



***Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the
glory of the Lord has risen upon you!***

Isaiah 60:1

Dear Members and Friends of Morning Star Lutheran Church,

One of the suggested hymns for the Third Sunday in Advent is *Christ, Be Our Light*, by Bernadette Farrel. It's an appropriate selection for the season, but also quite apropos for Morning Star's mission and ministry. The verses sing of justice for those who are hungry, troubled, or waiting in darkness. In such times of challenge, the refrain urgently beckons Christ to be our light; Shine in our hearts; and Shine through the darkness. Inspired by the words of Isaiah 60, it's the hymns fourth verse that calls God's faithful people to purposeful action:

***Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be
servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.***

As we await the light of the Christ child to come into our world this season of Advent, I am reminded of the quality of this waiting. It is quite intentional. There is a purpose to our waiting as we are called to be servants to one another, signs of God's kingdom to come. Indeed, Morning Star waits well, sharing of our faith as well as our time, talents, and treasure.

Earlier this fall, through a stewardship letter to the congregation, I conveyed the urgency and remarkable impact our financial gifts have in undergirding our congregation's mission of *Sharing the Light of Christ with ALL Creation*. Each gift we give, no matter its size, has significance in enabling us to live out our congregational mission. Each dollar received by our congregation allows us to further share God's light through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many the gifts, many the people, we are empowered to be signs of God's kingdom to come!

I am both grateful and pleased to share with you that our congregation has responded to the challenge. Many have not only provided generous stewardship commitments for the 2026 fiscal year, but in many cases, have also increase those commitments. Yes, we are grateful for all gifts, but in these days of increased ministry expenses, stewardship offerings that correspond with these increases are extremely helpful.

Thank you very much to all who have, to date, returned your 2026 Plan for Giving cards. Your faithful commitment, in this regard, helps our congregation to plan missionally (a.k.a. fiscal budget) for the seasons ahead. For those who have yet to return a 2026 Plan for Giving card, I encourage you to prayerfully consider doing so for our congregation's mission and commitment to bringing Christ's light in the world. Your stewardship in this regard is highly valued and greatly appreciated as it assists our leadership in planning for ministry opportunities ahead.

~ continued ~

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8^{AM} - 4^{PM}
Friday 8^{AM} - 12 Noon
Closed Major Holidays

Worship Times

Saturday Worship 5:30 PM
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM

My hope is that you are proud of Morning Star Lutheran Church, its ministry, and the faith community we call our church home. We are making a difference in this community, the people we serve, and the hearts of the generations who gather here for worship. Yes, we have much work to accomplish in the coming year, including a strategic mission planning process and many other weekly ministry needs to attend to. There is joy in this work and all the more so with your meaningful involvement.

Again, thank you for sharing the gifts of your time, talents, and treasures with our beloved congregation for the sake of being Christ's gracious and powerful light in the world. You make a difference.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris



Come have Advent fun each Sunday with Pastor Chris and/or Pastor Sara from 9:15 -9:45 AM in the chapel. Advent wreath kits are still available to take for Advent practice at home. A love offering is being taken to cover the cost.





If you want to sponsor a poinsettia to fill our Sanctuary on Christmas, fill out a form at the Worship table and return by December 21 or contact the Church Office. Flowers may be taken home on Christmas Eve. Cost is \$15 per plant!



Our **Blue Christmas** worship service is Sunday, December 7 at 12 Noon for those who have suffered loss or have a difficult time during the holidays. Lunch will be after. RSVP with the Church Office for the luncheon.

Staff Christmas Gifts

Each year we show our appreciation to the dedicated Morning Star ministry team with a Christmas bonus. If you would like to contribute to this gift for our staff please place your donation in the offering, the mail, or online by December 21. Thank you for your continued generosity! The Morning Star Ministry Team:



Pastor Christopher Hawkins, Lead Pastor
Susie Syx, Director of Administrative Ministry
Rick Jacobi, Organist
James Creason, Facility Manager
Tyler Russell, Sound Engineer
Dave Eames, Sound Engineer
Kyle Wolfe, Video Technician
Pastor Sara Jensen, Pulpit Supply
Jean Johnson, Saturday Pianist



Thanks

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,500 and your ongoing care for the students we serve together through campus ministry. What a blessing it is to share in this mission of invitation with you! Please know that your prayers and support make a huge impact on the lives of those we serve together. Thank you and God's abundant blessings to you!

Jon Fredricks
Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry

You and your volunteers were gracious to us and for that I thank you. I know how much it takes to give of your time to causes such as Crossroads Connection, and we do truly appreciate everything you did and the extra time you spent with us out of your Sunday evening. The service went so well and you fed us all a great meal. You have a beautiful church and Pam was wonderful to work with. Thank you again and we hope we can worship with you again in 2026!

Teresa
Crossroads Connection



MISSIONS & OUTREACH



**Crossroads
Connections Sunday**



December Green Envelope

This month our Green Envelope offering goes to support the ELCA's Good Gifts program. ELCA Good Gifts provides critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to us. We may choose to send livestock, fish, fresh water, or even vaccinations to some of the most impoverished areas including the US.

Items in their catalog are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by their partners — meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support it needs and none of what it doesn't. Our donations will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows the church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the U.S. or abroad. Nearly 90% of your gifts directly support their programs! Check out more at GoodGifts.ELCA.org!



Angel Tree Gifts

This time of year can be hard on families struggling to make ends meet. YOU make such a difference in the lives of the families at Lutheran Family Services and Westside Boys & Girls Club with your gifts. Pick an Angel off of the tree after church. **All gifts must be back by December 14.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to be a sponsor, contact the Church Office.

Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors

DATE	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
Dec. 7	Dana Wiebers	Dana Wiebers	Sandy Heskett
Dec. 14	James & Shaila Clark	Tim & Lori Mueller	AVAILABLE
Dec. 21	Sharon McGrath	Jon & Sabrina Beck	Gary & Sandy Byers
Dec. 28	Dick & Sharon Zahm	Dick & Sharon Zahm	AVAILABLE

The cost of the Altar Flowers is \$45 per arrangement. Bulletin sponsorships are \$30 per week. Thank you for continuing to sponsor the beautiful flowers that adorn our altar. We are collecting the containers the flowers come in for a hopeful discount. Please return to the Church Office if you are able.

December Worship Assistants

Sunday, December 7

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter
Reader: Donna Walter
Usher: Dean Mathisen & Mark Carnevalo
Acolyte: Addi Hawkins & Hallie Tonniges
Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, December 14

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore
Reader: Rod Anderson
Usher: Brian & Bryce Peterson
Acolyte: Abigail Karnish & Brynn Wiebers
Altar: Lauren Gilmore

Sunday, December 21

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg
Reader: Dave Blagg
Usher: Jim McGill & _____
Acolyte: Nina & Michael Lierler
Altar: Lynn Blagg & Bev Hartman

Wednesday, December 24 ~ 4 PM

Comm: Donna Walter, Todd & Jill Moeller
Reader: Donna Walter
Usher: Todd & Deb Washburn
Acolyte: Anna Moeller & Quinn Warner
Altar: Susie Syx

Wednesday, December 24 ~ 6 PM

Comm: Angie Hawkins, Brian & Tarah Peterson
Reader: Bryce Peterson
Usher: Mark Carnevalo & Dean Mathisen
Acolyte: _____
Altar: Susie Syx

Sunday, December 28

Comm: Mark Carnevalo, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
Reader: Kyle Wolfe
Usher: Brian & Bryce Peterson
Acolyte: Luke Lieske & _____
Altar: Angie Hawkins



Al-Anon 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}

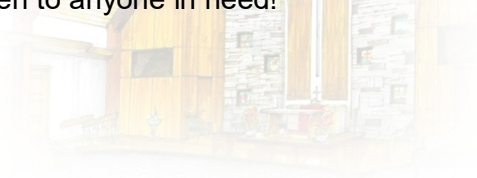
Tuesdays at 8^{PM}

Wednesdays at 5:30^{PM} ~Women



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!





*From mustard seed faith to bold hope,
God's people grow in gratitude and generosity.*

To Celebrate Our Light at Morning Star Lutheran Church, I intend to give:

- ☐ \$_____ to be given weekly **OR**
☐ \$_____ to be given monthly **OR**
☐ \$_____ to be given in total for the year on _____

Name _____ Env # _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Sign/Dated _____

(I understand that this plan can be changed by notifying the church office.)

- ☐ Begin this new level of generosity starting **now** instead of January!
☐ This commitment is an increase in generosity!
☐ I am interested in including Morning Star in my estate plans!
☐ Set this gift up for automatic giving ~ form enclosed
(My signature authorizes the church to adjust our current automatic giving level to reflect this new intent beginning _____)



We need help setting out donuts & coffee. It's a pretty easy gig and everyone **LOVES** the donut person! Contact Marguerite Diane or Jan if you can help!



PASTORAL CARE

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



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.



We ALWAYS need help with Communion, scripture reading & ushering. Contact the Church Office to find out how you can help!

Inclement Weather Policy

Weekday Cancellation Policy: When local school districts cancel school due to weather related incidents, all scheduled congregational activities will also be cancelled. **Weekend Cancellation Policy:** 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).



We are kicking off our strategic planning process and need your help! You will soon receive a letter outlining the strategic planning process, key dates, and invitation to complete a Congregational Health Inventory. All voting members are invited and encouraged to complete this inventory. The inventory will be available as both an electronic and a physical document. The physical document will be mailed to all active members and available at worship soon. Thank you for taking time to complete and return this important inventory. Electronic copies can be emailed to the Church Office at Office@MorningStarOmaha.org.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	3 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Confirmation	4 12:30 Sarah Circle Luncheon at Jerico's 7 DBSA	5	6 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
7 10 Worship 12 Blue Christmas Service & Luncheon	8 4:30 Strategic Planning Team Meeting 6:30 Church Council	9 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	10 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	11 7 DBSA	12 	13 5:30 Worship
14 10 Worship	15 	16 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	17 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Faith Partners 6:30 Confirmation	18 7 DBSA	19	20 5:30 Worship
21 10 Worship & Children's Christmas Program	22	23 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	24 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 4 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  <i>Christmas Eve</i> CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 7 DBSA	26  <i>merry Christmas</i> <div>Church Offices Closed</div>	27 5:30 Lessons & Carols Worship
28 10 Lessons & Carols Worship	29	30 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	31 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only			



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested



HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed Thursday & Friday,
December 25 & 26

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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. Thanks!



December Anniversaries

Jesse & Kylie Warboys	12/06
Sharon McGrath & Paul Worcester	12/27
Thomas & Linda Pauley	12/27
Dick & Sharon Zahm	12/28

December Birthdays

Theo	Niewohner	12/01	Cam	Corbett	12/13	Sherri	Hunter-Oltmans	12/25
Kaylie	Ring	12/01	Kathy	Jochim	12/15	Michael	Bowman	12/26
Karen	Bertelsen	12/02	Riley	Maxwell	12/17	Gina	Ladd	12/26
Sydney	Winstrom	12/02	Ciprianna	Engel	12/17	Owen	Moeller	12/28
Jerry	Bertelsen	12/04	Carol	Bowley	12/18	LouAnn	Henkens	12/28
Nancy	Sweetwood	12/04	Lester	Rygg	12/18	Thomas	Gutheil	12/29
Pamela	Chelesvig	12/04	Joyce	Kochen	12/19	Todd	Moeller	12/29
Joel	Page	12/10	Lynn	Hedell	12/21	Diane	Ervin	12/30
Robert	Kellams	12/11	Carter	Tonniges	12/23	Timothy	Mueller	12/30
Beau	Hines	12/12	Frances	Ruh	12/25	Lynell	Stafford	12/30
						Thayer	Clark	12/31

