

passing the TORCH



THE ANGLICAN
EDITION
SUPPLEMENT

September–November 2019

A Great Cloud of Witnesses

In an amphitheater crowded with several thousand people, an elderly man stood before the Roman proconsul's box.

"Take the oath," the Roman official said, "and I will release you. Curse Christ."

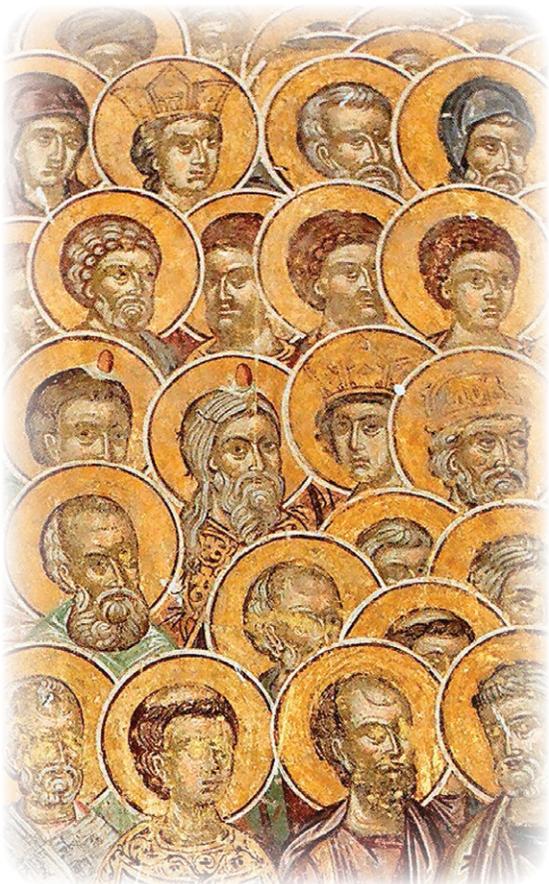
The elderly man replied, "Eighty-six years I have served Him, and He never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"

With that response, soldiers tied the man's hands behind his back, piled wood around him, and burnt him alive—to the crowds' delight.

The old man, Polycarp died in the year 156. Christians celebrate February 23 as the day of his martyrdom. In the second century, Christians began to honor faith heroes like Polycarp, especially those who died for their faith. It was the beginning of the tradition of honoring the "saints."

Who are the Saints?

All believing Christians. Paul addresses his letter to the Philippians, "to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi" (Phil. 1:1). Scripture makes it clear that all believing Christians are saints. When we pray during the Episcopal service of Holy Baptism, we acknowledge this sainthood (Book of Common Prayer, 311).



In this Edition

This quarter explores

All Saints'

- Anglican Family Edition: Discovering and celebrating All Saints' as a family
- Coming up on the Church Calendar
- Lighting the Lamp: Anglican activities for Toddlers and Preschoolers
- Lighting the Lamp: Anglican activities for Elementary Students
- Lighting the Lamp: Anglican activities for Youth

Heroes of Faith

Beginning with Polycarp, Christians have recognized individuals who model Christ-like character in an exemplary way. While there have been abuses throughout history, The Church of England did its best to preserve the tradition of the saints while guarding against superstition and abuse.

The Episcopal Calendar of the Church Year

The front of the Prayer Book (1979) contains the Episcopal Church's yearly calendar of "feast days." This includes

special observances for many saints, or groups of saints, from the past 1,900 years.

How Do We Honor the Saints?

● By Giving Thanks.

Many of the Church's saint's-day prayers give specific thanks for that saint and his or her modeling of Christ-like virtue. The Episcopal Church's book, *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, contains short biographies and prayers for each saint's day.

● **By God's Grace, Imitating Them.** After giving thanks for a saint, we pray to ask God's

grace in our own lives to have the same virtue of the saint. The prayers recognize that the saints are models only to encourage us in our faith-walk.

● By Asking God to Unite Us with the Saints in Heaven.

Hebrews 12:1 tells us of the "great cloud of witnesses" that surrounds us—those saints who have gone before us. In the Eucharist, we pray that God will bring us into the company of the saints (Eucharistic Prayer A, page 363).

AS YOU TEACH THIS QUARTER:

Use the following questions, along with the article above, to discuss and explore.

- Why do you think it's important to teach about the saints? What can the saints teach you?
- How can you honor the saints in your classroom?
- Consider adding some age-appropriate books to your classroom for a books corner or to read aloud. The following books are available at Amazon.com:
 - *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*. Text by Lesbia Scott, illus. Judith Gwyn Brown. More-house, 1992. A picture book version of a favorite children's hymn. The pictures of the saints throughout the book make this a book for

children of all ages to enjoy.

■ *Early Saints of God*. Bob Hartman. Augsburg Fortress, 1998. This read-aloud book features many saints. This would be best to read to older preschool or early elementary. Older elementary students can read it to one another.

■ *Hero Tales: A Family Treasury of True Stories from the Lives of Christian Heroes*. David and Neta Jackson. Bethany House, 1996. This four-volume series gives brief sketches of saints throughout the years. Relevant biblical verses and questions are included with each story. Try reading the stories with a dramatic flair. This book

works well for elementary age children.

■ *Calendar of Saints*. David E. Veal. Forward Movement Publications www.forwardmovement.org. A companion to the new Calendar of Saints which gives a short biography of the saint, usually ending with a brief prayer about why the saint is remembered. This book works well for youth.

■ *The Hawk that Dare Not Hunt by Day*. Scott O'Dell. Journey Forth, 1986. This suspense-filled historical fiction is about William Tyndale. This book works well for youth.

Passing the Torch – Family Edition

Family Discoveries and Celebrations: All Saints

It's hero time! Heroes fascinate people. Who are the favorite heroes of your family? What makes a hero?

As Christians, we have a number of heroes—we call them “saints.” Some are from the Bible, others are from history, and some people are around us in our daily lives. Even family members are saints because saints are believers!

We can define a saint as one who:

- Loves Jesus Christ
- Works hard at following Jesus Christ
- Encourages others to know Jesus
- Is not perfect, but trusts Jesus for help at all times.

As a family, spend time this quarter discovering saints. (Be sure to adapt your family time to the ages represented in your family.) Choose one or more saints you want to learn more about: people who are remembered on family birthdates, a Bible character, a person in your parish, etc. Answer the following questions about the saint:

- What did this person do?
- What struggles did they have in following Jesus?
- How do you think this person's example or accomplishments affect people today?
- What can your family learn from this person?
- For older children, talk about how each family members' actions witness to Jesus.

RESOURCES TO GET YOU STARTED

- www.forwardmovement.org
- www.satucket.com/lectionary
Click on the Calendar link for resources from the Episcopal calendar
- www.justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp
Gives electronic versions of the Book of Common Prayer and other resources.

CELEBRATION IDEAS

Use these ideas to create family celebrations of the saints unique to your family.

- Read together about saints.

Early Saints of God by Hartman and the Trailblazer series by Dave and Neta Jackson are places to start.

- Watch a movie about a saint.

Chariots of Fire and *The Hiding Place* are older movies for upper elementary kids or older.

Your local Christian bookstore might have some good ideas for both movies and books.

Questions to share together after reading a book or watching a movie:

1. How does this person show God's love and mercy?
2. What hardships did they deal with?

3. What weaknesses did they have to overcome?

4. What can we learn from their example?

- Create a family collage of saints.
- Be a saint family! Choose a neighbor with a need. Work together to show Jesus' love to that neighbor and try to fill that need.

- Celebrate with a cupcake party. Write the names of saints on the cupcakes. Talk about how that person showed Jesus' love to others. Say a simple prayer of thanks for the saints you celebrated.

- Dress as saints or Bible characters for Halloween. Make a plan for being a positive influence to those around you.

- Use Hebrews 12:1 as a family verse for the quarter. Talk about the saints who surround us.

- Use a prayer, such as this one, in your family time. *Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witnesses to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in who all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. AMEN* (1979 Book of Common Prayer, p. 250)

Coming Up on the Church Calendar

The Season after Pentecost

This season continues until the beginning of Advent (Dec. 1). It is a season of spiritual growth which encourages Christians to consider what it means to live as the Body of Christ. Traditional color used in churches is green for growth.

Holy Cross Day (September 14)

As Christians, we know that Jesus' death on the cross won for us the forgiveness of sins. The sign of the cross serves as a powerful reminder of Jesus' love for us as well as all humanity. Traditional color used in churches is red for the blood of Christ.

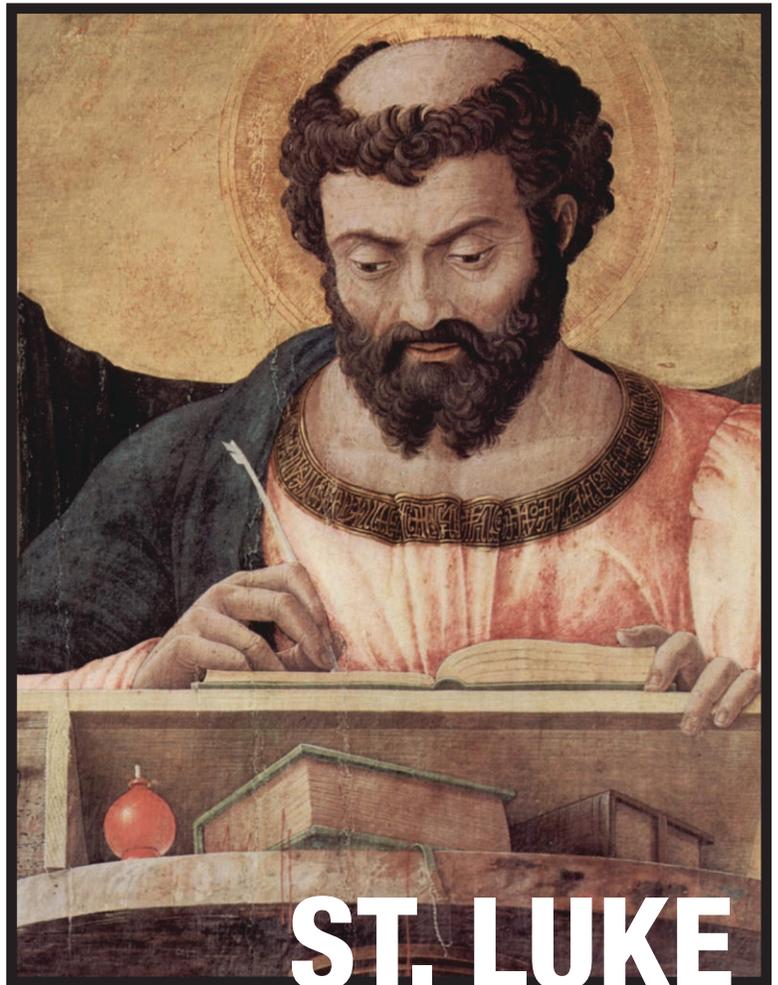
St. Luke (October 18)

The author of a Gospel and Acts was a physician. Luke had a particular interest in Jesus' healing works. With a doctor's precision, he recorded the life Jesus Christ and the growth of the early church. Traditional color used in churches is red for writers of a Gospel.

All Saints' Day (November 1)

All Saints' Day really begins at sundown the evening before (All Saint's Eve or Halloween) and is typically celebrated on All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 6). This time is meant to celebrate the good the Lord accomplishes in His people. Traditional color used in churches is white for celebration.

Early Christians organized their year to remember and celebrate the important events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and the beginning of the Church. For more information, consult *The Book of Common Prayer*. Here are a few select events.



St. Lucas altarpiece by Andrea Mantegna

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also for me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

~ Luke 1:1-4



In Your Toddler/2 Classroom

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(Page 3 of this supplement).

September Activities

Season after Pentecost

Set up a center with a non-breakable mirror and pictures of babies in a small binder. Let children look at themselves in the mirror and at the pictures of the babies. Talk about how they are growing from when they were babies. We grow in loving Jesus and others too.

Read a story about a saint to the children. You could either use one of the books suggested in the article at the beginning of this supplement or a story from a children's Bible.



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October Activities

St. Luke's Day

On October 20, set up a table activity with Bible books and items from a play doctor's kit. While children play and look at stories in the books based on the Gospel of Luke, tell them a short story about Saint Luke. Talk about how he was a doctor who followed Jesus and wrote about Jesus. He wanted to help other people follow Jesus, too.

Help children begin to learn the concept of saints near **All Saints' Day** with another table activity on October 27. Before class, label sheets of paper with the words: Saints are people who follow Jesus. I can follow Jesus. Ask children to draw pictures of themselves. Talk about how they can follow Jesus by praying and helping people.

November Activities

Tie into the theme each week by sharing that saints follow God. Tell the children how the person in Jesus' story follows God.

Materials: white paper cut-out of a heart and a cross for each child, coloring utensils

All Saints Sunday (Nov. 4). Show a heart. **A heart can help us think about love. Show a cross. A cross can help us think about Jesus. When we put a heart and a cross together, they can help us think about saints. Saints are people who love and follow Jesus.** Let the children color the hearts and crosses to remind them of Jesus' love for them.



In Your Preschool Classroom

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September Activities

Season after Pentecost

Cover a table with newsprint. Set out pictures of green plants along with green washable markers and green crayons. Talk about how green reminds us of growing. The Season after Pentecost is called the Growing Season. Talk about where the children see green in church. Then have them draw pictures of things they see growing around them. Remind them that they are also growing.

Read a story about a saint to the children. You could either use one of the books suggested in the article at the beginning of this supplement or a story from a children's Bible.



October Activities

St. Luke's Day

On October 20, set up a table activity with Bible books and items from a play doctor's kit. While children play and look at stories in the books based on the Gospel of Luke, tell them a short story about Saint Luke. Talk about how he was a doctor who followed Jesus and wrote about Jesus. He wanted to help other people follow Jesus, too.

Materials: paper, coloring utensils

Help children begin to learn the concept of saints near **All Saints' Day** with another table activity on October 27. Before class, label sheets of paper with the words: Saints are people who follow Jesus. I can follow Jesus. Ask children to draw pictures of themselves. Talk about how they can follow Jesus by praying and helping people.

November Activities

Materials: White paper cut-out of a heart and a cross for each child, coloring utensils

All Saints Sunday (Nov. 3)

Show a heart. **A heart can help us think about love.** Show a cross. A cross can help us think about Jesus. **When we put a heart and a cross together, they can help us think about saints. Saints are people who love and follow Jesus.** Let the children color the hearts and crosses to remind them of Jesus' love for them.

Play a Saints game sometime this month. Use a follow-the-leader version with the children. **Saints are people who follow Jesus.** Have the children copy your simple motions like clapping hands and rubbing your head. What are some ways people follow Jesus?



In Your Early Elementary Classroom

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September Activities

Materials: Newsprint, green coloring utensils

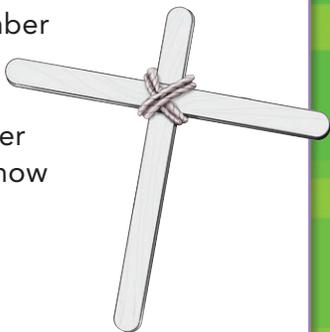
Season after Pentecost

Cover a table with newsprint. Set out green washable markers and green crayons. The color for the Season after Pentecost is green for growing. God helps us grow in loving Him and other people. Talk about where the children see green in church. Then have them draw something green and growing.

Materials: 2 craft sticks per child, yarn

Holy Cross Day

(use on September 15) Show children how to make wood crosses by wrapping yarn in an "x" shape around two craft sticks in the shape of a cross. As they work, talk about remembering Jesus dying on the cross and rising again. People wear crosses to remember Jesus' love and to let other people know Jesus.



October Activities

Materials: Paper, colored pencils

St. Luke's Day

(use October 20) Give each child a piece of paper and set out the colored pencils. Talk about how St. Luke was a doctor. Paul told Luke about Jesus. Luke became a follower of Jesus. He wrote parts of the Bible (Luke and Acts) to help people know and follow Jesus. The Christmas story can be found in Luke. Challenge

children to draw what they remember from the Christmas story.

Materials: Paper, markers

Begin talking about **All Saints' Day** on October 27. Have children use paper and markers to create scrapbook-like pictures of people (saints) who help them know and love God.

November Activities

Play a Saints game sometime this month. Play a follow-the-leader game with the children. Saints are people who follow Jesus. Have the children copy your simple motions like clapping hands and rubbing your head. What are some ways people follow Jesus?

Materials: Construction paper cloud for each student, markers

On **All Saints Sunday** (Nov. 3) read Hebrews 12:1 to your students. **This verse tells us that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." Those are saints who have gone on to heaven before us. What is a saint? A saint can be someone**

you know or a stranger. The person could have lived a long time ago or be living now. A saint is someone who loves Jesus, works hard at following Him, encourages others to know Jesus, and is not perfect, but trusts Jesus for help at all times. Give each child a cloud. Think of who a saint is. **Think of the great cloud of witnesses and draw them in your cloud. The saints could be Bible people, Christians you have not met, or people you know.** When everyone is finished give the students a chance to share how the people in their cloud have encouraged them to follow Jesus.



In Your Elementary Classroom

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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Materials: Paper, green coloring utensils

Season after Pentecost

Cover a table with newsprint. Set out green washable markers and green crayons. **The color for the Season after Pentecost is green for growing. God helps us grow in loving Him and other people. Cover the table with ways you are growing.**

Holy Cross Day (Use on September 15)

Set out a variety of craft materials for kids to create crosses. As they work, talk about remembering Jesus dying on the cross and rising again.

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Materials: Bibles

St. Luke's Day (use October 20)

Challenge children to find the two books of the Bible written by St. Luke, the doctor (Gospel of Luke and Acts). While they are looking tell them more about St. Luke and the books he wrote. Help them find the books.

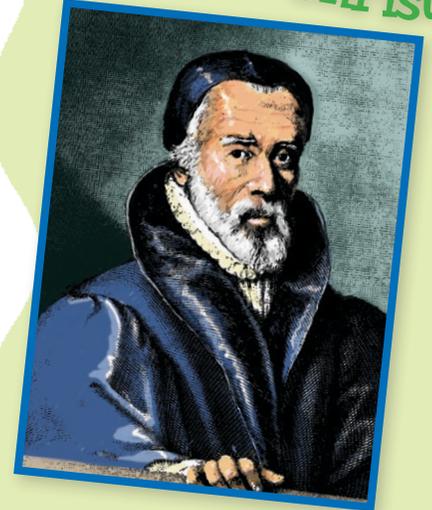
NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Each week share that all saints need courage. We can learn about historic saints and their courage. Spend time this month sharing stories about saints. Try telling the stories with a dramatic voice.

Materials: construction paper cloud for each student, markers

On **All Saints Sunday** (Nov. 3) have a student look up Hebrews 12:1 and read it aloud. **This verse tells us that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses."** Those are saints who have gone on to heaven before us. What is a saint? A saint can be someone you know or a stranger. The person could have lived a long time ago or be living now. A saint is someone who loves Jesus, works hard at following Him, encourages others to know Jesus, and is not perfect, but trusts Jesus for help at all times. Give each child a cloud. Think of who a saint is. **Think of the great cloud of witnesses and draw them in your cloud. The saints could be Bible people, Christians you have not met, or people you know.** When everyone is finished give the students a chance to share how the people in their cloud have encouraged them to follow Jesus.

Hero for Christ



**William
Tyndale**

WHERE HE LIVED:
In England around
1495 to 1536.

WHAT HE DID:
He translated the Bible
from Latin into English.
His enemies had him
killed on October 6,
1536.

HERO FOR CHRIST: ACTIVITY

Put the following
verse on a board. Have
students try to translate
it using their Bibles.
(Hint: Psalm 119:105).
LUCERNA PEDI MEO
TUUM VERBUM EST
ET LUX ITINERI MEO.

(Use on October 6)



IN YOUR UPPER ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

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September Activities

Season after Pentecost

Set up a cozy place for talking. The Season after Pentecost is a time to consider growth as a Christian. Encourage students to talk about: How does one grow as a Christian? How do other Christians help us grow?

Holy Cross Day

(Use September 15) Have preteens design crosses using a variety of art supplies that help them remember that Jesus died on the cross and rose again.

October Activities

St. Luke's Day

On October 20, set up a table with Bibles, adhesive bandages, and markers. Luke is rarely mentioned by name in the Bible. Have the students look up Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24, and 2 Timothy 4:11. Then, on the bandages, write down short phrases about Luke from these verses.

November Activities

Each week share that all saints need courage. **We can learn about historic saints and their courage.** Spend time this month sharing stories about saints. Try telling the stories with a dramatic voice.

Materials: Construction paper cloud for each student, markers

On **All Saints Sunday** (Nov. 3) have a student look up Hebrews 12:1 and read it aloud. **This verse tells us that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses."** Those are saints who have gone on to heaven before us. What is a saint? A saint can be someone you know or a stranger. The person could have lived a long time ago or be living now. A saint is someone who loves Jesus, works hard at following Him, encourages others to know Jesus, and is not perfect, but trusts Jesus for help at all times. Give each child a cloud. Think of who a saint is. **Think of the great cloud of witnesses and draw them in your cloud. The saints could be Bible people, Christians you have not met, or people you know.** When everyone is finished give the students a chance to share how the people in their cloud have encouraged them to follow Jesus.

Hero for Christ (Use on October 6)

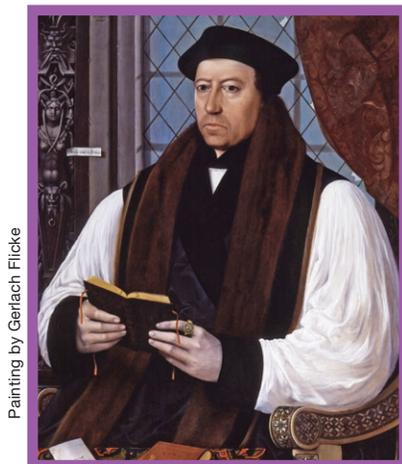
Thomas Cranmer

WHEN HE LIVED: In England from 1489-1556.

WHAT HE DID: He produced the first Book of Common Prayer in English so that all people could understand what was being said in worship.

Hero for Christ: Activity

Set out copies of your worship service for students to find what is being said about God. How do we worship Him in our services today?



Painting by Gerlach Flicke



In your MIDDLE SCHOOL Classroom

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SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Season after Pentecost

Set up a table with note cards and markers. **The color green for the Season after Pentecost encourages Christians to consider what it means to live as the Body of Christ. Green also reminds us of plants. A plant needs water, light, and oxygen to grow. What acts as "water" in your Christian growth? "Light?" "Air?"** Have teens write their ideas on the notecards.

Materials: 3 nails per student, hot glue gun (optional), thin wire

Holy Cross Day (use September 15)

Have your students use nails to create a cross that serves as a reminder of Jesus' love for them. Use two nails pointing opposite directions to create the crossbar of the cross and one nail for the upright piece. Tightly wrap the wire in an 'x' pattern around the center-point where the nails meet to secure them in place. If necessary use a dot of hot glue to secure them (an adult should do this).

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Materials: Bibles

St. Luke's Day (Use on October 20)

St. Luke the Evangelist, the author of a Gospel and Acts, was a physician.

He had a particular interest in Jesus' healing works. With a doctor's precision, he recorded the life of Jesus and the growth of the early church. The traditional symbol for Luke is a winged ox. The ox reminds us that Luke shows us how Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins and the wings remind us that Luke

is a messenger. Look up the readings appointed for St.

Luke's Day: 2 Timothy 4:5-13; Luke 4:14-21. Why do you think those readings were chosen? What is a Bible verse you can claim to remind yourself to look to Jesus to live?

Tough Times for Saints (Begin this on October 27)

If possible, bring in printouts of current persecution of Christians and share them with your teens. Talk about commonalities they see. Some discussion questions to work through together:

- Why do some saints have tough times?
- What can they do during the tough times?
- What can we do to encourage other Christians during the tough times?
- How do we deal with the tough times we face?

Have teens work throughout the week to create mottos to encourage the saints in your church during tough times. Work with your church staff to share those with your congregation.



NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Each week share that all saints need courage. Discuss as a group: If someone were to use your faith as an example, what do you hope would be remembered? Are there things you don't want them to remember? Add Hebrews 12:1 as a memory verse to encourage students.

Materials: Prayer Books and Bibles

All Saints Sunday (Use on November 3)

When you were younger, who were your heroes? How did your heroes inspire you to act? The Church has heroes—they are called saints. What is a saint? Take a few minutes to come up with a group definition. **Here's a definition: Saints are mortal, flawed people who follow Jesus Christ. In other words, all Christians are saints.** Read Hebrews 12:1. **What kind of relationship do we have with other saints? The Church Calendar in the Prayer Book appoints certain days to give thanks to the Lord for particular saints. Some were martyrs. Some were missionaries. Some were people who served quietly at home. We give thanks to the Lord for all saints on November 1.** Have the students spend some time looking over the Church Calendar in the Prayer Book. Who is remembered on November 30? If your church is named for a saint, when is he or she remembered? What saints (living or dead) have influenced you/do you find interesting?



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IN YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM

September Activities

Season after Pentecost

Set up a table with note cards and markers. **The color green for the Season after Pentecost encourages Christians to consider what it means to live as the Body of Christ. Green also reminds us of plants. A plant needs water, light, and oxygen to grow. What acts as "water" in your Christian growth? "Light?" "Air?"** Have teens write their ideas on the notecards along with ideas for ways they can find these things.

Holy Cross Day (use on September 15).

Let teens design and create a cross that serves as a reminder of Jesus' love for them. They can use whatever materials you have available.

October Activities

Materials: Bibles

St. Luke's Day (Use on October 20) St Luke the Evangelist, the author of a Gospel and Acts, was a physician. He had a particular interest in Jesus' healing works. With a doctor's precision, he recorded the life of Jesus and the growth of the early church. The traditional symbol for Luke is a winged ox. The ox reminds us that Luke shows us how Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins and the wings remind us that Luke is a messenger. Look up the readings appointed for St. Luke's Day: 2 Timothy 4:5-13; Luke 4:14-21. Why do you think those readings were chosen? What is a Bible verse you can claim to remind yourself to look to Jesus to live?

Looking Ahead to All Saints Day

(Begin this on October 27)

What is a saint? All Christians are saints—they are people who follow Jesus Christ. The Church Calendar in the Prayer Book appoints certain days to give thanks to the Lord for particular saints. Let teens look through the Church Calendar in the prayer book. Have them write down the Scripture reading assigned to two saints. What do these readings say about the qualities of the saints? Look up the collects. What does that say about the person's faith? Have teens work throughout the week to learn more about their saints. Why are these saints remembered?



November Activities

Each week share that all saints need courage. As an additional discussion question contemplate: If someone were to use your faith as an example, what do you hope would be remembered? Is there anything you hope would not be remembered? Add Hebrews 12:1 as a memory verse to encourage students.

All Saints Sunday (Use on November 3) When you were younger, who were your heroes? How did your heroes inspire you to act? The Church has heroes—they are called saints. What is a saint? Take a few minutes to come up with a group definition. Here's a definition: Saints are mortal, flawed people who follow Jesus Christ. In other words, all Christians are saints. Read Hebrews 12:1. What kind of relationship do we have with other saints? The Church Calendar in the Prayer Book appoints certain days to give thanks to the Lord for particular saints. Some were martyrs. Some were missionaries. Some were people who served quietly at home. We give thanks to the Lord for all saints on November 1. Have the teens share about the saints they read about last week.