



### **Do Christians celebrate Sukkot?**

It's probably a good idea to start out by defining what Sukkot is. Sukkot is the Hebrew word for "booths" (also called "tabernacles," today we'd call them "tents.") It is one of the "Big Three" festivals God commanded the Israelites to celebrate each year. (The other two being Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost).

Sukkot is a week-long celebration during which the Israelites were instructed to live in booths. Living in booths was to serve as a reminder of how God miraculously provided for them while they lived in booths during the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness after leaving Egypt.

Sukkot is also referred to as the Festival of Ingathering, because it was celebrated after "after you have gathered the crops of the land" (Leviticus 23:39). The celebration begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month in the Hebrew calendar, which ends up being late September/early October in our year. It was to be a joy-filled week of thanksgiving to God for providing the harvest that had just been gathered. You can read more details in Exodus 23, Leviticus 23, Numbers 29 and Deuteronomy 16.

My answer to the initial question was this, "I don't know of any Christians who celebrate Sukkot, but there is no reason why we couldn't. In fact, I think it is a great idea."

Here's why it's a great idea: Do we have a harvest of crops to give thanks to God for each year? Of course, we do! Has God protected and provided for us as we've wandered through the "wilderness of life?" Of course, He has - sometimes in miraculous ways just as He did those forty years of wanderings for the Israelites!

As a matter of fact, I would suggest that our Thanksgiving Day is a Feast of Ingathering, a day we set aside to joyfully give thanks for the harvest - and for God's protection of us as we wandered through the "wilderness" of life during the past year. It's not "Sukkot," but I'd invite you to take time to celebrate this year's harvest and give thanks for all God has done for us by joining us for worship on Thanksgiving Eve.

Thanks for asking,  
Pastor David

**Send your questions to [pastor@livingwordlutheran.net](mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net)**