

Mt. View Epistles

Greetings Mt. View kids!

This Sunday, November 1st, is another special celebration in the Church, called **All Saints**.

All Saints Day is a Christian festival day for believers to remember Christians that lived before us. At Mt. View during church service, you will hear the names of the congregational members that have died in the last year and a bell will ring after the name is read to honor them.

This day can also be set aside to honor those in our families, congregation, communities and around the world that are Christians.

Why do we call it All Saints' day? Well Martin Luther calls us both **saints and sinners**. How can that be? What does that mean to you or what would that look like?

Luther says a saint is a forgiven sinner. We are called saints not because we change into something different but because our relationship with God changes as a result of God's grace. Our relationship with God changes our hearts, turning our sinner selves into saints. How amazing is that?

In Hebrews 12:1-2 it says:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that

hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Activity Instructions:

Learning about Jesus comes in many ways and in today's lesson we are going to focus on people that have helped us to know God.

1. Take the paper with clouds printed on it. Write in a cloud the names of people that have taught you about Jesus or God. Who might those people be? Some obvious people: pastors, mentors, congregational members and Godparents. Could strangers teach you about God? Have you ever seen someone do something so kind that it taught you a lesson about loving your neighbor as Jesus has commanded us to do?
2. Color your paper if you would like, then tape the two short ends together to create a tube.
3. Draw yourself on the small white piece of paper, or print a picture of yourself.
4. Then place yourself in the middle of the tube of paper. This will remind you that you are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses that have and will continue to wrap around you and help you grow in faith.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, your saints have left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for all children to come. Thank you, God, for surrounding us with faithful people to teach and guide us in your ways. May we continue to grow, learn and love one another, Amen.

Shalom until next time, *Pastor Bri*