



*Bringing the Light of Christ to All Creation*

**MORNING STAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



February 2020

## *Message from Pastor Chris*

***Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom? ...It is not for you to know ...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.***

~ Acts 1

When the disciples gathered together with the Resurrected Lord, they had many questions. They wondered what was next. They witnessed, in the Cross and the Resurrection, a God who was doing a new thing. But they couldn't quite put their finger on what that new thing was. Naturally, their anxiety led them to ask Jesus pointedly, *is this the time...?*

Often, when I listen to folks discuss the future of the church I sense the same kinds of questions and anxiety. 'What is happening to the church I used to know?' 'Why don't we do this thing or that thing anymore?' 'Is this the time when God might restore it all?'

Thankfully, for our sake, God is not in the restoration business. The restoration of old things and old ways have never been good enough for a Lord who chooses to die and rise again. Restoration was never the gig of a Creator. He thinks much bigger than that!

God's desire, remember, is to make all things new. This, of course, includes His church in the midst of our changing times. The question for us now is: How do we remain faithful in the midst of our anxiety about a changing world and a changing church? This Lent, I invite us to reflect, discuss, and pray about this question. In short, I invite us to explore what it means to be the church in challenging and changing times.

Each Wednesday this Lent, beginning March 4, we will gather for food, fellowship, discussion, and worship around our theme: **Faithful, yet Changing**. What does it mean to be the church that worships, equips disciples, invites others, and prays in the midst of some of the most rapid and radical change this world has ever experienced?

The template for our conversation together comes from the former presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Mark Hanson and his book *Faithful, yet Changing: The Church in Challenging Times*. While this material will serve as our guide, our preaching, teaching, and conversation will be contextually apropos for our community together at Morning Star. In other words, we will explore together what it means to be faithful and *Share the Light of Christ with All Creation* right here from the heart of Omaha, Nebraska!

I know how difficult it sometimes is to commit to and participate in the full breadth and depth of a Lenten journey, if not the ministry of the church itself. Yes, times have changed! But I also know something about what it means

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402.393.5553

Office@MorningStarOmaha.org  
www.MorningStarOmaha.org



### Worship Times

Saturday Service  
Sunday Services

5:30<sup>PM</sup>  
8:30<sup>AM</sup> & 10:30<sup>AM</sup>

to be faithful when schedules are full, kids have activities and homework, and sometimes it's just nice to have a break! Because of these dynamics, we are increasing our worship opportunities this year to include Lenten worship at noon. Bring your own lunch and eat it with us in our Gathering Space before or after our 30-minute worship services!

We have also adjusted our schedule in the evenings to accommodate those who would like to be home sooner. Our meal and fellowship times will be from 5:00-6:00, including our Confirmation mentoring and meal discussions. Our Holden Evening Prayer worship service will begin at 6:00 and conclude by 6:30. For those who would like to remain and participate in adult faith formation, there will be an additional book study. Please see more details about the book study in Pastor Glenn's newsletter article.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your faithfulness to the Gospel. I know these are challenging days. But the future is exciting, and *this is the time!* It's God's time and He is doing something new for each one of us.

Your partner in ministry,

*Pastor Chris*

## *Message from Pastor Glenn*

There will be a meeting of the Faith Partners team on Monday, February 3 at 5:30<sup>PM</sup>. Besides taking time to do some brainstorming (our journey towards becoming a "recovery friendly and prevention committed" community), we will consider how we can best partner with the Boys and Girls Club and their "Project Set Me Free" program and some preliminary planning for a "Celebrate Recovery" worship service.

Pastor Chris and I will be leading a book study during Lent. We are suggesting that we meet from 6:40 to 8:00<sup>PM</sup> following the Wednesday evening Lenten Prayer Service. The book we will be studying is *Breathing Under Water* by Richard Rohr. If you are interested please contact the Church Office so that we know how many books to order.

We are planning another "Celebrate Recovery" worship service for Sunday, March 29 during our 10:30<sup>AM</sup> worship time. If you interested in being part of the planning team please contact me.

Peace,

*Pastor Glenn*

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Deepen your faith with your Morning Star family! We have take home devotional books in the Welcome Center or Bible studies are available online. You are always welcome to join our weekly study on Wednesdays at 9<sup>AM</sup>!



Join us Monday, February 3 at 11:30<sup>AM</sup> for a Salisbury Steak luncheon with all the trimmings catered by Lil Willy's. Agne Dizona with the Joslyn Art Museum will be with us to tell us of the history of the museum. RSVP to the Church Office by Friday, January 31.





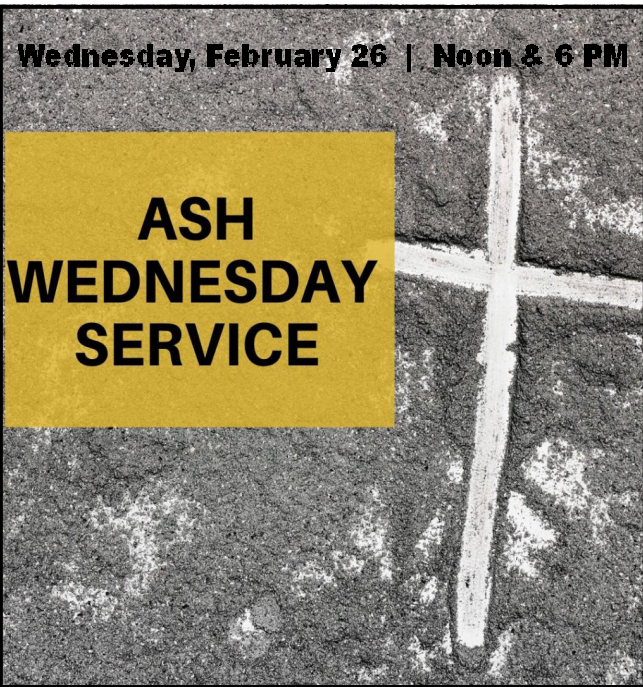
**MORNING STAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Lenten SERVICES

Worship Services  
Saturdays ♦ 5 PM  
Sundays ♦ 8:30 & 10:30 AM  
Wednesdays ♦ 12 Noon & 6 PM;  
Dinner, Faith Formation & Fellowship at 5 PM

**Wednesday, February 26 | Noon & 6 PM**

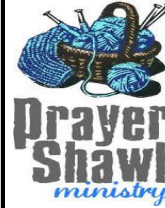
## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



### Singers & Instrumentalists Needed

Easter and Lenten season are always a busy time for the Music Department. The need for talented musicians and singers is even greater as we invoke many people to worship. If you would like to share your special musical offering with us here at Morning Star, please contact our Music Department at TinaFong@MorningStarOmaha.org or 402-393-5553 to see how you can help serve!

Bell ringers and choir members are always welcome to join. Contact Bev McCollum at mcollumorgan202@cox.net for more information!



The Prayer Shawl team have hand-crafted blankets and made them available for those in need. Healing and God's peace have been prayed over each one. Feel free to take one from the Gathering Space.



Tai Chi can bring about peace, well-being, and clarity for all but especially seniors with balance issues. Tina & Frank Fong teach Tai Chi in the Chapel Wednesdays at 10:30<sup>AM</sup>. A love offering is taken.

Place this form and your payment in the offering plate by **Wednesday, April 8**. Lilies may be taken home after the last Easter service.

I want \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lillies at \$12 ea.  
 Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Food4Friends.

## EASTER LILY ORDERS

**\$12 per plant**  
*(net proceeds benefit Food for Friends)*

Donated by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check here if you wish to remain anonymous.

Dedicated to:  The Glory of God  
 In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



## Preschool News

**Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center**  
402-393-8215

Winter has blown right in and we have hopes of warmer temperatures so that children can don their boots and enjoy the snow. February is always a special time to foster social and emotional development in young children as they express kindness by creating valentine cards for others. They will celebrate Valentine's Day with parties on the afternoon of the 14. "Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast" Day will be a delightful way to bring some fun and excitement to a winter morning.

We will bring science into the mix as the children discover information about animal habitats. The Leap Year theme will provide opportunities to learn about amphibians and reptiles. We will also bring math skills into play as children measure their leaps with various measuring materials. We currently have an enrollment of 129 children with only two openings!



Hey Kids! We would love to have you join us at 9:30<sup>AM</sup> on Sundays for music, movement, kid-style fellowship followed by age-appropriate classes. Tina Fong leads the opening session then we break into classes. Shari Page & Rick Jacobsen teach Pre-K - 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the Chapel. Kyle Wolfe & Andy Maxwell teach 2-6 Grade in the Library.



Bev and Tina are teaching a bell ringing class for young people ages 10-14 at Morning Star on Wednesdays at 5:45<sup>PM</sup>. No experience is necessary! Come join in the fun while learning how to read music and play an instrument. Contact Tina if interested at 402-393-5553 or email her at [tinafong@morningstaromaha.org](mailto:tinafong@morningstaromaha.org).



Attention College Students

**MORNING STAR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP**

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1

**PICK ONE UP TODAY!**

In the office, the Welcome Center or online at [morningstaromaha.org/scholarship](http://morningstaromaha.org/scholarship)



MORNING STAR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Ministry Investment Funds



Morning Star Winter Ski Trip  
February 14-17  
Winter Park, Colorado

**Parents are invited to a meeting on Sunday, February 2 at 9:45<sup>AM</sup>.**

*Coming Soon!*




First Communion Class

Communion classes for children in the third grade that have not yet received communion. Call the Church Office to register.


listen to  
**Sunday Worship**  
Services online

[www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org)



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**  
*meal*

Volunteers are needed to provide meals during our Lenten suppers. Sign up to bring a main dish, salad, dessert or set up or clean up on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1. See the sign up sheet in the Welcome Center or call the Church Office for more information.



The Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday, February 25 at 5:30<sup>PM</sup> in the Library. The Sarah Circle will meet Thursday, February 27 at 12:30<sup>PM</sup> in the Gathering Space. Be sure to bring your sack lunch. All are welcome!

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

*Morning Star...a light in the heart of Omaha & Beyond*

## Green Envelope



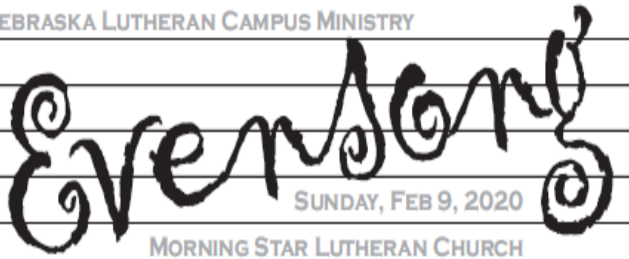
NEBRASKA  
**LUTHERAN**  
CAMPUS MINISTRY



Gods Reach  
Envelops Every Need

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry, an agency of the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA, invites people in academic settings more deeply into Jesus Christ, and the community that bears His name, so that all may discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. Their ministry sites are located among ten colleges and universities all across Nebraska! These campuses include Chadron State College, University of Nebraska Lincoln, Southeast Community College Beatrice, Peru State College, Northeast Community College Norfolk, Wayne State College, Creighton University and the University of Nebraska Omaha. Our February Green Envelope Offering will go to this amazing ministry and the work they are doing all across Nebraska!

NEBRASKA LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY



Morning Star is blessed to host this event this year! Join talented musicians from Lutheran Churches all over Omaha as they come together for the annual fund-raising concert event known as Evensong held on Sunday, February 9 at 3 PM. Guest Director is Simone Weber. Refreshments and a silent auction will support campus ministry events at UNO, Creighton University, College of Saint Mary and UNMC.



**Who**

YOU are invited to share your baking skills with members of the Morning Star Sunday School!

**What**

Bring your favorite recipe, ingredients to complete the recipe and packaging for delivery.

**When**

Sunday, February 16 at 9:30 AM.

**Where**

Morning Star Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

**Why**

After baking (and sampling) the recipes, the goodies will be delivered to the veterans housed at New Visions Homeless Services. Sign up today!



The Faith Partners team will meet Monday, February 3 at 5:30 PM in the Large Conference Room. Join us if you are interested in this area of ministry or contact Pastor Glenn for more information.



Sunday, March 29 ~ 10:30 AM

**CELEBRATE  
RECOVERY**

Worship Service

Sundays 8:30 & 10:30

**NURSERY**  
Available



# February Ministry Partners

## February 2

Acolytes	8:30 Zac Tonniges & Riley Hawkins 10:30 Jackson & Ella Post
Communion	8:30 Diane Konvalina, Lynn & Royann Hedell 10:30 Bill & Diane Ervin
Greeters	8:30 Daryl & JoAnn Wollenburg
PowerPoint	10:30 Paul Worcester
Readers	8:30 Lynn Hedell 10:30 Cynthia Ferris
Ushers	8:30 Jerry Dieckgrafe, Lowell Gratopp, Chris Hedican & Jim McGill 10:30 The Beck Family
Coffee Hosts	Lynn & Royann Hedell

## February 9

Acolytes	8:30 Anker Jensen & Hope Weber 10:30 Jack & Hailey Neussendorfer
Communion	8:30 Rod Anderson, Lauren Anderson & JoAnn Wollenburg 10:30 Laura Ervin & Susie Bonnett
Greeters	8:30 Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
PowerPoint	10:30 Bill Ervin
Readers	8:30 Rod Anderson 10:30 Stacie Neussendorfer
Ushers	8:30 Jerry Dieckgrafe, Lowell Gratopp, Chris Hedican & Jim McGill 10:30 The Beck Family
Coffee Hosts	Church Council

## February 16

Acolytes	8:30 Sam & Kate Lieske 10:30 Renny Maxwell & Barrett Mooney
Communion	8:30 Rich Fiddelke, Donna J. Walter & Jan Zarestky 10:30 Ric & Pam Miller
Greeters	8:30 Colleen Estee
PowerPoint	10:30 Pam Miller
Readers	8:30 Donna J. Walter 10:30 Pam Miller
Ushers	8:30 Jerry Dieckgrafe, Lowell Gratopp, Chris Hedican & Jim McGill 10:30 The Beck Family
Coffee Hosts	Property Committee

## February 23

Acolytes	8:30 Owen & Hattie Moeller 10:30 Anker Jensen & Lacey Saitta
Communion	8:30 Michelle Miller, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe 10:30 Cynthia Ferris & Sabrina Beck
Greeters	8:30 Marge Morgan
PowerPoint	10:30 Bill Ervin
Readers	8:30 David Blagg 10:30 Campbell Mooney
Ushers	8:30 Jerry Dieckgrafe, Lowell Gratopp, Chris Hedican & Jim McGill 10:30 The Beck Family
Coffee Hosts	Ministry Investment Committee

## *Message from our Music Staff*

### **Getting at the Heart of Music at Morning Star**

Singing, ringing, chanting our prayers and becoming one with our Creator and with our faith community...it's all happening in our beautiful sanctuary at Morning Star. Using our bulletins and slide show to guide us in the right direction is a good comfort. We make the connection with our eyes and ears to the music at play. But, have you seen the creative imagination of heart at play lately!?

During the Sunday 10:30 worship service, we have been calling the children forward to make their connections with God during offertory. Have you watched how they respond to that calling? The ENTHUSIASM is real! And in the word itself (from the Greek, "filled with God") we can see the play with music, the creative energy supply that they so readily connect when we sit back and observe is enthusiastic, courageous, and filled with heart! Thank you for bringing your children to church! We have a very caring staff and congregation to give rise the loving-kindness of Jesus shown towards our beloved children.

It has been such a joy to witness their musical offerings this season. We will continue to do this at our 10:30 worship service. We will also continue to add the Youth Ringers (which meet on Wednesday evenings) to our music in honor and glory for their Lord. May we continue to be nice to our inner artists, our inner children, and help us to create as an act of worship and honor not only to ourselves, but with God.

Yours in Spirit and Song,

Tina Fong,  
Director of Music Ministry



# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 9 Church Reserved ( <i>Quilters</i> ) 5:30 Worship
<b>2</b> 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship <b>9:30 Ski Trip Parent's Meeting</b> 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship	<b>3</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 11:30 OWLS 7 NWFT Trailblazers	<b>4</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting	<b>5</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 4:30 Exec Comm 5:15 Table Grace Choir Rehearsal 5:45 Youth Bell Choir 6 Preschool In-Service 6:30 Confirmation	<b>6</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	<b>7</b> 9-4 Preschool Class	<b>8</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>9</b> 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship 2 Evensong Concert	<b>10</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 5:30 Preschool Advisory Committee 6:30 Church Council	<b>11</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting 6 Preschool In-Service	<b>12</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 5:15 Table Grace Choir Rehearsal 5:45 Youth Bell Choir 6 Preschool In-Service 6:30 Confirmation	<b>13</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	<b>14</b> 9-5 Preschool Valentine's Day Parties 	<b>15</b> 5:30 Worship
					<b>Youth Ski Trip</b>	
<b>16</b> 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship	<b>17</b> 9-4 Preschool Class	<b>18</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting 5:30 Personnel Committee	<b>19</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 5:15 Table Grace Choir Rehearsal 5:45 Youth Bell Choir 6 Preschool In-Service 6:30 Confirmation	<b>20</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	<b>21</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 5 Church Reserved (RCMC Group)	<b>22</b> 1 Church Reserved (RCMC Group) 5:30 Worship
<b>Youth Ski Trip</b>						
<b>23</b> 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship 4 Church Reserved (RCMC Group)	<b>24</b> 9-4 Preschool Class	<b>25</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 4 Lydia Circle 5:30 AA Meeting	<b>26</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 12 Ash Wednesday Service 6 Ash Wednesday Service 	<b>27</b> 9-4 Preschool Class 12:30 Sarah Circle 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:45 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	<b>28</b> 9-4 Preschool Class	<b>29</b> 5:30 Worship



# MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested

*~flowers & bulletins~*

There are still lots of dates open to sponsor flowers or bulletins. See the calendar in the Gathering Space or call the Church Office. Thanks **Great Harvest Bread Company** for providing communion bread **free** each week &

**Piccolo Florists** for providing our Altar Flowers at a discount.

### Flower Sponsors

### Bulletin Sponsors

February 2	Don & Bonnie Daubman	Jan Dahlk	The Beck Family
February 9	Alan & Alyce Berk	<b>Available</b>	The Beck Family
February 16	Jan Zarestky	Jan Zarestky	The Beck Family
February 23	Ric & Pam Miller	Jan Dahlk	The Beck Family



### Prayers

Rae Austin  
Gary Byers

Rich Fiddelke  
Stephanie Jensen  
Eunice Levisay

Marge Morgan  
Betty Wilson  
Bill Winstrom

### Friends & Loved Ones of Morning Star

- Craig Kochen (*Lori Mueller's brother*)
- Dave, Beth & Family (*brother-in-law of the Maxwell's*)
- Joan & Margaret (*friends of the Mueller's*)
- Kate Richling
- Lindsay (*Janice & Roger Hass' granddaughter*)
- Mikaela Z. (*cousin of Dawn Karnish*)
- Nicky Olson (*friend of Stephanie Jensen*)
- Steve, Whitney, Michael, Kristi & Gloria (*Michelle Miller's family*)
- Taylor & Todd Koers