

Children's sermon: October 3, 2010
"Out of my gourd with love"

Ah, yes ... it's time for the annual pumpkin-who-is-the-best-Lutheran contest.
Here are the winners beeeoootiful pumpkins, aren't they???

Here's Bob ---- the Missouri Synod winner.
Followed by Petra --- the Evangelical Lutheran winner.
And ... Sarah ... the independent Lutheran winner.

Kids ----- are you excited about being Lutheran???
Excited about Halloween?

Anyway ----- Fred and his buddies heard about the "best Lutheran contest" ... and they want to be a part of it.

So ... they knock on the door ... open the door ...
and these perfect Lutheran pumpkins begin to scowl.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE???"

"We just want to be a part of your contest."

Well ... as you can see ... Fred and his buddies aren't welcome. They are weird shapes ... they have bumps all over them ... yes, they have "taken their lumps" along the way.
In fact ... they really aren't pumpkins ----- they are GOURDS!!

Are you Lutheran? ... the perfect pumpkins ask.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE ARE!!
Well, then ... you aren't welcome here!@!!

As the gourds begin to leave ... they run into the GREAT PUMPKIN.

What's wrong? ... the great pumpkin asks.

When the Great Pumpkin finds out ... he runs into the room ... takes the medals off the "best Lutheran" winners ... and proclaims: THIS IS NOT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LUTHERAN!!

The Great Pumpkin looks at the so-called "winners" ----
Lutherans aren't perfect ... we don't have such things as "best Lutherans" ...
we are open
we are loving
we care about those who aren't perfect
we all have bumps ... we come in all shapes and sizes ...
So ----- GOURDS OF THE WORLD: COME ON IN!!

How about that????

Pumpkins and gourds ... we all come from the same garden.
All of us here ----- we are children of the same God

As you go back to your seats ... I have some friends for you.
Yes, your very own gourds!!

Please let them know how much God loves them.
You never know ----- these gourds may be Lutheran someday.