



# January 2026 Newsletter

Encouraging Minnesota Seniors to pray, serve and be a light to this generation



**A Note from the Director** While most people say, "Happy New Year" we would like to wish each of you a "Blessed" New Year. The Advent season has reminded us of HOPE (anticipation of His coming) – JOY – PEACE – and LOVE. These themes have heralded the Christmas season, but we would like to extend these sentiments on to you and your families for 2026. We wish to thank Jim Olson, one of our 2nd Half leadership team members for assuming the role of editor of our newsletters. This is his first! We continue to plan exciting events in 2026 - Spring Luncheon, March 28 – Camp luncheon during Family Camp - Fall Camp Meeting, September 10-12 – The National Senior's Conference Tour in Branson, September 25 – 30. We are also working on other possible short bus tours. Our future newsletters will outline all of this for you. Hope to see you soon! Bruce & Yvonne Talso

## Safe and Healthy

How do we stay safe and healthy in 2026? Our well-being, spiritually, emotionally, physically and financially are dependent on actions we take today.

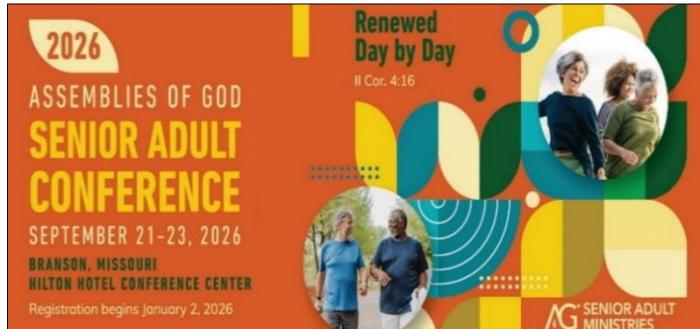
We do not want to be victims of online scams. There are many ways that scammers get our info and use it against us. All of us receive emails, texts and phone calls from criminals' intent on getting our money.

Almost every Americans info is on the dark web in some form or another. The task for us to remove this information is almost impossible.

We need a service that can work for us and removed the information that scammers use. Aura is a service that can be used to scour the dark web and erase our stolen information.

Aura is a paid monthly service. It may be worth your while to investigate Aura's services.

Go directly to Aura website, <https://www.aura.com/> for more information. In today's world we cannot be too careful.



For more info, visit our website <https://mnaog.org/2ndhalf/> or Facebook page, Minnesota AG Second Half Ministries



## Mark your Calendar

### Spring Luncheon

The Spring Luncheon is **March 28, 2026** at Cedar Valley Church. We will feature Minnesota Adult and Teen challenge choir/testimonies. Former director Rich Sherber will be the speaker.

### Family Camp Luncheon

Join us at Lake Geneva **June 29**, Charlene Williams will be our speaker.

### Fall Camp Meeting

**September 10-12**, Lake Geneva, Gary Grogan will be our guest speaker.

### Collingsworth Family

**September 10, 2026, 7 PM** – Lake Geneva, you can order tickets at 1-800-965-9324 or go to their website <https://www.thecollingsworthfamily.com/tour>. This concert will precede our Fall Camp Meeting on September 11-12

### National Senior Adult Conference

**Branson MO, - September 21-23, 2026.** We are planning once again to schedule a bus tour to Branson for the conference. As we did for last year's tour, we will attend the conference and take in a musical show, possibly two. The tour will include the Sight and Sound Theater presentation of "David." Hope you will consider joining us in 2026

# Seniors on the Go!

## FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE - TAYLORS FALLS

Fifty-three adventurous seniors enjoyed an afternoon cruise on the St Croix River and a stop at an apple orchard on Saturday, October 12. We experienced a beautiful day full of fun – food and fellowship. Watch for another bus tour next spring and a fall trip to Branson for the National Senior Adult Conference – September 20 – 25, 2026.



Our Royal Coach



Cruisin' Down the River



## A Biblical View of Grief and Loss – God's Compassionate Presence

### Understanding Suffering, Comfort, and Hope through Scripture

One of the central messages of the Bible is that God is near to the brokenhearted. Psalm 34:18 declares, “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Jesus Himself wept at the tomb of His friend Lazarus (John 11:35), showing that God is not distant from our pain but enters into it with us. This compassionate presence provides comfort and the assurance that we do not grieve alone.

#### **The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18**

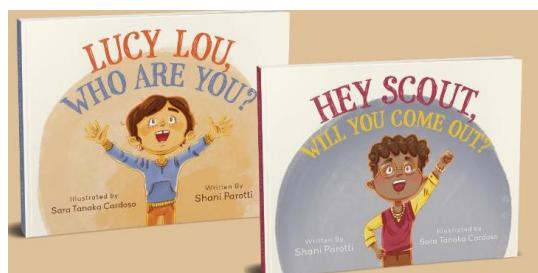
We are reassured that the eyes of the Lord are upon us. He sees us, our condition and is there to be our comfort. We need to take comfort in knowing that God sees us in our situations. There is nothing that we experience that is outside the bounds of who God is and what he can do for us. Suffering is part of our human experience. Why we suffer and go through the things we do is not the question. The question we should ask ourselves is what's next. Suffering can deepen our faith and drive us to a closer relationship with God.

#### **Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. Psalm 34:19**

The thought here is that God will be by our side throughout any grief or loss that we will experience. We may not understand how he delivers us. We always assume that God will take away or remedy the situation that we face. When we look to Scripture, we see that many who suffered continued to suffer. God is doing something more in our life than fixing the temporal.

Just a thought, many have suffered grief and loss through the ages, why should we be any different?

Pastor Jim Olson, Life Assembly, Maple Grove



Shani Parotti has published two children's books that address the confusing messages of gender and identity in our society. These books feature kids who are confronted with questions about their true identities. Lucy Lou and Scout respond to these questions confidently, standing firm in the truth that God created them even before they were born for a special plan and purpose. **Order the books at [www.marshlakekids.com](http://www.marshlakekids.com)**