



# ALL SAINTS

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

**September 2025**

## BUILD COMMUNITY THIS FALL

Join us as we kick off the fall on September 7, with serving project opportunities following worship along with ways to get involved in groups and ministries. This is part of an ELCA churchwide emphasis called God's Work, Our Hands.

Find out more information about: Family Ministry, Knitting, Quilting and Crafting group, All Saints Advocates for Peace, Mental Health Connect, and Music Ministry, among others.

We know how important it is to build relationships for our personal health and the health of our community. All Saints remains committed to providing a welcoming place for our neighbors and members to gather, to grow in faith, and to serve our community and world.

This fall, I'll be leading another adult study starting September 21 entitled "Public Faith for Troubled Times." You can get the details in this newsletter, but I would like to personally invite you to participate. Meet others, share in conversation and reflect on how to live your faith more deeply and dynamically.

We're always grateful for our building, but we know that the Church is ultimately not a building, but the gathered people of faith. Over the last year we have seen increasing attendance and new participation. Your engagement always adds energy and helps make God's presence real in the lives of others. So, thank you for all you do to support and build this ministry!

*Be well,  
Pastor Jon*

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 3rd  | Saints Chorale Rehearsals Begin, 7:15pm            |
| 7th  | Kids Connections Begins, 10am                      |
| 7th  | Kickoff Fair, 11am                                 |
| 7th  | Service Trip Inquiry Meeting, 11am                 |
| 7th  | Sunday Volunteer Tour, 11:15am                     |
| 10th | Carillon Choir Rehearsals Begin, 6pm               |
| 14th | New Member Class, 11am                             |
| 14th | Crossroads Confirmation Orientation, 11am          |
| 17th | Crossroads Confirmation Begins, 7pm                |
| 21st | Adult Study: Public Faith for Troubled Times, 11am |
| 21st | Family Meet-Up: Staring Lake Park, 12pm            |
| 27th | Neighborhood Fall Fest, 10am-12pm                  |
| 28th | Adult Study: Public Faith for Troubled Times, 11am |

More info at [AllSaintsMtka.org/events](https://AllSaintsMtka.org/events).



It's a can't miss fall at All Saints! It begins on Kickoff Sunday, September 7, with Kids Connection starting up, special music during worship, and the Kickoff Fair afterwards.

### **Kids Connection Begins**

We are On the Move as Kids Connection begins! Kids Connection is our Sunday morning programming for children age 3 through 5th grade that runs from September through May. Kids begin in the service with their families before heading downstairs after the Kids Message. Find out more and register here.

### **Special Music**

All Saints has a strong music tradition that we continue to build this fall! Music for Kickoff Sunday is led by the Saints Chorale, with special guests Beth Young on guitar and Hilary Hempel on violin. Then the next Sunday, September 14, we welcome back musical duo Fiddlefarkenfoe.

### **Kickoff Fair**

The Kickoff Fair is the perfect way to build meaningful connection and find your unique purpose! Explore our different groups and serving opportunities. Meet others with the same interests as you and learn how you can get engaged this year. Groups include:

- Family Ministry
- Music Ministry
- All Saints Preschool & Child Care
- Knitting, Quilting and Crafting Group
- All Saints Advocates for Peace
- Mental Health Connect

### **All Ages Service Trip Inquiry Meeting**

Join Chelsea in the lounge shortly after the service to learn more about the Summer 2026 All Ages Service Trip and ask your questions about logistics such as pricing, lodging, service sites, and more.

### **Sunday Serving Tour**

Join us 15 minutes after the service for a short tour around the sanctuary touching on each volunteer role (usher, reader, worship assistant, tech team, and worship support team). Current volunteers are encouraged to join us in order to stay up to date with current procedures.

### **It Doesn't Stop at Kickoff Sunday**

Exciting things continue to happen beyond Kickoff Sunday! Some highlights include:

- Music programming for adults and kids begins. It's not too late to sign up!
- Crossroads confirmation begins with an orientation on September 14.
- There is a New Member Class on September 14.
- The fall adult study, "Public Faith for Troubled Times," begins September 21.

See the rest of this newsletter and keep an eye on the E-News for all of the great things happening this fall and how you can be a part of them.



## NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FEST

**Saturday, September 27 • 10am–Noon**

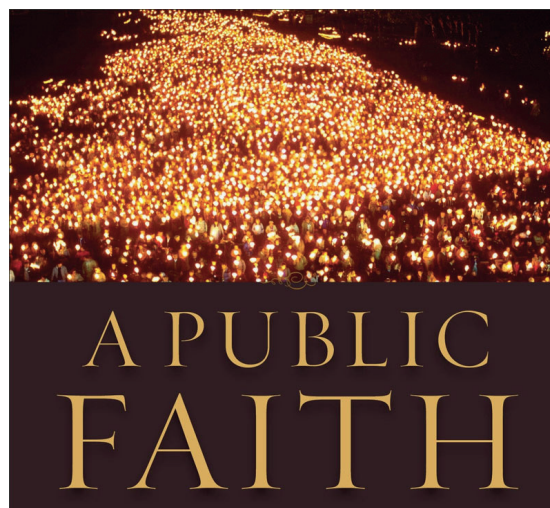
Join us for our sixth annual Fall Fest! There will be some returning favorite activities, including an inflatable obstacle course, yard games, and airbrush tattoos. However, there will also be new activities for families to enjoy this year. See the Baron of Bubbles work his magic with incredible bubble creations, taste delicious fall treats such as caramel apples, popcorn and apple cider, take a cozy photo in our fall photo booth, or go head to head with the ultimate reflex challenge game: Light Chaser.

At Fall Fest, we welcome families from all over our community. This is our first interaction with many of these families. We want to provide a welcoming and safe event for all who come. In order to do that, we need people who are willing to volunteer in various roles such as set-up and clean-up, welcoming teams, inflatable attendants, airbrush tattoo artist and assistants, game supervisors, food prep, and servers. If you are able to volunteer for fall fest, sign up in the binder on the welcome desk or talk to Chelsea about how you can get involved.

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

**September 14 • 11am**

If you're interested in becoming a member, you're invited to join us for a new member class on September 14 after the service. Fill out a New Member Information Form on the website ([AllSaintsMtka.org/membership](http://AllSaintsMtka.org/membership)) if you are interested. Reach out to Pastor Jon with any questions.



## FALL ADULT STUDY

### PUBLIC FAITH FOR TROUBLED TIMES

A five-week study following worship beginning Sept. 21

As people of faith we are moved to work for the common good, not only on a personal level, but also in the public sphere. And yet, history and current realities show us the many pitfalls and challenges of doing so. At a time when a growing number vocally support theocracy while others want nothing to do with religion personally, let alone societally, how can we as Christians serve faithfully in a way that witnesses to a loving and gracious God? Make new connections and share in the conversation around this important topic.

#### **Week 1 – September 21**

Fear, the Public Sphere and Malfunctions of Faith

#### **Week 2 – September 28**

Idleness vs. Coerciveness

#### **Week 3 – October 5**

Human Flourishing, Identity and Difference

#### **Week 4 – October 12**

Sharing Wisdom and Public Engagement

#### **Week 5 – October 19**

God's Mission in the World

Each session will feature brief video segments, and reflection and discussion on key passages from the book *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good* by Miroslav Volf. Reading the book is optional. Register on the website and receive a complimentary copy!





## WHAT IS OLD IS NEW AGAIN

### New Fall Sermon Series

Sometimes what seems lost to history comes back around. Trends, movements or styles are long gone, until they're back again. Christians focus most of our attention on the teachings of the New Testament, but during this series we'll recall some important stories and lessons from the Old Testament that are worth reclaiming as a resource for understanding our human story and the way forward.



## FAMILY MEET-UP: STARING LAKE PARK

Sunday, September 21 • Noon

Meet with other families for a park and picnic day after church on September 21 at Staring Lake Park. Families can connect over a picnic lunch. After lunch, kids can burn their energy on the imaginative play equipment for all ages. Stay for as long as you would like, all are welcome. If you would like to participate in family meet ups or have an idea for a future meet up, contact Chelsea.

## Fall Music Opportunities!

Carillon Choir – Wednesdays at 6pm  
Saints Chorale – Wednesdays at 7:15pm



## JOIN THE MUSIC PROGRAM

It's not too late to join! Help lead and enliven Sunday worship. Saints Chorale (vocal choir) rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:15pm and begin September 3rd. Carillon Choir (handbell choir) rehearses Wednesdays at 6pm and begins on September 10th.

Kids choir rehearsals are on Sundays after the service. They will begin on October 5 and the kids will have their first performance on All Saints Sunday, November 2. Parents can let Meg know of their child's interest by completing the interest form at [bit.ly/ASLCKidschoir](https://bit.ly/ASLCKidschoir).

## ALL SAINTS FOUNDATION

All Saints Foundation received a grant request from Mental Health Connect/Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities. Mental Health Connect provides education and support to improve access to mental health services and to reduce the stigma associated with it. They requested \$3,000 to provide ten education events between September 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026. The events will occur monthly featuring speakers, authors, and educators to speak to the members of the Mental Health Connect and the surrounding community. Their hope is that the community members, clergy, lay leaders, and attendees will bring back the knowledge to their home congregations and neighborhoods.

All Saints Foundation approved the grant at the July 24, 2025 meeting.

All Saints Lutheran Church is a member of Mental Health Connect. Our congregation will be invited to attend the events. Look for upcoming event below and more information in the weekly E-news and Sunday announcements.



## KIDS CONNECTION: ON THE MOVE

## Brave the Unknown with God

We all have times in our lives where we face uncertainty or fear. When we experience these moments, we learn that we are not alone and God will walk those moments with us. All September long we will learn about people in the Bible who had courage in times of uncertainty or fear. Courage is being brave enough to do hard things. Just like the people in the Bible had courage, we can have courage too knowing God is with us every step of the way.

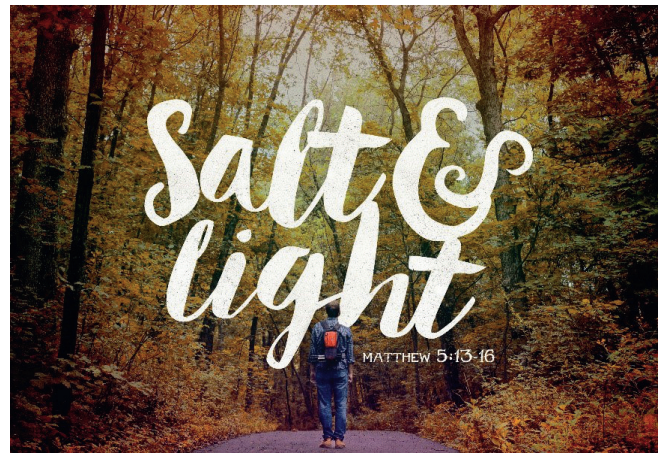
We will kick off the Kids Connection year on September 7. Registration is open now. Visitors are always welcome to join us any given Sunday. Find the volunteer at the check-in station to get started.

Kids Connection 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.



# All Saints Lutheran Church

Available in App Stores



## CROSSROADS: SALT & LIGHT

Several times in the Bible, we are told to be the Salt of the Earth and Light to the World, but what does that really look like? This year at Crossroads we will learn not only about the importance of our faith while at church or on Sundays, but we will learn about what faith looks like in the world. By the end of the year, youth should have a clearer understanding of what it looks like to be the salt of the earth and light to the world in their community, at school and in our world.

Crossroad is a confirmation program open to any youth in grades 6th-8th. Not only will youth have the chance to explore their personal beliefs, they are given a safe space to make connection and ask questions. If you have a youth that would like to join Crossroads, you can register [here](#). There is an orientation for new crossroads youth and parents on Sunday, September 14. The first day of Crossroads is on Wednesday, September 17.







### MENTAL HEALTH CONNECT EVENTS

Mental Health Connect has a variety of events this fall that you are invited to participate in. Note that some events require registration. Find more information about all of these events at [www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc](http://www.mhconnect.org/find-mhc)

#### **What You Need to Know about BIPOC Mental Health Today**

Tuesday, September 9 • 7-8:30pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

#### **NAMIWalks**

Saturday, September 27 • 11am-3pm

Minnehaha Park

Join Mental Health Connect collaborative faith communities and friends for an afternoon of fellowship and activity to support mental health awareness.

#### **SCREENAGERS with Dinner & Discussion**

Tuesday, September 30 • 6-8pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Free Event - film screening for K-7 and parents.

#### **No One Recovers Alone: Strengthening Family Engagement**

Thursday, October 9 • 11:30am-1pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lunch provided. Presented by Sue Abderholden, Executive Director of NAMI-MN.

#### **safeTALK Suicide Prevention Class**

Saturday, October 11 • 9am-1pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Cost covered by a grant. This four-hour class is for members of the community over the age of 16 who want to learn and practice the basic best practices in suicide prevention.

#### **Adolescent Substance Use and the Role of Caring Others**

Tuesday, October 14 • 7-8pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Also available on Zoom.

#### **Connect the Dots**

Tuesday, October 15 • 9:30am-12:15pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

MHC clergy, ambassadors, navigators, staff, and teams gather for information, education, insights, resources.



### SPIRITUAL WELLNESS SEPTEMBER WELLNESS FOCUS

September is the time when families get back into the school and fall rhythm. Perhaps this year that can also include faith nurturing. Nurturing our faith can come in lots of different ways: worship, education, journaling, and yoga. Our weekly social media posts and Spiritual Wellness page have ideas for you in September!

## INTELLECTUAL WELLNESS OPPORTUNITY – OLLI

From the University of Minnesota College of Continuing and Professional Studies, Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning (OLLI)'s vibrant learning community for people aged 50+ is host to hundreds of high-quality noncredit courses each year—offered both in person and online—as well as intellectually stimulating social, cultural, and volunteer opportunities. As for OLLI members, they are active, engaged, and ever-curious! OLLI has a fall membership special for new members for \$79. Most courses are free with membership. Check out their website for the catalogue of fall courses: [ccaps.umn.edu/olli](https://ccaps.umn.edu/olli)

## LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

Our ever-popular Trunk or Treat is from 2-4pm on Saturday, October 25. Keep an eye on the weekly E-News for more upcoming events.

## MINNETONKA LIGHTHOUSE TEAM PUBLIC MEETING

**Legislators of Minnetonka: Protect Safety Net Programs Despite Federal Cuts**

Thursday, September 11, 2025 • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM • St. David's Episcopal Church

Join Minnetonka neighbors, faith communities, nonprofits, and local leaders for a discussion with MN State Legislators about how we can protect essential public safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP food assistance even in light of recent federal budget cuts. We know our communities are strongest when we look out for one another so we want to partner with our elected leaders to keep offering critical food and health benefits to everyone who needs them.

This event is hosted by ISAIAH and the Minnetonka Lighthouse Team, a group of local churches and synagogues who have come together in response to ongoing threats to civil rights and safety net programs. Please reach out to [bwhalen@isaiahmn.org](mailto:bwhalen@isaiahmn.org) if you are interested in joining the effort or learning more.

Register at [secure.everyaction.com/Y1Aw8NkE70uk6L7tbvHyAg2](https://secure.everyaction.com/Y1Aw8NkE70uk6L7tbvHyAg2)

## PEACE MOMENT

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.  
All things break. And all things can be mended.  
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.  
So go.  
Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.  
The broken world awaits in darkness for the light that is you.  
Be at peace."

— L. R. Knost

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