



Bringing the Light of Christ to All Creation

MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH



May 2019

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Pastor Christopher Hawkins

Dear Morning Star Lutheran Church:

On Monday, June 3, I will begin a ten-week sabbatical. Sabbaticals are recommended by the church as a means of helping its pastors find space to attend to the important needs of rest, study, prayer, and personal reflection relative to ministry.

These times of "Sabbath" are also intentional ways of promoting good stewardship for both the called pastor and the congregation. Please see the addendum from the ELCA Nebraska Synod at the conclusion of this letter for additional rationale and considerations on the benefits of pastoral sabbaticals.

Please know, I am very grateful to the Congregation Council for their discernment in approving this time away. Accordingly, I am tremendously thankful to the congregation for honoring this sabbatical after serving with you as your called pastor for several years. Again, my intent during this time will be one of rest, spending important time with my family, some travel, and study and immersion into Bowen Theory as it relates to congregational leadership and health.

Ultimately, this sabbatical is meant to be helpful in providing some longevity in serving with you for years to come. To say that I am excited for this gift of time in order to be a better, healthier pastor is an understatement. Thank you for your trust in allowing me to be gone for ten consecutive weeks this summer!

Because of this time away I will not be available for any needs required of the congregation. This means that I will not be in communication with the congregation in any capacity until Monday, August 12. It may seem intuitive but must be stated: I will not be available for funerals, provide pastoral care, return messages, or be otherwise available for any further demands specific to the ministry of Morning Star Lutheran Church during this time. Thank you for understanding this critical boundary.

As such, I leave you in the very capable and experienced hands of Pastor Glenn Schacht. During this time, Pr. Glenn will increase his presence to an average of 30 hours per week. Thus, Pr. Glenn will be available for all pastoral care matters, including funerals, baptism, grief counseling, hospital visits, etc.

I do not expect that there will be any significant missional or personnel decisions that occur during this time. However, Pr. Glenn will be in regular communication and consultation with our Executive Committee and Congregation Council as they serve the daily needs of our mission and ministry.

Thank you to Pr. Glenn for his willingness to make himself available in this way and for his continued support of our ministry together. Furthermore, I give many thanks to our talented staff and leadership who will help to make this a fruitful time for worship, fellowship, and congregational growth.

May this sabbatical be of mutual benefit for us in our partnership in ministry. I thank you for your prayers and for your continued faithful commitment to our ministry here. Most importantly, I thank you for your faith in the Risen Lord!

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Chris

331 S. 85th Ave. ♦ Omaha, NE 68114
402.393.5553

Office@MorningStarOmaha.org
www.MorningStarOmaha.org



Worship Times

Saturday Service 5:30 PM
Sunday Services 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Coffee Fellowship served between services.

**From the 2019 Guidelines of the Nebraska Synod
Sabbatical Leave**

Congregations are **strongly** encouraged to consider providing sabbatical leave for their Minister(s). In the long run, Sabbaticals are often cost effective. When burn-out causes an experienced Minister to leave, the congregation loses money during an interim period, incurs expenses for moving, has the potential loss of members in the interim and loses efficiency while a new relationship develops. Some of the other benefits to the congregation of such leave are:

- Sabbaticals offer an experienced Minister renewed energy and rediscovered zeal for ministry;
- Sabbaticals enable an opportunity to develop congregational leadership and to come to a greater understanding of the congregation's ministry by assuming some of the pastoral duties during the interim;
- Sabbaticals are often an occasion for the collective congregation to reflect and assess their partnership with the Minister and discover ways to strengthen and improve ministry;
- Sabbaticals provide the opportunity to show support and care for a beloved Minister and his/her family;
- Sabbaticals can be a time for individual congregational members to reconsider their commitment and to assess their relationship to the life and witness of the congregation;

Some of the additional benefits to the Minister are:

- Sabbaticals often provide a needed break from long hours, high pressure, personal sacrifice and the 24/7 nature of ministry;
- Sabbaticals can offer a unique opportunity for prayer, rest, study and renewal;
- Sabbaticals are often an opportunity for the Minister to discover more in depth the importance of what they do because of who they *are* rather than because of what they do;
- Sabbaticals provide the opportunity to develop greater self-awareness and spiritual depth.

Church Council
HIGHLIGHTS

- Thanks to Kyle Wolfe and Tim Mueller for working on the HVAC contract.
- Date of the annual meeting is Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 AM.
- We will have a Geranium sale for Pentecost Sunday to fill the Sanctuary with red!



June 8 | 5:30 PM
June 9 | 9:30 AM



Join us for Combined Worship Services every Sunday at 9:30^{AM} starting Memorial Day weekend through God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, May 26 - September 8. We will also offer Saturday services at 5:30^{PM}.



Geraniums for Pentecost
\$15 per Geranium

Net proceeds go to help local flood victims through ELCA Disaster Relief.

Place your order by Wednesday, June 5. You may pick up your plants after the last service on Pentecost Sunday.

Complete the form & place in the offering plate with your check or call the Church Office.

You may also donate only to the ELCA Disaster Relief.

Morning Star Lutheran Church Blood Drive
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 19 ~ 7:45^{AM} to 12:45^{PM}

Please contact Bill at 402-679-5321 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter MORNINGSTAR to schedule an appointment.



American Red Cross

Welcome Tina Fong!

Tina started playing music in the Catholic church at age 13 and has been involved in sacred music, from healing tones to contemporary tunes, ever since. "Beginning this spiritual journey with the congregation at Morning Star has been a shining light in my life. My first service was the Ash Wednesday service. I walked away truly feeling fulfilled," she says. Tina runs her own private studio, **Love N Heart Music**, in Dundee where focus is on finding artistry and joy in playing piano, singing, and performing. Tina joined with the River City Mixed Chorus and has become an advocate for inclusiveness and faith.



Her family was formed when she met Frank Fong, Tai Master and musician, ten years ago. Together they have two boys, Gregory and Samuel. Belonging to a faith family is new territory for the Fongs. "It will be interesting to see where God leads me and what Spirit's standard of leadership becomes as I strive to get the congregation singing, too!" As a teacher, Tina has worked with children and adults in the San Diego area and in Omaha.

Originally from Wausa, Nebraska, Tina ventured out on her first teaching job at Mountain Empire Unified School District in 1999 and won the "Heart of the Mountain" Award from the local Kiwanis association after planning and implementing a "Moonlight Train Ride" as a fundraiser for the underfunded music program. She held singing soup suppers and grew the program to include a junior and senior high choir, elementary band, pep band and a combined junior/senior high band all within five short years. Following that, Tina moved back to Nebraska and worked with the Montessori Children's Room, became a certified Music Together facilitator, and had her children. All teaching credentials now expired, Tina is happy to be practicing her skills with the Morning Star Preschool in the near future and planning those Summer Sunday worship services!



The Sarah Circle will have a luncheon at Brother Sebastians on Thursday, May 23 at 12:30^{PM}. Come join us!

The Lydia Circle meets Tuesday, May 28 at 4^{PM} in the Library.

The Women of Morning Star are looking to for leaders. If you are interested in helping in this area, please contact Jan Zarestky or Marguerite McGill.

The Lutheran Women of Omaha invite you on May 14, 12 Noon, to hear about Project Hope with Veta Keebler. They will meet at Bethel Lutheran (1312 S. 45th St.). RSVP to Ruth Johnson at 402-397-9521 by May 12.



Our last meeting until the fall is Monday, May 13 at 11:30^{AM} featuring Ryan Kephart with the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail. Ryan serves as a Park Guide at the Trail Headquarters on the Missouri Riverfront by the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge.

Table Grace is catering Chicken Salad on Croissants, Cauliflower-Carrot Salad, Potato Chips and Bread Pudding with Caramel Sauce for dessert. RSVP to the Church Office by Friday, May 10.

FROM PASTOR GLENN

Pastoral Care & Spiritual Guidance

As we prepare to spend the summer months together during Pastor Chris' sabbatical I wanted to share with you what I will be focused on during his absence. First and foremost will be worship as we will be going to one service on Sunday mornings at 9:30^{AM} from Memorial Day to **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday** (the Sunday

after Labor Day). I am looking forward to helping the Worship and Music committee and the engagement teams to make our time of worship and fellowship joy-filled and life-giving.

Second, I will be working with the persons who have expressed an interest in developing an addiction ministry team in partnership with the Nebraska Faith Partners Coalition. Some of us will attend a team-building training session this weekend in Lincoln. We have scheduled a meeting on Monday, May 20 at 5:30^{PM} to present what we have learned from the training. All who have an interest in this ministry are invited to attend.

Third, I would like to schedule some meetings where we can have intentional conversations regarding how we see ourselves living out our mission goals under Pastor Chris' renewed leadership.

God's Peace,

Pastor Glenn

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

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

ELCA Disaster Relief: Flood Victims

Heavy rainfall caused rapid snow melt that resulted in major flooding across Nebraska and Iowa as well as other states. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 200 miles of levees have been compromised and historic flood levels have been recorded. ELCA Disaster Response is responding to this emergency through congregations, synods and affiliates across Nebraska. In addition to prayer, we are focusing our Green Envelope offering for May



Gods Reach Envelops Every Need

to this effort. Gifts will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those affected by flooding until the response is complete.



Many thanks to all who continue donations for the flood relief efforts with special thanks to Pacific Springs Independent Living members who made and donated dozens of lovely, hand-made blankets. All of our donations have been appreciated and we know that along with your prayers, we have been a Light of Christ to those needing it most!

An Update on the Khawajazada's, our Afghan Family

Morning Star welcomed our Afghan refugee family mid-October. Try to imagine traveling thousands of miles with four young children! The generosity of our Morning Star family provided the entire contents of their 2 bedroom apartment. A childhood friend of the Khawajazada family from Afghanistan living in Omaha helped the family purchase a van. Mohammad, the father, quickly secured a minimum wage job. It seems necessary to begin at this level to create a work history.

The three girls are enrolled in elementary school and love it. Muzghan, the mother, is taking ESL classes and 2 year old Ahmad attends with her. Muzghan is determined to learn English and eventually get a driver's license. Morning Star members drive her to her classes Monday through Friday.

Morning Star gifted the family a zoo membership so several members took the family on a zoo outing which they loved. Prior to Valentine's Day the girls came to Morning Star and made valentine cards and boxes for their school parties. During Spring break, Morning Star members took the girls to the Joslyn Art Museum to experience the special children's interactive exhibit.

Support from Lutheran Family Services is slowing stopping. A grant from the Morning Star MIF Committee will help assist with their rent for an additional six months. The family invited those who have been assisting them to help celebrate Ahmad's second birthday. The food and friendship were amazing. The family is so very grateful for all of Morning Star's help and caring. Your continued prayers for this family are appreciated.



Morning Star's Refugee Program



"God's work.
Our hands."
Sunday

SEPTEMBER
2019

God's work.
Our hands.

CROSSROADS
connection

Dinner & Worship Service
May 19 ~ 6 PM

Once again Morning Star is blessed to be able to host the Crossroads Connection dinner & worship service for those transitioning from prison back into life outside. We need help with set up, serving and cleanup as well as those coming to worship and dine alongside these men and women. See Deb or Todd Washburn to help with this month's service project!



Kids & YOUTH



Hey kids ages 4-18! Don't forget we have a Sunday School class for **YOU** every Sunday at 9:30 ^{AM}. The high school students meet in the Youth Room in the basement. You should check this room out...it's pretty awesome!

Hey High School and College graduates, we would love to have your graduation info and a picture of you to display here at Morning Star! Drop it off at the Church Office or email the info to Office@MorningStarOmaha.org. Don't forget to include where you are attending/graduating from and what your plans are for the future!

Preschool News

Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center

402-393-8215 • Preschool@MorningStarOmaha.org

The Preschool will get May underway with **May Day Baskets** that the children prepare for their classmates. The children will take time out to pray in the Sanctuary on the **National Day of Prayer**, Thursday, May 2.

Planting a garden is one of our themes this month. The children will dig in to plant flowers, herbs & vegetables to observe all summer long. We will also have a week to investigate insects and turn over logs to find anything creeping or crawling.

Muffins for Moms is a special time for children to share breakfast with their Moms on May 10. Our amazing **Orange Stars Graduation Ceremony** is May 17 at 4:30 ^{PM}. **Mayfest** will follow from 5 to 7 ^{PM}. The teachers create games and activities for families to enjoy a fun night out together. Feel free to join us!

Lutheran YOUTH Serve Omaha

June 10-14 ~ 8:30 ^{AM} to Noon
for Grades K-12

at Kountze Lutheran Church (2650 Farnam St.)

LYSO is a chance to do God's work in our community featuring faith formation, servanthood, fellowship, fun and it's FREE. Call Kristin at 402-341-7761 for more information!



Check out the **Little Free Library** located on the parking island on 85th Ave.



Register **TODAY** at MorningStarOmaha.org!

VBS SAVE-THE-DATE! JULY 8-12, 2019



The school year is nearly over. Sunday School won't meet over the summer so come join us for a **SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY** on Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day) at 9:30 ^{AM}. We will have cake and other goodies to celebrate moms as well as fun surprises.

May Ministry Partners

May 5

Acolytes 8:30 Sam Lieske & Zac Tonniges
 10:30 Hope Ervin & Jack Neussendorfer
 Communion 8:30 Don Lieberknecht, Donna J. Walter & JoAnn Wollenburg
 10:30 Laura Ervin
 Greeters 8:30 Neil & Cindy Lindquist
 PowerPoint 10:30 Paul Worcester
 Readers 8:30 Donna J. Walter
 10:30 Bill Ervin
 Ushers 8:30 Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Cindy Lindquist & Gloria Miller
 10:30 The Maxwell Family
 Coffee Hosts 10:30 Marguerite & Jim McGill

May 12

Acolytes 8:30 Molly & Sophie Wolfe
 10:30 Claire & Jake Bonnett
 Communion 8:30 Lynn Hedell, Lauren Anderson & Shari Page
 10:30 Ric & Pam Miller
 Greeters 8:30 Dennis & Kim Moy
 PowerPoint 10:30 Bill Ervin
 Readers 8:30 Janice Hass
 10:30 Ric Miller
 Ushers 8:30 Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Cindy Lindquist & Gloria Miller
 10:30 The Maxwell Family
 Coffee Hosts 10:30 Evangelism Committee

May 19

Acolytes 8:30 Campbell & Barrett Mooney
 10:30 Riley Hawkins & Luke Beck
 Communion 8:30 Rich Fiddelke, Franci Van Meter & Virgene Kobold
 10:30 Bob & Stacie Neussendorfer
 Greeters 8:30 Daryl & JoAnn Wollenburg
 PowerPoint 10:30 Pam Miller
 Readers 8:30 Judy Hollander
 10:30 Pam Miller
 Ushers 8:30 Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Cindy Lindquist & Gloria Miller
 10:30 The Maxwell Family
 Coffee Hosts 10:30 Sarah Circle

May 26

Acolytes 9:30
 Communion 9:30 Cynthia Ferris, Sabrina Beck & Karen Hawkins
 Greeters 9:30 Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
 PowerPoint 9:30 Paul Worcester
 Readers 9:30 Stacie Neussendorfer
 Ushers 9:30 Stephanie Jensen, Diane Konvalina, Cindy Lindquist & Gloria Miller
 Coffee Hosts 9:30 Kyle & Arielle Wolfe

ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday,
May 19
9:30 AM**

AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS

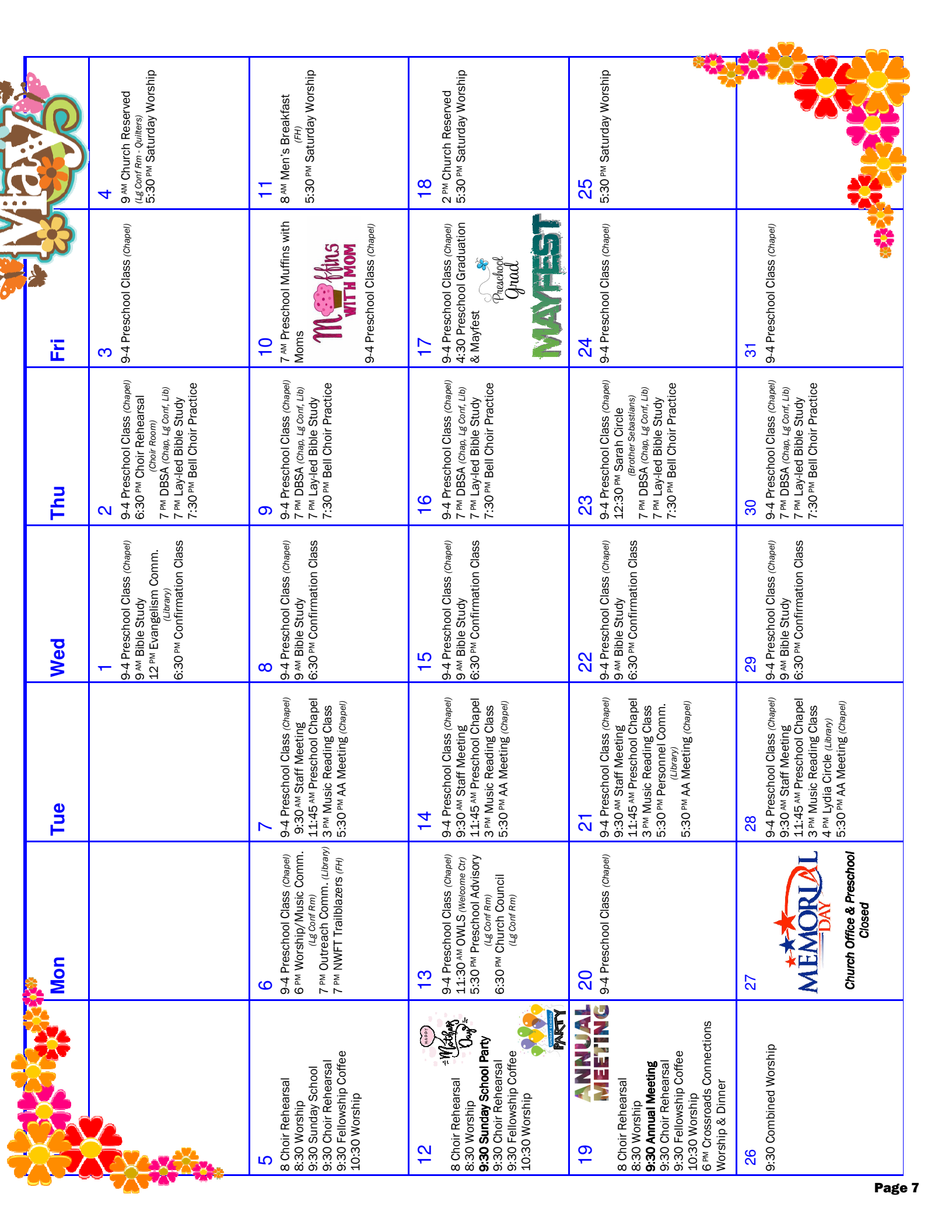
OMAHA GIVES!

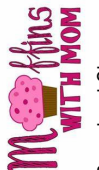



May 22 ~ Midnight to Midnight

~flowers & bulletins~

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 Sponsors		Bulletin Sponsors	
May 5	Ramona Klaasmeyer	Ramona Klaasmeyer	Jon & Sabrina Beck
May 12	Rod & Cindy Anderson	Available	Available
May 19	Lynn & Royann Hedell	Andy & Teggy Maxwell	Available
May 26	Ric & Pam Miller	Available	Available



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5 8 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Fellowship Coffee 10:30 Worship	7 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:45 AM Preschool Chapel 3 PM Music Reading Class 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Chapel)	1 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9 AM Bible Study 12 PM Evangelism Comm. (Library) 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	2 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7 PM DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib) 7 PM Lay-led Bible Study 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	3 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel)
6 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 6 PM Worship/Music Comm. (Lg Conf Rm) 7 PM Outreach Comm. (Library) 7 PM NWFT Trailblazers (FH)	14 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:45 AM Preschool Chapel 3 PM Music Reading Class 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Chapel)	8 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	9 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 7 PM DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib) 7 PM Lay-led Bible Study 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	10 7 AM Preschool Muffins with Moms  9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel)
12 8 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Annual Meeting 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Fellowship Coffee 10:30 Worship 	13 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 11:30 AM OWLS (Welcome Ctr) 5:30 PM Preschool Advisory (Lg Conf Rm) 6:30 PM Church Council (Lg Conf Rm)	15 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	16 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 7 PM DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib) 7 PM Lay-led Bible Study 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	17 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 4:30 Preschool Graduation & Mayfest 
19 ANNUAL MEETING 8 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Annual Meeting 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Fellowship Coffee 10:30 Worship 6 PM Crossroads Connections Worship & Dinner	20 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel)	22 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	23 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 12:30 PM Sarah Circle (Brother Sebastians) 7 PM DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib) 7 PM Lay-led Bible Study 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	24 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel)
26 9:30 Combined Worship	27  MEMORIAL DAY Church Office & Preschool Closed	29 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	30 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 7 PM DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib) 7 PM Lay-led Bible Study 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	31 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel)
18 2 PM Church Reserved 5:30 PM Saturday Worship	21 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:45 AM Preschool Chapel 3 PM Music Reading Class 5:30 PM Personnel Comm. (Library) 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Chapel)	22 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	23 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 12:30 PM Sarah Circle (Brother Sebastians) 7 PM DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib) 7 PM Lay-led Bible Study 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	25 5:30 PM Saturday Worship
19 8 Choir Rehearsal 8:30 Worship 9:30 Annual Meeting 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Fellowship Coffee 10:30 Worship 6 PM Crossroads Connections Worship & Dinner	28 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:45 AM Preschool Chapel 3 PM Music Reading Class 4 PM Lydia Circle (Library) 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Chapel)	29 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 9 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation Class	30 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel) 7 PM DBSA (Chap, Lg Conf, Lib) 7 PM Lay-led Bible Study 7:30 PM Bell Choir Practice	31 9-4 Preschool Class (Chapel)



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested

Thank YOU

We would like to send a huge thank you to our landscaping & monthly grounds maintenance partners, Robert's Nursery. They have been very generous with their work and pricing on behalf of Morning Star and we are grateful to be their clients.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
Saturday, May 11 8:00 AM



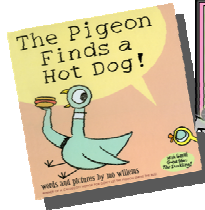
Do you play drums, keyboard, guitar, brass or woodwind instruments? Do you love to sing? Our Music Staff is looking for extra help this summer! Contact the Church Office for more information!

stay connected Check us out on Facebook or at [MorningStarOmaha.org!](http://MorningStarOmaha.org)

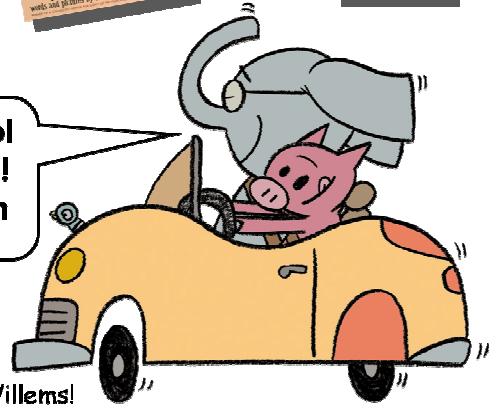
DINNER COMBO MEAL
HOT DOG
ICE CREAM
COOKIE
DRINK
SALAD
FRUIT
GAMES
MUSIC

\$25

Per family



**Preschool
MAYFEST!
May 17th
5:00 PM**



A tribute to Mo Willems!

PASTORAL CARE
Need pastoral care?
Contact the Church Office
to notify our pastoral staff.

**Preschool Teacher Appreciation
May 13 - May 17**

Monday-Coffee Bar	ORANGE STAR PARENTS
Tuesday-Lunch	GREEN STAR PARENTS
Wednesday-Snacks	RED STAR PARENTS
Thursday-Cold Drinks	WHITE, BLUE, PURPLE STAR PARENTS
Friday-Muffin's For Mom!	TEACHERS FOR MOMMY!

Teacher Appreciation Week 2019

All extra donations will be given to Teachers