

***You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.***

Acts 1:8



Jesus' mandate to the disciples was clear. They were to be witnesses of the Risen Lord in their lives and ministry to the ends of the earth. Here we are today. We are witnesses to all God has done for us and this world in our lives and in our ministry together. The charge is this: to share the story of salvation in all we do and say as God's people. That's a tall order. Sometimes we need guidance.

I've said it before. And I'll say it again. A church without a mission is dead. It's that simple. Like a ship without its directional rudder, the church can often bounce aimlessly on the crest of the next wave, often at the mercy of all kinds of outer influences. If we float around, wondering what direction the wind and currents might take us, eventually we will succumb to the sea. Smart captains plot their course and check their rudders before hoisting the sails.

Morning Star has been that competent captain of the course God has set us upon. Now, with rudder secure and sails hoisted, we are positioned to sail the winds of the Spirit as it guides us through these next three years.

On Sunday, April 26, many of our active members came together to discern several mission goals to steer our ministry to the foreseeable horizon. Thanks to the leadership and teamwork of the Congregation Council and the Strategic Mission Team, several goals were presented to those in attendance. These goals were developed out of the many conversations, small group gatherings, and discernment of our leadership.

These goals are outlined as four strategic growth areas: Strengths, Opportunities, Community Mission, and Aspirations. Some will be challenging. A few will be implemented as soon as possible. But all of them need to be approved by the congregation on Sunday, May 31, at our second half annual meeting.

Until that time, I invite you to read through these important mission goals. More importantly, I ask you to keep these goals in your prayers as the sacred outcome of our work together. Please pray for our congregation's leadership as we consider the details and specifics of achieving these goals in the best interest of Morning Star's mission. If you have any questions or comments, I also invite you to direct those to me or a member of our Congregation Council.

Jesus has given us an urgent mandate: *To Bring the Light of Christ to ALL Creation*. Through these goals, I believe we have set an ambitious but urgent course into God's preferred and promised future for Morning Star Lutheran Church.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris

(Goals on next page.)

Office Hours	
Monday - Thursday	8 ^{AM} - 4 ^{PM}
Friday	8 ^{AM} - 12 Noon
Closed Major Holidays	
Worship Times	
Saturday Worship	5:30 PM
Sunday Worship	10:00 AM
Coffee Fellowship	11:15 AM



Bringing the Light of Christ to All Creation

MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Morning Star's Three Year Strategic Plan

Growth Area: Strengths to Build on

1. We will grow and thrive by supporting our outstanding Called Pastor, Administrative Staff and Organist/Music Minister.
2. We will continue to enhance our excellent music ministry with a wide variety of options.

Growth Area: Opportunities for Improvement

1. We will improve our Christian education and faith formation for all generations and will strengthen and grow our youth ministry.

Growth Area: Mission to Our Community

1. We will expand community outreach by building partnerships aligned with our mission to Bring the Light of Christ to ALL creation, including utilizing our lower level to house a ministry partner with an emphasis on mental health and/or children and family resources.
2. We will leverage our pivotal location in Central Omaha and utilize our beautifully remodeled campus to provide programming for the Omaha community (e.g., concert series, speaker series, fun cross-generational events open to the public).

Growth Area: Aspirations for the Next 3 Years

1. We will configure our paid staff to meet the growing ministry needs for children and family ministry, youth ministry, and volunteer coordination.
2. We will continue finding ways to be an inviting, engaging, social and vibrant congregation that finds joy in the Gospel. (Be a place known for having fun!)



Omaha New Hope Chapter DBSA

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

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

Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM}

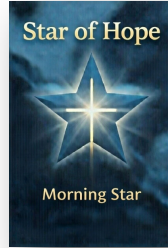
Tuesdays at 8^{PM}

Wednesdays at 5:30^{PM} ~Women



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

Join the Star of Hope meetings on the third Wednesday of every month!



We ALWAYS need help with Communion, scripture reading, ushering and serving coffee & donuts. Contact the Church Office to find out how you can help!



Prayer Shawl Ministry



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.

If you have pastoral care needs, please contact the Church Office to notify our pastoral staff.




MAY 24, 2026
Confirmation Sunday
 Congratulations to Michael Lierler who will be confirmed on Sunday, May 24 during the 10 AM worship service.



Pentecost
 Wear RED for Pentecost!
SUNDAY
MAY 24, 2026

May Worship Assistants

Sunday, May 3

Comm: JoAnn Wollenburg, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
Reader: Kyle Wolfe
Usher: Dean Mathisen & Jim McGill
Acolyte: Zach & Josh Bowman
Altar: Bev Hartman

Sunday, May 10

Comm: Angie Hawkins, Todd & Jill Moeller
Reader: Janice Hass
Usher: Chris & Theo Hedican
Acolyte: Anna Moeller & Quinn Warner
Altar: Angie Hawkins

Sunday, May 17

Comm: _____ **HELP NEEDED** _____
Reader: _____ **HELP NEEDED** _____
Usher: Todd & Deb Washburn
Acolyte: Abigail Karnish & Brynn Wiebers
Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish

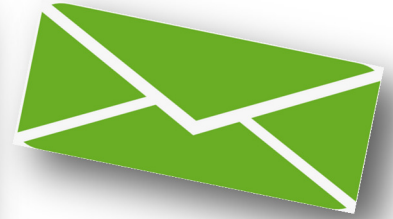
Sunday, May 24

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter
Reader: Donna Walter
Usher: Mark Carnevalo & Dean Mathisen
Acolyte: Luke Lieske & Zach Bowman
Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, May 31

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore
Reader: Bob Gilmore
Usher: Brian & Bryce Peterson
Acolyte: Nina & Michael Lierler
Altar: Lauren Gilmore

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



May Green Envelope

May is Mental Health Month and our Outreach Team is partnering with Children's Hospital's Behavioral Health & Wellness Center for the Month of May. The Behavioral Health & Wellness Center at Children's Nebraska, which opened in January 2026, is a first-of-its-kind facility designed to meet the urgent and growing mental health needs of children and teens in our community. With one in five Nebraska youth experiencing a mental health condition and many more reporting feelings of sadness or hopelessness, this center provides immediate, compassionate care for children regardless of the level of need. Through their "no wrong door" approach, families have access to a full continuum of services, including crisis assessment, outpatient therapy, inpatient care, partial hospitalization, and family-centered support, all in one location. This innovative, holistic model ensures that every child and family receives timely care, clear next steps, and ongoing support, offering hope, healing, and a stronger future for our community.



Visit Morning Star's website for their Amazon wishlist to use with their patients and families at the BHWC or scan the QR code to the right!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Join Us for Build Day

June 6, 2026

Sign Up in Lobby

Morning Star joins St. Tim's build at the Pope Leo Houses in the Blue Stem Community. Use the QR code to register.



Building homes. Building community.

Morning Star will once again partner with St. Timothy Lutheran Church on June 6 to build a home in the Blue Stem community. ALL volunteers MUST register at <https://cerv.is/0119rPLV2026-Timothy> or scan the QR code above. Sign up in the lobby!



Crossroads Connection

Thank you to all who played a part in hosting Crossroads Connection for dinner & worship on Sunday, May 3. If you would like to help in future events, please contact Pam Chelesvig or the Church Office.

Free Library

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!



Graduate Sunday

Hey high school, trade school and college graduates! Graduation Sunday is May 24 during morning worship. We would love to honor you during that time. Please RSVP and send us your name, school, degree (if Applicable) and future plans by May 18! Please include a photo!

Thanks

Thank you for visits, thoughts and prayers. I really appreciate all of them. This has been a long stay which I hope will be over fairly soon. But that is not in my control. I have been improving but it is taking time. I appreciate receiving and reading the bulletins when I receive them. Reading even the songs when I get them is nice. My thoughts and prayers are with you all! Take care!

~ Ramona Klaasmeyer

Thank you so very much for making Sydney's celebration of life so warm and wonderful. We so appreciate ALL the effort that was put forth to make it such a memorable day. Your thoughtfulness and kindness truly touched our hearts! We are deeply grateful!

~ The Winstrom Family

Thank you so kindly for your very generous gift to the Food Bank and for your impactful support. It truly means everything to us and to the shared communities we serve daily. Many blessings to you all.

~ Edwin, Food Bank of the Heartland

Dear Pam & the Morning Star Outreach Team,

On behalf of the Josie Harper Hospice House and the Master Gardener crew that volunteers in the gardens there, thank you for the wonderful work you did the last Sunday of April! With your help, all the gardens are now ready. Every room at Hospice House has a garden view, and there is quite a lot to clean up in the spring. Thank you very much...what you do makes a big difference!

~ Cindy Anderson

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to be a sponsor, contact the Church Office.

Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors



DATE	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
May 3	James & Shaila Clark	Available	Jim & Marguerite McGill
May 10	Rod & Cindy Anderson	Virgil & Ruth Johnson	Available
May 17	Available	Available	Available
May 24	Elaine Kemper	Available	Available
May 31	Available	Available	Available

The cost of the Altar Flowers is \$45 per arrangement. Bulletin sponsorships are \$30 per week. Thank you for continuing to sponsor the beautiful flowers that adorn our altar.

My first Communion



Charlotte Hines & Family



Leonidas Hull & Family



Madison Hassler & Family

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship	
3 10 Worship 6 Crossroads Connection Worship & Meal 	4 5 Outreach Committee	5 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 Confirmation	7 8:30 Moms in Prayer 7 DBSA 	8	9 5:30 Worship
10 10 Worship 	11 4:30 Strategic Planning Committee 6:30 Church Council Meeting	12 8 AM to 8 PM Polling Place 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 Confirmation	14 7 DBSA	15	16 5:30 Worship
17 10 Worship	18	19 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	20 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting	21 7 DBSA	22	23 5:30 Worship
24 10 Worship & Rite of Confirmation 	25 Church Office Closed	26 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 1:30 Lydia Circle 7 DBSA	29	30 5:30 Worship
31 10 Sunday Worship 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting						



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested



**The Church Office is closed
Monday, May 25 in observance
of Memorial Day!**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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. Thanks!



May Birthdays

Susie	Bonnett	05/01	Jennifer	Longley	05/09	Daryl	Wollenburg	05/21
Brian	Peterson	05/01	Joanne	Wise	05/12	Beckett	Duncan	05/22
Cynthia	Rismiller	05/03	Linda	Pauley	05/14	Tyberius	Hull	05/22
Rick	Jacobi	05/04	Jurene	Wegner	05/14	Lynn	Blagg	05/27
Dan	Mooney	05/04	Ric	Miller	05/16	Tom	Pauley	05/27
Susan	Snow	05/05	Brett	Froendt	05/17	Dick	Zahm	05/28
John	Kellams	05/07	Elaine	Kemper	05/18	Emily	McWhirter	05/29
Bev	Hartman	05/08	Adam	Johnson	05/19	Nate	Hawkins	05/30
Chris	Hawkins	05/08	Sharon	McGrath	05/19	Jim	Wurtz	05/30
Nick	Shehan	05/08	Royann	Hedell	05/20			

May Anniversaries

Gary & Sandy	Byers	05/05
Trevor & Shelby	Wulf	05/06
Dan & Laurel	Mooney	05/16
Dave & Marvene	Evenson	05/25
Ric & Pam	Miller	05/27
Roger & Janice	Hass	05/31
Tim & Lori	Mueller	05/31

