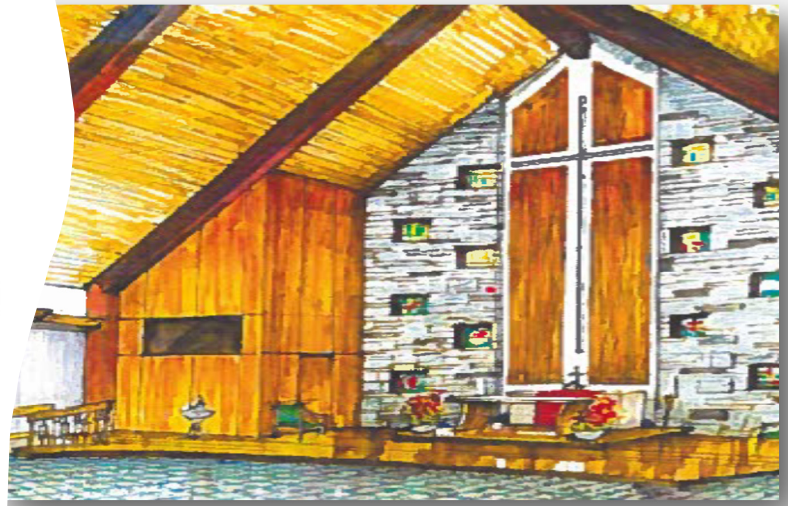




MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWS letter

January 2024



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS

But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

The New Year has always been a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. As I look toward 2024, I am hopeful that the Lord will continue to renew strength and be an ever-guiding presence in your life. Many blessings to you and yours as you begin this year anew.

Speaking of new beginnings, I am ever hopeful for our ministry together at Morning Star. This past December the congregation made a convincing decision about its mission as it moves into the future. You voted decisively to advance an exciting and much needed building project.

This *Enlighten Project*, as has been named, aims to transform our worship, gathering, and administrative spaces. Much of this project will also address several other urgent areas of deferred maintenance. All aspects of this project are inherently necessary as we look to be great stewards of our facility and our ministry together for several years to come and for generations yet unborn.

As such, I am pleased to report that this Enlighten Project has begun! For the next eleven months, you will witness an exciting transformation. We will also witness the reality of change through several stages of construction.

As your pastor, I understand there may be a range of thoughts and emotions a project like this one can have on a faith community. We are not naïve to think that everything will proceed without its challenges. After all, there are no quick fixes or easy answers when it comes to endeavors this transformative.

Yet, I believe the Holy Spirit is constantly at work renewing our strength as a worshipping community. As we begin this new chapter in the life of our congregation, I would like to invite you to consider three important ways you can help to lead us through this critical phase in the life of Morning Star.

First, please continue to join us for worship. Our primary mission is to share the Gospel through Word and Sacrament. This is foundational to who we are as a church. While Sunday morning worship has moved into the Fellowship Hall, the Means of Grace have not. For now, our 5:00 Saturday evening worship will continue to be in the Chapel. Online worship is still available to those who are homebound or wish to remain at home. By the way, our very first worship service in the Fellowship Hall was fantastic!

Second, please continue to support our congregation and its mission financially. Thank you to all who have completed a 2024 "Plan for Giving" card and those who continue to give of their God given treasures in support of Morning Star! I cannot emphasize enough how essential your stewardship is in supporting our mission of "*Bringing the Light of Christ to ALL Creation.*"

In addition to your vital support, I invite you to please consider sharing an additional financial gift to advance our Enlighten Project. Many members have prayerfully considered how their additional gift for this project, pledged for the next three to five years, will leave a legacy for years to come.

Please know, we are grateful for and cherish all gifts, of any amount. If you need an additional Enlighten Giving Packet or would like to speak to a member of the Enlighten Committee, our Treasurer, Lori Mueller (CPA), or to me personally about a specific contribution, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration of this one-time additional gift to advance this project.

Third, I invite you to pray. Please keep Morning Star in your prayers. Please pray for our community; our membership, including those who are homebound; our volunteers; staff; and neighborhood. Please keep in your prayers our ministry partners, including those people and organizations for whom our congregation's outreach efforts are crucial. Please pray for those involved in the process of leading us through the construction phase. This includes our architectural firm, BCDM and its staff, as well as our contractor, Boyd Jones and their affiliated staff and tradesmen. Please pray that we continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all the upcoming changes.

Finally, thank you for your faith and your witness to the Gospel during this time. Morning Star truly is a community grounded in God's grace and it is a privilege to serve alongside you always.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris

Congratulations and blessings to Joanne Rose Wise and her parents, Al & Tricia Wise, upon receiving the sacrament of Baptism on December 17. We welcome her into the Lord's family.



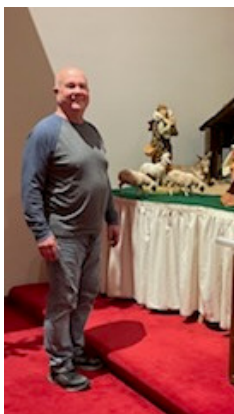
Christmas Eve Children's Message



Christmas Program



Christmas Decorating Crew



Angel Tree Gifts



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



January 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 to help with the big events like the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer as well as everyday supplies like drinks in the minifridge and snacks for Confirmation. Your support and prayers are welcome as we prepare for our summer adventure as well as for the youth in their day to day lives of growing, learning, and exploring!

January Volunteer Opportunity

Our volunteer opportunity this month is a SOUPER BOWL with donations of canned soup for the Kountz Food Pantry. Bring your cans of soup to the display at church and help fill the food pantry!



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, Susie, Simone, Rick, Jean,
James, Art, Kyle, Sara & Sarah*

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28 at 11:15



January Worship Assistants

Sunday, January 7

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Arielle Wolfe
Reader: Janice Hass
Usher: Dan & Laurel Mooney
Acolyte: Jackson Post & Mason Rue
Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, January 14

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore
Reader: Rod Anderson
Usher: Dianne Misunias & Nick Saitta
Acolyte: Nick & Zach Bowman
Altar: Lauren Gilmore

Sunday, January 21

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg
Reader: Dave Blagg
Usher: Joel Rohde & Jim McGill
Acolyte: Bryce & Grace Peterson
Altar: Lynn Blagg

Sunday, January 28

Comm: Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
Reader: Kyle Wolfe
Usher: Marge Morgan & Carol Smith
Acolyte: Abigail Karnish & Addi Hawkins
Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish

Thank you to Morning Star Lutheran for being the location for our Table Grace Ministries Staff and Board Christmas celebration on Sunday, Dec. 10th. It was a perfect way for us to bring together our diverse staff and board of directors to celebrate the wonderful ministry of 2023!

Many people commented on how beautiful the space was and were very grateful for the gathering. The narthex space was the perfect place to share music and sing Christmas carols with the Christmas tree and resonance of the space !

Thank you Morning Star from all of us at Table Grace Cafe for your partnership and generosity!

Sincerely,
Simone and Matt Weber



Christmas UN-Decorating & Epiphany Party

Join us Saturday, January 6 at 9 AM to take down our Christmas décor. Beginning at noon we will have lunch and a set-up party for worship downstairs. All are welcome to either or both!



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).

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

January 7	Marge Morgan	Marge Morgan	Available
January 14	Francy Van Meter	Francy Van Meter	Available
January 21	Delores Albanese	Available	Available
January 28	Rod & Cindy Anderson	Joyce Kochen	Available



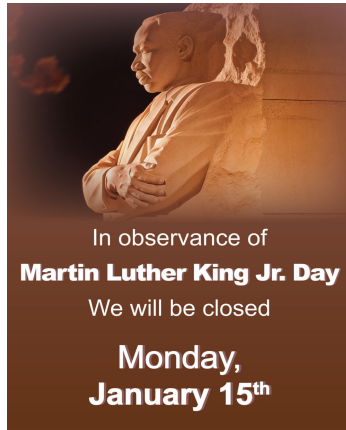
We would love to have you help read scripture, serve communion or usher/greet! Contact the Church Office TODAY to find out more information!

Church COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT

- Council approved development of an Enlighten campaign video by Matt Bross
- Council was presented with a budget for 2024
- Praying for next year's budget



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!



PRAYER list...

The prayer list reset on January 1. If you have anyone that needs to stay on it, please contact the Church Office.



Special Sundays in January

Join us all month long in January for some extra special fellowship time after worship. Each Sunday features a different brunch along with our usual fare of donuts, rolls, coffee & juice. Sign up with Ric or Diane to help with any of the following:

- 1/7 QUICHE 2023 GOODNIGHT ~ egg bakes, quiches, breakfast cookies, donuts and coffee!
- 1/14 PIGSKIN FOOTBALL BRUNCH ~ breakfast pizzas, bacon bowls, & pigs in a blanket!
- 1/21 SNOWBIRD SUNDAY ~ in honor of Arizona snowbirds: breakfast enchiladas & breakfast burritos!
- 1/28 SLIP-SLIDING SUNDAY ~ breakfast sliders and breakfast egg rolls!

2023-2024 Winstrom Youth Service Scholarship applications are now available. Pick one up at the information center in the Gathering Space, go online or contact the Church Office for one. Accredited tech schools DO qualify!

APPLICATION DEADLINE is March 1!



Kids & YOUTH

THE HOLE STORY

Bible story time and donuts for all generations
9:30am in the Chapel on First and Third Sundays

January 7 The Lord's Prayer
January 21 A Storm



January 19-21, 2024

Join us for a faith-filled winter adventure all while getting to hang out with camp friends old and new. Register at CarolJoyHolling.org!



MORNING STAR

Preschool & Child Care Center

Let's Play!


I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and was able to enjoy time with family and friends! It is a busy time of year for the preschool behind the scenes with planning and coordinating for the upcoming year.

Later this year, there will be renovation impacts to the

Preschool when they install a new floor in our kitchen, renovate the bathrooms by the Green Star Butterflies and redo the parking lot. I do not have a date for when these projects will begin, but when I meet with Pastor Chris each week, he will update me on the timeline for these projects.

I want assure you that the children's safety and well being is our top priority, and when the projects begin, we will do our best to minimize changes to each classroom's routine as much as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me!

Sarah Dumke



Sunday, January 21
9:30 Class
10:00 Presentation

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Register by calling or emailing the Church Office!



Camp brochures are out and available in the Gathering Space. Campers can get \$50 off by registering by January 31. Morning Star has camp scholarships available!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
July 16-20, 2024!

Morning Star is taking a group of excited high school youth (incoming 9th graders included) to join thousands of high school youth from around the country for fun, worship, and fellowship in the Bayou! We will be flying! Con-



Classes resume January 10 at 6:30 PM and continue on Wednesdays in the youth room.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  	2 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	3 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	4 5 Exec Team Meeting 7 DBSA	5	6 9 Quilting Group 9 Christmas UN Decorating 12 Epiphany Party 5:30 Worship
7 9:30 The Hole Story 10 Worship in the Fellowship Hall	8 4:30 Enlighten Committee 7 Outreach Committee	9 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 6:30 Church Council Mtg 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	10 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Confirmation	11 7 DBSA	12	13 5:30 Worship
14 10 Worship in the Fellowship Hall	15 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting 	16 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	17 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Confirmation	18 7 DBSA	19	20 5:30 Worship
21 9:30 The Hole Story 9:30 3rd Grade Bible Class 10 Worship in the Fellowship Hall & Bible Presentations 	22	23 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	24 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Confirmation	25 12:30 Sarah Circle 7 DBSA	26 8 Swanson Parking Lot Usage	27 5:30 Worship
28 10 Worship in the Fellowship Hall 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting 	29	30 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	31 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Confirmation			



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested

ANNUAL REPORT

Please turn in your Annual Report to the Church Office by January 11. Reports will be available Sunday, January 14.

Prayer Requests

Prayers

Rae Austin
Mike Behm
Donna Crouse
Addie Elshire
LouAnn Henkens
Sandy Heskett
Virgene Kobold
Neil Lindquist

Bev McCollum
Emily McWhirter
Gloria Miller
Laurel Mooney
Rev. Kent Morse
Don Page
Nick Saitta
John Walter
Mary Ziska

Danny Karnish (*Tim Karnish's brother*)
Henry Buschmann
Jaxon (*Dawn Karnish's cousin*)
Joan (*Betty Fiddelke's sister*)
Rich Fiddelke
Rylee Koers
Theo Throckmorton

Sympathies

Delores Albanese & Family

January Birthdays

Judy	Hollander	1/2	Quinn	Garges	1/18
Bryce	Peterson	1/6	Shirley	Beier	1/23
Margery	Morgan	1/7	Luke	Lieske	1/23
Sandy	Heskett	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
Tegwin	Maxwell	1/17	Jean	Gutheil	1/30
Emerson	Ladd	1/17	Kathleen	Bruckner	1/30
Gerald	Vanek	1/17			

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.



January Anniversaries

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