

The Marin Lutheran Bridge



A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

October 2011

“I was glad when they said to me ‘let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Psalm 122:1

Years ago I memorized this verse from the Bible, and each time I recall the passage I think about worship. Most often when we go to “the house of the Lord” we go to worship. Worship is one of the most important things we do as a community of faith. Worship is one of the things I enjoy most as a pastor and as a Christian. I look forward to weekly worship planning meetings, to new liturgies, to exploring new music, to all kinds of liturgical and musical styles from the most current to the most traditional.

This past summer I read a book on worship entitled *The Art of Curating Worship* by Mark Pierson. Interestingly, he looks at planning worship like curating an art exhibit. He also sees the purpose of worship as giving people the opportunity to connect with God in ways that nurture us spiritually and help us to better engage with the world in which we live. This way of understanding worship is provocative.

Worship is something that nurtures us, molds us and moves us on many different levels. We also meet with our fellow brothers and sisters in faith, sharing our joys and concerns with them. Worship is the place where we meet new people and welcome them into our community. Come to worship this month, meet God and others, and be transformed.

Pastor Tom

Sunday Mornings

October is a powerful, engaging and inspirational time for worship. Make sure you come as often as you can. ✧ On October 2nd we will bless animals. Bring your pet or pets, or a photo of your pet and have prayers spoken for him or her. ✧ The next Sunday (9th) we will focus on how the gifts we give to our congregation help to alleviate hunger in Marin County and change lives. We will also hear how we might become a part of the effort to help lessen the struggles of the homeless in our area. ✧ On the 16th we remember the healing powers of God and offer an opportunity for everyone to come forward for prayers of healing. ✧ October 23rd we will hear of how our gifts to our congregation change people’s lives around the world. Pastor Tom will share about his trip to El Salvador. ✧ And on the 30th we will celebrate God’s grace and love in the life of Martin Luther and the events of the Reformation.



Saints Alive! Living Generously

Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. ³And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (NRSV)

The title, *Saint's Alive! Living Generously*, is the theme for this year's stewardship emphasis. The corresponding Bible passage is from Corinthians and is written above. So we ask, "Why 1 Corinthians 16:1-4?"

Here Paul is speaking to the early Christians about two of his greatest passions: providing for the ministry of the Word, and providing for material needs of the poor. Paul understands people very well. Giving our hard-earned money to someone else can be a difficult thing to do – even more difficult to do again and again. But a clear, simple, automatic plan or procedure makes it easier for everyone – minimizes that little twinge of, "But it's my money!" or "I could buy ____ with that!" each week.

Paul knows that along with being easier and more effective, a systematic approach to giving will help the members of the early church grow as stewards, learn to be generous people. If we give "generously" only when our heartstrings have been plucked for some urgent or needy cause, we might feel good, feel generous, for a time, but does it really change us? Are we honest with ourselves about the degree of our generosity: just how much does your heartstring-generated gift amount to—proportionally—out of your resources, income, wealth?

Paul knew, and was passing along to the new church in Corinth, that giving regularly, systematically:

- is a way to test ourselves, to know that we are being truly generous, in proportion to our own gifts and resources,
- will help to permanently transform ourselves into more generous, gratitude-filled, Christ-like individuals
- is easier.

Paul's directions for the churches of Galatia and Corinth are still relevant to all of us in the 21st century. If we follow them, we will find it is easier to give and we will grow into generous givers.

Jim Kamphoefner

Timeline for Our Fall Stewardship Emphasis

September 25: Saints Alive! Living Generously Kick-off

- We enjoyed a spirit-filled kick-off, lifting up our ministry of education which focuses on our congregation.
- Those individuals who will serve as Christian Education teachers for this year were installed/blessed
- The gospel was brought to life by the youth in the re-telling of the story of the Prodigal Son
- Members of our Confirmation class wrote the prayers for the day and served as readers
- The Giving Tree is hanging in the narthex and waiting for your stories

October 2: Time and Talent Fair

- Between services, please visit the displays on the tables setup on the upper patio. Members of our Ministry Teams and Committees will be on hand to share with you what their ministry focuses on.

October 9: Saints Alive! Living Generously 2

- During our services we will focus on our ministry of social action and concerns in our local community
- Sharing stories of generosity, service, sharing or stewardship continue – we hope to see many apples on the tree

October 23: Saints Alive! Living Generously 3

- The focus during our services will be on our global mission and ministries
- Pastor Tom will share stories and pictures from his recent trip to El Salvador
- Sharing stories of generosity, service, sharing – the tree should be filling up with apples

November 13: Saints Alive! Living Generously Celebration Sunday

- The Giving Tree in the Narthex should be crowded with apples
- Celebration Sunday: During our services we return our commitment/pledges (which will be mailed to you) & bring offering of food for the Food Bank
- Between services join us for a Stewardship Celebration Brunch
- More details to come about our home-made pie silent auction.



Giving Tree: Stories of Generosity

In the September issue of the Marin Lutheran Bridge as well as through inserts and announcements at church you have heard that we are looking for stories from you. Stories of a person or people whose generous gifts change lives and bring joy as hurts are healed, as the lost are found, as the hungry are fed, as peace heals brokenness, as hope replaces despair, and as the love of Jesus transforms lives. These stories may be short, they may be long, they don't have to be composed perfectly – we simply ask that you share them with us. They can be of anybody you know – your family, friends, co-workers or one of your church family members. You can share more than one story. Your stories will be collected in a scrapbook which is on a table by the Giving Tree. With each story we receive, a corresponding apple is put on the tree. **Help us fill the tree with apples!**

OCTOBER Celebrations!

Birthdays

1 Courtney Bedilion
Jim Kamphoefner
Mike Dowling
2 Carrie Yano
Margaret Rosano
6 Charles Conrad
Margot Gergus
8 Judy Rossbach
10 Pastor Tom Gable
11 Logan DiDonato
12 Anker Andersen
15 Elizabeth Haxton
17 Marie Jacobs

Anniversaries

19 Hannah Gable
21 Natalie West
Dawn Brewster
22 Taylor Bedilion
Pastor Kathryn
Gulbranson
29 Andrew Chilson
30 Caitlin Jacobs
Paul Davis
4 Bev & Jim Kamphoefner
9 Marie & Charles Conrad
25 Lee & Anker Andersen
30 Eric & Monica Bergman



Interested in Social Action at MLC?

Are you interested in what is going on with the Social Action Ministry Team at MLC? If so, this is a great time to satisfy your curiosity and determine whether this is an area at MLC in which you would like to work. At the Time and Talent Event between services on October 2nd, we will have a display set up to inform members about our varied responsibilities. Please come check us out!

Our work involves four different areas: a) We have recurring responsibilities with programs like meals for the folks at the Mill Street residence, a part of Homeward Bound, the Marin Food Bank, work with those at the Ritter Center and care for the Angel Tree at Christmas. b) We also mount special projects, like one you'll be hearing about in church on October 9th, which involves the idea of providing meals for those served by this winter's emergency shelter program. c) We allocate benevolences from MLC for different local and also global agencies, including Canal Alliance, Marin Interfaith Council Street Ministry, Ritter Center, Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran World Relief. d) We also provide information to the congregation regarding needs, again both local and global, such as the combination lunch-information session last year dealing with the quake in Haiti.

This is an excellent time to consider joining our Team, as two members have recently gone on leave for good reasons and we'd like to return to full strength or even expand our membership. The current members of Social Action are Mary Creigh Houts, Pastor Kathryn, Judy Rossbach, Tom Schmidt, Sandy Seeger and Ross Johnson (Chair).

Ross Johnson

Recurring Social Action Program

The Ritter Center Back to School Backpack drive was a big success. With the support of VBS families and members of the congregation, we were able to deliver 36 fully loaded backpacks to the Center. Thanks to all of you, these homeless children will have all the supplies they need for a good beginning at school this year.

Social Action Special Program

Our usual annual room renovation project at the Family Emergency Center has been postponed to next spring in order to accommodate our effort to support the homeless shelters participating in winter shelter rescue project in Marin County. We will be joining with other churches to provide evening meals and company on a regular basis for shelter occupants during the cold and rainy winter season. The respite system is currently in the planning stage. Our Social Action committee will let everyone know more about our participation on Sunday, October 9th – Please Stay Tuned.



Social Action
Ministry

Sandy Seeger

Pictorial Directory



We will be putting together a new pictorial directory for our congregation. For this to be successful we need everyone to have your pictures taken to be included in

the directory. Lifetouch will be setting up a "studio" in our sanctuary on October 20, 21 & 22. Please schedule an appointment to come and have your picture taken – our goal is 100% participation.

We would like to include both members as well as those who are not members but come regularly in the directory. If only one in a family is a member, you are welcome to bring your spouse, partner, family with you for the pictures. Thursday & Friday (20 & 21) the photo sessions are from 1:00 – 8:50 p.m. On Saturday (22) from 9:00 a.m. – 4:50 p.m. Lifetouch asks that you plan to be here about an hour (it may not take that long, but allow yourself that time).

The sitting and your photo selection for the directory cost nothing. If you would like to purchase additional photos, for yourself or family you may do so.

To schedule an appointment, please visit our website, www.marinlutheran.org and click on the Lifetouch link on the home page. You may also sign up at church on Sunday mornings.

If you have photos of church activities please share them with Barb Bischoff. We may be able to use them for the activity pages of the directory.

Open House

Sunday, October 16, 2011
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

hosted by the
Kamphoefners
32 Dunfries Terrace
San Rafael

You are invited to
CELEBRATE
the wedding of
Dawn Brewster &
Clint Bastin

And also to
GATHER TOGETHER
as a church family.

Because it is not possible for Dawn & Clint to invite the entire congregation to their wedding we will have the opportunity to be together and celebrate with them during the open house.

If you do not know Dawn & Clint or other folks in the congregation we especially invite you to come so that we can all get to know each other better. This is simply a time for fellowship.

Dawn & Clint please ask that no gifts be given. Your greetings, best wishes & prayers will be gratefully received by them.

If it is possible to RSVP, please do
bevkamp@aol.com / 415-457-2347
If not, simply come join us on the 16th.



Confirmation



October 2nd Class: 5:00-7:00 p.m. – “Did Jesus Know he was God?”
Dinner is provided by the DiDonato family

October 14th Bowling & Pizza Night: 7:00 p.m. at Country Club Bowl
88 Vivian Way, San Rafael
Cost: for game, shoes; pizza & drink - \$15.00 Total
Bring a Friend!
RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, October 12th

October 16th Class: 5:00-7:00 p.m. – “If Jesus was God, why did he have to die?”
A family is needed to bring dinner – let PK know!

Upcoming event: Middle School Retreat at Mt. Hermon Retreat Center
November 11 -13: Five youth are already signed up to go
Check with PK! There may still be room to go! Cost - \$155

Senior High Events

Friday, October 14th: Bowling at Country Club Bowl

- at 7:00 p.m.
- Bring a Friend for bowling, best pizza in Marin (okay – maybe that’s a stretch, but it is pretty good pizza!), & a **strikingly** good time! (get it?)
- Cost: \$15 for game, shoes, pizza & drink
- Let the church office know if you are coming by Wednesday, October 12th.

Sunday, October 23rd: National Youth Gathering Mtg 7:00–8:00 p.m.



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20

ALL those planning on attending the National Youth Gathering need to attend this meeting! We’ll plan our fundraising for November & December.

Upcoming Event!

Friday, November 4th:

ANNUAL Sr. High Dinner & Care Package Night!

- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- At the Pastors’ House
- Bring a friend! – have dinner, laugh, & help put together the care packages for our MLC college students. Show them that we haven’t forgotten them as they slug away at mid-terms!

College Care Package Stuff:

- October 16th, 23rd & 30th we’ll be collecting items to go into our care packages which we’ll send to our college students. Be creative! Be silly!
- We have a dozen or so college students, but you don’t have to bring enough of one item for each student. We’ll mix and match the items. They can be placed in the narthex.
- Here are some ideas: bubbles, socks, candy, cocoa/tea bags, crayons, snack bars, homemade cookies, playing cards
- Their friends will multiply when this package comes into their dorm room or apartment.

Adult Education

This month we have several opportunities for discussion and growth in understanding.

On the first Thursday of the month, October 8th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.; Sunday mornings on the 9th, 16th and the 23rd from 10:15 to 10:50 a.m. and Thursday evening on the 6th and the 13th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Come and join in the discussions.

On Sunday the 2nd of October there will be no adult class as we will all participate in the **Time and Talent Fair**. The different ministries of our church will have displays (some of these, interactive) set up on tables on the upper patio. This is a good opportunity to see what is going on in our church. It is also a time when you can let us know if you are interested in helping with any of these ministries.

Thursday, October 6th beginning at 10:00 a.m., Pastor Kathryn leads a discussion. The topics of these classes vary, but all afford a good interactive learning experience.

On Sunday morning, the 9th and the 16th, Pastor Kathryn will be leading a Bible Study on the Gospel reading for that Sunday. So, if you've come to the early service, continue thinking about and talking with Pastor Kathryn about what you heard in the gospel reading. If you're coming to the 11 o'clock service come a bit early and beginning thinking about and talking about the gospel reading that you will hear in worship. On the 23rd Pastor Tom will share photos and discuss his trip to El Salvador. Reformation Sunday is the 30th and there will be no adult class.

Movie Night for Adults: Last summer we hosted a movie night for adults and had a wonderful time viewing and discussing the movie *Chocolat*. We're going to do this again this month. Come, Thursday October 6th and the 13th, from 6:30 to 8 pm and watch a similarly engaging and provocative movie with others and then talk about it.



Council Highlights: September 20th

Susan Morrow

- Ross Johnson, chairperson of the Social Action Ministry Team, updated the council members on Social Action's preliminary plans to increase MLC's participation in feeding the homeless during the upcoming winter months. Working in conjunction with a Marin County program overseeing the housing and feeding of both men and women, congregations will have the opportunity to prepare and serve meals on an ongoing basis. Ross will be attending a county-wide planning session on October 4 and will address the congregation during both services on Sunday, October 9.
- At the October 7 and 8 Leadership Retreat, MLC Council members, committee chairs and ministry team leaders will focus on learning how to be intentional in seeking God's guidance while employing "best practices" as a governance team.
- As part of his pastor's report, Pastor Tom detailed the 2011 Stewardship program, *Saints Alive – Living Generously*. On designated Sundays in October and November, specified ministries will be lifted up, with an emphasis on stewardship as it relates to each of these missions. The Celebration of Stewardship is scheduled for November 13, with a stewardship brunch to be served between services.

Staff Congregation Relations Committee

The Staff Congregation Relations Committee (SCRC) was established by our new constitution, effective January 1, 2011. The committee's responsibility, according to the constitution is to, "encourage, strengthen, support and respect the pastors, staff and their families; to promote unity in the congregation." The committee also keeps updated on personnel issues, participates in annual staff evaluations and provides consultation on compensation and hiring matters.

This year the committee completed a review of the pastors' ministry here at MLC. The committee members reviewed opinions and thoughts of congregation members and compiled them with their own in an organized format. These were shared with the pastors, and goals were set during annual evaluations. As part of the 2012 budget process, the committee has reviewed the salaries for our pastors and has made recommendations to the Church Council for next year's budget.

Members of the Committee are: Chairman, Rod Seeger, Dawn Brewster, Kathy Bayler, Mike Clark, John Bischoff and Janet Foster. The committee welcomes comments from the congregation to assist with our ministry here at MLC.

Janet Foster



Kidz Klub

Grades K - 5

Kidz Klub is back! Join us for our first Kidz Klub event of the 2011-2012 season. We

will be visiting the **pumpkin patch in Nicasio** on Saturday, October 22 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Please meet at Marin Lutheran at 1:00 p.m. that day to carpool. I will need some parents to drive as well. RSVP to the church and let me know if you have any questions! Hope you all can make it.

There is a lot to do at the Pumpkin Patch - pumpkin picking, hay rides, mazes, farm animals and a bouncy house. The 6-piece band, Manzanita Moon will be playing that afternoon. Admission is free, but there are other costs. Pumpkins range from \$3 on up depending on size - we'll stay small. The hay ride costs approximately \$3 and if we choose to use the bouncy house/slide that has a small cost as well. We will keep the cost to \$10-15.

Cannah Gable

Christmas Greenery

Each year as October rolls around, we are caught off guard when we need to think about ordering our greenery for the Christmas season. Well October is here, so fast forward your minds a couple months. The greenery order forms will be out in the narthex. Please sign up for greenery you wish to purchase either for your home or as gifts. These gifts are mailed directly to the recipients' homes.

The proceeds of this year's sale will go towards sending our youth to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer.

Order deadline is October 30th. Greenery will be delivered the first week in December.



WELCA Marin Lutheran Church Women

October 13th at 10:00am meet in conference room at church for our Circle Bible study: “To lead and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark” by Rev. Patricia Lutt! Jesus of Nazareth invites readers to discipleship. “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth. The demons cry out in Mark 1:24. Theirs is the chief question for the first session. The Gospel of Mark was written not only to record stories about Jesus, but to allow the revelation of God in Jesus Christ to speak to us as the living, life defining Word of God. As you prepare for session two in the coming weeks, let the question “What have you to do with us” speak deeply to your own life. Continue to notice the ways in which this ancient account of Jesus’ identity and Jesus; actions intersect your own life.

Lutheran women have a long history of gathering for Bible study, prayer, service and advocacy. Now we want to share the gift of our heritage and our magazine with a new generation of women. We want to expand and share stories of growth in faith and grace to bless even more people. Our women’s magazine, *Lutheran Woman Today* is now titled, “Gather.” Learn more at www.gathermagazine.org or call 800-328-4648 to subscribe \$12/10 issues.

Thursday, October 20th from 10:00 a.m.-12noon we meet in the conference room for Serve & Share. We will be making plans for our Fall/Winter program. Plan to introduce new ways to serve & share.

Looking ahead: **November 6th** is the day we plan to hold a **fundraiser – bake, card & craft sale!** We welcome donations of baked goods (HOLD the pies until the following weekend for Stewardship’s Celebration Pie Auction, but ALL other types of baked goods are welcome) or homemade crafts.

Looking farther ahead: This spring we plan to hold a **one-day women’s retreat.** We are hoping to secure a reservation at The Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg on Saturday, March 17th. As soon as we get confirmation on the date/venue we will let you know.

If you have any questions or need more information regarding any of our activities do not hesitate to let me know.

Jane McKenzie

Council & Leadership Retreat

October 7th & 8th at Mercy Center in Burlingame. Please keep our church leaders in your prayers as they spend time in prayer, discernment of where God is leading us and conversation regarding our mission.

Sierra Pacific Synod’s Annual Professional Leaders Conf.

Pastor Thomas will be attending this conference at Asilomar Oct. 11th–13th.

Marin Interfaith Council: Contemplative Service

Marin Interfaith Council (MIC) would like to try offering a monthly service, approximately 30 minutes in length based on the model of – silence, simple chants/music, a scripture reading from a religious tradition (the traditions would change monthly), and more silence.

They have asked that we host their first service, **Monday, October 24th at 6:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary. We are all invited to come to this contemplative service.



Join us for Marin Lutheran Church *kids of the kingdom*



This fall, we are **Digging Into the Bible** through our rotational learning curriculum. Our pre-K through 5th grade students will enjoy a variety of fun-filled stations where we learn, play, eat and act our way to understanding God's Word. We are also planning an exciting new activity this year, where we'll learn and incorporate a one-act musical into each of our learning units. The first musical number will be centered on the stories in the Bible, and the KOTK will present it on Sunday, October 23rd.

We kicked off the year on Sunday, September 11th with our traditional RALLY SUNDAY, with fun and games for all. Thanks to those who participated and to all our helpers.

Welcome in the Parish Hall begins each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. and wraps up around 10:50 a.m. Children attending the 9:00 a.m. worship service with their families will be invited to depart after communion for Sunday School. We've got a great fall planned and look forward to seeing you here at MLC!

Michele Jacobs

Fall 2011 Schedule

Date	Group 1: Lambs Pre-K – 2nd graders	Group 2: Sheep 3rd – 5th graders
9/18	ART	SCIENCE
9/25	SCIENCE	ART
10/2	MUSIC	COOKING
10/9	COOKING	MUSIC
10/16	STORYTELLING	
10/23	GAMES	
10/30	Halloween Party & BEGIN PAGEANT PREP	

OCTOBER 2011 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	OCT. 2 ND	OCT. 9 TH	OCT. 16 TH	OCT. 23 RD	OCT 30 TH
GREETERS					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Marie & Caitlin J Janet Foster	Margot/Ray Gergus Erna Randig	Sandy Seeger Barbara Bischoff	T. Morgenlaender Stu & Jeanne Burt	Jane McKenzie Erna Randig
USHER					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Ron Jacobs Joe O'Neill, Jr.	Clint Bastin Dave Richard	Jon Rolien Rick West	Tom S / Kris G Lorri Reinders	Rich Myhre Janet Foster
ACOLYTE					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Nikolas Gable	Elliot Shanks	Taylor S/Luke Z	Laine G/Amelia S	Adelaide S/Mara D Braxton/Tristan M.
LECTOR					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Karen Clinton Janet Foster	Ray Gergus Marie Conrad	Bill Hewitt John Bischoff	Michele Jacobs Annemarie Hofling	Dan Watrous Bob Dunn
ALM					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Sharon Guy Paul Davis	Susan Morrow Yvonne Weidmann	Sharon Guy Betsy McCormick	Susan Morrow Paul Davis	Yvonne Weidmann Betsy McCormick
COMM ASSIST					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Caitlin Jacobs Janet Foster	Dawn Brewster Erna R / Marie C	Barbara Bischoff	Jeff Reinders	Erna Randig
SOUND TECH					
8:30AM 11:00AM	Jeff Reinders Kamphoefner	John Bischoff Kerry Hansen	Bart Saling John Bischoff	Dan Watrous Jeff Reinders	Bart Saling Kerry Hansen
COUNTERS					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Roy Davis Janet Foster	Dawn B/Mette W Kamphoefner	Roy Davis Corneille Church	Corneille Church Janet Foster	Kamphoefner Janet Foster
COFFEE HOUR					
9:00 AM 11:00AM	Ministry Teams	Anke Pahlmeyer Carol Zlatunich	Sandy Seeger Ann Marymor	The Abbotts	Karen DiDonato Joyce O'Neill
ALTAR GUILD	Bev Kamphoefner	Bev Kamphoefner	Bev Kamphoefner	Bev Kamphoefner	Bev Kamphoefner

Kids Page



ACROSS

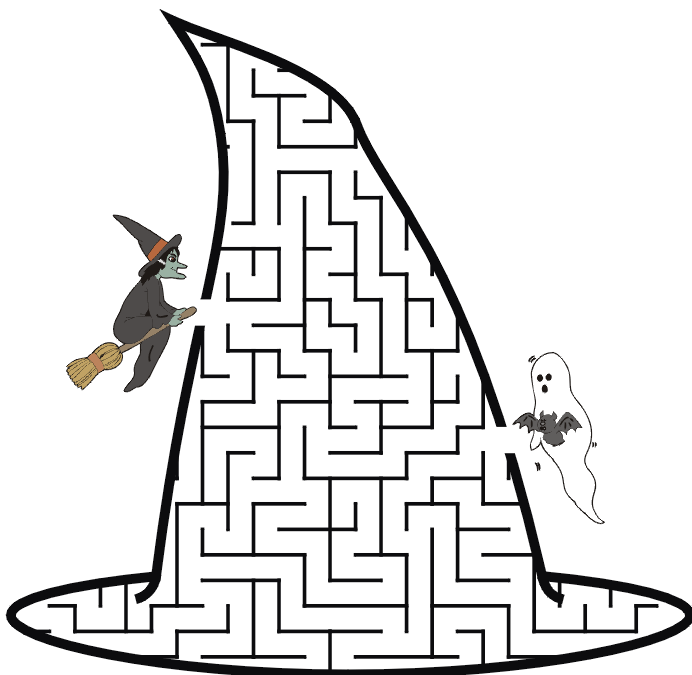
3. You wear a _____ on Halloween
6. This is used to scare away birds in a field
8. An orange vegetable used to make a Jack O Lantern
9. This kind of mammal looks like a mouse but it flies.
11. A spider makes one of these
12. Bones that are together.
14. This place may be surrounded by a black wrought iron fence
15. If your house is very scary it is called a _____ house.
17. This person may cast a spell on you.
20. You bob for _____s at a Halloween party

DOWN

1. Don't let a black ____ cross your path.
2. In Sleepy Hollow there was a rider called the "Headless _____"
4. Don't let this bite you on the neck
5. When you go up to a door, you push this or knock.
7. The name of the holiday
10. The month the holiday falls in.

11. Usually you get this when you knock on a door
13. This is where you can go on a wagon and you sit on bales of straw
14. This may look like a person wearing a white sheet.
16. After you knock on a door, you say, "_____ or treat"
18. What you do to a pumpkin before you put a candle in it.
19. Abbreviation for "Rest in Peace"

Halloween Puzzles



- | | | | |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Orange | Black | Cat | Witch |
| Ghost | Trick | Treat | Candy |
| Bat | Broom | | |