

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

~ Matthew 28:10



The countdown has begun. Soon, Artemis II will propel four astronauts around the Moon. The mission is clear. Conduct a 10-day lunar flyby using the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft. This mission is specifically designed to test deep-space systems with astronauts on board in preparation for later Moon-landing missions. NASA says this will be the deepest any human has ever travelled into space. But before the rocket fires off into the heavens these astronauts will listen for one final command from mission control. "Go!"

"Go" is a word of action. It's a simple word conveying that something is about to happen. That everything is ready. That the only thing left to do is proceed. Jesus understood the power of "go" as he spoke to the disciples following his Resurrection. Realizing the new thing God had done on behalf of all Creation, the only thing left for followers to do was to go. They launched on a mission to tell the story of God's promises.

We gather for Easter worship this weekend thankful the first witnesses to the Risen Lord courageously obeyed Jesus' command to "go." Since that first Easter morning, the mission of followers has been clear. Go share Christ with the world. This is what the church has done for generations. It is what we called to do as an Easter church today, carrying news of the Risen Lord to the deepest outreaches possible.

One of the clearest things any bishop has ever said to me about the church was this: without a mission the church is dead. Without the command to go and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, the church condescends into nothing more than a social club. Think about that for a moment. It is entirely possible for the church to die in a world that distracts and challenges us in our Easter mission.

It is also not out of the realm of possibility for a congregation like Morning Star to wither away in complacency for the same reasons. Failing to place Jesus at the center of our life together and embrace the same courageous spirit as those first disciples is the quickest pathway to death. However, our Easter message is very clear. Just like those disciples who worshipped at Jesus' feet and listened to his missional command, we too are called to go and tell the story. This is exactly why we are being led through another strategic mission planning process.

As such, on **Sunday, April 26**, following worship, our Strategic Planning Committee is requesting the presence of all active members to join us for an urgent discipleship event. Lunch will be served. So too will the results of our planning process to this point. Our Committee and Council will introduce four key growth areas with corresponding mission goals.

These four growth areas are: *Strengths to build on; Challenges to be addressed; Mission to our communities; Aspirations for the next three years.* Several ideas will be presented underneath each of the growth areas. Then, after a time of prayer and discernment members will be asked to prioritize their top one to two goals in each growth area. Instructions for accomplishing this part of the process will be given at the event.

Following this important goal selection event in April the countdown will begin with a period of prayer and reflection. This will be a time of preparation before we officially launch Morning Star's Easter mission for the next three years. Final congregational approval of our six-eight mission goals will occur at our second half annual meeting. Thus, our official Strategic Mission Plan launch date will be **Sunday, May 31**. As always, the Holy Spirit will serve as 'mission control' as we are once again commanded as a congregation to "go."

Thank you to all who have participated thus far in this important process. We especially thank our Strategic Planning Committee and Council for their hard work, prayer, and support. We are a blessed congregation made alive by the Spirit and Jesus' light and love.

Blessings to you and yours as you celebrate the Risen Lord and the exciting mission we share to go and tell the story of the God who is always on the go doing a new thing for all of Creation.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris

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

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



April Green Envelope

Habitat for Humanity of Omaha is dedicated to improving the quality of life, wellbeing and financial independence for families in the Omaha Metro Area. Habitat Omaha develops, builds, repairs and sells affordable homes. A Habitat home can...

- ...build **resilience**, offering a dependable foundation where families can grow and thrive.
- ...unlock **opportunity**, giving families the stability they need to pursue education, employment and better health.
- ...create **belonging**, connecting individuals to community, services and a sense of place.

Morning Star continues our partnership with Habitat for Humanity through funds, building opportunities, volunteering of our time and resources. More information to come in the next several weeks!

Thanks

We recently received your church's gift to Lutheran Family Services. This gift of hope will make a huge difference for people in need as we head into the new year. Thanks to your donation, we've provided real help and real hope to those in need. Because of you...

- Children & families found safety, healing and opportunities. From early intervention to family therapy, your generosity gave children the tools to thrive and parents the support to grow stronger.
- Behavioral health services expanded when they were needed most. At a time when anxiety, depression, and trauma are rising, we met people with compassion and clinical care—restoring dignity and hope.
- We aided new populations with critical resources and a warm hand to hold as they transitioned to life in the US.

Thank you for believing in our mission. Your generosity means the world to our community and you are helping us make a positive impact.

Chris Tonniges
President and CEO

Free Library

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!



Crossroads Connection Service

Morning Star has the pleasure of once again hosting Crossroads Connection for dinner & worship on Sunday, May 3 at 6 PM. If you would like to help in this outreach opportunity to those incarcerated and their families, please contact Pam Chelesvig.

April Volunteer Opportunity

The Outreach Committee will be landscaping at the Hospice House with Cindy Anderson who is a master gardener.

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

Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors

DATE	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
April 5	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE	Jim & Marguerite McGill
April 12	James & Shaila Clark Family	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE
April 19	Susie Syx	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE
April 26	AVAILABLE	AVAILABLE	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.



Rick Jacobi, Director/Organist
Organ, Piano, Strings, Trumpet
featuring several local artists

Sunday, April 12 ~ 3 PM

A concert of Cherished Easter
music to celebrate the season

All Are Welcome!



331 S. 85th Ave.
Omaha, NE
www.MorningStarOmaha.org



Strategic Planning & 70th Anniversary Luncheon
Sunday, April 26 ~ 11:15 AM

Mission Goal information will be presented immediately following worship on Sunday, April 26. Lunch will be provided. We will also celebrate Morning Star's 70th Anniversary! This large group Mission Goal Gathering will be a critical time of prayer and discernment as we seek to identify the most urgent and critical mission priorities and goals for the next three years of ministry at Morning Star. Your participation at this gathering is paramount. Please RSVP early with the Church Office!

April Worship Assistants

Sunday, April 5

Comm: 8 AM Peterson Family
10 AM Angie Hawkins & Todd & Jill Moeller
Reader: 8 AM Peterson Family
10 AM Jan Zarestky
Usher: 8 AM Mark Carnevalo & Rick Jacobsen
10 AM Mark Carnevalo & Dean Mathisen
Acolyte: 8 AM Nina & Michael Lierler
10 AM Anna Moeller & Quinn Warner
Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish

Sunday, April 19

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

Sunday, April 12

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter
Reader: Donna Walter
Usher: Brian & Bryce Peterson
Acolyte: Luke Lieske & Michael Lierler
Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, April 26

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg
Reader: Kim Hawkins
Usher: Chris & Theo Hedican
Acolyte: Addi Hawkins & Hallie Tonniges
Altar: Lynn Blagg



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

Omaha New Hope Chapter DBSA

Alcoholics Anonymous is open to all! Groups that meet at Morning Star are:

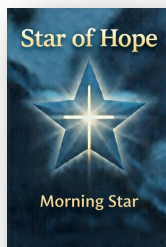
Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM}
Tuesdays at 8^{PM}
Wednesdays at 5:30^{PM} ~Women



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

Star of Hope

Join the Star of Hope meetings on the third Wednesday of every month!



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



Prayer Shawl Ministry



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.

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





MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested

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!



April Anniversaries

Dan & Sherry	Charf	04/15
Adam & Ande	Johnson	04/24
George & Marcia	Bergstrom	04/29

April Birthdays

Tarah	Peterson	04/01	Bev	Jessen	04/07	Drake	Stafford	04/16
Corey	Stafford	04/01	Kyle	Wolfe	04/07	Irene	Bruckner	04/18
Amelia	Hassler	04/02	Tinsley	Garges	04/08	Ryan	Clark	04/19
Laurel	Mooney	04/02	Jesse	Warboys	04/08	Nick	Bowman	04/20
Bryce	Nabity	04/03	Fletcher	Placzek	04/09	John	Jacobson	04/20
Hallie	Tonniges	04/03	Ron	Ruh	04/09	Anna	Moeller	04/20
Chris	Hedican	04/04	Lynn	Lindquist	04/10	Karen	Hawkins	04/25
Leo	Hull	04/04	Donna	Walter	04/11	Amy	Hawkins	04/25
Brian	Hanke	04/05	Mona	Lierler	04/12	Lauren	Gilmore	04/27
Tim	Karnish	04/05	Mike	Williams	04/13	Addie	Elshire	04/29
Lesley	Turner	04/05	Brynn	Wiebers	04/14	Noah	Hawkins	04/29
Deb	Washburn	04/06	Kylie	Warboys	04/15	Carole	Langan	04/30

