

Because of the ongoing risk of Covid-19, we kindly ask that you please worship online if you have been exposed to the virus within the last two weeks or experience any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, congestion, extreme fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, muscle or body aches, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea. Thank you for helping to keep our community safe.

Time To
CELEBRATE

October Anniversaries

Don & Emily McWhirter	4
Jeff & Lori Peterson	8
Bert & Rhonda Wise	11
Shawn & Janet Forney	12
Jack & Melissa Horgan	20
Robert & Gina Ladd	22
Jeremy & Kaylie Ring	26
Tim & Mary Wahl	26

October Birthdays

Emerson Turner	1	David Tolo	13
Casey Fink	3	Erik Jensen	17
Ava Gienger	3	Asta Jensen	18
Timothy Wahl	3	Ruby Davie	19
Janice Hass	5	Rae Austin	21
Zachary Bowman	7	Lindsey Nelson	23
Cody Ervin	8	Ryan Miller	26
JoAnn Wollenburg	8	Gretchen Backlund	27
Madison Wolfe	10	Christopher Hysack	27
Abby Wolfe	10	Shelby Duncan	28
Thomas Hysack	13	Andrew Maxwell	31
Delaney Micheels	13		

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



DRIVE THRU
Communion

Friday, October 23 ♦ Noon - 3^{PM} & Saturday, October 12 ♦ 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.



We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Romans 12:6-8

Morning Star is blessed by God's amazing grace! We see grace in abundant ways when we come together for worship around God's gifts of Word and Sacrament. We taste grace when we gather together as redeemed sinners at the communion rail. We hear grace when water and God's promises are splashed upon a newborn at the font. As your pastor, I experience God's living grace in the myriad ways we share ministry together, sometimes in surprising and inspiring ways.

St. Paul was inspired by God's amazing grace. As the Body of Christ, Paul reminds believers that all of God's faithful have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. God intended it that way. Accordingly, each of us have gifts from God's Kingdom to be shared. We might not spend much time thinking about that, but each of us, by God's grace, have amazing gifts to share. Because of you, Morning Star Lutheran Church is tremendously thankful. We need to celebrate!

For the next six weeks, we will journey together in worship, both in person and online, with the theme: **Celebrate Grace! A Journey of God's Abundance**. My hope is that we can use this opportunity to take inventory and celebrate the ways in which God's abundance is evident in, through, and because of our congregation. Each week we will focus on a specific theme geared towards helping us see God's amazing grace in our midst.

For many, this year has been rough. The pandemic lifestyle has not been easy. For too long, we have been unable to experience old norms or do many of the things we are accustomed to, in the ways we've been accustomed to doing them. That lack of freedom, including the opportunity to gather for in person worship with our beloved congregation, has impacted us significantly. We have been challenged to find ways to connect with fellow worshippers. We miss each other in community. At times, we may feel disconnected, lonely, or uncertain about the future. We grieve. All of this is real. Yet, I believe that we still have much to celebrate and give thanks for!

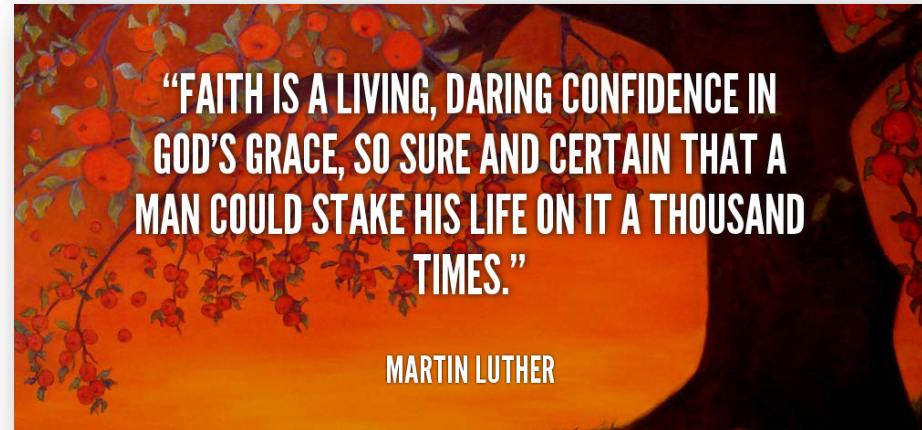
The challenges of these days will not last forever. We will persevere. Through your faith, God's grace, and your tremendous generosity, Morning Star is uniquely poised to weather this storm and move forward in our mission. In fact, I believe we will come out of Covid-19 stronger, with an even greater sense of urgency to share the Gospel and recognize God's abundance for our lives.



Every day, I pray and give thanks for you, for our congregation, and for the opportunity to be a partner in ministry at Morning Star. Now, I invite you and your friends and loved ones to join me, our staff, and our leadership these next few weeks as we celebrate something truly exciting...God's abundant grace!

Whether it is in worship or through our online ministry, we have a powerful story to tell. If there was ever a time to tell the story by lifting high the Cross and our mission to Share the Light of Christ, it is now. God's blessings to you!

Your partner in ministry,
Pr. Chris



We celebrated with Travis & Kristen Garges, the baptism of their daughter Tinsley Rose (picture below) on Sunday, September 27 with her grandparents, Jerry & Karen Bertelsen, aunt Jennifer Longley and cousin Greta present. Welcome to the Lord's family!



Celebrate! Grace

Pastor Glenn Schacht presided over two baptisms at Table Grace this summer. Tammy Reynolds (pictured at right) was baptized on August 20 and Greg Foote was baptized on August 27. Welcome to the Lord's family!



We celebrated with James & Shaila Clark at the baptism of their son, Ralston Max on Sunday, August 9. Welcome to the Lord's family!

We have had quite a few weddings this fall! Congratulations to these couples on their life-long journey with each other!

- ★ Torrie (Dannehl) & Philip Niewohner who were wed on September 12 at Morning Star by Pastor Chris Hawkins!
- ★ Miranda (Haun) & Nolan Zimmer who were wed on September 26 at Pella by Pastor Glenn Schacht!
- ★ Cassie (Kasper) & Brian Hamilton who were wed on October 3 at Morning Star by Pastor Chris Hawkins!



We are celebrating the repair of some drainage issues along the administrative/education wing and near the preschool playground.

Celebrate! Generosity



Thank you to everyone for your cards, phone calls, kindness, love and support after the loss of Bob. I can never fully express my gratitude to my Morning Star family for your care during this time!

~ Nancy Sweetwood

To My Morning Star Family, While my journey with cancer is not over, I am moving on to the second round of treatment. I want to thank everyone that has prayed for me and my family. I know your prayers were answered and I appreciate all of you more than you will know.

Thank you,
Rich Fiddelke

Thank you all for your prayers, thoughts, and support in the last few weeks with the loss of my grandma, Virginia. I am blessed beyond measure to be a part of this community that showers me with love and compassion. After a healing trip to Texas to be with my family, and I am excited to be back with you all!

Much love and gratitude,
Greta Carlson

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.

~flowers & bulletins~

	Flower Sponsors	Bulletin Sponsors
October 4	Don & Emily McWhirter	Carole Langan
October 11	Daryl & JoAnn Wollenburg	Daryl & JoAnn Wollenburg
October 18	Available	Available
October 25	Gretchen Backlund	Gretchen Backlund

Celebrate! Invitation

For those who want to worship on Saturday evenings, we return to worship on Saturday, October 10 at 5:30 PM with face masks and social distancing in place. We will meet in the Sanctuary for this service.



The Women of Morning Star will host a Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 4 after the service. Table Grace Mobile Café will serve wrapped pastries, coffee and juice.

For the first time since the outbreak, our women's circles have begun meeting again! Pictured here are the ladies from the Sarah Circle. They meet again on Thursday, October 22 at 12:30. Bring your own drinks for this lesson on compassion!

Celebrate! Stewardship

We are blessed with an amazing Church Council. These volunteer men and women took a Saturday morning out of their busy schedules to retreat and spend time examining our mission...where we have been and where we are going! One main theme of this time together was to celebrate all that God has been doing at Morning Star. See the highlights below for more!



Council Highlights & CELEBRATION

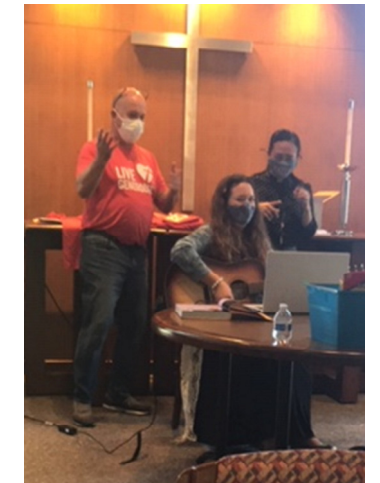
- The Council extends a sincere thank you to our members for their continued giving during the pandemic. Morning Star is blessed!
- Our stewardship program has started. We ask for your consideration and praying for how you can share your gifts with the church in 2021.
- The preschool and child care is at full capacity and the budget has been approved for the next school year.
- Our Sunday attendance has continued to increase, and we're delighted to begin offering Saturday services beginning October 10th.
- The Council held it's annual retreat September 19th. In addition to our council meeting, we spent time with the Morning Star staff reviewing our Three Year Strategic Plan. We celebrated what the church and it's members have accomplished, and we had a great discussion about some areas we'll be working on to wrap up the strategic plan cycle.



Celebrate! Faith

Five Morning Star youth and three parents volunteered at our service project this past month passing out pass out hygiene kits to 300 refugee families!

Rally Sunday this year was combined with God's Work, Our Hands. Songs, crafts, games and story time along with some individually wrapped snacks made for a perfect afternoon and great kick-off to our Sunday School calendar year.



Each week we will email a video to use with your supply pack. Some weeks we'll have a Zoom meeting instead. The first Zoom meet up is October 11! Follow the lesson with your kids. There are a few spots in each video to stop and answer some questions. Younger kids may need assistance in the crafts. The supply pack and weekly emails have instructions as well as extra activities you can do at home together. The next supply packet pick up will be October 23 & 24 during drive thru Communion pick-up.

The Youth Group are going on a SHOPPING TRIP on Sunday, October 18 at 3:30 PM to Nebraska Furniture Mart for NEW couches for the Youth Room. Meet at Mrs. B's at NFM!

The Youth Group will prepare candy bags for the Westside Boys and Girls Club Trunk-or-Treat. Meet in the Gathering Space at church on Monday, October 26 at 6:30 PM!

We have 14 students enrolled in confirmation this year! That's something to celebrate!





Donna Walter is pictured here sharing an update from Mohammad and Muzghan, our refugee family in the Welcome the Stranger outreach program. This family and their five children have become extended family to many here and an important part of our ministry at Morning Star. This month, thanks to a grant received this last spring and your continued support, they will receive much needed school clothes and supplies to prepare them for the winter.

We have a great partnership with Carol Joy Holling & NLOM! Tune in for their virtual benefit on October 10!



VISIT CarolJoyHolling.org/Gala TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

Table Grace Ministries and Morning Star have an important partnership in mission! We are blessed to have many opportunities to enhance that partnership from members helping out with the food truck (see Ronni Schacht below) to attending the weekly Bible study and music session at the café on Thursdays. There is something for everyone! We are blessed to have Matt, Simone, Hope & Alexandra

minister through music and service here alongside us. Here is a note from them:

Thank you friends at Morning Star! Your continued support and generosity toward the mission of Table Grace is appreciated very much! We couldn't do what we do without partners like you!

**Peace & blessings!
Simone & Matt**

Contact Matt or Simone to see how you can help!

www.TableGraceCafe.com



TABLE GRACE CAFE

Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls

TABLE GRACE UPCOMING EVENTS

Hanscom Park UMC
4444 Frances St.
Friday, October 2 • 3-7 PM

Kids Can
4860 Q St.
Wednesday, October 14 • 3-7 PM

Boys & Girls Club South
5051 S. 22 St.
Wednesday, October 21 • 3-7 PM

Habitat Restore
10910 Emmet St.
Friday, October 23 • 3-7 PM

Celebrate! Mission

Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center
402-393-8215 • Preschool@MorningStarOmaha.org

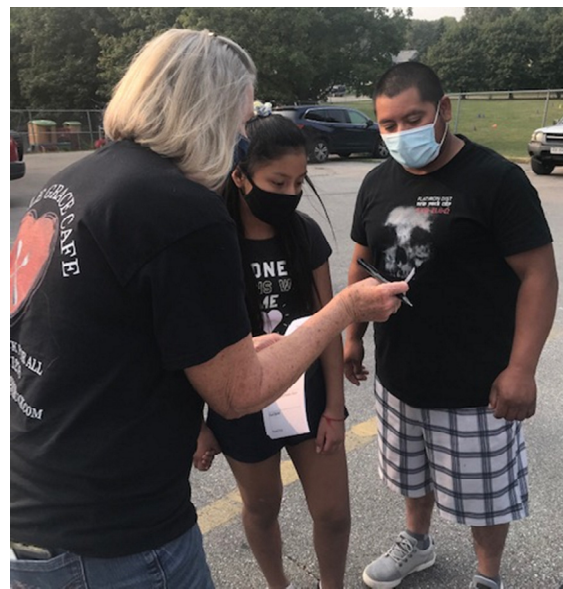
Our 5-star Preschool & Child Care Center continues to shine! This spring they celebrated families and teachers with a drive-through parade. It was a joy to reconnect in a socially-distanced event after being apart for so long. In June, they were able to partially open and now are back at FULL capacity! October brings a healthy bodies theme for the children. Community Helpers will also be featured with the children using their creativity to portray fire fighters, doctors, nurses, teachers or whoever their imagination guides them to be. Pumpkins and Halloween fun are on the agenda! Greta Carlson has been able to meet with the staff and students once a month as she helps them grow in their faith formation.



*Your support means
the world to me!*



Our on-going support of the Boys & Girls Club continues with a special "Trunk or Treat" just for them on Wednesday, October 28. Morning Star will provide a large candy bucket, pizza and a few "trunks" in a safe manner for the children of the Boys & Girls Club to enjoy. Your donations of candy and funds for pizza are appreciated!



Food4Friends is a Morning Star ministry that provides a complete holiday dinner to the "working poor" families of the Omaha Metro area. We will deliver around 150 meals this year so we hope to raise several thousand dollars to continue this beloved and necessary outreach event. Thank you, in advance, for being the LIGHT of Christ to all creation!