



Message from Pastor Chris

Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.'

Matthew 14:16

The story commonly called the '*Feeding of Five-Thousand*,' the appointed text for the ninth Sunday in Pentecost, is one of the most important lessons for discipleship in all of scripture. There's good reason for that. Showing up in all four Gospels, it teaches that when human beings fear scarcity, God demonstrates abundance. When we consider sending people away, God demonstrates an amazing hospitality and grace. When we seek to bolster the barriers in this world, God stands ready to tear them down in order to deliver His gifts. In the process, the Lord still calls people like us to distribute the goods of His kingdom. It's called stewardship.

The word '*steward*' is derived from an old English word '*stig*' (house) and '*weard*' (keeper). It has an interesting etymology in the Greek language as well. I'll spare you the scholarship, but the word has to do with caring for the life of the house; God's house. And while many of us associate the word 'stewardship' with giving, the word itself has a much deeper meaning. To be a steward means managing all aspects of the gifts that God gives. In fact, the traditional biblical understanding is that everything we possess belongs to God. Human beings are essentially the trustees. As 'keepers of the house,' we are entrusted with managing what we have been given.

Let's go back to the story of the '*Feeding of Five-Thousand*' for a moment. What strikes me in this story is how much Jesus entrusts disciples with the distribution of His heavenly gifts. He doesn't just do it himself. God entrusts each one of us, no matter how meager we think our offerings or abilities are, to be keepers of His house. He trusts us to care for and use of all His gifts for the benefit of Creation.

That may seem like a tall order, but I am actually grateful. For out of that gratitude I believe God is inviting us now, as members of His house, to give, share, and distribute His gifts, for the sake of the kingdom. God is saying that I can make a difference. God is declaring that each one of us has something to share. And as keepers of the house, we, the worship community of Morning Star, have so much to give! That's empowering. But in a pandemic, it begs the questions: Will we fret scarcity, limits, and barriers? Or will we continue to see God's abundance and the opportunity to share it?

Many of us are eager to return to 'normal' life. I get it. We have grieved the limitations of fellowship. We long for a return to unhindered community. We wish we could come back to worship without taking so many precautions. We've had enough of the masks and social distancing. Heaven forbid more hand sanitizer! But if there is anything these past few months of quarantine lifestyle have taught me, it's that I have taken many blessings for granted in my life.

I have also taken much for granted in my pastoral ministry with each one of you. I have taken for granted the power of our community and the power of our common mission to Share the Light of Christ. Yes, there is power in our collective calling to be keepers of God's house as the Priesthood of All Believers. The pastor and staff cannot go it alone. We are all in this mission together. Now, the calling for our collective partnership in mission together has never been more urgent.

Essentially, I am saying that as your partner in ministry and fellow 'keeper of the house,' I am tremendously grateful for each of you and your continued financial support and overall stewardship of Morning Star Lutheran Church. Even though our sanctuary is not yet full, we continue to share the Gospel. Even though there are fewer cars in the parking lot, we continue to distribute the gifts of God's Kingdom. Even though the offering plates are not being passed, we are still entrusted with the invitation to distribute the treasures of a gracious God to our community and world.



During this time of pandemic, our mission has not been quarantined. It has expanded. Please know that, while not always visible, good things are continuing to happen. We are reaching new worshippers through our virtual platform. We continue to support our Nebraska Synod's ministry and the ELCA. We are making a difference to children and families in our preschool ministry. We are opening our doors again soon to support groups who depend on our building. We are continuing to expand our outreach efforts into the community. Nebraska Outdoors Ministries, Boys and Girls Club, Table Grace Café, Scattered Joy Acres, Habitat for Humanity, Food for Friends, Crossroads Connection, and so many more are benefitting from your continued and generous stewardship. With great excitement, we are building ministry to our youth and expanding faith formation opportunities.

For the time being, things might seem different. But our mission has not changed. It's as urgent as ever. The Lord is still saying, 'You give them something to eat.' So that is what we going to continue to do...to feed others with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Let's not take that calling for granted. God needs each of us to participate in the work of His kingdom. Thank you for your faith, your support of our mission, and for your generosity in stewarding and keeping God's house.

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Chris

Worship Service Changes for Your Safety

1. MASKS

We are requiring all worshipers to wear a mask prior to entering the church and to keep it in place while in the building. Masks prevent the dispersion of respiratory droplets that are released when talking, singing, coughing or sneezing. The front of your mask is considered soiled so try to avoid touching it and then touch your face or other surfaces. If you adjust your mask, we encourage you to perform hand hygiene.

2. HAND HYGIENE

Hand sanitizer has been placed throughout the Welcome Center and Sanctuary for your convenience. We encourage you to cleanse your hands often, including prior to entering the Welcome Center, after handling your mask for communion, following tissue use, when hands are visibly soiled and upon exiting the building. Hand washing sinks are available in restrooms.

3. SOCIAL DISTANCING

Fellowship and socializing among members and guests has always been welcomed and encouraged. We want to continue with this tradition in a safe manner. When moving through the building or waiting to be seated, we ask that you maintain a distance of 6 feet or greater between worshipers or families for your safety. Socializing before and after service is encouraged to occur outdoors. We will not be serving coffee, juice and snacks at this time.

4. RESTROOM USE

We request that restroom use be limited to one person at a time. This is to ensure social distancing can occur between users.

5. SEATING

You will notice the Ushers are escorting worshipers to their seats in order to create spatial separation between groups. Alternating seating in pews helps us to create a safe zone for you. Families are encouraged to be seated together. We ask that children remain with their family at all times. We ask that you respect social distancing of 6 feet or greater between families or worshipers in order to keep you and others safe. You will be ushered out of the sanctuary following the service.

6. SINGING

Worship is enhanced through music and singing but we also recognize that singing can enhance dispersion of small respiratory droplets. We ask that you wear your mask at all times during the worship service, including when you sing, in order to contain droplets. The first few pews of the sanctuary have been reserved for no seating in order to promote a safe zone for worship musicians, singers and the congregation.

7. OFFERING AND COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The flow of our worship service involving offering and communion has been altered in order to decrease movement in the sanctuary during worship. As you enter the Welcome Center you will notice a table holding:

- Bulletins
- Attendance card, which will also assist with contract tracings if necessary

- Single-use pens located in a “clean” container, “dirty” container to collect used pens
- Self-contained, single serving host and juice containers
- Offering tray to collect your gift and attendance card
- Hand sanitizer

Prior to being seated, please select a bulletin, complete an attendance card and place the used pen in the “dirty” container, gather your communion, place your gift and the completed attendance card into the collection plate and perform hand hygiene. You will then be ushered to your seat and will remain there for the entire worship service.

There is a clear, protective cover over the communion host and another clear, protective cover over the juice. When it is time for communion you may slip your mask off of your face and place it front side down in your lap prior to taking communion. Please replace your mask on your face when completed, paying attention not to handle the front of the mask. We encourage hand hygiene, if possible, as you have handled your mask. Your communion waste can be taken with you at the end of the service and discarded in the waste container as you exit.

8. **DISMISSAL**

For the safety of our Pastors, personal greetings will not occur following the service. The ushers will dismiss worshippers from the sanctuary. Dismissal will begin at the back of the church and move to the front in order to reduce close contact between worshippers. We ask that children remain with their family at all times.

9. **FELLOWSHIP**

Fellowship and socializing after the service is optional. We encourage socializing to occur outdoors. We will not be serving coffee, juice and snacks at this time.

10. **CLEANING/DISINFECTION**

You will have noticed that all items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between uses have been removed from the church, this includes hymnals, bibles and other paper materials. Please contact the Church Office if you are seeking enrichment materials. Cleaning and disinfection of the church and restrooms will occur following the service.

Consecrated Holy Communion kits given contactless in the front drive of the church!



DRIVE THRU

Communion

**Friday, August 7 ♦ Noon - 3^{PM} and
Saturday, August 8 ♦ 9^{AM} - Noon**

FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- Drive up and remain in your vehicle.
- Tell us how many communion kits you need.
- We will pass them to you on a tray.
- Join us LIVE on Facebook Sunday at 10^{AM}.



There are many ways to join us in Worship...

- ★ *join us in person!*
- ★ *watch LIVE on FaceBook every Sunday at 10 AM!*
- ★ *watch on YouTube (soon we will stream LIVE)!*
- ★ *watch on our website www.MorningStarOmaha.org!*
- ★ *request a DVD to be mailed to you!*



We have reopened for public worship Sundays at 10 AM with social distancing and face masks in place! All are welcome but we kindly ask that you let the Church Office know by phone or email to help our greeters and ushers prepare for your arrival. For those that are uncomfortable, we will continue to offer virtual worship via Facebook LIVE at 10 AM or shortly thereafter on our website.



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH



I'm excited to get to know your family and have started working my way through the list making calls! I'd love to meet with parents as well as kids, so call me anytime, and I'd like to schedule a Zoom to start seeing your lovely faces.

Check out our new [Youth Facebook Page!](#) If you use Facebook, give it a follow to see upcoming opportunities, participate in the "Questions of the Day," see pictures from events (when we can safely have them), and connect virtually in a new way.

VBS success!

Bolt VBS ran July 27-29 online in backyards where children learned about listening to, focusing on, and following Jesus with the help of some wacky videos and outrageous games! Thank you to Kyle Wolfe, Pastor Chris, and Eryn Blagg for participating in the videos. Because this VBS is based on videos and activities to do at home, it's not too late to participate. Contact Greta to learn more!

Bible Art Quest

This fun activity is available for all ages! Let us know and we can mail you one.

Backpack Blessing Sunday

We will bless our backpacks for the coming year on Sunday, August 9 in the service, and you can participate at home. Blessings will be mailed out prior to the service, including adults upon request.

Family Fun Day on the Lawn

Join with kids of all ages for some fun, physically distanced lawn games on Wednesday, August 5, 4-5^{PM}. Have some fun before school starts!

Youth Group Cookout

Join Pastor Chris, Greta and the youth ministry team for the customary back to school hot dog BBQ for middle & high school students at the church with a new youth group fire pit on Sunday, August 9, 5:30 - 7^{PM}.

Zoom Connections

Connect with other youth your age on a Zoom hang out with Greta. This is a great way to connect from the safety of your own home! If your family is interested in participating, please call to have a form emailed to you so I can organize meetings and meet you soon!

Virtual Sunday School

We are in the works for a virtual Sunday School in September. Watch for some big announcements coming soon!

What ideas do you have? What ministry would you like to see happening? Let Greta know!

As school begins this season, may God go before you to lead you, behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over you, and in you to give you peace. Amen.

Blessings,
Greta Carlson

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MISSIONS & OUTREACH

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



Gods Reach
Envelops Every Need

Green Envelope Offering

Our Green Envelope offering this month goes to Table Grace Café! Located in downtown Omaha, Table Grace Café is a place where lasting connections are made and the needs for healthy food and job opportunities are met. The cafe is an extension of Table Grace Ministries and the ministry of Matt and Simone Weber. At this pay-what-you-can restaurant, anyone who walks through the door is served a nutritious meal regardless of their ability to pay. In place of a bill, patrons are asked to pay what they are able through monetary donations or through the giving of their time. More than a meal, the cafe's connection with its patrons often goes beyond food. A 10-day training program is available to community members who are experiencing homelessness or are seeking to re-enter the workforce but lack the job skills or training. To read more about what's happening at Table Grace Cafe go to tablegracecafe.com.

TABLE GRACE
CAFÉ
Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE MIDLANDS

SCHOOL SUPPLY
& BACKPACK DRIVE

Help us fill backpacks with school supplies for children in need.

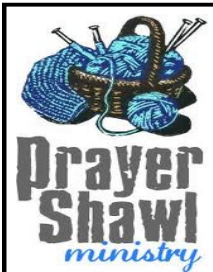
Please keep in mind our collection of backpacks and supplies for the Boys & Girls Westside Club! Drop off your donations by August 9 at the church when we will be blessing the supplies. Let's make a huge difference in the lives of Club members as they head back to school prepared for the year ahead!

COMING SOON

Join us for

"God's work. Our hands."

A dedicated day of service in our community.



The Prayer Shawl team have made hand-crafted blankets for those in need. Healing and God's peace have been prayed over each one. Feel free to take one or contact the Church Office to arrange pick-up.



You made our celebration of fifty years of marriage brighter in the midst of the pandemic with the beautiful greenery arrangement, cards and many well-wishes we received from you. Thank you!

Peace, Pastor Glenn and Ronni

flowers & bulletins

Thanks for your generosity with the altar flowers and bulletins. If you would like to sponsor them, see the calendar in the Welcome Center or call the Church Office.

Flower Sponsors		Bulletin Sponsors	
August 2	Dan & Bev Hartman	Available	Jan Zarestky
August 9	Rich & Betty Fiddelke	Available	Available
August 16	Daryl & JoAnn Wollenburg	Daryl & JoAnn Wollenburg	Available
August 23	Sandy Heskett	Sandy Heskett	Available
August 30	Jill Moeller	Jill Moeller	Available



Virtual Bible Study

Join us via Zoom conference call on your computer or phone

Join us on Wednesdays usually at Noon for Bible study via Zoom or Facebook LIVE with Pastor Chris and Pastor Glenn. Contact the Church Office for the Zoom link. You can always watch later at your convenience online at www.MorningStarOmaha.org.



Our Music Ministry staff continues to do an amazing job of bringing us encouraging worship through hymns, songs, special music and specialized music-themed Sundays! Thank you for your hard work and thank you to all who have provided such beautiful music for us!

If you would like to share your musical talent, please contact the Church Office!

If you do not have internet access, please contact the Church Office for a DVD and bulletin of any of the services you may have missed.

Council Highlights

- ◆ The church will open for in-person services July 19. Thank you to the taskforce for their excellent work in keeping our congregation safe: Cindy Ferris, Kim Hawkins, Jr., Lynn Hedell, Marguerite McGill, Terri Micheels, Laurel Mooney, Kyle Wolfe, Pastor Glenn Schacht and Pastor Chris Hawkins. We will continue to stream live on Facebook for those members who are more comfortable at home.
- ◆ The preschool successfully reopened in June. The first phase was a partial reopening, and the preschool plans for full enrollment in August. They are grateful for supportive parents and the team that worked with them for the reopening.
- ◆ Greta Carlson, our Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries, has been building relationships with our youth and families. She's working on youth events to bring our youth safely together with appropriate social distancing.



James & Shaila Clark welcomed baby Ralston Max on June 27th! Welcome to the Morning Star family, Ralston!

Lauren Anderson & Bob Gilmore were wed on Saturday, July 25th! Congratulations, Mr. & Mrs. Gilmore!





Weekly meetings at Morning Star have resumed. Both are open to those in need!

Alcoholics Anonymous meets on Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM} in the chapel with physical distancing and facemasks in place.

DBSA (Depression & Bipolar Support Group) meets on Thursdays at 7:00^{PM} in the chapel & large conference room with physical distancing and facemasks in place.

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10 ^{AM} Worship	3 5:30 ^{PM} MIF Committee (Zoom) 7 ^{PM} Outreach Committee (Zoom)	4 9:30 ^{AM} Staff Meeting 5:30 ^{PM} AA Meeting (Chapel) 6:0 ^{PM} Exec Comm. (Zoom)	5 12 ^{Noon} Bible Study 4 ^{PM} Family Fun Day 	6 7 ^{PM} DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib)	7 Noon-3 ^{PM} Communion Pick Up 	8 9 ^{AM} -3 ^{PM} Communion Pick Up 
9 10 ^{AM} Backpack Blessings Worship & Backpack Blessings 5:30 ^{PM} Youth BBQ  	10 5:30 ^{PM} Preschool Advisory (ZOOM) 6:30 ^{PM} Church Council (ZOOM)	11 9:30 ^{AM} Staff Meeting 5:30 ^{PM} AA Meeting (Chapel)	12 12 ^{Noon} Bible Study	13 7 ^{PM} DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib)	14	15
16 10 ^{AM} Worship	17	18 9:30 ^{AM} Staff Meeting 5:30 ^{PM} AA Meeting (Chapel) 5:30 ^{PM} Personnel Comm (ZOOM)	19 12 ^{Noon} Bible Study	20 7 ^{PM} DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib)	21	22
23 10 ^{AM} Worship	24	25 9:30 ^{AM} Staff Meeting 5:30 ^{PM} AA Meeting (Chapel)	26 12 ^{Noon} Bible Study	27 7 ^{PM} DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib)	28	29 
30 10 ^{AM} Worship	31					



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested

Prayers

Lindsay Bowley
Rich Fiddelke
Ken Hagemann
Judy Hollander
Virgene Kobold

Eunice Levisay
Michelle Miller
Nancy Sweetwood
Daryl Wollenburg

Friends & Loved Ones of Morning Star

-Barbara Nelson (*Diane Ervin's mother*)
-Bill & Kathy Wild (*friends of the Schacht's*)
-Dave, Beth & Family (*brother-in-law of the Maxwell's*)
-Deanna, Jan & Jane (*friends of Deb Hysack*)
-Debbie (*friend of the Moy's*)
-Diane (*Sharon Zahm's cousin*)
-Don (*JoAnn Wollenburg's brother*)
-Pastor Gail Madsen
-Gay (*friend of the Maxwell's*)
-Jack Green Family
-Jennifer (*Gloria Miller's cousin*)
-Joseph (*friend of the Wollenburgs*)
-Judy Olson (*Stacie Neussendorfer's mother*)
-Kate Richling
-Laura B. & Medical Staff (*daughter-in-law of Roger & Janice Hass*)
-Marcus & Elizabeth Carlson (*Greta Carlson's parents*)
-Mary (*Marguerite McGill's sister*)
-Monnie Peterson (*Glenda Cannon's brother-in-law*)
-Nicky Olson (*friend of Stephanie Jensen*)
-Randy (*Dawn Karnish's father*)
-Robino Family
-Scott Kunz of Stuart, NE (*friend of Pam & Ric Miller*)
-Shelley Anderson (*Carol Anderson's daughter*)
-Steve, Whitney, Michael & Elois Smith (*Michelle's family*)
-Taylor & Todd Koers
-Tony Nigro (*Bev McCollum's brother-in-law*)
-Verna Gilbertz



August Anniversaries

Ken & Roberta Hagemann	4
Rich & Betty Fiddelke	8
Robert & Kelly Throckmorton	8
David & Lynn Blagg	11
John & Diane Konvalina	12
Kim & Karen Hawkins	14
Daryl & JoAnn Wollenburg	15
Andy & Teggy Maxwell	20
Lawrence & Julee Kruse	31
Gary & Sue Quast	31

August Birthdays

Hope Ervin	2	Michelle Warner	15
Nina Lierler	2	Tamara Kellams	16
Marcia Bergstrom	3	Hailey Neussendorfer	16
Lily Warner	3	Pastor Kent Morse	17
Cecil Bykerk	4	Marti Christensen	18
Sarah Lieske	4	Michael Lierler	20
Lacy Saitta	4	Lawrence Kruse	22
Jan Zarestky	5	Quinn Warner	24
Barb Teter	7	Molly Wolfe	24
Pastor Glenn Schacht	13	Tyler Engel	26
Virgil Johnson	14	Lee Hollander	27
Ross Williams	14	Nancy Sweetwood	27
Alan Berk	15	Pastor Sara Jensen	28
Zoey Lawton	15	Michelle Miller	28