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

April 2022 Newsletter

Message

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit..."

John 20:21-22

Sometimes it is rather difficult for preachers to get the attention of their congregations. Take for example, the story of Ole and Lena. Ole and Lena were sitting side-by-side on the pew listening to their pastor go on and on and on with his sermon. Lena looked over and noticed that poor old Ole's eyes were closed. So she elbowed him right in the ribs (I've actually witnessed this before). "*Wake up, Ole! What are you doing going to sleep during the sermon?*" "*I was not asleep Lena. I was considering the great hereafter,*" whispered Ole. "*But he's not talking about heaven,*" said Lena. "*Ya, I know he's not,*" replied Ole. "*I was thinking about the coffee and donuts we'll have here after.*"

I must remind myself occasionally that the pastor won't always get your attention, no matter how many antics I might have up my sleeve. That's not my job. That job ultimately belongs to God. As we approach the reality of Easter, we're reminded that it is the God of Resurrection who gets our attention in a tremendous way! It's the God of Resurrection who not only calls us to wake up and smell the coffee. The God of Resurrection is the one who finally breathes life into us and calls us to live!

Remember, there's nothing subtle about the story of Easter. It involves earthquakes and mysterious angels and an empty tomb. Then Jesus, in all his glory and wonder, reveals his Resurrected body to the disciples, walking through walls and entering secured rooms. Jesus is on the loose and nothing can stop him! Then in a moment, that is perhaps the most amazing and attention getting of all the post Resurrection appearances, Jesus *breathes* on the disciples.

If you haven't made the connection between the God who creates and the God who redeems, you hardly notice this subtle detail in John's Gospel. But there it is. A body that once hung dead on the Cross has come alive and is full of life-giving breath! The God who breathed Creation and all of life into existence breathed on the disciples, signaling the kind of new life that comes with the Resurrection is to be lived *now!* Today!

For the past two miserable years we've been instructed not to breathe on anyone. Leery of others and what nefarious microscopic contents were contained within our exhaled breath, we donned masks and facial coverings. We even studied how far droplets from coughs and sneezes travelled, determining that a standard six-foot distance would help mitigate the spread of the virus. In many ways, this made sense and surely protected lives. In other ways, it annoyed, effectively killing off human socialization as we once knew it. The truth is the air we breathe isn't always safe. That makes us sad. In the Resurrection however, Jesus wakes us up to distinguish the kind of breath that kills with the one that gives new life.

Of course, the breath that kills is the one sourced and grounded in a kingdom where both the micro molecules of virus and bombast of war abound. Yes, this is the world where we can't help but to gasp for the

life-giving air around us. Yet when exhaled, our air is so often be tainted by division, violence, and overall human sin. This is the world where, out of great fear, we lock ourselves in rooms (like the disciples), isolating ourselves from the air that is unknown beyond the walls of our comfort zones.

Easter changes all of this. For just as Jesus breathed new life at the disciples, Jesus breathes new life into us and this world through the Resurrection promise. The Risen Lord’s breath after all is sourced and grounded in the Holy Spirit. This air gives us new life through the power of God’s forgiveness and grace. This air resuscitates us with the hope that power of sin and death have been destroyed. This air wakes us up like a cool morning breeze to refresh us with the possibilities of God’s love in a world that sucks in the secondhand smoke of all the devil’s deceits. This air moves us to live the way Christ has finally called us to—a daily assurance that we belong to him forever.

I can’t wait to see you on Easter Sunday. Wake up and come to worship. And enjoy the coffee and donuts thereafter.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pastor Chris

With more of us returning to in person worship, the need for worship assistants has increased! If you would like to help usher, serve communion or read the week’s scripture, please contact the Church Office. No experience necessary!



Worship Assistants for April

Date	Communion Assisting	Reader	Greeter/Usher
April 3	Rod Anderson	Lauren Gilmore	Bob & Lauren Gilmore
April 10	Kim Hawkins, Jr.	Kim Hawkins, Jr.	Dan & Laurel Mooney
April 17	HELP NEEDED	Greta Carlson	Joel Rohde & Terri Micheels
April 24	Susie Syx	Donna J. Walter	Chris Hedican & Jim McGill

Council Highlights & CELEBRATION

Upon recommendation of the COVID Task Force, the council approved the following protocol updates effective immediately:

- Masks are not required, and will remain optional for members who would prefer to continue wearing a mask.
- The social distancing tape will be removed from the pews.
- Members are still encouraged to stay home when ill.
- We will receive communion at the rail, with kits available for members who want to receive communion in place.
- We will resume passing the offering plate.
- Sharing of peace will be at the member’s level of comfort.
- We will continue to offer virtual services.
- We are slowly bringing back coffee fellowship.
- We anticipate offering nursery services in April.
- Saturday services will be held in the chapel.

The Council is incredibly grateful to the Task Force members for their leadership and service in keeping our congregation safe.

HOLY WEEK

Join us each Wednesday at 5:30^{PM} for the Holden Evening Prayer Service (online or in-person).



Palm Sunday

April 10
10 AM



Maundy Thursday

April 14
6:30 PM



Good Friday

April 15
6:30 PM



Sunrise Service

April 17
6:30 AM



Easter Sunday

April 17
10 AM

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 16 10-11AM

Beginning Holy Week

Nursery Available

**Newborn — 5 Years
During Worship Services**

All nursery workers have passed background checks.

Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center



As we breeze into April, we will celebrate Week of the Young Child and the amazing creativity of children with music, dancing and special art activities. Our Red Stars will be performing songs for their Spring Program.

The week before Easter, the children will hear favorite Bible stories, use toy tools to pretend to build their own ark and have a Noah's Ark Parade led by Noah himself (Pastor Chris).

Taking Care of Our Earth is next theme. Earth Day is a natural time to talk about caring for the world, recycling, reducing, and reusing.

Our Junior Meteorologists will learn about changes in weather and signs in nature around them that indicate the change in season. Children will create and share May Day Baskets as a special tradition to show kindness to others.

Prayer Stations

We have prayer stations set up in the Sanctuary, Welcome Center, and Chapel this Lent! Everyone is welcome to participate, including families with kids!

Explore different ways to pray at our prayer stations! Designated walk-in hours for in-person prayer stations are Sundays after Worship until noon, Monday evenings from 4:00 - 6:30^{PM}, and Wednesdays 9:30^{AM} - 6:30^{PM}. To arrange another time to ensure the doors will be open, contact the Church Office or Greta.

Missions and Outreach

Bringing the Light of Christ to ALL Creation

Green Envelope

Our Green Envelope focus for April is the **ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response** with focus on Eastern Europe. On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Millions of civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. According to one report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 3 million people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries and over 1 million people are displaced within Ukraine. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.



Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

What you can do:

- Pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.
- Donations designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.
- Learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Eastern-Europe-Crisis-Response>.

Donate through your regular Green Envelope offering or you can go directly to the website above.



Congratulations and blessings to Maddux Owen Duncan upon receiving the sacrament of Baptism on March 20. We welcome him into the Lord's family. Congratulations to Josh & Shelby Duncan, parents, and great-grandmother, Nancy Sweetwood.

CONCERT INFO

Matt & Josi Minikus along with Matt & Simone Weber in concert here at Morning Star on Sunday, May 15. Table Grace Food Truck will provide brunch immediately after service then stay for this amazing concert and support Table Grace ministry in the process!



kids



Come to Family Sunday School! We meet once a month to hang out, play games, eat snacks and deepen our

faith. And the **WHOLE FAMILY** is invited! Join us this month on Sunday, April 10 at 9^{AM}. Contact Greta to help.

Youth

URBAN IMMERSION

High School Summer Trip

July 22-25
Twin Cities, Minnesota
Registration Coming Soon

Save the Date!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 13-17

5:30-8PM

INCLUDES DINNER!

boundless

CAROL JOY HOLLING CAMP 2022

Summer Camp 2022 registration is here!

Consider Carol Joy for amazing summer camp for your child. Programs available for ages Kindergarten through High School. Talk to Greta about going with a Morning Star group or for what programs work best for your kids. Take advantage of the \$50 Morning Star discount!

MEET UP WITH ST. TIMS YOUTH GROUP

WEDNESDAY APRIL 20
6-7:30 PM
DETAILS TBD

COFFEE WITH GRETA

The next Coffee with Greta will be on April 16 at 9am for Hiding Easter Eggs There will also be donuts

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 22 WE WILL BE BACK AT SCOOTERS AT 2PM

FORTNITE TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, APRIL 1
7-9PM

MORNING STAR YOUTH ROOM (IN THE BASEMENT)

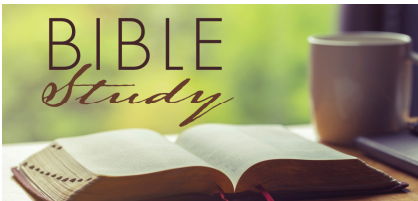
INCLUDES WINGS AND SNACKS, SIMULTANEOUS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT, AND OTHER BOARD GAMES.

GAME SUPPLIES PROVIDED. NEED NOT ENTER TOURNAMENT TO ATTEND.

INTENDED FOR YOUTH IN 6TH-12TH GRADE



The Outreach Team is looking for a few good men & women to join this team in planning our monthly service projects and green envelope offerings. Talk to Laurel Mooney or Jackie Froendt for more information.



Join Bible study Wednesdays at 10^{AM}. Contact the Church Office if you need a devotion booklets mailed to you.

The Women of Morning Star invite you to join us for Sarah Circle on Thursday, April 28 at 12:30^{PM} in the Chapel. We have Bible study, fellowship and treats!

The WELCA's Metro East Spring Gathering is April 2 at First Lutheran in Blair. The theme is "Gather Gladly for Strength". Registration is \$20. Call 402-393-3221 to register.

Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization invites you to "Saved to Serve with Magdalene Omaha" Conference April 29-May 1 focusing on delivering hope to victims of human trafficking. Survivor bags will be made at the conference so the Women of Morning Star are collecting toiletries, feminine hygiene products, journals, pens, and children's toiletries until April 24.

SAVE THE DATE: 12th Triennial Gathering is September 18 in Phoenix!



Video streaming continues to be available on Facebook at 10^{AM} or shortly after on our website www.MorningStarOmaha.org.

Home Communion kits are available for contactless pick up anytime by contacting the Church Office.



April Anniversaries

Don & Bonnie Daubman	4/3
Dan & Sherry Charf	4/15
Adam & Ande Johnson	4/24
George & Marcia Bergstrom	4/29



The Faith Partners ministry team will meet on Thursday, April 17 at 4:45^{PM}. Contact Pastor Glenn for more information or to help in this ministry.

April Birthdays

Ezra	Priesman	04/01	Laura	Beeghly	04/12
Tarah	Peterson	04/01	Mona	Lierler	04/12
Corey	Stafford	04/01	Mike	Williams	04/13
Amelia	Hassler	04/02	Janet	Forney	04/13
Laurel	Mooney	04/02	Brynn	Wiebers	04/14
Bryce	Nabity	04/03	Kylie	Warboys	04/15
Hallie	Tonniges	04/03	Mara	Baker	04/16
Leonidas	Hull	04/04	Drake	Stafford	04/16
Chris	Hedican	04/04	Irene	Bruckner	04/18
Lesley	Turner	04/05	Nick	Bowman	04/20
Deb	Washburn	04/06	John	Jacobson	04/20
Kyle	Wolfe	04/07	Dianne	Misiunas	04/20
Bev	Jessen	04/07	Anna	Moeller	04/20
Tinsley	Garges	04/08	Amy	Hawkins	04/25
Jesse	Warboys	04/08	Karen	Hawkins	04/25
Fletcher	Placzek	04/09	Lauren	Gilmore	04/27
Ron	Ruh	04/09	Astrid	Elshire	04/29
Lynn	Lindquist	04/10	Noah	Hawkins	04/29
Donna	Walter	04/11			

Hello April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7 Fort Nite Tourney 	2 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
3 10 Worship 11 Choir Practice	4 9 Preschool Rehearsal 6 NWFT Trailblazers 7 Outreach Committee Meeting	5 9:30 Staff Meeting 4 Preschool Spring Program A 4:45 Preschool Spring Program B 5:30 AA Meeting 6:30 Exec Team Meeting	6 10 Bible Study 12 Al-Anon Meeting 4 Organ Rehearsal 5:30 Holden Evening Prayer Service	7 7 DBSA	8	9 5:30 Worship 
10 9 Family Sunday School 10 Worship 11 Choir Practice 	11 6:30 Church Council Meeting	12 9 Piano Tuning 9:30 Staff Meeting 10 Preschool Noah's Ark Parade 5:30 AA Meeting	13 10 Bible Study 12 Al-Anon Meeting	14 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service 7 DBSA	15 6:30 Good Friday Service <i>Preschool Closed: Staff Development Day</i>	16 9 Coffee with Greta 10 Easter Egg Hunt 11 Choir Practice 5:30 Worship 
17 6:30 Easter Sunrise Service 9 Choir Practice 10 Easter Worship 	18	19 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Meeting 5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting	20 10 Bible Study 12 Al-Anon Meeting 4 Organ Rehearsal 6 Youth Group with St. Tim's 6:30 Confirmation	21 4:45 Faith Partner's Meeting 7 DBSA	22	23 5:30 Worship
24 10 Worship	25 	26 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Meeting	27 10 Bible Study 12 Al-Anon Meeting 6:30 Confirmation	28 12:30 Sarah Circle 7 DBSA	29 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MORNING STAR! 	30 5:30 Worship



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested



Prayers

- Delores Albanese
- Rae Austin
- Lowell Gratopp
- Janice Hass
- Deb Hysack
- Betty Kellams
- Virgene Kobold
- Eunice Levisay
- Bev McCollum
- Cari Segebart (*friend of Susie Syx*)
- George Zakaras (*Amy Hawkins' dad*)
- Harold (*Pam Miller's dad*)
- Korrie Hall (*granddaughter of Don & Emily McWhirter*)
- Kitty (*friend of John & Donna Walter*)
- Mary Jo Kjeldsen (*Marti Christensen's sister*)
- Megan (*Betty Williams' daughter*)
- Polly, Steve & Karlee (*Patsy Behm's sister & family*)
- Shelley Anderson (*Carol Anderson's daughter*)
- Susan Darst Williams (*Nancy Darst's daughter*)
- Susan (*friend of Cindy Anderson*)
- Tim Jensen (*Erik's father*)
- Todd Koers (*son of Wally Koers*)



There are still several dates available on the 2022 Altar Flower & Bulletin calendar. See the list in the Gathering Space or contact the Church Office to select your special day. Many times the flowers are sent to sick or homebound members to minister to them.

Thanks for your generosity with the altar flowers and bulletins. If you would like to be a sponsor, see the calendar in the Welcome Center or call the Church Office. Thanks **Piccolo Florists** for bringing our Altar Flowers.

Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors

	Flower Sponsors	Bulletin Sponsors	
April 3	No Flowers—Lent	No Flowers—Lent	Available
April 10	No Flowers—Lent	No Flowers—Lent	Available
April 17	James & Shaila Clark	Kim & Karen Hawkins	Available
April 24	Jill & Todd Moeller	Jill & Todd Moeller	Available