



# ALL SAINTS

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

October 2025

## PUBLIC FAITH

In this fall's adult study (A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good), Miroslav Volf speaks positively about the role of "thick" versions of faith in the world today. For Christians, "thick" means deep engagement with the center of our Christian faith. That center is Jesus who took on flesh and was willing to be a servant, and even suffer, so that we might see the true face of God's love and grace for each of us and all of humanity.

Sadly, we see destructive examples of religiosity today. Some embrace the name "Christian" without engaging the actual heart of Christian faith. In fact, far from simply missing the mark, they reject the spirit and the heart of who Jesus was. One quite prominent and influential pastor in Idaho with 150 associated churches across the US and 500 associated schools, is seeking to establish a theocratic town and nation. He recently stated, "Christians must learn to hate again. This is not the time for love and peace."

Another "prophet" in a movement that has a stated desire to establish a Christian theocracy in the United States and around the world, has written about a "new breed of Christians" and described how "churches will start being thought of more as military bases than congregations." His words and the words of others in the movement reflect not just spiritual warfare, but an increasing belief that the spiritual must now become real world physical confrontation and action.

These voices seem so extreme that our tendency is to dismiss them as having no standing and not worth our concern. And yet, these voices have high-level support. While

some may broadly welcome a return to "Biblical values" or a greater place for faith in society, it's important to note that these visions and plans diverge so significantly from the teachings of Jesus that they would accomplish the very opposite.

So much of this is driven by deep spiritual and cultural fears. Because of this, many look to faith and God as a source of power over what they view as threatening forces. And yet, Jesus seeks to develop a different kind of world and society, based on relationships rooted in love, not condemnation and judgment. Jesus invites us into a life of service and even sacrifice for the sake of the neighbor. Jesus encourages us: "Do not be afraid."

Our Christian tradition acknowledges the need for civic laws and good order. While our Christian faith welcomes conversation about right and wrong, sin and forgiveness, and justice and peace, what we see in the face of Jesus is once again God's overwhelming love and grace, even for the enemy. Jesus is the center of our faith, and to depart from this means we depart from the Spirit of it altogether and adopt something else.

In times of relative peace and comfort, often the beliefs at the heart of our faith seem less important and relevant. But, it's often in times of great divergence, when we are called back to reaffirm these foundational teachings.

Miroslav Volf states that it's important for those who embrace the heart of Christian faith to give voice to it respectfully in public life.

*Continued on next page.*

## OCTOBER EVENTS

1st	Community Meal, 6pm
1st	Midweek Prayer, 7pm
5th	Adult Study: Public Faith for Troubled Times, 11am
5th	Kids Choir Rehearsals Begin, 11am
12th	Adult Study: Public Faith for Troubled Times, 11am
14th	Dads Group, 7pm
19th	Adult Study: Public Faith for Troubled Times, 11am
25th	Trunk or Treat, 2-4pm
26th	Moms Group, 11am

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

## PUBLIC FAITH

*Continued from front page*

He writes, "To speak in a Christian voice is to speak out of these two fundamental convictions: that God loves all people, including the transgressors, and that religious identity is circumscribed by permeable boundaries." In other words, on the second point, we need to be clear about the heart of our faith, while not erecting impassible walls and cutting off conversation and relationships with those who disagree. This is our mission—to be a voice for God's love and grace among all people, and to work toward the flourishing of others, even those who don't see it in the same way.

I'm grateful to be serving as your pastor and for this meaningful moment for each of us to be witnesses to the love and peace offered in Christ. This is not only a spiritual peace but a peace that can bring real-world healing and hope in these difficult times.

*Be well,  
Pastor Jon*

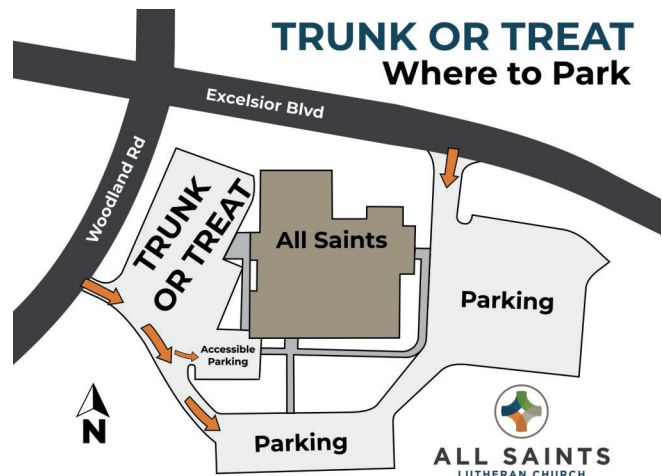


## TRUNK OR TREAT

**Saturday, October 25 • 2-4pm**

Join us in our west parking lot for this free family-friendly Halloween event! Kids get to go trick-or-treat around our parking lot by visiting each of the decorated cars. After visiting the cars, kids can grab a cup of hot chocolate, enjoy yard games, get an airbrush tattoo, or play Halloween bingo. Trunk or Treat is open to all families, so invite neighbors, friends, and relatives. Costumes are encouraged.

In order to make Trunk or Treat successful, we need volunteers who are willing to host a trunk. Decorate your trunk and hand out candy to the kids that come! If you would like to volunteer your trunk, or a different volunteer role, contact Chelsea at [cmaher@allsaintsmtka.org](mailto:cmaher@allsaintsmtka.org).





## TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

New Sermon Series

Grace opens up new possibilities and allows us to breathe again and flourish individually and collectively. God's grace takes many forms in scripture and can be experienced by people of faith in many ways, including through forgiveness, healing, justice and freedom. Grace offers the possibility of a radical transformation of the most impossible situations. Are you open to God's grace transforming your life and our world?



## INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS

OCTOBER WELLNESS FOCUS

Intellectual wellness is a key component of overall wellness, emphasizing the importance of engaging the mind in stimulating activities. This month, watch for wellness Wednesday posts that explore keeping our mind active whether it be hobbies, a connection to community, or formal learning. Check out the Intellectual Wellness page for more information.

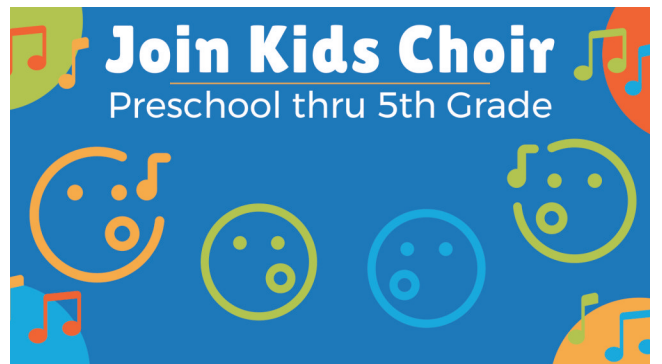


## KIDS CONNECTION: WISDOMLAND

### God Can Help You Make the Wise Choice

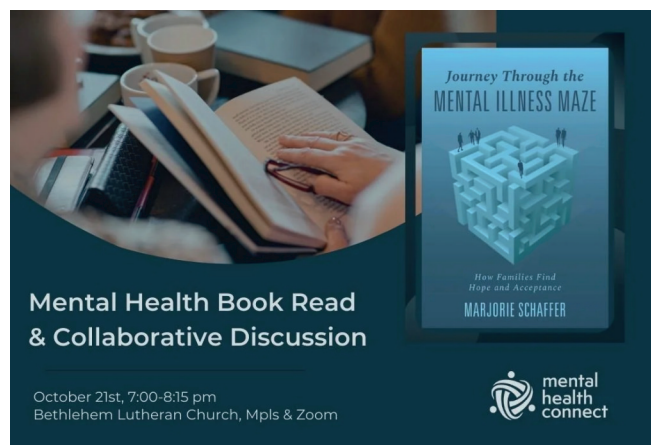
Just like a rollercoaster, life has its ups and its downs. We might be faced with choices where we are unsure of the best choice. However, we can turn to God to help us be wise in our choices. All month long in Kids Connection, we will hear about people in the Bible who had to make hard choices and call upon God to make the wise choice.

Kids Connection is at its most successful when we have volunteers committed to making Sunday mornings a memorable experience for the kids. If you are interested in volunteering for Kids Connection there is a volunteer training on Sunday, October 5. Contact Chelsea for more details on how to volunteer with family ministry.



## KIDS CHOIR BEGINS

Kids Choir rehearsals start on Sunday, October 5, with rehearsals on Sundays immediately after Kids Connection. The kids will sing for the All Saints Sunday service on November 2. If your child is interested, reach out to Meg or fill out the online form.



## MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT BOOK CLUB

October 21, 7:00-8:15 pm | In-person at Bethlehem and on Zoom

All Saints member Marge Schaffer is leading the first book discussion for Mental Health Connect. *Journey Through the Mental Illness Maze: How Families Find Hope and Acceptance* guides families in their search for answers to help their loved one find stability and well-being while living with a mental health condition. The stories of parents, partners, siblings, and adult children highlight strategies for navigating a pathway through the complex and confusing world of mental health and treatment. Readers will learn how to balance their own self-care with sustaining compassion for a loved one living with a mental health condition. This book combines the wisdom of family members with the knowledge of experts to derive key actions for finding hope and acceptance.

The book is available on Amazon in print or e-book. Marge has several copies available for sale at \$10. Reach out to her or the All Saints church office. The purpose of the book club is to discuss books related to mental health and well-being. Find the description on the MHC events webpage.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

The Thanksgiving Eve Service and Pie Fest is at 7pm on Wednesday, November 26. Keep an eye on the weekly E-News for more upcoming events.

## PEACE MOMENT

"Dear God,  
As I wake up this morning,  
may Your spirit come upon me.  
May my mind receive Your emanations,  
my soul receive Your blessing, and my heart  
receive Your love.  
May all those I meet  
or even think of on this day  
feel better for it.  
May I contribute peace.  
May I serve Your purposes  
with all I say and do,  
today and always.  
Please show me how.  
Amen"

— Marianne Williamson

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