



MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWS letter

March 2024



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS

He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!' ~John 2

You might be familiar with the story. Jesus entered Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. While there, he ended up picking a fight in the Temple. Tempers flared. Tables are turned. The reverberation of coins spilled over the stone floor and unnerved the livestock. Then, in a flash, the money changers are bounced from the building. Temple elite took note.

It's a difficult scene to say the least. That Jesus snapped a whip and startled the doves isn't exactly the first image that comes to mind when we imagine a God of grace. But here it is folks! Jesus with raw human animus and outrage is laid bare for all to see in John's Gospel. The question is why?

There have been more than a few times in my life when I've also lost my cool. Anger is a part of the human experience. A reckless car in traffic. A disobedient child. Insults from a respected friend or loved one. It's universally known in my circles that when the Huskers lose a game it gets under my skin. Severely. Coach Rhule I'm looking at you.

Feelings of anger can be experienced when our perception of an outcome has not met the standards of personal expectation, however reasonable (or unreasonable) that expectation might be. Unfulfilled expectations always seem to breed some level of disappointment. When I consider the story of Jesus' irritability in the Temple, he too must have witnessed an outcome that seemed to miss the mark.

I hardly blame Jesus for his disappointment. After all, he was not just divine. He was simultaneously and fully human! Theologically, these two natures cannot be separated. Jesus became human in body, mind, and spirit to live and minister in a way that was both powerful and authentic. Remember, the God who created us and our world does not forsake that which belongs to him, including his creature's suffering.

The truth is, I find comfort in knowing that Jesus' anger flared just a bit. As a human being, he absolutely had permission to experience those kinds of emotions. Jesus also felt things like fear and anguish. Imagine the stress he was under that night in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his crucifixion.

At other times, Jesus was moved with pity and sorrow because of the love he felt for others relative to human strain and strife. Yet *how* Jesus managed the sacred deluge of human emotion however is the lesson that is not lost on me from the teachings of our Gospel.

When Jesus gets upset in the Temple, he may have bruised some egos and startled a few creatures. But none of them were wounded. He caught their attention with an urgent lesson.

The lesson wasn't that the Temple was necessarily finished. The lesson was that, through his lordship and love, Jesus' own body had come to *replace* the Temple. He came to supersede the need to sacrifice anything more.

Jesus took a stand that day in Jerusalem. There were no more righteous works to perform. There were no more animals to sell. There was no more money to exchange, or messy blood streams that needed to trickle off the altar. Instead, through the person and power of Jesus, he had come to clean house. A new covenant would be made. A new promise was in town. And Jesus desperately wanted them to know it.

After the mess had been made that day, Jesus eventually moves on from the Temple scene. But not without saying something that all of us with raw human emotions and bodies that live and die, need to hear. He says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

The disciples wouldn't have a clue what he was talking about until they finally gained hindsight following the Resurrection. That's when they realized that their own human temples were being renewed as well. They too could now place their whole selves, their lives with all its brokenness, sin, and humanity (and even disappointments and anger) at the foot of the Cross. After all, that's where God takes such things and does something redeeming and new.

Blessings to you and yours as you remember the power of the Cross of Christ this Lent and embrace its redemption, grace, and love for your life and the world.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris



Mid-Week Lenten Service Join us each Wednesday evening at **6:30^{PM}** for the Holden Prayer Service.

	<u>SEEDS OF JOY</u>
March 6	<i>Liberating Joy</i>
March 13	<i>Transformative Joy</i>
March 20	<i>Vocational Joy</i>

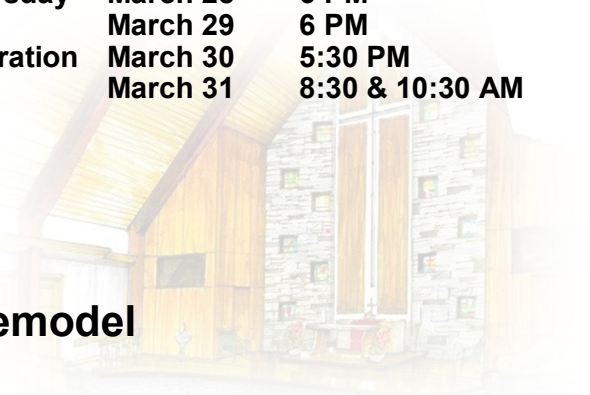
Lenten Fellowship Bring a soup, salad or dessert to share each Wednesday after worship and stay for some good food, good conversation and good fellowship!

Other Info Due to the construction and availability of our worship space, we will not be offering live lilies this year. However, we would like to honor the tradition of honoring loved ones with virtual lilies! If you would like to sponsor a virtual lily, contact the Church Office. All funds received benefit our Youth program.

	HOLY WEEK	Palm Sunday	March 24	10 AM
	WORSHIP SCHEDULE	Maundy Thursday	March 28	6 PM
		Good Friday	March 29	6 PM
		Easter Celebration	March 30	5:30 PM
			March 31	8:30 & 10:30 AM

Check out construction updates at

www.MorningStarOmaha.org/enlighten-remodel





This month's Green Envelope offering goes to Table Grace Ministries. Table Grace has ministries centered around nourishing hungry bodies & souls:

- Affordable, healthy meals at the café and through the mobile food truck.
- Serving opportunities to help all have an understanding of those they serve.
- Ten day job training with a basic job readiness program.
- Music with a Mission allowing patrons to share their musical talents.
- Faith discussions & worship.
- Table Grace Catering provides quality food and furthers the mission.

Every donation is valuable to continue Nourishing Hungry Bodies & Souls! If you would like to help above your generous green envelope donation this month, contact Matt or Simone Weber at simonegweber1@gmail.com or call 402.965.1276.

Table Grace Ministries Gala 2024!

Join Table Grace Ministries on Friday, March 8 at 6 PM at the Livestock Exchange Ballroom (4920 S. 30 St.). This year the theme is Voices of Respect, lifting up one of Table Grace's core values. Table sponsorships are available! Individual donations are also greatly appreciated. Individual tickets are available for \$85 at TableGraceCafe.com or by calling 402-965-1276.

Save the Date
TABLE GRACE
MINISTRIES
Annual gala
"Voices of Respect"

Friday, March 8, 2024
Livestock Exchange Ballroom
Omaha, Nebraska

formal invitation to follow



Table Grace the Musical!

Table Grace the Musical is coming this summer! Plan to bring a group to enjoy this production cowritten by Simone Weber and Jay Gish based on the mission and outreach of Table Grace! If this is

something that moves your heart, get involved and help with promotion, prayer, donations, acting, singing, and dancing! Auditions are March 21 & 22, 5:30-8:30 PM. Reach out to Simone for more info at 917-992-8574. Performances will be at the Lied Center, Creighton, June 20, 21 & 22 at 7 PM, the Benson Theatre June 27, 28 & 29 at 7 PM, and the Loft Theatre in Manley, August 8 & 9 at 7 PM. Reach out to Simone for more info at 917-992-8574.



TABLE GRACE
CAFE
 Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls

www.TableGraceCafe.com

Assistance Needed

Pastor Glenn has met a couple in recovery at Table Grace who have moved into an apartment after homelessness. They are now in need of some furnishings for their new home. These include night stands, coffee table, TV, bed and office desk. If you have any of these items to donate, please contact Pastor Glenn at 402-651-5608 or Donna at 402-658-1850.



March Volunteer Opportunity

This month we are supporting the behavioral health groups who meet at Morning Star! Please bring individually packaged snack items to share with the five groups (three AA groups, Al-Anon and DBSA) that meet weekly at Morning Star. The Outreach Team will see that during one of each group's weekly meetings in March, a special snack basket will be available for the members. We hope this gesture will make them feel welcome and supported. Thank YOU for being the Light of



The DBSA (Depression, BiPolar Support Alliance) meets at Morning Star Thursdays at 7^{PM}. This meeting is open to anyone in need!



Al-Anon meets at Morning Star on Wednesdays at Noon.

Alcoholics Anonymous is open to all! Groups that meet at Morning Star are:

Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM}
 Tuesdays at 8^{PM}
 Wednesdays at 5:30^{PM} ~ Women Only



March Worship Assistants

Sunday, March 3

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter
 Reader: Gloria Miller
 Usher: Marge Morgan & Carol Smith
 Acolyte: Kate & Luke Lieske
 Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, March 10

Comm: Kyle Wolfe, Bob & Lauren Gilmore
 Reader: Bob Gilmore
 Usher: Todd & Deb Washburn
 Acolyte: Brynn Wiebers & Renny Maxwell
 Altar: Lauren Gilmore

Sunday, March 17

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg
 Reader: Kim Hawkins
 Usher: Chris Hedican & Nick Saitta
 Acolyte: Theo Hedican & Luke Beck
 Altar: Lynn Blagg

Sunday, March 24 ~ Palm Sunday

Comm: Nick Saitta, Rod Anderson & Arielle Wolfe
 Reader: Kyle Wolfe
 Usher: Dan & Laurel Mooney
 Acolyte: Charlie & Will Beck
 Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish

Thursday, March 28 ~ Maundy Thursday

Comm: Susie Syx, Jerry & Ann Dieckgrafe
 Reader: Jerry Dieckgrafe
 Usher: Brian & Bryce Peterson
 Acolyte: Jackson Post & Mason Rue
 Altar: Susie Syx & Marguerite McGill

Friday, March 29 ~ Good Friday

Reader: Pastor Glenn Schacht

Sunday, March 31 ~ Sunrise Service

Altar: Susie Syx & Marguerite McGill

Sunday, March 31 ~ Easter 8:30 AM

Comm: Donna Walter, Arielle Wolfe & Susie Syx
 Reader: Donna Walter
 Usher: Joel Rohde & Jim McGill
 Acolyte: Nick & Zach Bowman
 Altar: Susie Syx & Marguerite McGill

Sunday, March 31 ~ Easter 10:30 AM

Comm: Tarah, Bryce & Grace Peterson
 Reader: Bryce Peterson
 Usher: Marge Morgan & Carol Smith
 Acolyte: Nathan & Noah Hawkins
 Altar: Susie Syx & Marguerite McGill



*Thank you for being the Light of Christ to ALL here at Morning Star!
 Our congregation shines because of YOU!*



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 30th at 10 AM!

Easter candy donations are now being accepted!



If you would like to be a sponsor, see the calendar in the Welcome Center or call the Church Office. Thanks **Piccolo Florists** for providing our Altar Flowers at a reduced rate and thanks to **Great Harvest Grain Company** for free Communion Bread every week.

Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors

	Flower Sponsors	Bulletin Sponsors	
March 3	Lent ~ No Flowers	Lent ~ No Flowers	Available
March 10	Lent ~ No Flowers	Lent ~ No Flowers	Available
March 17	Lent ~ No Flowers	Lent ~ No Flowers	Available
March 24	Lent ~ No Flowers	Lent ~ No Flowers	Available
March 31	Karen Hawkins	Karen Hawkins	Available



Thank you to all who pitch in each and every week to help make worship happen! We could not do it without you! We need help to read scripture, serve communion, usher/greet and set up and tear down

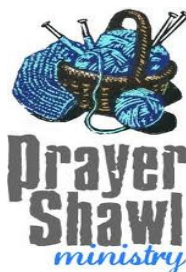
worship every week. Very little commitment is needed! Contact the Church Office to find out how you can help!



Check out our **Little Free Library** located on the parking island next to 85th Avenue. Take a book or leave one. As always, all books are free!

Church COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT

- Planned Easter/Holy Week service schedules
- Received an update on the new baptismal font and prayer garden designs
- Worship in fellowship hall is going extremely well!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides handcrafted blankets given to those that need comfort. Prayers for peace and healing are prayed over each one as they are made. Contact the Church Office to pick one up.



Upcoming Carol Joy Holling Camp Events:

Middle School Lock-In March 8 & 9
High School Lock-In March 22 & 23
Register at CJHCenter.org/lock-in!



A very special thank you to the pastors and congregation for your prayers, card and visits during my recovery. I hope to see you all again very soon!

Sandy Heskett

Thank you so much for your support of LFS and the families we serve! We look forward to future discussions in serving together!

God Bless!
Joel & LFS Team



Support the Morning Star Youth!

Virtual Easter Lilies

Even though we don't have potted plants this year, you can still give a virtual lily and have your loved one honored in a special bulletin announcement as well as support the youth of Morning Star. Fill out your information below and include your donation (suggested donation of \$10) by Tuesday, March 26!

Donated by _____

Check here if you wish to remain anonymous.

Dedicated to: The Glory of God _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

THE HOLE STORY

Bible story time and donuts for all generations
9:30am in the Chapel on First and Third Sundays

March 3 & March 17



Wednesdays following the Lenten service at 6:30 PM.

Remodel Pictures



Preschool Lunch from Morning Star



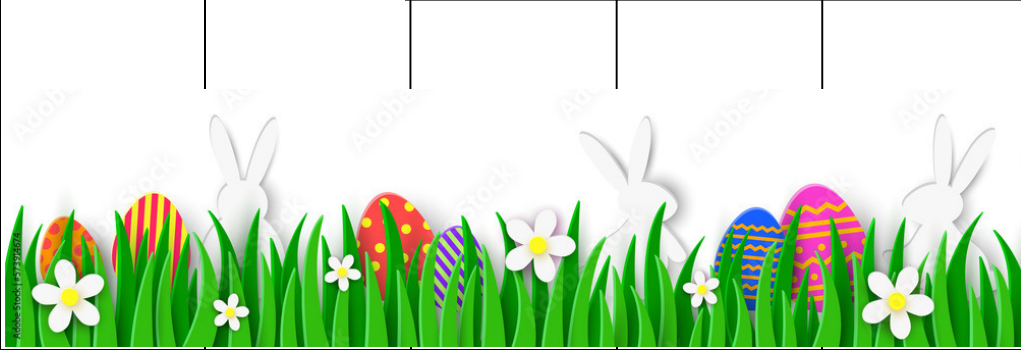

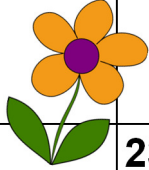





Congratulations to grandparents Gary & Sandy Byers and great-grandmother, Donna Walter, as they welcomed Harper Lee into the family on February 20th. Parents are Ben & Maddie Byers.



Our center was closed today so that our staff could participate in professional development. We are so lucky to have our families support us on these days as they are essential to our teachers as we enhance the quality of care we provide! In our morning session we discussed our core values and professionalism. After having Qdoba for lunch, we had a wonderful hands-on STEAM training in the afternoon. We definitely have the most talented and fun group of Early Childhood Professionals around! Special thanks to St. Timothy's Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their space today!



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
3 9:30 The Hole Story 10 Worship	4 7 Outreach Committee	5 9:30 Staff Meeting 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	6 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Lenten Worship 6:30 Preschool In-Service 7 Fellowship & Confirmation Discussion	7 7 DBSA	8	9 5:30 Worship
10 10 Worship	11 4:30 Enlighten Team 6:30 Church Council	12 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	13 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Lenten Worship 6:30 Preschool In-Service 7 Fellowship & Confirmation Discussion	14 7 DBSA	15	16 5:30 Worship
17 9:30 First Communion Class 9:30 The Hole Story 10 Worship 	18 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting	19 9:30 Staff Mtg 5 Enlighten Prayer Team 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	20 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Lenten Worship 7 Fellowship & Confirmation Discussion	21 7 DBSA	22 	23 5:30 Worship
24 10 Worship 11 First Communion Class 	25	26 9:30 Staff Mtg 5 Enlighten Prayer Team 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	27 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	28 12:30 Sarah Circle 6 Maundy Thursday Service 7 DBSA 	29 6 Good Friday Service 	30 10 Easter Egg Hunt 5:30 Worship EASTER EGG HUNT 
31 6:30 Sunrise Worship 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship 						



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS



Prayer Requests

Rae Austin
Mike Behm
Donna Crouse
Addie Elshire
LouAnn Henkens
Sandy Heskett
Elaine Kemper
Virgene Kobold
Neil Lindquist
Bev McCollum
Emily McWhirter

Campbell Mooney
Laurel Mooney
Rev. Kent Morse
Don Page
Nick Saitta
John Walter
Mary Ziska
Bob (*Betty Fiddelke's brother-in-law*)
Brian (*friend of Johnson's*)
Bruce (*JoAnn Wollenburg's nephew*)
Cassie (*friend of Schacht's*)

Dan & Sherry (*friends of Dan & Bev Hartman*)
Dave (*brother-in-law of Maxwell's*)
Della Sullivan
Eulish Moore (*friend of Pr. Schacht*)
Henry Buschmann
Irene Bruckner (*Susie Syx's mother*)
Jaxon (*Dawn Karnish's cousin*)
Joan (*Betty Fiddelke's sister*)
Judy Hopkins (*friend of Kathy Hawkins*)
Mary Lou (*family of Maxwell's*)
Nicholas (*grandson of Schacht's*)

Patti & Traci (*friend of Maxwell's*)
Rich Fiddelke
Rich & Sue (*Roger Hass's sister & husband*)
Rick (*friend of the Bergstrom's*)
Rylee Koers
Sloan, Bill & Connor (*cousins of Maxwell's*)
Theo Throckmorton
Theresa (*friend of a member*)

March Birthdays

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ruby	Engel	03/01	Daniel	Hartman	03/07	Abigail	Nabity	03/20
Kristin	Garges	03/01	Samuel	Lieske	03/07	Noah	Nabity	03/20
Sandra	Becher	03/02	Barrett	Mooney	03/07	Nicholas	Saitta	03/20
Betty	Goehring	03/02	Luke	Beck	03/10	Brent	Ericson	03/22
William	Beck	03/03	Ellen	Olson	03/11	Philip	Niewohner	03/22
Andrea	Johnson	03/03	Sherry	Charf	03/13	Nancy	Gadzikowski	03/27
Josephine	Johnson	03/04	Ruth	Johnson	03/16	Simone	Weber	03/28
Greta	Carlson	03/05	James	Olmsted	03/16	Gabriel	Boyd	03/31
Lily	Karnish	03/05	Addison	Hawkins	03/19			
Mackenzie	Turner	03/06	Eunice	Levisay	03/19			

If you don't see your birthday or anniversary in the monthly newsletter, contact the Church Office as we do not have it in our records.



March Anniversaries

Jim & Anne	Jenkins	03/13
Derek & Lindsey	Nelson	03/14
Travis & Kristin	Garges	03/18
Bill & Diane	Ervin	03/22