



Bringing the Light of Christ to All Creation

MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH



January 2020

Message from Pastor Chris

So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Behold, the commencements of the New Year! There's the clichéd crescendo of the ten second countdown. Ah, the flamboyant B flat 'bang' (*open to auditory debate*) of the champagne bottle and its corresponding cork. For others, a proper New Year's celebration is made manifest by a mass of humanity on a confetti-filled block to observe a brightly lit ball descend to the ground.

Personally, I can always be mesmerized by some flame bearing fireworks as they streak across the imperturbable, zero dark hundred skies. That might actually be worth staying up for!

Never to be forgotten though are those ever merry, but often pathetic souls who try to sing. You know who they are. They're the ones who forever struggle to recall the evasive words to the old Scottish tune, *Auld Land Syne*.

By the way, I have no room to talk! In fact, I have no room to sing! Which brings me to my least favorite of all the highly heralded customs of the season...the ever-illustrious New Year's Resolution.

Admittedly, I've made some New Year's resolutions over the years. Some have been personal. Some have been real doozies. Others, I'll dare to actually admit. In fact, a few years ago, after a couple of embarrassing experiences as a pastor, I actually resolved to become better at singing in my worship leadership. I don't know if I can claim to be all that better at singing these days, but I know I haven't failed miserably like I have with other half-hearted measures at self-improvement on January One.

This is why I take issue with New Year's resolutions. Because here's the thing. Resolutions will never make you a better person. In all honesty, they will never make you more acceptable or more desirable or more lovable in the eyes of God. After all, God loves you for exactly who you are right now. He will never love you more for who you dream or imagine yourself to be. Remember, God sees the same you on January 1, 2020 just as He does on December 31, 2019. No magical countdown will ever make you belong to God more.

So, this year, please resolve to improve yourself all you want. I hope you do. I'll be rooting for you. Perhaps you can even memorize the ambiguous words to *Auld Land Syne*! But remember, your 'resolution' to do something new in 2020 is for your benefit and yours alone. Nothing you do should make you more loveable to others. And it definitely will not matter to a God who was willing to give his only Son for this world. For in the eyes of our Savior, you are still the same lovable person no matter how well you sing, how much you weigh, or how successful you think you might be or not be.

No feeble efforts you ever make to improve yourself or this world will ever make God resolve to accept you more than He already has...unconditionally, no matter what. This is called grace. And it is exactly why Jesus was so

331 S. 85th Ave. ♦ Omaha, NE 68114
402.393.5553

Office@MorningStarOmaha.org
www.MorningStarOmaha.org



Worship Times

Saturday Service
Sunday Services

5:30^{PM}
8:30^{AM} & 10:30^{AM}

resolute in doing away with the old and ushering in something new by dying for you. If anything, this truth is worth popping the cork!

Happy New Year. And may you continue to see God doing something brand new to give you abundant life and blessing every single day in 2020. Thank you for being you.

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Chris

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 26 ~ 9:30 AM

ANNUAL REPORT
Annual Reports should be to the Church Office by January 7. Thank you!

listen to
Sunday Worship
Services online
www.MorningStarOmaha.org



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. Join one of our weekly studies:

- Wednesdays at 9^{AM}
- Thursdays at 2:30^{PM}

Message from Pastor Glenn

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Pastor Chris and I have been discussing what we would like to do during Lent this year. One of the ideas is that we could both lead book studies. I have a couple of books in mind, but I need to find out if they are still available.

I also want to know if there would be interest in meeting another time besides Wednesday evenings. Please let me know your thoughts regarding both the idea of doing a book study as part of our Lenten journey and meeting at another time besides Wednesdays.

Peace,
Pastor Glenn

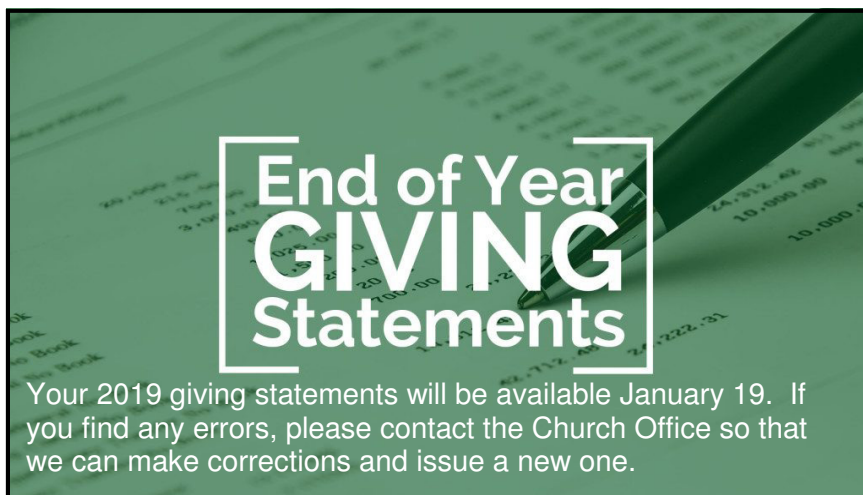
OWLS
Older Wiser Lutherans
The OWLS will not meet in January. See you on February 3rd!

Nursery Available
Sundays 8:30 & 10:30



End of Year GIVING Statements

Your 2019 giving statements will be available January 19. If you find any errors, please contact the Church Office so that we can make corrections and issue a new one.



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

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



Green Envelope

The Green Envelope offering for January is for the Morning Star Youth. Our young people are active in ministry in our church:

- ~ VBS
- ~ Trunk or Treat
- ~ Acolytes
- ~ Missions
- ~ Faith-building Trips



Gods Reach
Envelops Every Need

Your gifts help fund the work in "bringing the Light to ALL creation"!



Omaha New Hope Chapter DBSA

DBSA meets
Thursdays at
7^{PM} in the Large
Conference
Room.



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil



We are fortunate to have an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting here at Morning Star. This group is open to anyone in need. They meet on Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM} in the Chapel.



The benefits of incorporating Tai Chi into one's life can bring about well-being, peace and clarity for anyone but especially seniors with balance issues.

Tina & Frank Fong are teaching the Tai Chi class in the Chapel every Wednesday at 10:30^{AM}. A love offering is taken. For more information, contact Tina at 402-556-3568 or email TinaFong@MorningStarOmaha.org.



JAN 1 - FEB 2, 2020



TEAM FLAKES

Last Name A to L



TEAM PUFFS

Last Name M to Z

RULES OF THE GAME

Bring new dry breakfast cereal, boxed or bagged, flakes or puffs. Place in the bin based on the first letter of your last name. All ounces added up per team. All cereal will be donated to **Kountze Commons Food Pantry!**

Grand Prize:

Bragging Rights & Team Name on Trophy "SkyBox" seats at 1st Worship Service in February

Both Teams Receive:

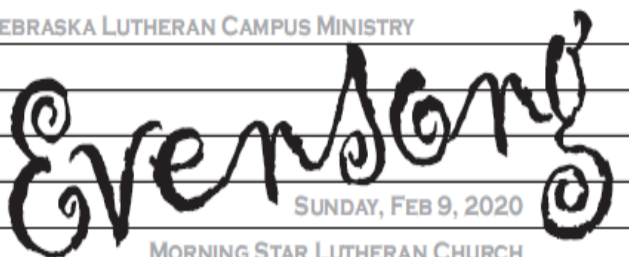
Gratitude from Kountze Commons Food Pantry & the Outreach Committee!

GAME OVER: 2/2/20

For more information, Contact: Ric Miller at 402.496.4275

Morning Star Lutheran Church - 331 S. 85 Ave - Omaha - 402.393.5553

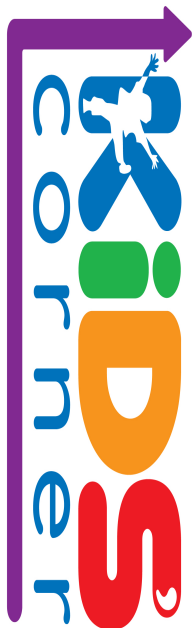
NEBRASKA LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY



SUNDAY, FEB 9, 2020

MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please 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 Morning Star Lutheran Church. Guest Director is Simone Weber. Refreshments and a silent auction will support the ministry events of Campus Ministries at UNO, Creighton University, College of Saint Mary and UNMC.



Join us at 9:30 ^{AM} each week to recharge and refuel your walk with God!

First we meet with Tina Fong, Director of Music Ministry in the chapel for music, movement and kid-style fellowship. Then we break into age-appropriate classes. Shari Page & Rick Jacobsen teach Pre-K - 1st Grade in the Chapel. Kyle Wolfe & Andy Maxwell teach 2nd - 6th Grade in the Library. **See you SUNDAY!**



Preschool & 3rd grade

BIBLE PRESENTATION

Sunday, January 19 ~ 10:30 ^{AM}

Morning Star's Bible class for preschoolers (and parents) is Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 ^{AM}. The Bible class for Third Grade students (and parents) is Sunday, January 19 at 9:30 ^{AM}.

Bibles will be presented to these classes on Sunday, January 19 at 10:30 ^{AM}. Please notify the Church Office by January 10 if your child will be participating.

Preschool News

Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center



402-393-8215 • Preschool@MorningStarOmaha.org

Our Nativity Program was amazing as the children sung their way into our hearts telling the story of Jesus' birth. The Pancake Man was a big hit as well as the visit from Santa in our Winter Wonderland.

In January, we will have a theme featuring the Royal Court of Morning Star with kings, queens, dragons and castles. Children can show their creativity on dress-up day and "Build a Castle" Day. Another theme is "We Are the Same; We Are Different" where children can discover the unique qualities in each individual. The week will end with a Chinese New Year celebration.

A highlight of our month is Indoor Snow Day where the children can build indoor snow forts, slide animals on ice and scoop snow with trucks and bulldozers. The number of children currently enrolled is 134 with a waiting list of 75 infants and 52 toddlers!

Youth Corner



Children are a heritage from the Lord. Ps. 127:3



Morning Star Winter Ski Retreat
February 14-17
(President's Day Weekend 2020)
Winter Park, Colorado

Snow Tube or Ski Worship

Great Food Fellowship

First time skiers are encouraged to participate! Mark your calendars and reserve your spot today!

Total cost of \$399 due by February 9. Parents are invited to a meeting on Sunday, January 26 at 9:45 ^{AM}.



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



MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ministry Investment Funds

THANK YOU!

Thank you for letting our club hold it's monthly meetings at the church.
~ The Nebraska Trailblazers

My heartfelt thanks for wonderful church friends. Pastor Chris for his hospital visit, Ruth Johnson for bringing me the altar flowers and the many cards and prayers during my recovery. I am very blessed. Much love from the bottom of my heart.
~ Donna M. Walter

Just a note to let you know that I received one of your beautiful prayer shawls as a gift from a very dear friend. Not only is it warm and very pretty, but the meaning of your prayers, love and hope when making it is so very much appreciated. God's blessing as you continue your kindness.
~ Bev Sladovnik

Thank you so much for sponsoring 20 children for Christmas this year. Your kindness & generosity this holiday season will mean so much to these children and their families. We so very much appreciate your continued support and all that you do to make the holidays brighter for families. Happy Holidays!
~ Susan Pawloski

Thank you so very much, my dear Morning Star family, for your continued blessings and support. You remind me daily of what a blessing it is to be a part of the ministry here! Thank you for the Christmas bonus and for the love that you show me.
~ Susie Syx

Singers & Instrumentalists Needed

Our talented Music Staff spends a lot of time each week planning the worship services to be meaningful to our spiritual walk. They are always looking for musicians and singers to help enhance the worship here at Morning Star. Contact our Music Department at TinaFong@MorningStarOmaha.org on how you can help serve!



Christmas Un-Decorating

Now that the holidays are wrapping up, it's time to put all our beautiful decorations away at the church. Join us on Saturday, January 11 at 9 AM. The more the merrier!

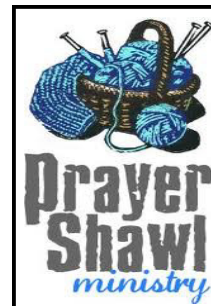


The Lydia Circle meets Tuesday, January 28 at 4:00 PM in the Library. The Sarah Circle meets Thursday, January 23 at 12:30 PM in the Gathering Space. All are welcome!

~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.



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

Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors

January 5	Dorothy Vacek	Dorothy Vacek	Available
January 12	Jaime & Bryan Trummer	Jaime & Bryan Trummer	Available
January 19	Carol Smith	Carol Smith	The Engel Family
January 26	Rod & Cindy Anderson	Available	Available

January Ministry Partners

January 5

Acolytes	9:30	Kate & Samuel Lieske
Communion	9:30	Sarah Lieske, Lynn & Royann Hedell
Readers	9:30	Lynn Hedell
Ushers	9:30	Cindy Lindquist, Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Lynn Davis & Michelle Miller
Coffee Hosts		Sarah Circle

January 12

Acolytes	8:30	Owen and Hattie Moeller
	10:30	Anker Jensen and Luke Beck
Communion	8:30	Rod Anderson, Lauren Anderson & Jan Zarestky
	10:30	Cynthia Ferris & Sabrina Beck
Greeters	8:30	Larry & Joyce Kochen
PowerPoint	10:30	Bill Ervin
Readers	8:30	Rod Anderson
	10:30	Sabrina Beck
Ushers	8:30	Cindy Lindquist, Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Lynn Davis & Michelle Miller
	10:30	The Maxwell Family
Coffee Hosts		Altar Guild

January 19

Acolytes	8:30	Sam & Kate Lieske
	10:30	Bei Warner & Lacey Saitta
Communion	8:30	Francy Van Meter, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
	10:30	James & Shaila Clark
Greeters	8:30	Neil & Cindy Lindquist
PowerPoint	10:30	Paul Worcester
Readers	8:30	Kyle Wolfe
	10:30	Bill Ervin
Ushers	8:30	Cindy Lindquist, Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Lynn Davis & Michelle Miller
	10:30	The Maxwell Family
Coffee Hosts		Evangelism Committee

January 26

Acolytes	8:30	Owen & Hattie Moeller
	10:30	Claire & Jake Bonnett
Communion	8:30	Sarah Lieske, Betty Fiddelke & Donna J. Walter
	10:30	Andy & Teggy Maxwell
Greeters	8:30	Dennis & Kim Moy
PowerPoint	10:30	Pam Miller
Readers	8:30	Judy Hollander
	10:30	Ric Miller
Ushers	8:30	Cindy Lindquist, Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Lynn Davis & Michelle Miller
	10:30	The Maxwell Family
Coffee Hosts		Kyle & Arielle Wolfe

Your generosity to Morning Star is greatly appreciated! Want to make your donations stretch even farther?

- See if your company **Matches Gifts!**
- Use **GoodSearch** as your search engine!
- Use **TAGG** locally when you make a purchase!
- Use **Amazon Smile** & select Morning Star!

Matching Gifts: Some companies match a portion or all of any donation you make to a non-profit!

GoodSearch: Sign up at GoodSearch.com and they will send us about a penny per search plus percentages of your online shopping!

TAGG: Download the app, snap a picture of your receipt and choose Morning Star. They will donate 5% to Morning Star at no cost to you!

Amazon Smile: If you shop on Amazon, go through Amazon Smile and select Morning Star as your organization and we'll receive half of a percent of what you spent!





January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church Office & Preschool Closed	2 9-4 Preschool Class 7 DBSA	3 9-4 Preschool Class	4 9 Church Reserved (<i>Quilters</i>) 5:30 Worship
5 9:30 Combined Worship	6 9-4 Preschool Class 7 NWFT Trailblazers	7 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting	8 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 4:30 Exec Comm 6:30 Confirmation Class	9 9-4 Preschool Class 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	10 9-4 Preschool Class	11 9 ^{AM} UN-Decorate the Church 5:30 ^{PM} Worship
12 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Preschooler's Bible Class 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship	13 9-4 Preschool Class 5:30 MIF Committee Meeting 5:30 Preschool Advisory Committee 6:30 Church Council	14 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting	15 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 6:30 Confirmation Class	16 9-4 Preschool Class 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	17 9-4 Preschool Class	18 5:30 ^{PM} Worship
19 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 3rd Grader's Bible Class 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship & Bible Presentations	20 9-4 Preschool Class	21 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting 5:30 Personnel Committee	22 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 6:30 Confirmation Class	23 9-4 Preschool Class 12:30 Sarah Circle 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	24 9-4 Preschool Class	25 5:30 ^{PM} Worship
26 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship	27 9-4 Preschool Class	28 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 4 Lydia Circle 5:30 AA Meeting	29 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 6:30 Confirmation Class	30 9-4 Preschool Class 12:30 Sarah Circle 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	31 9-4 Preschool Class	



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested

For thanksgiving, a "Thankful Jar" was placed in the preschool area as an encouragement to staff & families alike. Here are some of what they shared:

"I am thankful for..."

...my family because they make me a better person.

...grandchildren because they bring me joy!

...our extended family at Morning Star because we know they are so loved while at preschool.

...the grace of God!

...excellent childcare as it gives me peace of mind to have my kids in a great place with great people.

...Morning Star because you have been wonderful to my kids over the years. Thank you for caring and supporting our little ones. It means the world to us parents!

Thank you for continuing to be the Light of Christ to ALL through our excellent Preschool and Child Care Center!



Prayers
Rae Austin

Stephanie Jensen
Eunice Levisay

Betty Wilson

Friends & Loved Ones of Morning Star

- Anna (Daryl Wollenburger's stepmother)
- Ben & Michelle (friends of Pam & Ric Miller)
- Bev (Sandy Heskett's friend)
- Bonnie, Carley & Mikaela Z. (cousin/friends of Dawn Karnish)
- Carter Schacht (family of Glenn & Ronni Schacht)
- Cindy C. (friend of Cynthia Ferris)
- David Wiley (Bridgette Robbins brother, friend of Rae Austin)
- Delmar Peetz
- Dedra (friend of the Washburn's)

- Dianna Howland (friend of Jan Zarestky)
- Dick (brother-in-law of Bonnie and Don Daubman)
- Donald, Gene, Uneva & Curtiss (Fiddelke's family)
- Graham (great-grandson of Marilyn Jewett)
- Jim (friend of Karen & Kim Hawkins)
- Joan (friend of the Mueller's)
- Joe, Amy & Family (brother-in-law of the Maxwell's)
- Josie, Cindy & Emma (Lynn & Royann Hedell's family)
- Julie & Leland (family & friend of the Hollander's)
- Kevin, Lee & Family (friends of the Maxwell's)
- Leo (brother-in-law of the Wollenburgs)
- Lindsay (Janice & Roger Hass' granddaughter)

- Marie Z., Tiffy J., Kelly & Family (Hedican's family & friends)
- Mary (Marguerite McGill's sister)
- Mason (friend of the Wollenburgs)
- Michelle (friend of Dennis & Kim Moy)
- Nola (3 year old friend of Donna M. Walter)
- Patty (friend of Sandy Heskett & Bob & Nancy Sweetwood)
- Ray Thiel (Laurel Mooney's family)
- Shelley (Carol Anderson's family)
- Steve, Teresa, Jennifer, Kate & Jessica (Gloria Miller's family)
- Tiffany, Jeremy & Nancy (sister & friends of Hedican's)
- Whitney, Steven, Michael & Robert (Michelle Miller's family)