



NOVEMBER NEW SLETTER 2025 NEW SCANDINAVIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

"I would like to say that I would not like to be a Jew in Germany now."

-Reichsmarschall Hermann Goring

Before the Nazis implemented their plan to exterminate the Jewish people they advertised their intentions through a number of public spectacles. The most dramatic of these occurred on the night of November 9, 1938, when Nazi storm troopers throughout Germany mounted a terrible, coordinated assault on the Jewish community. One hundred and ninety-one synagogues were burned to the ground. Seventy-five hundred Jewish-owned shops were destroyed. Because of the shattered windows the pogrom became known as the *Kristallnacht*, or Crystal Night (aka Night of Broken Glass). In addition, twenty thousand Jewish men were arrested and placed in "protective custody," with half of them shipped to Buchenwald concentration camp. Nearly one hundred Jews were killed.

The following day there was little protest, either in Germany or abroad. Notes from a meeting of top-ranking Nazi officials indicated that they considered the night's activities as a tremendous success.

All Saints: Daily reflections of saints, prophets, and witnesses for our time by Robert Ellsberg

As we enter this month, a month that begins with "All Saints Day" on the very first day, it is difficult to ignore the saints in our lives, both living and dead who made our lives richer by the faith they held tight. But it is hard to ignore the ones who died for nothing more than living a life that includes worshiping God Almighty, and for that simple truth, they were killed. Early Christians who were killed, not for speaking out, but simply because they were Christians. Even today, in this country and around the world, people are threatened and killed for their beliefs and how they live their lives. People who don't like the building being called a church, a mosque, a temple, or a synagogue, believe destroying a sacred space is granted or people who believe that their holy scripture, whether it be the Quran, Torah, or Bible, gives them permission to silence people that differ from themselves, all turn from God to do the will of Hatred. But where does that bring us?

This month we celebrate the saints, both living and dead. We remember those whose faith shown bright, even in the darkness of night. We cry when innocent lives are lost, even if we don't agree with what their faith looks like. We take the mantle given to us by those who have gone before, to make this a better world; a world where love is louder than hate.

*We thank you, O God, for all your servants and witnesses of times past: for Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Deborah and Gideon, Samuel and Hannah; for Isaiah and the prophets; for Mary, mother of our Lord; for Mary Magdalene, Peter, Paul, and for all the apostles, for Stephen and Phoebe, and for all the martyrs and saints in every time and in every land. In your mercy, give us, as you gave them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord **Amen.***

Pastor Sara