

January 2026

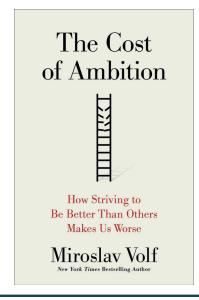
JANUARY COMMUNITY

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 <u>AllSaintsMtka.org/events</u>.

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: <u>subspla.sh/tz27jj8</u>.



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!

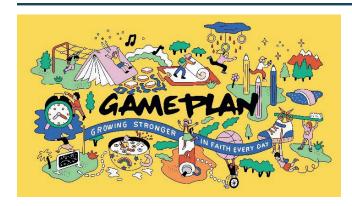
All Saints is gathering together to pack at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen on

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.



KIDS CONNECTION: GAMEPLAN

Growing Stronger in Faith Every Day

When it comes sports, music or other talents everyone knows that all you have to do to get better is put some time in practicing. However, did you know that we can do the same thing with our faith; they are called faith practices. All month long, we will be talking about how we can make our faith stronger by using faith practices like praying, reading our bible, and learning in community with other people of faith. When Jesus was on Earth, he gave us all the tools we need to grow in our faith. At Kids Connection, we will look toward Jesus' examples and learn how to grow in our faith together.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS JANAURY WELLNESS FOCUS

It's a new year and another opportunity to take stock of our financial health. Calculating net worth, making a few different budgeting decisions, or spending dedicated time to discuss money matters with a trusted person can all be steps in good financial wellness. Follow the weekly social media posts for more ideas or check out the Financial Wellness page: AllSaintsMtka.org/financial-wellness.

CAMP SUNDAY ON JANUARY 11

Summer camp allows kids to create core memories that will shape them in their future. They will make friends, do fun activities, and learn how God is at work in their lives. If your child would like to experience a week at camp they will never forget, now is your time to sign them up for Water's Edge Ministries.

Camp Sunday is your time to come and discover what camp is all about, ask questions, and get help with the registration process.

All Saints and Water's Edge Ministries would like as many kids to go to camp as possible regardless of finances, that is why All Saints would like to offer a huge discount that almost cuts the cost of camp in half for the first several kids to register for camp. Register before February 19 for \$65 off on top of the All Saints discount, for a total of \$325 off for a full week and \$175 for half blast. If you are ready to register, talk to Chelsea about how to apply the discount!

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY

The Adult Study continues to meet on Sundays through the 15th. Keep an eye on the weekly E-News for more events.

PEACE MOMENT

We are the Peace.
We are the Love.
We are the Joy,
Because we're connected to God.
Shine Bright.
You are needed.

— E. Anderson

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