

FOURTH DAY LIFE



A Christian Pumpkin

I am a Jack O' Lantern
My light will shine so bright

For I am a Christian pumpkin
My symbols tell what's right.

My nose is like the cross
on which our Savior died.

To set us free from sin
We need no longer hide.

My mouth is like a fish
The whole wide world to show

That Christians live in this house
And love their Savior so!

The story starts at Christmas
My eyes are like the star

That shone on Baby Jesus
And wise men saw from far

My color it is orange
Just like the big bright sun

That rose on Easter Day
Along with Gods' own Son.

And so on Halloween
Let's set our pumpkins out

And tell the trick or treaters
What Gods' love is all about!



VERSE OF THE MONTH

He is not afraid of
bad news; his heart
is firm, trusting in
the Lord.


Psalm 112:7

JOKE OF THE MONTH

*It's not a person nor an
animal but He's got a
face. Who is he?
Answer: God.*



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

love  FOR

SUZIE STRUSSENBERG



Dear VDC Community,

*The celebration of life for Suzie Strussenberg will be held
on Saturday, November 4th at 11 am, Mount Zion
Lutheran Church, 4520 West Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ.*

Please see the attached flyer for more information.

*[https://mcusercontent.com/383cec55acd562d13ba14bf4
b/files/c4d49cee-80eb-39a2-5a8c-
ddc02e7cbaae/Suzie_strussenberg_2023_11_04.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/383cec55acd562d13ba14bf4b/files/c4d49cee-80eb-39a2-5a8c-ddc02e7cbaae/Suzie_strussenberg_2023_11_04.pdf)*

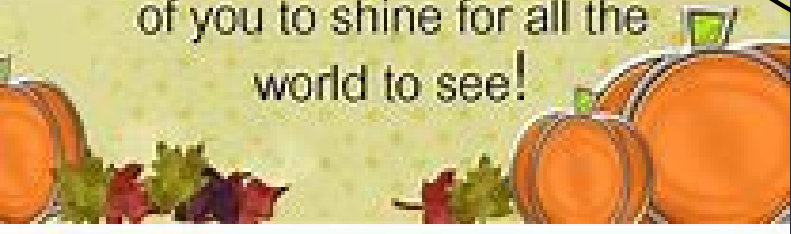
Best regards,

- Via de Cristo Secretariat





Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes off all the dirt. Then He cuts the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Last, He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see!



HAPPY Halloween

DRESSED UP LITTLE CREATURES ON A DARK OCTOBER NIGHT RUN FROM DOOR TO DOOR GIVING EVERYONE A FRIGHT.

THEY COME AND RING YOUR DOORBELL AND BEFORE THEY WILL RETREAT, THEY BEG YOU FOR SOME CANDY BY YELLING "TRICK OR TREAT".

WHEN THEIR BAGS ARE FULL, THEY RUN HOME TO EAT THEIR FILL. THEY TASTE A BIT OF EVERYTHING AND BY MORNING THEY ARE ILL!

SO TO KEEP THE YOUNGSTERS HEALTHY, I'VE FIGURED OUT A DEAL. THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF CANDY, I'LL GIVE THEM ALL OATMEAL!



I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4 (ESV)

Prayer for Halloween

God of Laughter and Joy,
 We turn to you in the way of our ancient ancestors, grateful for the abundance of food and festivity that surrounds us at this time of year.
 Keep all children safe as they embark on their Halloween revels.
 Light their way through the dark night and enfold them in love.
 May the real treat in their lives be grace that multiplies in depth and breadth as they grow older.
 We pray this with all the saints in heaven.
 Amen



Unwrapping a Sweet Lesson

JANET PEREZ ECKLES

I opened the front door. "Yikes! You scared me," I screamed feigning fright.

"Who's that?" I peered down at the three-foot little person.

He wore a mask framed with wild hair, black and purple. A huge lumpy nose, droopy eyes, and a mouth revealing jagged teeth gave a new meaning to the word 'ugly'. A muffled, "Trick or treat" wafted from behind the mask.

"Goodness, you really scared me." I chuckled as I dropped hard candy into the orange plastic pumpkin.

Those are memories of times my little boys also dressed in strange costumes and dashed from house to house with their daddy trailing behind. I stayed home greeting the neighborhood trick-or-treaters.

But now, years later, Halloween masks resemble those I try to slip on. They come in handy to cover the real me.

When people ask me how I lost my sight, I give the routine answer: "A retinal disease deteriorated my retina and took my sight."

A simple answer to a simple question.

When asked about how I dealt with the unexpected tragedy, that's a different story. I'm tempted to pull down the mask over my heart and give a bland answer.

"It was tough at first, but in time, I adjusted."

But underneath that mask is a whole different script with the real answers: "I wanted to die, I hated my life, I wanted to give up, and wondered if my little boys would survive with a mommy who couldn't see."

Then God's Word nudged me to remove that mask and allow the glow of truth to shine through.

The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.

Proverbs 12:22 NLT

In obedience, I resolved that when asked a question, I would give information reflecting what truly stirred in my heart.

Here are the results:

- When my words are strung with honesty without omissions, deletions, or embellishments, I can breathe easier.

- When the mask is off, the air is fresher and the view is clearer.

When it comes to sharing my feelings or relating events in my life, I've developed a motto: Don't omit the negative nor squelch the positive.

Not long ago, a good friend called and asked about my writing. I started to blurt out that it was great, moving along fabulously, and my agent is working on my behalf.

Gulp. Masks are stuffy, binding, and often ugly. Instead, I decided to slip the mask off. And with conviction, the truth shines—although my agent is working for me, I'm furiously laboring on the first edit. Writing a novel is grueling. It's demanding. And at times, the work is so hard it makes me wonder if I'm really supposed to be doing this.

Ah! The feeling of telling the real scenario with honesty is like opening the window to a stuffy room; letting the fresh Spring breeze come in and caress your face.

While our little ones dip into that candy, the sweetest thing we can unwrap for them is the lesson to speak the truth. The trick is to obey God's Word and the treat is the image reflected in the mirror that sparkles with honesty.

Upcoming Events

VDC #42!!

October 12th through 15th

Sign up for the Prayer Vigil at <https://www.prayervigils.net> and search for "Southern Arizona Lutheran Via De Cristo"



The next SALVdC is coming up quick!! Open your hearts and minds for prayer and keep Pilgrims and team in your prayers.



Prayers of the Month



Any prayer concerns can be sent to

soazviadecristo@gmail.com.

You can list them as anonymous or you can say who they are for or from. , let's also continue to pray for everyone. We can all use each other's prayers. Pray for friends, strangers you haven't met yet and even those you will never meet.

