All Saints Sunday

The history of All Saints' Day is intertwined with the history of Halloween or All Hallow's Eve and is an interesting story.

All Saints Day was set by Pope Boniface the IV on May 13, 609 to remember all of the Christian Martyrs.

Halloween was originally celebrated in the Celtic tradition of Samhain. The Celts celebrated their New Year on November 1 and so they believed at the last night of the year Oct 31, those who had died were able to come back to earth as ghosts. That is the origin of the celebration on Oct 31 where costumes were worn. The Romans conquered the Celts in AD 43 and eventually the Celtic holiday was overtaken by a day on which the Romans usually commemorated the passing of the dead. By the 9th century, Christianity had fully entered the land originally occupied by that Celtic tradition and the Christian traditions were blended with and eventually took over the Celtic traditions. In the year 1000, the church instituted All Soul's Day on Nov 2 to celebrate all who passed before us and that took over the traditions of the Celts on Oct 31. Eventually All Saints Day was moved to November 1, and honored not only the martyrs, but all those who came before us. The holiday was eventually celebrated in three days that began with Halloween as All Hallow's Eve. Similar to the way we begin Christmas with Christmas Eve, All Saints and All Soul's days were Christian holidays that began with Halloween All Hallow's Eve.

Eventually Halloween came to once again have the traditions of dressing up and asking for candy, but All Saints day remains a celebration of honoring all who came before us and is generally celebrated by churches on the first Sunday of November. During that special Sunday we light candles to remember those who passed away recently, but we still remember as Saints all who came before us. Some are well known like Martin Luther. Some have days named after them and some are almost completely lost to memory. While still others are more recent and are saints in our lives. They are the ones with the most impact on our faith development. Take some time on All Saints' Day to remember and be grateful for all of the Saints in your life. Make up your mind to live so that you can be a Saint in someone's life one day.

May God's Blessing be on all of you!
Pastor Michelle