



December 2019



Each year we show our appreciation to the dedicated, hard-working staff at Morning Star with a Christmas bonus. If you would like to contribute to this end-of-year gift for our staff please send in your gift along with the tear-off slip below to the church or place in the offering plate by December 20.

THE MORNING STAR MINISTRY TEAM

Christopher Hawkins Lead Pastor Glenn Schacht Associate Pastor Susie Syx Office Manager Susan Snow Director of Preschool & Childcare Center Tina Fong Director of Music Ministry Bev McCollum Organist & Bell Choir Director Facility Manager James Creason Susan Beeghly Choir Director Lynne Swingen Saturday Pianist Art Lorenz Sound Engineer Chevenne Aguilar Nursery Thank you all for your continued generosity! Merry Christmas from your Church Council Sto show our appreciation for the Morning Star Ministry Team! Enclosed is \$____ Name _ Address Phone _____ Email _____

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}





Bishop Brian Maas from the Nebraska Synod ELCA will be speaking at both services at Morning Star on Sunday, December 15. Invite your family and friends to join us on this special day! Blue Christmas & Sunday, December 8 A Service of Remembrance & Hope

On Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 ^{AM} we will host our annual worship service for those who have suffered loss or have a difficult time during the holidays. Lunch will immediately follow. Please RSVP with the Church Office for the luncheon.









Advent Services

Saturdays at 5:30 PM | Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 AM |

November 30, December 7, 14, 21 **AM** December 1, 8, 15 Bishop Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod ELCA will be with us December 15

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday at 9:30 AM

December 22

Blue Christmas ... A Service of Remembrance & Hope

Sunday at 10:30 AM

December 8

Brunch immediately following the service.

Christmas Eve Services with LIVE Nativity & Carolers

Candlelight Service Tuesday at 4 PM & 6 PM

December 24

A time to gather with families and celebrate the birth of Christ. Familiar carols will be sung, candles will be lit and we will reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas. We invite you to join us for this beautiful moment of Christmas.

lessons & Carols Combined Worship Service

Sunday at 9:30 AM

December 29

The Church Office & Preschool will be closed December 24 & 25.



Join us on Monday, December 2 at 11:30^{AM} for a Roast Beef Dinner complete with dessert. Then stay for a Christmas Sing-a-Long with Tina Fong.

Bring scarves & gloves to go with hats made by Delores Albanese for the homeless vets at New Visions.

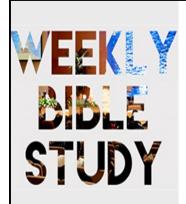
Please RSVP to the Church Office!





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 Gathering Space every Wednesday at 10:30 ^{AM}. A love offering is taken. For more information, contact Tina at TinaFong@MorningStarOmaha.org or 402.556.3568.



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
- Thursday study will not meet in December!



Sunday, December 22 9:30^{AM} Combined Worship Service

<u>Sunday Rehearsals</u> December 1, 8, 15 at 9:30 AM

Children's

Program

<u>Wednesday Rehearsals</u> December 4, 11, 18 at 5:00 ^{PM}

He's here!

Final Dress Re<mark>hearsal</mark> Saturday, December 21 at 3:00 ^{PM}

Contact Tina Fong, our Director of Music Ministry to sign up or for more information at tinafong@morningstaromaha.org.

Make Morning Star a light in your Christmas treasury this year.

Church Staff

Pastor Chris Hawkins Pastor Glenn Schacht Susie Syx Susan Snow Bev McCollum Tina Fong Susan Beeghly James Creason Lynne Swingen Art Lorenz Cheyenne Aguilar, Nursery

Preschool Admin Team

Kathy Widdershoven Dawn Karnish Marilyn Sander April Mather

Preschool Teachers

Chevenne Aguilar Alex Anderson Liz Brisbin Victoria Brumfield Aleia Budwig Ally Butcher Chelanda Carlisle Piper Cole Lisa Cuba Dena Cummings Caresa Endorf Lindsay Ferguson Lizzie Fitkin Kathy Gardner Thelma Green Allison Gurnon

Aaron Haug Stephanie Johns Trisha Juayan Aiden Karpf Allison Kayl Hilary Kimball Sheng Lee Zoe Lee Camryn Lewis-Payne Evelyn Lira Shai McBride Donna Michaelis Ashley Miller Sandra Miller Olivia Nogg Courtney Perquin Taylor Pfeifer

Brenna Rosenberg Tina Ross Michelle Saar Holly Schmidt Brittany Walker Brian Weaver Abby Wilson Arielle Wolfe

ANGEL TREES ARE HERE!

The Angel Tree arrives the first weekend of December. We hope that you will consider "bringing the light of Christ" to a child and/or family including children served by Lutheran Family Services, Boy & Girls Westside Club and families served by Restored Hope.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS: There will be angels on the Angel Tree. The suggested dollar amount for each child is \$25 to \$50. The gifts must be unwrapped in a gift bag.

ANGEL GIFT CARDS: Don't wish to shop...NO PROBLEM! There is a box next to the Angel Tree for the collection of gift cards for the families served by Restored Hope. Drop off a card in the amount of \$25-\$50 from Walmart, Shopko or Target (please write the amount on the card). Drop your gift card in the offering plate, labeled "Restored Hope" or place in the box. All cards and gifts are due by Sunday, December 15.

If you have any questions please contact Laurel Mooney.



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



Green Envelope

This month's Green Envelope supports "Welcome the Stranger", our Refugee Program. The Khawajazada family has settled in to their new life here in Nebraska and are expecting a new addition to their family. Join us for a baby shower on Saturday, December 7 at 12 Noon in the Gathering Space. As you continue to support this program, you continue to help families like the Khawajazada's! Thank Envelops Every Need you for your continued generosity as Morning Star continues to "Welcome the Stranger"!





Your Council thanks you for attending our recent Mission and Fellowship Dinners. Council is working to distill the helpful comments you provided and bring life to those suggestions where there is a strong consensus and consistency with our Strategic Plan. We'll report more as this work progresses. As always, you're encouraged to contact your Council Members with any questions or suggestions that you may have. Again, Thanks!

Council is working to build a proposed budget for 2020. That proposed budget will be circulated for your review prior to our Congregational meeting in January. Thank you to all that have returned your Pledge Cards! If you have not returned your Pledge Card, please do so; we rely upon your generous pledged giving in the budgeting process. We thank both Lori Mueller for her hard work on the budget and Susie Syx for the terrific support she supplies to Lori in this process and throughout the year. Finally, we have a new fee-less direct deposit option where your designated weekly or monthly giving could be made automatically from your bank account. If you have interest, please contact the Church Office.

Events approved or discussed by Council that we encourage you to attend: (i) Celebration of 2014 to 2019 Baptisms on 11/17 following 10:30 service; (ii) Bishop Maas at Morning Star on December 15th; (iii) Decorate Morning Star Saturday, November 30th 9:00 a.m.; and (iv) Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. with live Nativity and Holiday Carolers!



We are making a change in the timing of our Blue Christmas service this year. Instead of having a special service we are making it the focus of our 10:30 ^{AM} worship with a lunch fellowship to follow.

I encouraged this change as I have led and participated in to have a truly Advent focus. It is a service whose purpose, as I see it, is to prepare us to receive Christ into our world and our lives with joy and peace, even as our grief, loss, fear, anxiety, disease, despair, loneliness sadden and distract us from believing that God had chosen to dwell with us.

Blue Christmas services seek to prepare us to trust God's presence with us in the midst of the pain, suffering, disappointment and doubt we experience in this world. They allow us to express those emotions while affirming the reality of 'God with us'.

Please join us for our Blue Christmas service on December 8 at 10:30^{AM}. I do request is that you contact me by phone 402-393-5553 or email GLSchacht@gmail.com if you intend to attend the luncheon.

> Peace. Pastor Glenn





402-393-8215 • Preschool@MorningStarOmaha.org

All aboard the Polar Express! We will be "choo-choo-ing" into December with a wondrous day of trains made of boxes, hot cocoa and fun winter activities.

The children will perform our annual Nativity Play on December 11. This year there will be two performances at 11:00 ^{AM} and 4:30 ^{PM}. This will be followed by a special time of fellowship for families with our Dinner with Santa.

Other events for December include St. Nicholas Day, cookie decorating, caroling, and Christmas sweater day. Merry Christmas to our church family from the staff and children of the preschool!



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}.





Meet at the church at 5^{PM}. Have your parents pick you up at Pastor Chris' house (12501 Deer Creek Drive) at 8^{PM}. Bring a White Elephant Gift to exchange (\$25 or less). RSVP to Angie Hawkins



December Ministry Partners

<u>December 1</u> Acolytes	8:30		
Communion	10:30 8:30	Jan Zarestky, Lynn & Royann Hedell	
Communion	10:30	Bill & Diane Ervin	
PowerPoint	10:30	Bill Ervin	
Readers Ushers	8:30 8:30	Lynn Hedell Neil Lindquist, Joel Rohde, Rick Jacobsen & John Davis	
Conoro	10:30	The Mooney Family	
Coffee Hosts		Kyle & Arielle Wolfe	
December 8	0.00		
Acolytes	8:30 10:30		
Communion	8:30	Diane Konvalina, Francy Van Meter & JoAnn Wollenburg	
Greeters	10:30 8:30	Laura Ervin & Susie Bonnett Colleen Estee	
PowerPoint	10:30	Paul Worcester	
Readers	8:30	Judy Hollander	
Ushers	10:30 8:30	Stacie Neussendorfer Neil Lindquist, Joel Rohde, Rick Jacobsen & John Davis	G 4
USHEIS	10:30	The Mooney Family	For unto you is
Coffee Hosts		Altar Guild	TRATET
December 15			
Acolytes	8:30 10:30		
Communion	8:30	Rod Anderson & Donna Walter	THIS DAY IN THE
	10:30	Ric & Pam Miller	CITY OF DAVID
Greeters PowerPoint	8:30 10:30	Marge Morgan Pam Miller	
Readers	8:30	Rod Anderson	A SAVIOR
	10:30	Campbell Mooney	I B OI BE HORE
Ushers	8:30 10:30	Neil Lindquist, Joel Rohde, Rick Jacobsen & John Davis The Mooney Family	WHO IS CHRIST
Coffee Hosts	10100	Lynn & Royann Hedell	and an or
December 22			Topp, Your,
Acolytes Communion	9:30 9:30	Kim Hawkins & Angie Hawkins	findom
Greeters	9:30	Jan Zarestky	
Readers	9:30	Sabrina Beck	LUKE 2:11
Ushers Coffee Hosts	9:30	Neil Lindquist, Joel Rohde, Rick Jacobsen & John Davis Jim & Marguerite McGill	
December 24			
Acolytes	4:00		
Communion	6:00 4:00	Ric, Pam & Ryan Miller	
Communion	4.00 6:00	Rod & Lauren Anderson	
Greeters	4:00	Dan & Bev Hartman	
Readers	6:00 4:00	Michelle Miller Ric Miller	•
neauers	6:00	Rod Anderson	
Ushers	4:00	The Maxwell Family	
D	6:00	Neil Lindquist, Joel Rohde, Rick Jacobsen & John Davis	
<u>December 29</u> Acolytes	9:30		
Communion	9:30	Cindy Lindquist, Rich & Betty Fiddelke	
Greeters Readers	9:30 9:30	Jim & Anne Jenkins	
Ushers	9.30 9:30	Neil Lindquist, Joel Rohde, Rick Jacobsen & John Davis	
Coffee Hosts		Property Committee	

Welcome to

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship	2 9-4 Preschool Class 11:30 OWLS 7 NWFT Trailblazers	3 9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting	4 9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 12 Evan. Comm. 4:30 Exec Comm. 6:30 Confirmation Class	5 9-4 Preschool Class 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6 Preschool In- Service 6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	6 9-4 Preschool Class	7 9 Church Reserved <i>(Quilters)</i> 9 Church Reserved <i>(DKG)</i> 12 Baby Shower 5:30 Worship
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Blue Christmas Worship Service & Luncheon 6 Crossroads Connections	9-4 Preschool Class 5:30 Preschool Advisory Committee 6:30 Church Council	9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting	9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 11 Preschool Natvity Play 4:30 Preschool Na- tivity Play 5 Santa Dinner 6:30 Confirmation Class	9-4 Preschool Class 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6 Preschool In- Service 6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	9-4 Preschool Class	5 ^{PM} Youth Dinner & Party 5:30 ^{PM} Worship
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:00 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School, Fellowship Coffee & Choir 10:30 Worship 5:30 Staff & Council Christmas Party	9-4 Preschool Class	9-4 Preschool Class 9:30 Staff Meeting 11:45 Preschool Chapel 5:30 AA Meeting 5:30 Personnel Committee	9-4 Preschool Class 9 Bible Study 10:30 Tai Chi 6:30 Confirmation Class	9-4 Preschool Class 12:30 Sarah Circle Luncheon 2:30 Lay-Led Bible Study 6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 DBSA	9-4 Preschool Class	5:30 ^{PM} Worship
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 Combined Worship & Children's Christmas Program		4 Christmas Eve Service 6 Christmas Eve Service Church Office & Preschool Closed	Church Office & Preschool Closed		9-4 Preschool Class	PM
29	30	31	1			
9:30 Combined Worship	9-4 Preschool Class	9-4 Preschool Class 5:30 AA Meeting	Church Office & Preschool Closed			

Women ELCA 🚽

The Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at St. Timothy's on December 10 at Noon. The program is the "Three Amigos" and a love offering will be taken for the Salvation Army. RSVP to Ruth Johnson at

402-397-9521 by December 8.

The Lydia Circle meets on Tuesday, December 17 at 4:00 ^{PM} in the Library. The Sarah Circle meets Thursday, December 19 at 12:30 ^{PM} at Brother Sebastians!



Community Open House

You are cordially invited to an open house of the new Hawkins Family Westside Boys & Girls Club.

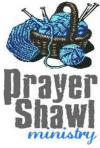
Tour the Club's state of the art Innovation Center and meet Westside Community Schools new superintendent Dr. Mike Lucas.

> Thursday, December 5th, 2019 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. 1312 Robertson Drive Omaha, NE 68114

Please RSVP to Elizabeth Donner at edonner@bgcomhaha.org or 402-342-1600



Join us for these Combined Worship Services on Sunday, December 22 & Sunday, December 29 at 9:30 ^{AM}.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides hand-crafted Blankets for those that need comfort. Prayers for peace and healing are prayed over each one. The shawls are free to all and available in the Welcome Center. Join the group

Sunday mornings as they crochet and knit over coffee and doughnuts.

Singers & Instrumentalists Needed

Do you play drums, keyboard, guitar, brass or woodwind instruments? Do you love to sing? Our Music Staff is looking for extra help this summer! Contact our Music Department at TinaFong@MorningStarOmaha.org on how you can serve!





<u>Prayers</u> Stephanie Jensen Marilyn Jewett

Friends & Loved Ones of Morning Star

- -Angie (friend of Dennis & Kim Moy's)
- -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)
- -Jim (friend of Karen & Kim Hawkins)
- -Joan (friend of the Mueller's)
- -Joe, Amy & Family (brother-in-law of the Maxwell's)

- Donna Walter Daryl Wollenburg
 - -Josie, Cindy & Emma (Lynn & Royann Hedell's family)
 - -Julie & Leland (family & friend of the Hollander's)
 - -Kevin, Lee & Family (friends of the Maxwell's)
 - -Leon & Leo (brothers-in-law of the Wollenburgs)
 - -Lindsay (Janice & Roger Hass' granddaughter)
 - -Marie Z., Tiffy J., Kelly & Family (Hedican's family & friends)
 - -Mason (friend of the Wollenburgs)
 - -Michelle (friend of Dennis & Kim Moy)
 - -Patty (friend of Sandy Heskett & Bob & Nancy Sweetwood)
 - -Ray Thiel (Laurel Mooney'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)



The Gifts of Advent: A Weekly Study Series for Advent

A gift is given freely and offered in love. In the weeks before Christmas, we often race around finding just the right gifts for friends and family. The season of Advent is itself a gift—a time set apart to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We give thanks for God's gift to us in the baby of Bethlehem. This series highlights four aspects of Advent that become blessings and gifts in our lives: patience, speech and silence, hope, and family.

WEEK 1: The Gift of Patience

Waiting is hard. We eagerly anticipate the desires of our hearts and want them to come soon. We wait for the first day of school or the first snowfall. We wait to see a loved one or to hear a doctor's news. Just as the farmer waits for crops or the fig tree waits for summer, we are reminded to be patient until the coming of the Lord.

READ:

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

Hebrews 12:9 Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

WEEK 2: The Gifts of Speech and Silence

Encountering the angel of the Lord, Zechariah was struck speechless. His imposed silence became a time to reflect on the wonders of God. Like Zechariah, we are called at times to be silent and listen, at other times to shout with joy.

READ:

Ecclesiastes 3:1,6 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away.

Psalm 62:1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

Psalm 40:10 I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

WEEK 3: The Gift of Hope

Hope is a word on which our future rests. We cannot know what will come, but with faith we place our hope in Christ. Like Zechariah, we hope for the tender mercy of our God, light in the midst of darkness and death, and the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins.

READ:

Isaiah 42:16, 30:26, 11:6, 35:1, 7:14 I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them. Moreover the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days, on the day when the LORD binds up the injuries of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

WEEK 4: The Gift of Family

The Gospel of Matthew begins with a family tree from Abraham to Jesus. Between the recitation of names, we also hear the story of God at work in our world from generation to generation. The Advent and Christmas seasons highlight the significance of family and friends in our lives. We witness Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and the shepherds together tending their flocks. As God's children, we become part of the family tree.

READ:

Matthew 1 (due to length of text, it is not included here).



Address Correction Requested



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. Thanks **Great Harvest Bread Company** for providing communion bread *free* each week and thanks **Piccolo Florists** for providing our Altar Flowers at a discount.

	Flower	Bulletin Sponsors		
December 1	Rod & Cindy Anderson	Joyce Kochen	Available	
December 8	Fred Zabel	Gretchen Backlund	Fred Zabel	
December 15	Jon & Sabrina Beck	Nancy Darst	Available	
December 22	Fran & Ron Ruh	Available	Jon & Sabrina Beck	
December 29	Lynn & Royann Hedell	Available	Available	