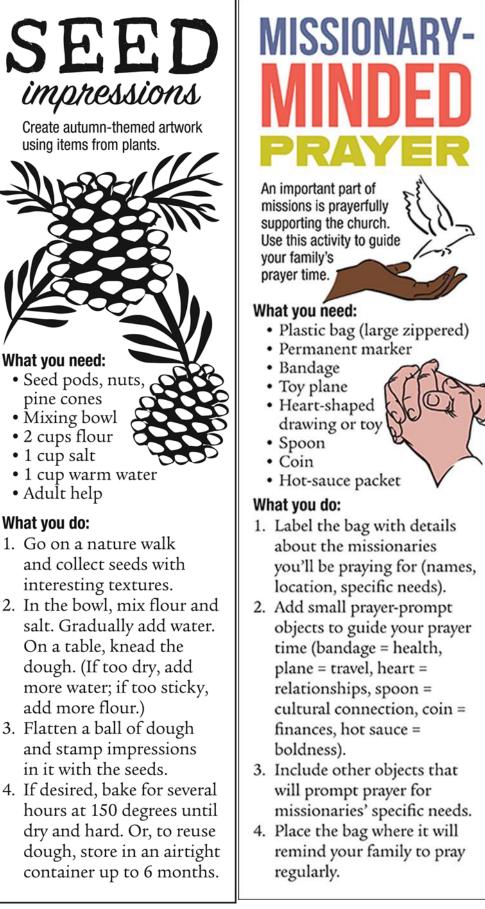


# Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

"Ducks, God has given you wings!" the preacher shouted. "With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?" In response, the duck congregation all shouted, "Amen!" Then they left their pews .... and all waddled back home.



HARVEST \* Trail Mix \* This portable snack combines favorite fall flavors. What you need: • 1/4 cup maple syrup

- · 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cup pecan pieces
- 1/3 cup roasted pumpkin seeds
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 2/3 cup dried fruit (any)

## What you do:

- Microwave syrup, spices, seeds and nuts for 30 seconds at a time, stirring frequently, until mixture thickens.
- Spread the mixture on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Let cool and harden.
- Break the candied nuts into chunks. Combine with dried fruit.
- 4. Store in airtight container.