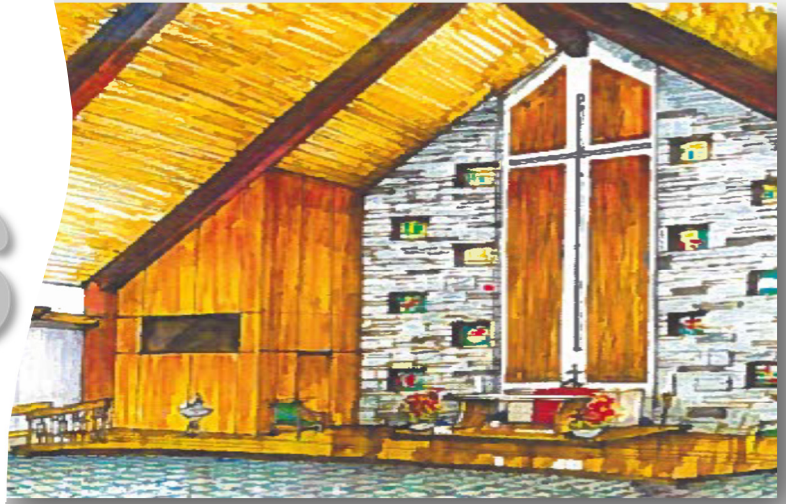




MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

July

NEWS letter



FROM PASTOR CHRIS

For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

Hebrews 3:4

A church newsletter seems like an odd place to quote a classic old rock song from my childhood, but Bon Jovi is ringing in my brain. Sing the refrain with me! *Whooh, we're halfway there, Living on a prayer.* Come on, you know it! *Take my hand and we'll make it- I swear, Livin on a prayer!* If you know the song, the tune is surely in your head now. You're welcome.

We are halfway there! Morning Star's exciting Enlighten Project has made it to July and the momentum is inspiring. Every day now, something noteworthy is transpiring on our campus. With each new phase of the process, the Holy Spirit's vision for Morning Star becomes more of a reality.

Remember, we aren't merely observing a construction process. We are witnessing God build something new, refreshing an already beautiful church building for the future purpose of ministry in the heart of Omaha! Now seems like as good of a time as any to share some of the joys that are happening with our project.

- **East Parking Lot Project:** The first part of our outside work is being completed on the east lot. The old crumbling asphalt lot is being replaced with new concrete. A drainage system is being installed to direct water runoff directly into the city sewer. Worshippers will need to enter the church on the west entrance and use the elevator or stairs to access the Fellowship Hall. This part of the project is tentatively scheduled for completion on August 5th.
- **Office and Entry:** A new office entry is being constructed just off the bell tower platform. This new entrance will be handicapped accessible after the prayer garden is complete. A beautiful new entrance will include a welcome area with a smaller conference room. Design features will emulate the wood and glass entry to the chapel. The entire office area will receive new carpeting, ceiling, and lighting. Our temporary office has moved to the west side of the north hallway.
- **Baptismal Font:** For a visual description of our new baptismal font, please reference the Enlighten Project video on our website. The interior of the font is currently in a design phase. A striking mosaic tile design representing the Holy Spirit or new life can be expected. We are excited to be working with an artist from St. Louis on this important feature of our worship space.
- **HVAC:** While this may not be the most exciting part of the project visually, a new air conditioner unit was installed on the south portion of our roof. This unit is separate from the cooling tower system that sits on our east lot. This unit will assist in maintaining a more comfortable climate in our sanctuary. It will also help protect our organ from the extreme heat and humidity of the summer months.



- **Chancel Area:** Gorgeous new wood paneling is currently being installed on the walls of the chancel area. A stone veneer will be installed in the center of the east wall in mid-July. Upon completion of this phase in August, tours of the area will be scheduled. Members will be invited to sign their names on the chancel floor!
- **Stained Glass:** Our beautiful stained glass is currently in the process of being restored. The glass is being cleaned and new lead is being installed to secure each panel. This project is timely because many of the lead panes holding the glass together were disintegrating. Two new panels have been created for the lower two sections of the west Narthex wall. We may see two upper panels return by the end of July!

We have just a few more months and we will return to worship in our Sanctuary! Thank you for your prayers and support of this important Enlighten Project!

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris



ENLIGHTEN

the Spirit in Morning Star!



331 South 85th Ave • Omaha, NE 68114 • 402.393.5553 • morningstaromaha.org

You may complete this form and place in offering plate or turn in to the office.

I/We wish to contribute toward the ENLIGHTEN CAMPAIGN of 2024:

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

- Single Gift enclosed: \$ _____ Monthly Gift, starting: \$ _____
- Please send me a Donor Agreement where I may consider a pledge for \$ _____
- I would like someone from the Enlighten Committee to call me.

If you are still considering how you might participate in the Enlighten Campaign, feel free to use the above pledge card and return to the Church Office or drop in the offering plate. Thank you for your consideration!



The Sanctuary Remodel Prayer Team meets every other Tuesday evening for prayer and meditation. Scan the QR code to submit your confidential prayer request today!



July Green Envelope

In light of the terrible storms this past spring, our Green Envelope offering this month will go to the Nebraska Synod Lutheran Disaster Response. Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters. Some key areas of work include:



- Giving emotional & spiritual care for people who have been affected by disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets to reduce the effects of disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes



July Volunteer Opportunity

Our volunteer opportunity this month is collecting much needed school supplies for the Boys & Girls Club - Westside. Bring any of the items below to the fellowship hall during July and let's STUFF THE "BUS"!



Crayons
Colored pencils
Markers
Notebooks
Notebook paper

Folders
Sharpies
Pencils
Pencils boxes
Pens

Water Bottles
Note cards
Binders
Bookbags
Hand sanitizer

Dry erase markers
Organizer
Tissue boxes

Purchase items from Amazon and have them sent directly to the Westside Boys & Girls Club at www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/29RIVGLKKYZI8?ref_=wl_share.



We have rescheduled our Habitat Build day to July 27. Please consider joining us that day! Sign up to volunteer as a builder or as a member of the support team who provides breakfast, snacks, lunch, water bottles, coolers, etc. Please see the new sign-up sheet on the worship table in the Fellowship Hall or contact Pam Chelesvig at 402-850-0914 or pchelesvig@gmail.com.

New Council Executive Team

Welcome to our new Executive Team of the Church Council: Jon Beck, President; Pam Chelesvig, Vice President; Laurel Mooney, Secretary; and Lori Mueller, Treasurer. Many thanks to Kim Hawkins, Jr. and Donna J. Walter for serving the past two years on the Exec Team and to Jackie Froendt for your service on the Church Council.

Council Highlights

- Election of a new Executive Team!
- Church Council retreat planned!
- New phone and internet for the church!



Enlighten Remodel Update

We have reached an exciting new phase in Morning Star's Enlighten project! For the next five weeks, construction activity will be focused on the east parking lot of the church. Beginning the weekend of June 29, worshippers will need to come in the south doors of the main entrance facing 85th Avenue or the Church Office entrance. A clearly marked pathway through the Narthex to the elevator will allow access to our worship space in the Fellowship Hall. Please reference the attached map.

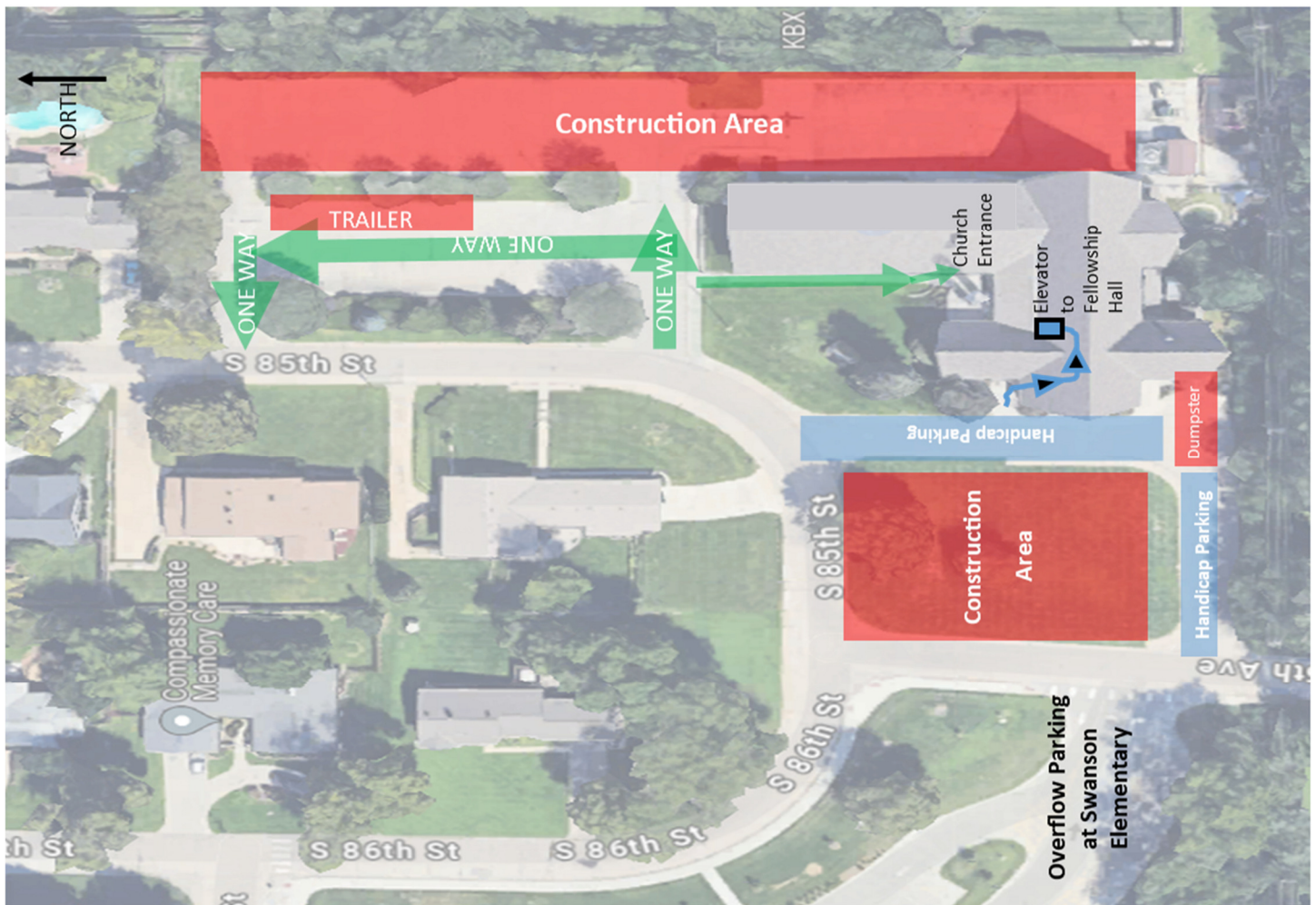
Handicapped parking is available in the parallel spots in front of the church. All other parking is available in the marked area on the north lot. Additional parking is available across the street at Swanson Elementary. There are limited parking spaces on 85th Street. While this may be an inconvenience, it is temporary until the east lot is complete after August 5th.

For those coming to worship during this time, it is an opportunity get a "sneak peek" of some of the construction progress in our narthex and sanctuary!

Thank you for your patience as we continue to make progress on this important missional project for our Congregation.

Your Partner in Ministry

Pr. Chris



If you would like to participate in the Enlighten Campaign, use this QR code to be taken to a pledge card. Return the card to the Church Office or go to www.MorningStarOmaha.org/Give.





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

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



Al-Anon meets at Morning Star on Wednesdays at Noon.



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!



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.



with Fellowship Coffee?



Thank you to all who pitch in each and every week to help make worship happen! We need help to read scripture, serve communion, usher/greet and set up and tear down worship every week. Contact the Church Office to find out how you can help!

A few extra hands are needed on Sunday mornings to help with fellowship coffee. It's a low commitment, behind the scenes job that brings smiles to ALL! See Jan, Diane or Marguerite for more info!



See Pam Chelesvig to order your GWOH t-shirt by August 18! Some of the activities planned for GWOH are:

- *Stuff a Sock for Veterans at New Horizons*
- *Write Encouragement Letters to those on our prayer list.*
- *Support a Veteran with Cards*
- *Roll Habitat for Humanity T-Shirts*

Good News from the Preschool...

June kicked off our Water Play Wednesdays just in time for the hot weather. We even had a Mud Day with mud pies galore! Outdoor art featured painting with pool noodles and our outdoor sensory bin was butterfly themed with bowtie pasta, toy butterflies and clothespins that the children wrapped fabric around to create cocoons.

Our Donuts for Dads breakfast was a big hit as the children enjoyed the special time with their Dads. Since so many children were interested in the College World Series, we played some t-ball on the playground.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the children, staff and the center!





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

Morning Star, along with four Omaha area Lutheran churches present this year's VBS "Camp Firelight"

July 8-11, 5:15-8 PM at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (510 N. 93rd St.) for children PreK through 5th Grade. Each evening begins with a free meal with activities at 6 PM! Register now at kountze.mycokesburyvbs.com. *Volunteers needed!*



Thanks

Thank you for the use of your facility during the '24 statewide Presidential Primary Election on May 14. Without your cooperation, the Election Commission would not be able to provide the quality polling places that the voters have come to expect. Your efforts helped to ensure our security and success administering this election.

Brian Kruse,
Douglas County Election Commissioner



Dear Morning Star,

On behalf of LFS, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your recent gift! We are honored to have such an amazing partnership with Morning Star Lutheran! I pray that you have continued success in your renovations and remodel. I look forward to finding ways to partner in your ministry and continuing to grow our relationship!

Jens Acamo
Lutheran Family Services



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

July 7	Gloria Miller	James & Shaila Clark	Available
July 14	Dawn, Tim & Abigail Karnish	Dawn, Tim & Abigail Karnish	Available
July 21	Available	Available	Available
July 28	Available	Available	Available

July Worship Assistants

Sunday, July 7

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter
Reader: Jan Zarestky
Usher: Chris Hedican & Nick Saitta
Acolyte: Nathan & Noah Hawkins
Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, July 14

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore
Reader: Rod Anderson
Usher: Dan & Laurel Mooney
Acolyte: Bryce & Grace Peterson
Altar: Lauren Gilmore

Sunday, July 21

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg
Reader: Kim Hawkins
Usher: Bryan & Bryce Peterson
Acolyte: Anker & Asta Jensen
Altar: Lynn Blagg

Sunday, July 28

Comm: Nick Saitta, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
Reader: Kyle Wolfe
Usher: Joel Rohde & Jim McGill
Acolyte: Hope & Alexandra Weber
Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish



July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 Outreach Committee	2 5 Enlighten Prayer Team Meeting 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	3 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	4 Church Office & Preschool Closed 	5	6 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
7 10 Worship	8 5 Enlighten Team Meeting 6:30 Church Council	9 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	10 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	11 7 DBSA	12	13 5:30 Worship
14 10 Worship	15 5:30 Faith Partners: Star of Hope	16 9:30 Staff Mtg 5 Enlighten Prayer Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	17 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	18 7 DBSA	19	20 5:30 Worship
21 10 Worship	22	23 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	24 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 1:30 Lydia Circle 5:30 AA Women Only	25 7 DBSA	26	27 5:30 Worship 
28 10 Worship	29	30 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	31 10 Bible Study 12 AI Anon 5:30 AA Women Only			



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested

Prayer Requests

- Rae Austin
- Mike Behm
- Donna Crouse
- Kim Hawkins, Jr.
- LouAnn Henkens
- Elaine Kemper
- Neil Lindquist
- Bev McCollum
- Emily McWhirter
- Rev. Kent Morse
- Don Page
- Nick Saitta
- Rev. Glenn Schacht
- John Walter
- Mary Ziska
- Brian *(friend of Ande & Adam Johnson)*
- Bruce *(JoAnn Wollenburg's nephew)*
- Cassie *(friend of Schacht's)*
- Christina *(Agneta Gaines' sister)*
- Dan & Sherry *(friends of Dan & Bev Hartman)*
- Dave *(brother-in-law of Maxwell's)*
- Dianna *(Donna J. Walter's cousin)*
- Dylan *(Hass' grandson)*
- Eulish Moore *(friend of Pr. Schacht)*
- Gordon Soderberg *(Bev Jessen's brother)*
- Irene Bruckner *(Susie's mother)*
- Jaxon *(Dawn Karnish's cousin)*
- Joan *(Betty Fiddelke's sister)*
- John *(nephew of the McGill's)*
- Joyce *(friend of the Wollenburg's)*
- Judy Hopkins *(friend of Kathy Hawkins)*
- Juliana McQuisten *(Nancy Sweetwood's great-granddaughter)*
- Lonnie Mefferd *(Patsy Behm's sister)*
- Mary Lou *(family of Maxwell's)*
- Nicholas *(grandson of Schacht's)*
- Patti & Traci *(friend of Maxwell's)*
- Phil Glassman *(friend of Patsy Behm)*
- Rich Fiddelke
- Rylee Koers
- Seth *(friend of Carol Bowley)*
- Sloan, Bill & Connor *(cousins of Maxwell's)*
- Sue *(friend of Pam Chelesvig)*
- Theo Throckmorton
- Theresa *(friend of a member)*

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. Thank you!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

July Birthdays

July Anniversaries

Shaila	Clark	07/02	Kim	Moy	07/11	Kenneth	Hagemann	07/22	Keith & Sherri	Oltmans	07/01
Kim	Williams	07/02	Rick	Jacobsen	07/12	Faye	Nelson	07/22	Brian & Tarah	Peterson	07/01
Audrey	Schu	07/03	Wyatt	Washburn	07/13	Estelle	Garges	07/24	Erik & Sara	Jensen	07/02
Hope	Weber	07/04	Sharon	Zahm	07/13	Ella	Post	07/27	Corey & Lynell	Stafford	07/06
Theodore	Hedican	07/08	Robert	Elshire	07/15	Jennifer	Groen	07/28	Mike & Kim	Williams	07/10
Abigail	Karnish	07/08	Matthew	Weber	07/15	Carol	Johnson	07/28	Jeff & Jurene	Wegner	07/12
Emily	Knickerbocker	07/08	Benjamin	Page	07/16	Carol	Anderson	07/29	Chris & Lindsey	Tonniges	07/14
Rod	Anderson	07/09	Patsy	Behm	07/18	Dawn	Karnish	07/29	Don & Shari	Page	07/17
Alyce	Berk	07/11	Roberta	Hagemann	07/20	Kenneth	Hawkins	07/31	Kim & Amy	Hawkins	07/18
Maddux	Duncan	07/11	Stephen	Nye	07/20	Donna	Walter	07/31	Bob & Lauren	Gilmore	07/25
Sarah	Hunter	07/11	Dana	Wiebers	07/21				Tom & Deb	Hysack	07/31