



MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWS *letter*

February 2024



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:5

'Joy' isn't necessarily the first word that comes to mind when I think about the season of Lent. When I contemplate Lent, I recall Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness where he was tempted by the Devil. In Lent, I come face to face with the somber reminder of my own mortality, imagining Ezekiel's barren valley of dry bones waiting for the word of the Lord. Just the mere thought of Lent conjures penitent thoughts of all those ways I turn away from God. No, joy doesn't seem on brand for the disciplined journey of Lent. It seems more aligned with the blissful alleluias and golden lilies of Easter.

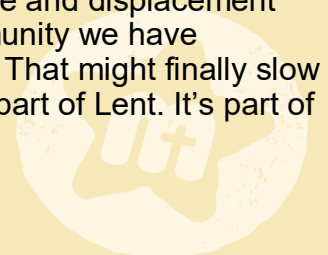
So, why in the world would we reflect on joy during the quiet introspection of our Lenten days? For starters, Lent does not negate the possibility of discovering joy along the journey. Even amid the unease of life's tumult, joy is, in fact, quite possible. Even in our worst days of fear, pain, or loneliness, God's everlasting presence can be expressed as a kind of joy we long for. During such a penitent and prayerful season, joy is not only possible, but it is also expected.

What exactly is joy? Pressed to define it, I don't think many would dare provide a concise or definitive answer. Yet, we do know joy when we discover it, however. We know it in the subtle or small quiet voice of your prayers. It can also blaze forth like a trumpet in moments of excitement and awe. Joy is also complex. It ebbs and flows, mingling with other life experiences like hope, peace, confusion, or sorrow. Joy is as complex as we are as human beings. But it always dances with God!

This Lent, we will reflect on the gift of joy, planting a new seed each week during our midweek worship. As such, I invite you to join us each Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for Holden Evening Prayer. Please note our Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:00 PM. I pray that this time together will not only provide an opportunity to reflect on our journey toward the Cross, but also equip us to identify areas of joy in our own lives and world.

Lent is an important season. While it contrasts with the glory and celebration of Easter, there is much to cherish along its journey. My hope is that you will set aside time this season to find stillness for reflection and behold God's loving presence. That even with the dynamic of noise and displacement because of our church remodel, that we might find the beauty of joy in the community we have together. That we discover the beauty of joy in a world that longs for God's light. That might finally slow down to experience the beauty of the joy that God has in each one of us. Joy is part of Lent. It's part of life. And it's yours to behold.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pr. Chris



LENT

The Seeds of Joy: *a lenten journey*

Ash Wednesday

As we celebrate the beginning of the Lenten season, we will host our annual Ash Wednesday service at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall with the imposition of ashes.

MidWeek Lenten Service

Join us each Wednesday evening at **6:30^{PM}** for the Holden Prayer Service.

SEEDS OF JOY

February 14 (*Ash Wednesday 6:00 PM*)
February 21
February 28
March 6
March 13
March 20

Setting the Stage for Joy
Persistent Joy
Expectant Joy
Liberating Joy
Transformative Joy
Vocational Joy

Other Info

Due to the construction and availability of our worship space, we will not be offering live lilies this year. However, we would like to honor the tradition of honoring loved ones with virtual lilies! If you would like to sponsor a virtual lily, contact the Church Office. All funds received benefit our Youth program.



Support the Morning Star Youth!

Virtual Easter Lilies

Even though we don't have potted plants this year, you can still give a virtual lily and have your loved one honored in a special bulletin announcement as well as support the youth of Morning Star. Fill out your information below and include your donation (suggested donation of \$10) by Tuesday, March 26!

Donated by _____

☐ Check here if you wish to remain anonymous.

Dedicated to: ☐ The Glory of God _____

☐ In Honor of _____

☐ In Memory of _____

February Green Envelope

Our Green Envelope for February goes to Habitat for Humanity of Omaha. To address the need for quality housing in our community, Habitat for Humanity of Omaha builds and renovates homes, repairs existing houses, takes down blighted structures and advocates for better laws and systems. They work with families to help them acquire the access, skills and financial education necessary to become successful homeowners.



MISSIONS
AND OUTREACH



Since 1984, Habitat Omaha has partnered with more than 2,149 families and individuals in our community to provide affordable homeownership and home improvement opportunities. Thousands of donors and volunteers have worked together with future homeowners to make these opportunities a reality, building stronger neighborhoods and effecting measurable change in the community. Habitat Omaha has revitalized properties with very little taxable value, resulting in approximately \$839,300 in property taxes paid by Habitat Omaha homeowners in 2020.

February Volunteer Opportunity

We are collecting toiletries for the Open Door Mission during the month of February! Toiletries offer HOPE to those who may not have the means to provide for themselves. Let's show our LOVE for the homeless by bringing any of the following:



- Body Wash
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Lotion
- Disposable razors
- Deodorant
- Lip balm
- Diapers (Sizes 4, 5, & 6)



Omaha New Hope Chapter DBSA



The DBSA, Depression, BiPolar Support Alliance meets at Morning Star Thursdays at 7^{PM}. This meeting is open to anyone in need!

An AlAnon group meets at Morning Star on Wednesdays at Noon.

Alcoholics Anonymous is open to all! Groups that meet at Morning Star are:

Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM}
Tuesdays at 8^{PM}
Wednesdays at 5:30^{PM} ~ Women Only



Table Grace Ministries Gala 2024!

We hope that you save the date and plan to join us for our inperson fundraiser Gala on Friday, March 8 at 6 PM at a new location this year: The Livestock Exchange beautiful ballroom at 4920 South 30 Street, Omaha. This year we will focus our theme on Voices of Respect, lifting up one of Table Grace's core values. We would invite you to consider sponsoring a Table at the fundraiser or offering general sponsorship with a donation of \$680-\$10,000, or more. Individual tickets are also available for \$85 (more info to come). Do you know a business, church or organization that would also be willing to sponsor the event? If so, please contact us at 4029651276.

Save the Date
TABLE GRACE MINISTRIES
Annual Gala
"Voices of Respect"

Friday, March 8, 2024
Livestock Exchange Ballroom
Omaha, Nebraska

formal invitation to follow



Table Grace the Musical! will be coming to a theatre near you! Save the dates and plan to bring a group to enjoy the fully staged production of a musical cowritten by Simone Weber and Jay Gish based on the mission and outreach of Table Grace! If this is something that moves your heart, get involved, help with promotion, prayer, donations, acting, singing, dancing! Auditions will be March 21 & 22, 5:30-8:30 PM. Performances will be at the Lied Center, Creighton, June 20, 21 & 22 at 7 PM, the Benson Theatre June 27, 28 & 29 at 7 PM, and the Loft Theatre in Manley, August 28 & 29 at 7 PM. Reach out to Simone for more info at 9179928574. Ticket info TBA.

February Worship Assistants

Sunday, February 4

Comm: Nick Saitta & Donna Walter
Reader: Donna Walter
Usher: Todd & Deb Washburn
Acolyte: Asta & Anker Jensen
Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, February 11

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Arielle Wolfe
Reader: Jan Zarestky
Usher: Chris Hedican & Joel Rohde
Acolyte: Hope & Alexandra Weber
Altar: Lauren Gilmore

Wednesday, February 14 ~ Ash Wednesday

Comm: Kim & Amy Hawkins, Susie Syx
Reader: Kim Hawkins
Usher: Dan & Laurel Mooney
Acolyte: Quinn Warner & Hallie Tonniges
Altar: Marguerite McGill & Susie Syx

Sunday, February 18

Comm: Dave & Lynn Blagg, Donna Walter
Reader: Dave Blagg
Usher: Nick Saitta
Acolyte: Hattie & Anna Moeller
Altar: Lynn Blagg

Sunday, February 25

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore
Reader: Lauren Gilmore
Usher: Joel Rohde & Jim McGill
Acolyte: Nina Lierler & Abigail Karnish
Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish



Dear Rev. Hawkins,

We recently received your church's gift of \$1,948 to Lutheran Family Services. Your donation is going to make a huge difference for people in need. Already these funds are being funneled into critical projects to further our goal to build and strengthen individual, family, and community life. Your ongoing support and commitment ensure we have

resources to continue these programs.

We couldn't do what we do without churches like you to share in our mission to demonstrate God's love and to serve our neighbors in need. Our 2024 theme is "Real Help, Real Hope" and your donation allows us to offer *real help and real hope* as we support individuals and families through our core services of behavioral health, children's services, family services, and new Americans.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us make a positive impact in our communities.

Chris Tonniges
President & CEO
Lutheran Family Services

Thank you! The words seem very simple but they carry with them our appreciation!

With deep appreciation,
Tuesday Night 7 PM AA Group

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

February 4	Don & Bonnie Daubman	James & Shaila Clark	Gloria Miller
February 11	Jan Zarestky	Jon & Sabrina Beck	Gloria Miller
February 18	Lent ~ No Flowers	Lent ~ No Flowers	Gloria Miller
February 25	Lent ~ No Flowers	Lent ~ No Flowers	Gloria Miller



Thank you to all who pitch in each and every week to help make worship happen! We could not do it without you! We always need help to read scripture, serve communion, usher/greet and set up and tear down worship every week. Very little commitment is needed! Contact the Church Office to find out how you can help!

Church COUNCIL HIGHLIGHT

- Approval of the 2024 budget.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday pay recommendation from the Synod was approved by council.
- Sunday worship downstairs was a great success.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides handcrafted blankets given to those that need comfort. Prayers for peace and healing are prayed over each one as they are made. Contact the Church Office to pick one up.



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 casebycase 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).



If you have pastoral care needs, please contact the Church Office to notify our pastoral staff.



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!

20232024 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!

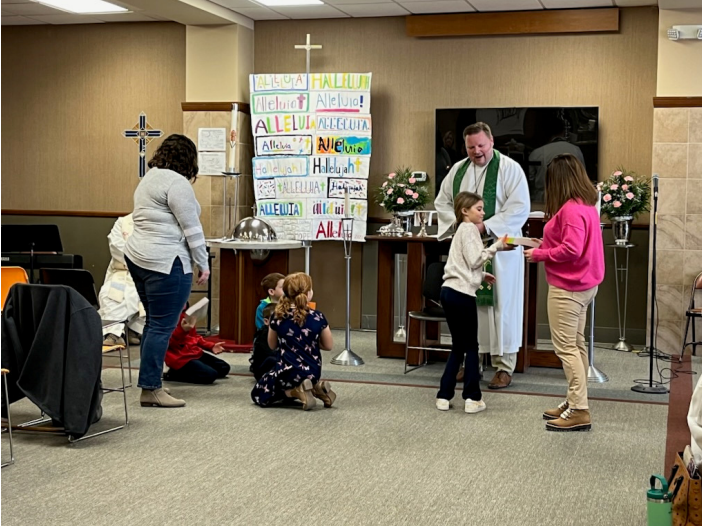


THE HOLE STORY

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

February 4 Jesus Heals 2 Blind Men
February 18 The Sower

Bible Presentations



Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the youth room.

Worship in Fellowship Hall



January Fellowship Breakfast



MORNING STAR
Preschool & Child Care Center
Let's Play!

In January the preschool enjoyed an Indoor Snow Day with snow in sensory tables to drive trucks through, frozen blocks of ice to slide penguins and polar bears on, hockey, paper plate ice skating, shoveling snow (fiberfill) and throwing stuffed snowballs.

One of our S.T.E.M. activities this month involved the story of the Three Little Pigs. The children built with straw, craft sticks and blocks and then the Big Bad Wolf (hair dryer) came and tried to blow their houses down to test how their engineering skills held up.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 DBSA	2 	3 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
4 9:30 The Hole Story 10 Worship	5 7 Outreach Committee	6 9:30 Staff Meeting 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 6:30 Church Council 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	7 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Confirmation	8 7 DBSA	9	10 5:30 Worship
11 10 Worship	12 4:30 Enlighten Team 6:30 Church Council	13 9:30 Staff Mtg 5 Enlighten Prayer Team 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	14 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6 Ash Wed Service  	15 7 DBSA	16	17 5:30 Worship
18 9:30 The Hole Story 10 Worship	19 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting  	20 8 Swanson Parking Lot Usage 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	21 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 MidWeek Lent Service	22 12:30 Sarah Circle 7 DBSA	23	24 5:30 Worship
25 10 Worship	26	27 9:30 Staff Mtg 5 Enlighten Prayer Team 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	28 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 MidWeek Lent Service	29 7 DBSA		



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested



Prayer Requests

Rae Austin
Mike Behm
Donna Crouse
Addie Elshire
LouAnn Henkens
Sandy Heskett
Elaine Kemper
Virgene Kobold
Neil Lindquist
Bev McCollum
Emily McWhirter

Gloria Miller
Campbell Mooney
Laurel Mooney
Rev. Kent Morse
Don Page
Nick Saitta
John Walter
Mary Ziska
Bob (Betty Fiddelke's brotherinlaw)
Brian (Ade & Adam Hawkins friend)
Bruce (JoAnn Wollenburg's nephew)

Dan & Sherry (friends of Dan & Bev Hartman)
Danny Karnish (Tim Karnish's brother)
Dave (brotherinlaw of Maxwell's)
Della Sullivan
Rev. Eulish Moore (friend of Pr. Schacht)
Henry Buschmann
Irene Bruckner
Jaxon (Dawn Karnish's cousin)
Joan (Betty Fiddelke's sister)
Mary Lou (family of Maxwell's)
Patti & Traci (friend of Maxwell's)

Rich Fiddelke
Rich & Sue (Roger Hass's sister & husband)
Rylee Koers
Sloan, Bill & Connor (cousins of Maxwell's)
Theo Throckmorton
Theresa (friend of a member)

February Birthdays

Zachary	Tonniges	2/1	Michael	Behm	2/14	Jonathan	Beck	2/23
Todd	Washburn	2/1	Anker	Jensen	2/14	Katherine	Lieske	2/23
Amanda	Pierce	2/2	Walter	Gilmore	2/15	Jackson	Post	2/23
Donald	Daubman	2/3	Barbara	Schroeder	2/15	Noah	Jones	2/24
Cindy	Lindquist	2/6	Denise	Stange	2/15	David	Blagg	2/27
Jeffrey	Wegner	2/7	Olivia	Washburn	2/16	Colleen	Estee	2/27
Benton	Warboys	2/8	Bonnie	Daubman	2/17	Renny	Maxwell	2/27
Marcia	Colombo	2/10	Mason	Rue	2/19	Diane	Meyer	2/27
Pamela	Miller	2/10	James	McGill	2/22	Hattie	Moeller	2/27
Riley	Hawkins	2/12	Alexandra	Weber	2/22			

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.



February Anniversaries

Jerry & Karen	Bertelsen	2/9
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