



# ALL SAINTS

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

May 2026

## THE ROAD OF REALISTIC HOPE

As part of our current sermon series, we recently recalled the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, who were distraught over the events of Good Friday, not yet understanding or fully processing the implications and hope of the resurrection.

The Road to Emmaus is a captivating story because we can picture ourselves on that road. We're not on that very road, of course, but we are all on a walk through the events of our own life and times. There are plenty of events in our own day, not to mention our own personal lives, that may cause us to become troubled and weighed down.

I've been studying and reflecting on the lives of some people of faith recently like Reinhold Niebuhr, who was a well-known public Christian and theologian over many decades of the 20th Century. You don't need to understand him other than the fact that he experienced a number of different turns in the road as he encountered the world and came to terms with what his faith meant in that moment. He was often starkly honest about human events, people and groups, while seeking to find hope amidst those realities.

One of the biggest turns in our road at this point in history, perhaps regardless of beliefs, is the renewed sense that history is not a guaranteed path of progress and optimism. There are less noble human patterns that are always ready to reemerge and take over if we allow them. Living faithfully requires us to see all

of this quite clearly, without letting go of hope. It's much simpler to be a blind optimist or an all-out pessimist. And yet, as one author puts it, "The trouble with realism is that it's so unrealistic." In other words, it can easily miss the hope and goodness that is also ever-present.

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## MAY EVENTS

- 3rd Annual Congregational Meeting, 11am
- 3rd Caring for Creation Garden Cleanup, 12pm
- 8th Parents Night Out, 5:30-8:30pm
- 17th Confirmation, in worship service
- 17th Dads Group, 11am
- 19th Moms Group, 7pm
- 24th Pentecost Service, 10am
- 24th Caring for Creation Meeting, 11am
- 31st Last Sunday of Kids Connection, 10am

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

## THE ROAD OF REALISTIC HOPE

*Continued from front*

Theologian Philip Cary said of Martin Luther, our church's namesake, "the deepest problems in Luther's theology... arise when his hope fails... Hope opens us to the possibility that our opponents are not enemies but potential friends who have good things to give us."

Our current sermon series "Restored" is an exploration of what hope and new life looks like after reality hits. The resurrection doesn't undo the death of Jesus. It's about the new life made possible coming out of that. Our purpose as people of faith and as a church in our neighborhood and corner of the world, is to always be in touch with reality, while looking for where God is at work in the midst of it. We are invited to participate in the ways that God is making all things new for us and our neighbors, celebrating it and sharing the good news of God's continued love.

This month, we celebrate the start of Pastor Jennifer Schneider's ministry at All Saints on May 3, Mother's Day on May 10, the confirmation of some of our young people on May 17, and Pentecost on May 24. It's good to be the Church in this time and place.

The most moving and critical part of the Road to Emmaus story is how the disciples have the support of each other, and an unexpected stranger who joins them along the way. Our own journeys are filled with greater meaning and joy when we are together. So, I hope you will join us this month and in the coming months as we continue on the way.

*Be well,  
Pastor Jon*



**PARENTS NIGHT OUT**  
Friday, May 8  
5:30pm - 8:30pm  
Register by May 6!

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT

May 8 • 5:30-8:30 pm

Looking for something to do with the kids on a Friday Night? Why not drop them off at All Saints while you have a date night, run errands, go out with friends, or have a quiet night at home. At Parent's Night Out, kids will play games, do crafts, play outside, have snacks, and watch a movie. It is open to kids who are age 2 (and potty trained) to 5th grade. Click here to register for Parents Night Out.

Parents Night Out is a fundraiser that goes to support families going on our All Ages Service Trip in July.

**PARENT GROUPS**

## PARENT GROUPS

Every month, moms and dads meet to talk about faith and life, and build relationships with other parents. This month, the Dads Group is meeting on May 31 after the service. The Moms Group is meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at 7 pm. New moms and dads are always welcome to join any given month.



## KIDS CONNECTION: TREK

**Don't Stop, Don't Give Up. God's With You**

Some people think when you have faith, nothing bad will happen to you. However, this is not the case. When we have that mindset and something bad does happen to us, we blame God and think he caused it. Nevertheless, faith can help give you hope and perseverance when something bad does happen. This month at Kids Connection, we will hear stories about people in the Bible who were going through some tough times AND showed us how we can have faith and perseverance during those hard times! The last day of Kids Connection for this school year is May 31. Be on the lookout for family events throughout the summer!

## DAY CAMP REGISTRATION

**June 15-18 • 9am-2pm**

Every year, we see kids come to day camp unsure about how the week is going to go. A lot of times it is their first experience away from home besides school or first exposure to faith. Year after year we see those same apprehensive kids with big smiles on their faces Thursday afternoon not wanting the camp week to be over. Camp Staff come to us from Water's Edge Ministries to lead kids in an unforgettable week filled with songs, games, crafts, and Bible Stories where God is found around the water. Whether it is your first experience with day camp or you keep coming back, it is not too late to sign up for day camp this June. Registration is open until the end of the month, so reserve your spot for an unforgettable week before it is too late. Day camp is open to age 3 and potty trained to 5th grade. Register to reserve your spot today! Go to [AllSaintsMtka.org/daycamp](https://AllSaintsMtka.org/daycamp)

## CARING FOR CREATION

### HELP PLANT TREES

Let's plant some trees. The Caring for Creation Group will be helping to plant 40 trees in Carpenter Park in St Louis Park as part of their Arbor Day Celebration. May 14 from 5-8pm. Please join us. Register here. This event is sponsored by Tree Trust, an organization which has been transforming lives and landscapes for 50 years. Address is 4900 Hwy 7, St Louis Park, 55416. Jeff and Sue Olson will be there to help and cheer on all the arborists.

### CARE FOR OUR PROPERTY

Spring has Sprung! The Caring for Creation group is planning to do some weeding and planting around the church property. The first date is this Sunday following the Annual Meeting, weather permitting. Please join us and bring gardening gloves, spades, rakes, pruning tools, and yard waste bags. Watch the e-news for other dates and times in May. We would love your green thumbs joining ours.

### MINNETONKA'S REPAIR DEPOT

Did you know that Minnetonka has a Repair Depot? You can bring up to 2 items on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 1-4pm. Save your items from the trash, like, broken appliances to favorite clothing, lamps, etc. Go to the senior center inside the Minnetonka Community Center.





## PHYSICAL WELLNESS

### MAY WELLNESS FOCUS

As the weather gets warmer and more consistent, it's time for more outside time and potentially the increase in physical activity. Our wellness focus for May is Physical Wellness. What are some ideas that you have for maintaining or improving your physical wellness? Here's to you and what you already do and what you are looking forward to doing for your physical well-being this spring and summer!

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE

Pastor Jennifer's installation will happen during the service on June 7, and you are invited to be part of the open choir that morning. Day Camp is June 15-18, so sign up today! Stay up to date on everything happening with the weekly E-News.

## PEACE MOMENT

### MOTHER'S DAY AS A DAY OF PEACE

In the 1800's, Julia Ward Howe, original advocate for Mother's Day and writer of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," nursed and tended the wounded during the Civil War. She worked with widows and orphans of soldiers on both sides of the war, and realized that the effects of war go beyond the killing of soldiers in battle.

The horror she witnessed called her to "rise up through the ashes and devastation," calling out for a day dedicated to peace—Mother's Day.



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