



Wisdom, Wellness and News

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

May 2026



A Note from the Director - Welcome to spring! We await green grass and leafy trees, along with enjoyable outdoor activities which our Minnesota 'theater of seasons' provides for us. We are looking forward to Family Camp at Lake Geneva Christian Center in Alexandria, June 26 - July 2. Plan to join us for our senior luncheon on Monday, June 29th. Charlene Williams; First Lady of North Central University will be our speaker. Then too, check out the enclosed flyer announcing the A/G Senior Adult Conference in Branson, September 21 -23. About a dozen friends have already signed up for our bus tour. We would love to have you join us! The fall retreat information will be in our next mailing, so look for that. God's richest blessing to you and yours! Bruce and Yvonne Talso

Safe and Healthy - TrustPilot

If you are active on the internet, you will get product offerings based on your browsing history. Facebook is a prime place for these product offerings to pop-up.

Sometimes the products are just what we need or just a curiosity. We click on the button and are taken to a website that looks legitimate and professional.

But how do you know?

I was scammed once when I clicked on an offer and bought a wind vane. Everything looked good, they took my money, sent me a confirmation email but no product was sent to me.

I saw the same ad weeks later and read the comments. I was not alone. Others people had ordered and not received their products.

Before I buy a product from a website I do not know, I first look for the product on Amazon and order from Amazon. If the product is not available on Amazon, I go to **TrustPilot**.

TrustPilot evaluates websites for legitimacy. They give the site a score, if the score is low, the site is a scam site that is only interested in your money.



Mark your Calendar

Family Camp Luncheon

Join us at Lake Geneva **June 29** for Senior Day, Charlene Williams will be our 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.

Fall Retreat

September 11-12, Lake Geneva, Gary Grogan will be our guest speaker. Registration information in next newsletter.

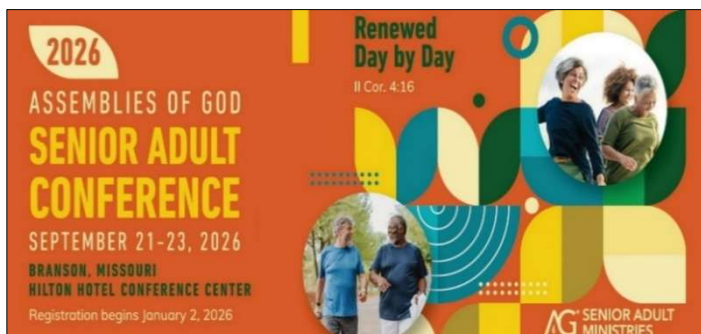
Branson Trip

National Senior Adult Conference

Branson MO, - September 20-25, 2026. We are planning once again to schedule a bus tour to Branson for the conference. The tour will include the Sight and Sound Theater presentation of "David." Hope you will consider joining us in 2026. More details in the attached registration forms.



Register today for the Branson trip by using the QR code.



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

Seniors on the Go!

Spring Fling

We held our annual spring luncheon at Cedar Valley Church in Bloomington on March 28th. We enjoyed a great afternoon of fellowship, delicious lunch, and the ministry of MN Adult and Teen Challenge men who shared their music and life-changing testimonies with us. Former Executive Director, Rich Scherber, was our speaker. We commend Pastor Tom Hartwell and the Morning Star A/G who brought along 34 of their friends to be with us! We appreciate churches who support our events. Even though our crowd was smaller than last year, those in attendance gave a retiring offering in the amount of \$2,900 for the MN Adult/Teen Challenge ministry! PTL!



Our yearly 'Faithful Servant Award' was presented to Wes and Nancy Vagle for their many years of ministry to the Minnesota District. Wes has served as a pastor, church planter and District Secretary/Treasurer in the past, and both Wes and Nancy have served as RV and MAPS representatives for many years as well. Well done, faithful servants! Our next luncheon will be held during family camp on Monday, June 29 at Lake Geneva Christian Center. Charlene Williams, First Lady of North Central University will be our speaker. Plan to join us!

A Biblical View of Grief and Loss – The Purpose of Suffering and Loss

The Bible teaches that suffering and loss, while deeply painful, can have a purpose in God's larger plan. Romans 8:28 assures believers that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Suffering can deepen faith, build character (Romans 5:3-4), and foster empathy for others. The book of Job explores the mystery of suffering, reminding readers that even when reasons are not clear, trust in God's wisdom and sovereignty remains essential. The biblical perspective on loss and grief is multifaceted, viewing it as a natural, painful, but ultimately temporary part of the human experience in a fallen world. It validates the emotion while grounding the experience in hope and relationship with God.

The Bible clearly acknowledges that grief is an appropriate and inevitable human response to loss. It is not condemned, but instead, is given space and voice.

- **Jesus Wept:** The shortest and one of the most significant verses in the Bible is a validation of human emotion: "**Jesus wept**" (John 11:35). This was in response to the death of his friend Lazarus, even though Jesus knew he was about to raise him from the dead. This shows that grief is not a sign of a lack of faith, but an expression of true compassion and the pain caused by death.
- **A Time to Mourn:** Ecclesiastes 3:4 affirms that there is "**a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.**" This normalizes the period of sorrow as a necessary part of life.
- **Physical Expressions:** The Old Testament records many intense physical expressions of grief, such as tearing one's clothes, wearing sackcloth, sitting in ashes, and deep lamenting. Biblical grief was often raw and public.

The Bible can comfort us in many ways:

- Remind us of God's love and faithfulness. The Bible includes stories of God's love and faithfulness toward His people. These stories can remind us that God loves us and will never abandon us, no matter what we are going through.
- Give us hope for the future. The Bible informs us that God has a good plan for our lives. This hope can help us to keep going even when things are tough.
- Comfort us in our sorrow. The Bible counsels us about the causes of true grief and gives consolation from the pain of loss and suffering. It can offer us comfort and hope in our darkest moments.
- Help us to forgive others. The Bible teaches us that forgiveness is essential for our own healing. It can help us to let go of anger and bitterness and move on with our lives.
- Give us the strength to face challenges. The Bible contains stories of people who faced challenges and overcame them. These stories can give us the strength to face our own challenges.

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

