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www.MorningStarOmaha.org



WORSHIP WITH US!
Saturdays at 5:30 PM • Sundays at 10:00 AM • Anytime at www.MorningStarOmaha.org

January 2023 Newsletter

Message

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

***Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God!
In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!***

Psalm 40

They say if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. That might be true, after all God tends to be in charge. But what if our plans are really God's plans? What if, in our discernment of the Holy Spirit's work in our midst, we are merely following God's preferred and promised future for our lives? This is exactly how I feel about the recent design plans for our beautiful church home.

Last November we gathered as a congregation to share in some plans for the future of our congregation. These plans were the culmination of years of praying, conversing, dreaming, and discerning God's plan for our ministry together. They are plans based, in part, on the former strategic mission planning this congregation accomplished together several years ago. Many of you were a part of that process.

Much of what was presented nearly two months ago to the congregation, in the form of drawings and presentations, by our designer, Mark Bourne and architect, Kevin Strehle, incorporate our missional directive to 'welcome all people.' These plans are further buoyed by pragmatic and creative thought toward enhancing the versatility of our worship, teaching, and fellowship space well into the future. If you have not yet seen these inspiring drawings, I invite you to please stop in to review them in the Gathering Space for the next month.

Most importantly, I invite you to consider all the wonders God has done for Morning Star's ministry, its past, present and future. Through you, your faith, and your support, we have reached an important juncture in the history of our ministry together. Now, I believe we are being led with urgency to follow God's lead as our ministry encounters a new era, one of leveraging our impressive building for intentional outreach into our local community.

In the next few days, we will be inviting your participation in one of several small group meetings to pray about and discuss many of the design elements and concepts presented to the congregation this past November. Our hope is that through a more intentional and focused conversation in a small group setting, you will each have an opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and concerns relative to our work thus far.

Morning Star is your church home. Thus, we are aiming to achieve near 100% participation of our active membership in these small group settings. Most of these meetings will take place at Morning Star and last no longer than 90 minutes in length. Karen Hawkins, I, and other members of the Remodel Committee will be present and lead these important conversations. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Gathering Space, but you may call the Church Office to reserve your spot as well.

These are exciting times for our ministry! I know that God is leading us through your support to share in all the wonders of what the Holy Spirit is up to at Morning Star Lutheran Church!

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

It's that time of year again! Winter weather can sometimes become a burden. To keep our congregation safe when the snow flies, our Congregation Council has recently revisited Morning Star's weather cancellation policy.

Remaining in effect will be our weekday cancellation policy. When local school districts e.g., OPS and Westside, cancel school due to weather related incidents, all scheduled congregational activities will also be cancelled. Our Morning Star Preschool will continue its cancellation policy on a case-by-case basis.

On weekends, when inclement weather affects the potential safety of worshippers traveling to and from church for worship, Pastor Chris and our Executive Committee will determine cancellation on an individual basis. Factors that affect these decisions include forecasted precipitation, hazardous road reports, extreme wind chill, and/or the ability to clear our parking lots and sidewalks of ice and snow for the safety of our worshippers and staff.

We will aim to communicate any worship cancellation at least two hours in advance by "robo" call to our membership as well with WOWT (Channel 6 online/television).

"Save the Date March 10th 2023"
Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls
Voices of Transformation

*Merry
Christmas*

FROM TABLE GRACE MINISTRIES

Date March 10th, 2022

Time 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: St. Thomas Lutheran Church
17007 Q St, Omaha, NE 68135

Table Sponsorship available

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

402.965.1276

TABLE GRACE
Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls
CAFE

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29 at 11:15 AM

Join us on Saturday, January 14 at 9 AM to remove all of the holiday trimmings. The more the merrier!



Congratulations and blessings to **Estelle May Garges** (pictured at right) upon receiving the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, January 8. We welcome her into the Lord's family. Estelle's parents are Kristen & Travis Garges and her grandparents are Jerry & Karen Bertelsen.

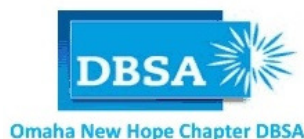
Alcoholics Anonymous are people who come together to solve their drinking problem. It doesn't cost anything to attend A.A. meetings. There are no age or education requirements to participate. It is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem. Two different groups meet at Morning Star on Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM} and 8^{PM}.



Al-Anon is a group for those who are worried about someone with drinking problems. An Al-Anon group meets at Morning Star on Wednesdays at Noon.



If you've ever been at the church on a Thursday night, you've run into the DBSA, Depression, Bi-Polar Support Alliance. They meet at Morning Star every week at 7^{PM}. This meeting is open to anyone in need! Call 402-502-HOPE for more information.



All of us on staff here at Morning Star thank each and every one of you for generously remembering us this Christmas! We are blessed by your prayers, generosity, love and friendship! It is an honor to serve here at Morning Star!

from

Pastor Chris, Pastor Glenn, Greta, Susie, Simone, Rick, Jean, James, Art, Kyle, Sara & Sarah



The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides hand-crafted blankets given to those that need comfort. Prayers for peace and healing are prayed over each one as they are made. The shawls are available in the Welcome Center. Feel free to take one.



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!



A Trampoline Park faith formation adventure for 4-6th graders in Omaha on Friday, January 27, 7-9 PM at Altitude Trampoline Park (5575 N 90th St). Cost is \$20 per person. Friends are welcome as long as they register. Register and pay with Greta Carlson by filling out the forms by Wednesday, January 18. You must also fill out Altitude's jump waiver. All forms can be found at MorningStarOmaha.org/Family!



2023-2024 Winstrom Youth Service Scholarship applications are available. Pick one up at the information center in the Gathering Space, contact the Church Office to have one mailed or emailed to you or go online at MorningStarOmaha.org/Family. New this year, accredited technical schools **DO** qualify!

Deadline is March 1!

Bowling Faith Formation Adventure

Sunday, February 19, 2:45-5pm
Maplewood Lanes, 3030 N 101st St, Omaha, NE 68134
Cost is \$20 for youth 4-6th grade, includes pizza



Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center

Morning Star Preschool and Child Care Center wants all children to reach their full potential. Our faith community comes together to provide care and support for one another, especially during the earliest years in life. Having access to quality early childhood programs provides families with peace of mind and helps children develop skills that will last a lifetime. Morning Star Preschool and Child Care Center and We Care for Kids, along with faith communities like ours across Nebraska, are coming together to make a difference in the lives of all families through access to quality early childhood care and education. Learn more at NebraskaCaresForKids.org.





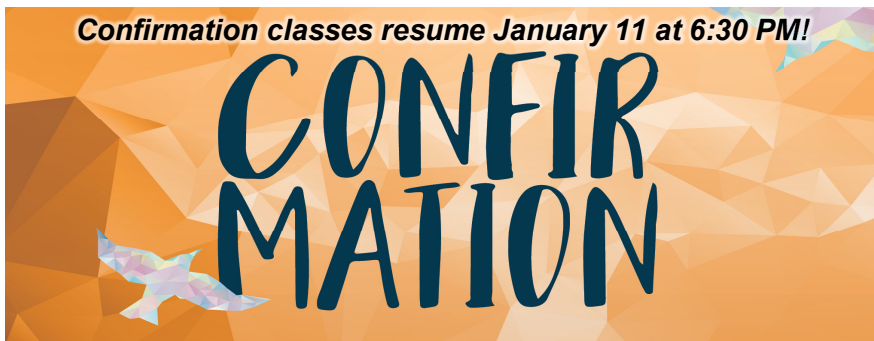
Lean on Me
Saturday & Sunday ~ January 14-15
First Lutheran Church in Kearney

The annual Middle School Gathering, a highly interactive experience for grades 6-8, is a good place to connect with God and others from across Nebraska. Greta plans to take a group from Morning Star. Cost is \$58 and includes worship, meals, interactive workshops, team building and time at the Kearney YMCA. Register by December 11.



Wed. Jan 18, 7:30pm
 Youth Room

Planning and shopping for College Care Packages. Please RSVP as we will be going to the store!



STEINBRUCK CENTER, WASHINGTON D.C.

Pastor Chris and Greta are leading a trip to DC in Summer 2023! High School youth will learn about and experience faith in action in our country's historical, political, and urban sights. Activities include:

- Service Learning and Volunteering
- Advocacy and Social Justice
- Sightseeing
- Poverty and Homelessness Education
- Museums and Cultural Education
- Reflection and Processing

High School DC trip info meeting on January 22 after church in the youth room for youth and parents



Bible story time and donuts for all generations

Second and Fourth Sundays at 9:30am

January 8- Jesus is Baptized!

January 22- Calling All Disciples!

February 12- The Way We Treat Each Other

February 26- Adam and Eve Eat the Apple

March 12- The Woman at the Well

March 26- What Happened to Lazarus?



Missions and Outreach

Bringing the Light of Christ to ALL Creation

Green Envelope

The Youth Group at Morning Star is asking for your support with this month's green envelope offering. The youth are active members of the congregation through acolyting; volunteering at VBS, the Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, and attending youth group meetings and service projects. Your dollars go towards the big events like our summer youth trip as well as the everyday supplies like drinks in the minifridge and coffee for our monthly hangout at Scooters. This summer the High School youth will be traveling to Washington DC for a service and justice trip. We will experience how faith is active in the world through direct service, justice work, advocacy, and education. Your support and prayers are welcome in preparation for this adventure as well as for the youth in their day to day lives of growing, learning, and exploring.



ANNUAL REPORT

Please turn in your Annual Report to the Church Office by January 12. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas special for the families at Lutheran Family Services and Westside Boys & Girls Club! Carter the Elf helped his mommy deliver all the gifts! Thank you Tonniges family for your extra service!



Worship Assistants for January

	Communion Assistants	Lay Reader	Greeter/Usher	Acolytes
1/1	Sarah Lieske, Betty Fiddelke & Susie Syx	Gloria Miller	John & Lynn Davis	Luke Beck & Addi Hawkins
1/8	Greta Carlson, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe	Greta Carlson	Joel Rohde & Terri Micheels	Charlie & Will Beck
1/15	Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg	Dave Blagg	Todd & Deb Washburn	Hallie & Zac Tonniges
1/22	Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore	Lauren Gilmore	Chris Hedican & Jim McGill	Nina Lierler & Addi Hawkins
1/29	Donna Walter, Greta Carlson & Arielle Wolfe	Donna Walter	Marge Morgan & Carol Smith	Anker & Asta Jensen

Altar Flowers
& Bulletins
Ministry Opportunity











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
January 1	Pastor Chris & Angie Hawkins	AVAILABLE
January 8	Carol Smith	Carol Smith
January 15	Bryan & Jaime Trummer	AVAILABLE
January 22	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE
January 29	Rod & Cindy Anderson	AVAILABLE

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 Worship 	2 	3 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 6:30 Exec Team Meeting 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2 	4 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon	5 7 DBSA	6	7 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
8 9:30 The Hole Story 10 Worship 2 Coffee with Greta	9 4:30 Building Meeting 6:30 Church Council Mtg	10 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	11 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 6:30 Confirmation Classes	12 7 DBSA	13	14 9 Christmas UN Decorating 5:30 Worship 
15 10 Worship 	16 	17 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	18 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 6:30 Confirmation Class 7:30 Steering Committee	19 7 DBSA	20	21 5:30 Worship
22 9:30 The Hole Story 10 Worship 11:30 DC Trip Meeting	23	24 9:30 Staff Mtg 1 Lydia Circle 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	25 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 6:30 Confirmation Classes	26 11:30 Scatter Joy Board Meeting 12:30 Sarah Circle 7 DBSA	27 7 Jumping for Jesus Event 	28 5:30 Worship
29 10 Worship 11:15 Annual Meeting 	30	31 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2				



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested

OFFICE IS CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH

IN OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



January Anniversaries

Lynn & Royann	Hedell	1/1
Bryan & Jaime	Trummer	1/13
Rod & Cindy	Anderson	1/30

January Birthdays

Judy	Hollander	1/2	Quinn	Garges	1/18
Bryce	Peterson	1/6	Shirley	Beier	1/23
Sandy	Heskett	1/7	Luke	Lieske	1/23
Margery	Morgan	1/7	Delores	Albanese	1/24
Julee	Kruse	1/9	Deborah	Hysack	1/26
Don	Page	1/14	Sue	Quast	1/27
Ainsley	Pierce	1/14	Lori	Mueller	1/28
Francy	Van Meter	1/16	Mary	Wahl	1/29
Emerson	Ladd	1/17	Kathleen	Bruckner	1/30
Tegwin	Maxwell	1/17	Jean	Gutheil	1/30
Gerald	Vanek	1/17			

The Sarah Circle is extending an invitation to EVERYONE to come Thursday, January 26 at 12:30 PM for lunch and a presentation on building updates. Please RSVP with Janice Hass at 402-397-9366. Messages accepted!



Delores Albanese
Irene Bruckner
Glenda Cannon
Don Daubman
Kim Hawkins, Sr.
Rick Jacobsen
Virgene Kobold
Emily McWhirter
Rev. Kent Morse
John Walter
Baby Harrison
Bob & Family
Dixie
Duane
Eileen & Gary
Fred
Gary Rue

Harold
Jennifer
Julie
Korrie Hall
Kyle & Family
Laura
Mallory Prucha
Mark Albanese
Rylee Koers
Shelley Anderson
Sherry
Steven & Terry
Susan
Tim Jensen
Wanda Thompson's
Family
Will Steinaur