



331 S. 85th Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68114  
402.393.5553  
Office@MorningStarOmaha.org  
www.MorningStarOmaha.org



**WORSHIP WITH US!**  
Saturdays at 5:30 PM ♦ Sundays at 10:00 AM ♦ Anytime at [www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org)

July 2021 Newsletter



### COVID-19 Guidelines Update (6/14/21)

Our Congregation Council met on Monday, June 14. Part of our agenda was to update our building and worship guidelines relative to COVID-19 and the rapidly decreasing infection rate in Douglas County. We recognize that not everyone in our worshipping community is vaccinated or feels completely safe to worship in-person. Nonetheless, we have made every effort to create a welcoming and safe space for all with the following guidelines:

- Masks will be encouraged, but optional.
- Hand sanitizer is freely available throughout our building, Gathering Space and hallways.
- Social distance areas have been designated in the rear of the sanctuary as well as in the Gathering Space.
- For those who wish to remain in their pews for Holy Communion, consecrated communion kits will be available at the Welcome Table prior to worship.
- Offerings plates will continue to be available at the Welcome Table prior to worship and will be presented to the Altar during the Offertory Response.
- Please sign attendance cards and place in offering plates at the Welcome Table.
- We will participate in the Sharing of the Peace. You may greet one another as you are comfortable doing so. Sharing the Peace of the Lord without touching or shaking hands is perfectly acceptable.
- The pastors will be available following the service for a greeting.
- We will begin to gradually introduce coffee & fellowship options that may require social distancing and individually wrapped treats.
- Our building is open to committees and groups upon scheduling with the Church Office.



We are working on ways to record member attendance and communion for those who wish to continue worshipping at home.

Please know, every person in our worshipping community is valued and respected equally. Those who wish to worship with us virtually are every bit as important as those who attend in person. It is of the utmost importance that everyone feels safe, valued, and welcomed regardless of how they choose to participate in worship.



CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.  
MEMBERSHIP



We have not had the ability to receive some new members who joined Morning Star during the pandemic. We will be receiving new members on Sunday, August 15 at the 10 AM Worship Service.

If you have been interested in learning more about membership at Morning Star, let us know so Pastor Chris can meet with you and add you to our membership! Email [Office@MorningStarOmaha.org](mailto:Office@MorningStarOmaha.org) or call 402-393-5553.

~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	
July 4	Gloria Miller	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
July 11	Janice Hass	Delores Albanese	<b>Available</b>
July 18	Jan Dahlk	Jan Dahlk	Jan Dahlk
July 25	Jan Dahlk	Jan Dahlk	Jan Dahlk



Vacation Bible School at Morning Star is always exciting! This year we will embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. Kids will dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures and soon discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's **THEM!**

**Join us Monday-Friday, July 19-23  
9 AM to 11:30 AM!  
ONLINE or IN PERSON!**

**Register NOW at  
[www.MorningStarOmaha.org/Family!](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org/Family)**

As you can imagine, we need VOLUNTEERS! Whether you're helping lead kids to and from activities, serving snacks, teaching or getting items on our **NEEDS LIST**, we couldn't do it without you! Contact Greta today to see how you can help or see our website.

VBS 2021 NEEDS LIST

- Brown packing paper
- Large cardboard boxes
- X-large cardboard appliance boxes
- 12x18 green construction paper (100)
- 9x12 green construction paper (100)
- 9x12 white construction paper (100)
- Colorful card stock (80 pages total)
- Patterned scrap book paper (50)
- 3 large bottles of cinnamon
- 3 large bottles of ginger
- 3 large bottles of cardamom
- Cotton swabs (1 box)
- Pony beads (lots)
- Colorful craft feathers (lots)
- Large popsicle sticks (100)
- Medium sized googly eyes (160)
- 16 oz bottles of washable tempera paint (8-12 bottles in multiple colors)
- "Jungle-y" potted plants (instructions to care for real plants)
- Ficus trees & jungle decorations
- Tent
- Metal detector (for use in a skit)
- Blue bed sheets or material
- Christmas lights
- Treasure chest
- 3 boxes of graham crackers
- 50 apples
- 3 32 oz packages of raisins
- 5 family size boxes of Rice Chex
- 2 party size bags of Skittles
- 1 case individual bags skinny pop
- 3 18 oz packages of Pirate's Booty rice and corn puffs
- 70 tortillas
- 5 jars of pizza sauce
- 10 bags of mozzarella cheese
- 5 loaves of wheat bread
- 5 jars of strawberry jelly
- 1 bag of pretzel rings
- 100 packages of fruit snacks
- 12 sponge water balls
- 12 large buckets/tubs
- 6 hula hoops
- 200 balloons
- 3 white posterboards
- Sparkly pompoms
- Sparkly stickers
- Colorful copy paper

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

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



Gods Reach  
Envelops Every Need

## Green Envelope

This month our Green Envelope offering will go to support a missionary with the ELCA. Over 240 ELCA missionaries serve in more than 40 countries around the world, invited by global church partners to work together hand-in-hand. Some are doctors in rural areas. Others teach children where there are few opportunities to

go to school, or work in seminaries that prepare pastors and future church leaders. Others support, nurture and preach in some of the fastest growing Lutheran congregations in the world. And still others are young adults, engaging in a life-changing, year-long experience through the Young Adults in Global Mission.

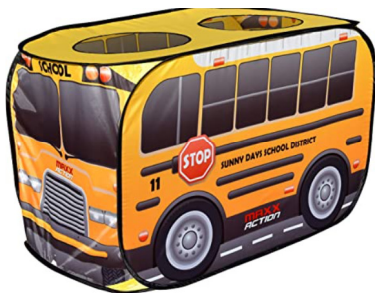
No matter where or how they serve, every one of these missionaries needs your prayers, support and gifts to succeed in their work. Your gift connects you directly to these missionaries to make their life-changing ministry happen. Thank you for joining the ELCA worldwide in God's amazing work!



## STUFF THE BUS

### Service Project

This month we will "STUFF THE BUS" with school supplies for the Westside Boys & Girls Club. Our bus is small but we'll make it mighty with your help! Find the mini "bus" pictured in the Gathering Space and drop off any school supplies by August 1. Suggested items are:



- ☞ No. 2 Pencils
- ☞ Pens
- ☞ Washable Markers
- ☞ Loose Leaf Paper
- ☞ Safety Scissors
- ☞ Erasers
- ☞ Crayons
- ☞ Spiral Notebooks
- ☞ Glue Sticks
- ☞ Colored Pencils

## Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center



402-393-8215 • [Preschool@MorningStarOmaha.org](mailto:Preschool@MorningStarOmaha.org)

The children will begin the month by celebrating the United States of America with patriotic music and activities!

The next theme is Summer Fun. Dramatic play areas will include tents, grills, fishing ponds and other favorite summer activities. Children will have the opportunity to tour a recreational vehicle!

Wonderful Watermelon will be our next focus. Observations the children will make include how watermelons grow, smell, taste, feel and sound. Math will be thrown in the mix as they count seeds and measure the watermelons.

We are excited to participate in Vacation Bible School at Morning Star! The theme "Treasured" will guide children to discover that they are priceless to God.

We will sprint into the last theme of the month, Olympic Dreams. The children will participate in the Morning Star Olympics and can explore different sports that promote coordination, strength and self-confidence.





Just a few of our 2021-2022 Winstrom Youth Service Scholarship Recipients receiving their awards!

We honored our graduates last month with these great gifts! Congratulations to Barrett, Jake, Rachel & Lacey (pictured below)!



**Youth Events**

- Confirmation Stole Making on Wednesdays July 7, 14, & confirmed this fall. If these dates don't work, please arrange to get stole materials.
- Youth Room Facelift on Sunday, July 11, 5-6:30 PM with move stuff and get some pizza!
- VBS Helpers: Youth can volunteer a day or the whole week with skits, or hanging out with kids. Sign up online at Morning Star.
- VBS Set Up on Saturday, July 17 at 10 AM & Sunday, July 18 at 10 AM.
- Back to School BBQ on Sunday, August 22 at 5:30 PM at the church.

# Council Highlights & CELEBRATION

- The congregation approved the Master Planning & Facilities Assessment Phase 1!
- We have returned to In-Person worship and resumed Saturday evening services!
- We welcome new Council Member, Lindsey Tonniges!



## Communion & Worship Streaming

Communion pick up can be arranged at any time by contacting the Church Office. LIVE worship streaming will always be available on Facebook LIVE at 10 AM or shortly after on our website [www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Morning Star calendar is online and regularly updated. Go to [MorningStarOmaha.org/calendar](http://MorningStarOmaha.org/calendar) and click on "See Complete Calendar"! Email Susie in the Church Office to add information.



*The Youth Scavenger Hunt with St. Tim's!*



*The youth helping with the food pantry (above & below)!*

August 4, 6:30-7:30 PM in the Chapel for those being engaged. Come a time with Greta to get measured for your robe and

Pizza! The youth room needs some TLC so come help

help with arts and crafts, skits, games, snacks, [MorningStarOmaha.org/Family](http://MorningStarOmaha.org/Family).

July 18 right after worship. Help us decorate for VBS!

at Pastor Chris' house.



We understand and respect that everyone's comfort levels for attending in-person worship are different. If you choose, we are providing stickers for you to wear to let people know your comfort level.



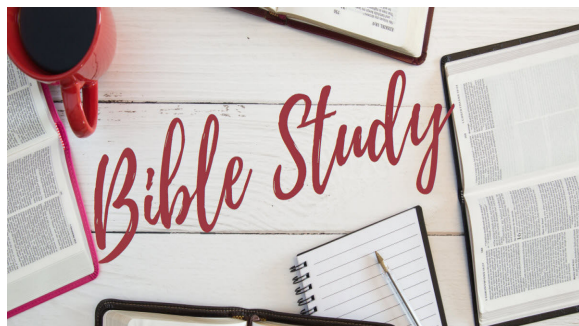
Take a **GREEN** sticker if you are ok with hugs & high fives!



Take a **YELLOW** sticker if you are ok with talking but not touching!



Take a **RED** sticker if you are keeping your distance!



All are welcome to join Pastor Chris, Pastor Glenn and Greta for our mid-week Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the conference room. Each week we dig into the lectionary texts and share insights!



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY.ORG®  
TAKE A BOOK • RETURN A BOOK

The Little Free Library located on the parking island on 85th Avenue is available anytime to take or leave a book and as always, is free!



# Worship Assistants

**HELP NEEDED**

We need help so worship can happen each week. Could you help Usher, Serve Communion, Read or Greet?  
Contact the Church Office!



Morning Star Lutheran Church, Preschool & Child Care Center are closed Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day



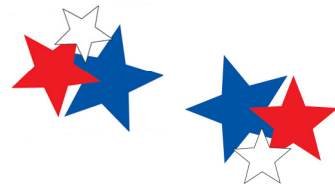
Prayer Shawl Ministry



YOU GAVE ME COMFORT

Prayer Shawls, hand-crafted by members of Morning Star, are available for anyone needing comfort. Each one has been lovingly prayed over as they are created. Find the display in the Gathering Space. Love to knit or crochet? See Betty Fiddelke or Sarah Lieske for the pattern!

# July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 DBSA	2	3 5:30 Worship
4 10 Worship 	5 7 Outreach Committee Mtg	6 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Mtg 6 Faith Formation Mtg 6:30 Exec Comm Mtg	7 10 Bible Study	8 7 DBSA	9	10 5:30 Worship
11 10 Worship	12 6:30 Church Council Mtg 	13 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Mtg	14 10 Bible Study 11 Memorial Committee Mtg	15 5 Preschool Transition Team Mtg 7 DBSA	16	17 5:30 Worship
18 10 Worship	19	20 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Mtg 5:30 Personnel Committee Mtg	21 10 Bible Study	22 7 DBSA	23	24 5:30 Worship
<b>VBS at Morning Star</b>						
25 10 Worship	26	27 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Mtg	28 10 Bible Study	29 7 DBSA	30 	31 5:30 Worship



# MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68114

Address Correction Requested

### Prayers

- Lindsay Bowley
- Lowell Gratopp
- Ken Hagemann
- Virgene Kobold
- Eunice Levisay
- Don McWhirter
- Gerald Vanek
- Fred Zabel

### Friends & Loved Ones

- Alexandria (*Michelle Miller's daughter*)
- Avery Thygesen (*great-niece of Kemper's*)
- Aya (*Moy family friend*)
- Carol Schacht (*Pastor Glenn's sister-in-law*)
- Dave Davis (*friend of Ric Miller*)
- Joseph, Gary & Debbie (*Wollenburg's friends*)
- Kitty (*friend of John & Donna Walter*)
- Margaret (*friend of Lori Mueller*)

- Megan (*Betty Williams' daughter*)
- Shelley Anderson (*Carol Anderson's daughter*)
- Todd Koers (*son of Wally Koers*)
- Will (*brother-in-law of Ben Byers*)



### July Anniversaries

Brian & Tarah	Peterson	7/1
Erik & Sara	Jensen	7/2
Corey & Lynell	Stafford	7/6
Michael & Kim	Williams	7/10
Jeff & Jurene	Wegner	7/12
Chris & Lindsey	Tonniges	7/14
Don & Shari	Page	7/17
Kim & Amy	Hawkins	7/18
Bob & Lauren	Gilmore	7/25
Tom & Deb	Hysack	7/31

### July Birthdays

Shaila	Clark	7/2	Matthew	Weber	7/15
Kim	Williams	7/2	Ben	Page	7/16
Audrey	Schu	7/3	Patsy	Behm	7/18
Hope	Weber	7/4	Roberta	Hagemann	7/20
Theo	Hedican	7/8	Steve	Nye	7/20
Abigail	Karnish	7/8	Dana	Wiebers	7/21
Emily	Knickerbocker	7/8	Ken	Hagemann	7/22
Alyssa	Peterson	7/8	Faye	Nelson	7/22
Rod	Anderson	7/9	Adam	Froendt	7/23
Alyce	Berk	7/11	Parker	LeFebvre	7/23
Sarah	Hunter	7/11	Ella	Post	7/27
Kim	Moy	7/11	Carol	Johnson	7/28
Rick	Jacobsen	7/12	Carol	Anderson	7/29
Wyatt	Washburn	7/13	Sally	Kampfe	7/29
Sharon	Zahm	7/13	Kim	Hawkins, III	7/31
Lynn	Davis	7/15	Donna	Walter	7/31
Bob	Elshire	7/15			