



# ALL SAINTS

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

January 2026

## JANUARY COMMUNITY

Winter is a wonderful time to come together in community and to find enjoyment and tranquility—perhaps indoors more than in other seasons.

January has begun with the extended season of Christmas. We've heard "the rest of the story" about Mary and Joseph's need to flee Herod. And in John's account of Christmas the "light of the world" carries us into the Season of Epiphany which is a time of revelation or enlightenment about the nature of Jesus and his mission.

During the remainder of January, you'll find opportunities for serving, learning and gathering in community.

Join us for a night of packing meals at Feed My Starving Children on Wednesday, January 7 at 7pm. Meals are often packed and shipped to

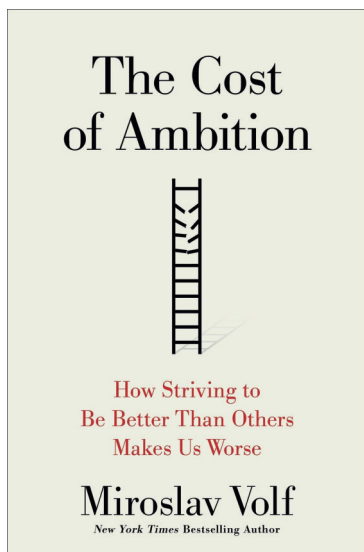
countries in need, and occasionally to regions in the US suffering from disasters. It's a fun and easy way to be part of helping neighbors near or far in need.

I'll be leading a new adult study series beginning January 18, called "The Cost of Ambition," based on a book by Miroslav Volf. This is not a study that glorifies laziness or under-performance! But, it's about finding a true sense of satisfaction and identity apart from achievement and status, and striving for excellence for its own reward. Reading the book is optional. Following in the footsteps of last year's study on the practice of sabbath, the winter is a nice time to do more personal, spiritual reflection. But this exploration of ambition and how Christian faith teaches us to strive for the common good, has implications that extend beyond ourselves to how we can help create relationships and communities that foster and spread joy and peace. It's a nice complement to our focus on wellness and has particular implications for our spiritual, social and financial wellbeing.

All Saints is hosting a speaker on January 22 in honor of the Grant Merritt Environment Series, which is a collaboration with Three Rivers Parks. Thanks to Jeff Olson for his coordination of the series and for including All Saints.

You can find more information about these and other events in this newsletter and in the coming weeks in our e-news.

*Be well,  
Pastor Jon*



## JANUARY EVENTS

- 4th Kids Connection Resumes, 10am
- 7th FMSC Volunteer Night, 7-8:30pm
- 11th Camp Sunday, 10am
- 11th Creation Care Group Meeting, 11:15am-12:15pm
- 18th Adult Study: The Cost of Ambition, 11am
- 22nd Grant Merritt Environment Series, 7pm
- 25th Adult Study: The Cost of Ambition, 11am

For up to date info, visit  
[AllSaintsMtka.org/events](http://AllSaintsMtka.org/events).

## NEW ADULT STUDY SERIES

**Starts Sunday, January 18**

Striving for excellence is good. But, in a world of hyper-competition over just about everything including acclaim, wealth and status, how do we find meaning and value in ourselves in a way that is healthy and life-giving? And how does our own focus impact not just our own lives but those around us? Drawing from New York Times Bestselling author Miroslav Volf, we'll consider this award-winning book "The Cost of Ambition," which invites us to reflect on faith, where we find true satisfaction, and what a healthier outlook might mean for us and our society.

Reading the book is optional. Purchasing a copy for yourself is recommended if you would like to receive it by the start of the class. During the series, we'll also use excerpts from the devotional "For Such a Time as This" by Hanna Reichel to provide additional perspective.

We'll meet down a floor in the Lounge following worship for five weeks. Register for the study at: [subspla.sh/tz27jj8](http://subspla.sh/tz27jj8).



## FMSC VOLUNTEER NIGHT ON JANUARY 7

Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and undernutrition. Hunger is still causing nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. From this data, we estimate at least 6,200 children die each day from causes related to undernutrition. This is heartbreaking. Feed My Starving Children has sent food to over 110 countries with one goal in mind, to reach everyone until ALL are fed. They rely on volunteers and donors to get food to people who need it most!

All Saints is gathering together to pack at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen on **Wednesday, January 7 from 7-8:45 pm.**

Whether you are young or old or somewhere in between, we would love for you to join us for the packing session. Feed My Starving Children requires kids to be at least 5 years old to volunteer. If you would like to join our packing session, you can do so by contacting the church office and letting them know you would like to be added to our group.

## CREATION CARE GROUP INVITATION

Would you like to meet monthly to discuss, learn, do action items, share ideas, and get support for your endeavors to Care for Creation: Our Planet and People? Join the Creation Care Group on Sunday, January 11 from 11:15-12:15 in the lounge, to help plan the next year. If you have any questions, talk to Eileen Anderson. Please join us. Let's shine our light & love in God's magnificent creation.

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