Date: 10/28/17

Title: Hallowed Evening

Theme: God wants our church to go by the Bible and it alone.

Object: Bible, mask, pumpkin.

Text: Psalm 119:105 (KJV) Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Who knows what holiday is almost here? (Halloween)

What do you know about Halloween? What do people do on Halloween? [mask, pumpkin]

(The most important thing they do is go trick-or-treating and collect candy from the neighbors. They dress up in costumes, some dress up as really scary things like skeletons, and ghosts, and monsters, and vampires, and werewolves, and zombies. Some people have costumes parties, they play games like bobbing for apples, they decorate their houses with pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns and spider webs. Some like to play tricks or pranks on people. People do crazy things at Halloween).

Now I don’t know how Halloween became so crazy.

In Christian countries that were mostly Roman Catholic, Halloween started out as “hallowed evening.”

Hallowed is something holy, and the reason Halloween was considered a holy evening is that the next day was All Saints day for Catholics.

That was a day to remember all those who loved Jesus and were good and kind but were now dead.

Halloween on October 31 is the day before All Saints day on Nov. 1.

Now it was on Halloween, many years ago that something very special happened, and it was something very good.

On October 31, Halloween, in the year 1517, (that 500 years ago) a man named Martin Luther nailed 95 statements on the door of a church in Whittenburg, Germany.

The reason he chose Halloween was not because it was a spooky day but because it was a holy day.

And the statements that he nailed to the church door were 95 things that he thought the church was doing wrong.

And what upset Martin Luther the most was this: the church was telling people that they could get into heaven by paying more money to the church.

But that’s not what the Bible says. You can’t buy your way into heaven. You can’t have your sins forgiven by paying money. No, no, no!!!

So there was a big fight in the church.

Martin Luther and his followers said, “We have to go by the Bible, not what other people in the church say is right.”

This was the beginning of the Protestant Reformation: They protested against the Roman Catholic church because it wasn’t going by the Bible and the Bible only.

On this coming Tuesday, the Protestant church will be 500 years old.

Wow! Can you imagine 500 candles on a cake?

Now we in the SDA church are part of the Protestant church.

We believe what is in the Bible. We believe it is God’s Word. We believe it is true. And we want it to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We want to walk in light, not in darkness.

And the reason we join the Adventist church is that we believe our church follows the Bible better than any other church, Protestant or Catholic.

I hope someday you’ll get baptized and join our church.

Do you want to walk in the light of God’s word? Do you want to live by the Bible?

Let’s ask Jesus to help us do that.