

Dear Friends and Members of Morning Star Lutheran Church,

This is such an exciting time at Morning Star! We have completed our spectacular remodeling project and are looking ahead to our very bright future together.

Last autumn in 2025 we began discussion about a new strategic plan. The survey questions were adapted from a document from the Alban Institute and designed to help us determine Morning Star's congregational culture, i.e. *Pastor, Program or Corporate* led. Thank you to all who completed and returned the surveys as your thoughts are important and matter as we move forward together. It's never too late to return your survey.

Upon hearing some confusion about the planning process, we are moving forward with the following:

To plan for our future, we NEED the input from as much of our active membership as possible. As such, we invite you to please sign up to host or attend the small group gatherings taking place through March to early April. It's easy to host at church - brew a pot of coffee and bring cookies or cheese & crackers! Please consider hosting and let one of us know if you are interested. Look for clip boards with host information at the Usher's Table in the Sanctuary beginning March 8. **PLEASE SIGN UP!!!!**

In the meantime, members of the Strategic Planning Committee are meeting with community leaders to inquire about their perceptions of the local community needs. This greatly assists us in determining our congregation's mission and outreach agenda. We will combine this information with the information gathered from the small groups to present potential mission goals of our congregation.

This information will be presented at a large group Mission Goal gathering immediately following worship on **April 27**. Lunch will be provided. (As a point of interest, we will also celebrate Morning Star's 70th Anniversary!) In summary, 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.

Following this gathering, the Strategic Planning Committee will consolidate the selected priorities and goals to present to the Council and ultimately the congregation for ratification at our Annual Meeting on May 31.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with questions or concerns.

Thank you,



Karen Hawkins
Co-Chair



Pastor Chris Hawkins
Co-Chair

Rod Anderson; Sabrina & Jon Beck;
Lauren & Bob Gilmore; Amy & Kim Hawkins, Jr.,
Marguerite & Jim McGill; Pam & Ric Miller;
Dennis Moy; and Lori Mueller
Morning Star Strategic Planning Committee

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



Please sign up to host or attend the small group gatherings taking place through March to early April.

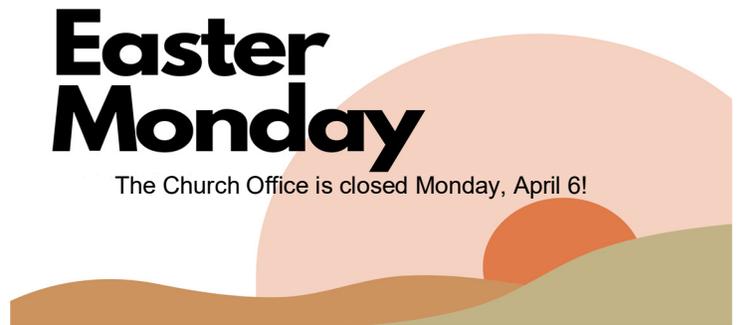
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Thanks

Dear Pastor Chris & Morning Star,

We want to extend a very heartfelt thank you for all of your continued prayers and blessings for Kassi and our family. They are helping more than you know. Kassi has a long way to go in her recovery with many more months/years of rehab. But we know God is with her every step of the way, and with Jesus' healing hands, your continued prayers, and her strong spirit, she will have a life full of blessings and joy!

God's peace to you all,
Kim & Dennis Moy & Family



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!



- Easter Service Schedule Determined
- Annual Meeting set for May 31, 2026
- Plan established for Preschool Cleanup!



Each Wednesday evening during Lent, you are invited to gather for a time of fellowship, shared meals, and prayer. Each Wednesday you can come as early as 5:30 to eat. Food will be served until 6:15 (allowing cooking teams to clean up) before the Holden Evening Prayer Service from 6:30–7:00 PM.

- Week 1: In Community with Creation*
- Week 2: In Community with the Saints*
- Week 3: In Community with Our Neighbor*
- Week 4: In Community with Those on the Margins*
- Week 5: In Community with Christ*





Wednesday Evening Holden Prayer Service

Wednesdays through Lent, 6:30 PM ♦ Lenten Meals, 5:30-6:15 PM

Palm Sunday ♦ March 29, 10 AM

Maundy Thursday ♦ April 2, 6:30 PM

Good Friday ♦ April 3, 6:30 PM

Easter Sunrise ♦ April 5, 6:30 AM

Easter Celebration Services ♦ April 5, 8 AM & 10 AM

Easter Brunch Served between services



March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25

Baked Potato Bar & Salads
Baked Ham, Roasted Potatoes, Baked Beans
Lasagna, Salads
Sloppy Joes, Made Rites, French fries, Jello, Root Beer Floats

**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4
10 AM**

MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join us for this free, fun event! All are welcome!



*Individually wrapped candy
donations needed!*

MISSIONS & OUTREACH



March 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!



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.



March Outreach Volunteer Opportunity

Love flowers? Secretly wish to be a florist? Here's your chance. Your Outreach Committee is working with Hope Foundation to deliver/ arrange flowers for the cancer treatment center at Bergen Mercy Hospital. What do you do? Pick up flower bouquets at Trader Joe's (gift card provided for the purchase) then take the flowers to Bergen Mercy and replenish the four vases that are already there. Contact Donna J. Walter if you're interested. We will be doing this once a week during March. Commit to a one time delivery or more. Ask a friend to join you! The flowers brighten the day of the cancer patients receiving treatment.



The long awaited results for the Cereal Bowl are (insert drum roll)...

THE PUFFS

The Flakes had 1518.3 oz (94.89 lbs) and the Puffs had 1671.5 oz (104.47 lbs). The real winner is the Food Bank of the Heartland! Thank you to everyone for making this a fun event and for bringing nearly **200 pounds** of cereal for the Food Bank of the Heartland!



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!

ALTAR FLOWERS

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



Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors

DATE	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
March 1	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	Donna J. Walter
March 8	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	Jim & Marguerite McGill
March 15	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	AVAILABLE
March 22	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	AVAILABLE
March 29	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	NO FLOWERS ~ Lent	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.



March Worship Assistants

Sunday, March 1

Comm: JoAnn Wollenburg, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
 Reader: Kyle Wolfe
 Usher: Brian & Bryce Peterson
 Acolyte: Anna Moeller & Quinn Warner
 Altar: Bev Hartman

Sunday, March 22

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter
 Reader: Donna Walter
 Usher: Rick Jacobsen & Dan Mooney
 Acolyte: Luke Lieske & Michael Lierler
 Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, March 8

Comm: Brian, Tarah & Grace Peterson
 Reader: Bryce Peterson
 Usher: Chris & Theo Hedican
 Acolyte: Addi Hawkins & Hallie Tonniges
 Altar: Angie Hawkins

Sunday, March 29

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore
 Reader: Rod Anderson
 Usher: Jon & Sabrina Beck
 Acolyte: Bryce & Grace Peterson
 Altar: Lauren Gilmore

Sunday, March 15

Comm: Angie Hawkins, Todd & Jill Moeller
 Reader: Gloria Miller
 Usher: Mark Carnevalo & Dean Mathisen
 Acolyte: Abigail Karnish & Brynn Wiebers
 Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish



Scholarship Applications

2026-2027 Winstrom Youth Service Scholarship applications are now available. Get one from the worship center, online or contact the Church Office for one. Accredited tech schools DO qualify! **APPLICATION DEADLINE is May 31!**



SAVE THE DATE

Congregational Luncheon for Strategic Planning coming April 26!

Preschool Items

The church office is no longer accepting inquiries regarding items in the former preschool area. Council has approved a plan to move forward with the removal of all items following our Open House this past Saturday. Thank you! ~ Pr. Chris



Faith Formation

Children's and Family Ministry

Children and families are invited to join us each Sunday during Lent (9:00-9:45) for learning, activities and fun! Mark your calendars!

Easter Egg Hunt and Holy Week Adventure

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 4 10-12, for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! This year we will also offer a Holy Week Adventure with fun Easter themed activities following our hunt. Join us!

First Communion

First Communion classes will be held Sunday, March 22 and Sunday, March 29 from 11:20 AM to Noon to learn what it means to live out your baptism through Communion. Then you'll receive First Communion during our Maundy Thursday service on April 2 at 6:30 PM. Call the Church Office to sign up today!



Join us Sundays throughout Lent for fun activities like this one!



Easter Joy Concert coming Sunday, April 12 at 3 PM!



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



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



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

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 Faith Formation Fun 10 Worship	2 	3 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	4 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Holden Evening Worship	5 7 DBSA	6	7 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
8 9 Faith Formation Fun 10 Worship	9 5 Strategic Planning Committee & Church Council Combined Meeting	10 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	11 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Holden Evening Worship	12 7 DBSA	13 	14 5:30 Worship
15 9 Faith Formation Fun 10 Worship	16	17 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2 	18 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Holden Evening Worship	19 7 DBSA	20	21 5:30 Worship
22 9 Faith Formation Fun 10 Worship 11:20 1st Communion Class	23	24 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	25 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Lenten Meal 6:30 Holden Evening Worship	26 12:30 Sarah Circle 1:30 Lydia Circle 7 DBSA	27	28 5:30 Worship
29 9 Faith Formation Fun 10 Palm Sunday Worship 11:20 1st Communion Class 	30	31 1 Piano Tuning 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2				



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested



March 29–April 5

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!



March Anniversaries

Jim & Anne	Jenkins	03/13
Travis & Kristin	Garges	03/18
Bill & Diane	Ervin	03/22

March Birthdays

Ruby	Engel	03/01	Genevieve	Hines	03/06	Sherry	Charf	03/13
Kristin	Garges	03/01	Mackenzie	Turner	03/06	Ruth	Johnson	03/16
Sandra	Becher	03/02	Dan	Hartman	03/07	Jim	Olmsted	03/16
Betty	Goehring	03/02	Sam	Lieske	03/07	Addi	Hawkins	03/19
Will	Beck	03/03	Barrett	Mooney	03/07	Abigail	Nabity	03/20
Ande	Johnson	03/03	Luke	Beck	03/10	Noah	Nabity	03/20
Jo	Johnson	03/04	Ellen	Olson	03/11	Philip	Niewohner	03/22
Lily	Karnish	03/05	Andrea	Hines	03/12	Nancy	Gadzikowski	03/27

