

## **BLESSINGS ALWAYS**

October 28, 2020

Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

*SAINTS*. This week-end there are two events on the calendar that seem to have conflicting interests. Halloween seems so secular/worldly and high energy especially for children as they put on costumes for trick or treating. The other is All Saints Day that is a liturgical remembrance service for those who have died and remembered on the church calendar on November 1<sup>st</sup>. From pagan traditions on All Hallows Eve (Halloween), the souls of the dead came back to earth and walked among the living. Christian tradition soon included All Hallows Eve as the time to prepare themselves by praying and fasting in preparation for the next day that has become All Saints Day. *SAINTS* of the past have inspired us, mentored us and loved us. Often at services of celebration for the life of one who has died, we often say the person was a *SAINT*. In many ways they still do walk among us, their spirit is very much alive in our memory and we do give thanks to God for granting us blessings through them.

One of my favorite hymns comes from the Anglican tradition that I learned about while being an organist for an Episcopal Church while in seminary. *"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"* was written in 1929 by Lesbia Scott of Britain and was first included in her *"Everyday Hymns for Little Children."* *SAINTS*, she writes were *"patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew."* She includes many *SAINTS* who were historical figures, but in the last verse she writes that *SAINTS* are alive now: *"They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous SAINTS who love to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; for the SAINTS of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too."*

We can thank God often for all the *SAINTS* who have blessed us with their love, humbleness, generosity, compassion, respect, honesty, and sincere reflections which have shaped our faith and life. The hymn reflects that *SAINTS* loved God and God's love was shared through them. It is God's love that makes them—and us—strong. To become a *SAINT* does not depend upon some ecclesiastical council for verification, for *SAINTS* are those you and I know, and for someone else we may be *SAINTS* because we live God's love in all that we do. Let us *"sing a song of the SAINTS OF GOD...and we mean to be SAINTS too."* Thanks be to God. **BLESSINGS ALWAYS.**