

HALLOWEEN

The tap tap tapping would reverberate through the sleepy college village of Whittenburg. It would escape the confines of both space and time. The thud of the hammer rebounded off the door and floated into the eerie mist of the late October day. It was the 31st of October, 1517, the eve of All Saint's Day. Hallow's Eve was the festive but somewhat somber, magical and mystical preparation for the proceeding feast day. The celebration was for the Saints (believers), who were deceased, yet would live again and soon. It was an age where strange and unexplainable sounds and happenings were common. Many church-goers were certain that on All Hallow's Eve, in the dusk and closing darkness, the departed souls left the grave. The escaped souls partied and floated into mischief on the eve of their one special day of the year.

The Augustinian monk took a step back and looked at his document nailed to the community bulletin board – the Church door. The posted 95 propositions were a challenge to all thinking men (in those days women were not to be thinkers). As darkness closed in, Luther's Ninety-Five Theses destroyed the myth of the Roman indulgences and challenged a base of Roman authority. Likewise, the illumination of science would destroy those apparitions of ghosts and goblins on All Hallow's Eve.

Our Heritage is anchored in that tapping sound heard on October 31, 1517. All Hallow's Eve (Halloween) is one of the great historical landmarks of our Church. Candy and treats may be the object of the trick or treaters at your door, but remember these ghosts and goblins are remnants of ancient fears and beliefs shattered by the bold Augustinian Monk who declared "Here I Stand" on Scripture.

Halloween can be a great festive period as we remember the Saints gone before us and celebrate Reformation Sunday. You and I can also issue a defense of our faith, rejecting the fables and myths of society by saying the word's uttered by Martin Luther "Here I Stand."

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