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WORSHIP WITH US!
Saturdays at 5:30 ^{PM} • Sundays at 10:00 ^{AM} • Anytime at www.MorningStarOmaha.org

July/August 2022 Newsletter

Message

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” ~ Luke 10:2

The laborers are few. Luke reminds us that Jesus experienced the same kinds of struggles we have in the life of congregations all around. Honestly, it's difficult to find disciples who are ready, willing, or eager to faithfully execute the mission and ministry of the church.

If the current ecclesial statistics are any indication of leadership recruitment, the church is in dire straits. There are more clergy leaving congregations or retiring than we have candidates for ministry to fill those posts. Coupled with that, our volunteers are tired. The same folks who have undergirded ministries in our congregations for years are now asking what it means to continue to do so in a post-pandemic world.

Complicating all of this is the fact that being the church in a secular world is just plain difficult. Drive by any sports field on a Sunday morning and you'll understand where our culture's priorities lie. This is because, in the eyes of our society, congregational participation and missional stewardship have become optional. They are just one item in a litany of demands and directions we are pulled in, requiring our time, talents, and treasure.

In Robert Bellah's *Habits of the Heart*, a nurse named Sheila is interviewed. Sheila claims to believe in God, but it is apparent that her faith is not *in* God. *“My faith has carried me a long way. It's Sheilaism. Just my own little voice.”* How many times do we trust our own voice or someone else's instead of the Lord's when it comes to our life as disciples? Do we always hear the Lord's urgent call to the harvest, or are we more like Sheila?

Jesus reminds us that people of faith have a capacity to see beyond their own self-interests or agendas. *“Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road,”* he instructs the 70 before he sends them out to share the Good News. This is because Jesus' message about discipleship is one of priorities. It always has been. That when we give to the church and to others without regard for merit or expectation of return or favor, we are advancing the urgent work of his harvest. We are living the Gospel. We are sharing the Kingdom of God in a world desperate to experience his grace, love, and light.

Morning Star should know me well enough by now to know that I am not writing to indict us for lax faith, effort, or stewardship. Hardly! To the contrary! I have been astounded and inspired by the care, time, and stewardship of this congregation. There are hundreds of stories I could share of all of us sharing the Light of Christ with All of Creation! But as I reflect on Luke's Gospel story about Jesus sending out the 70, I am also reminded that we must not rest on laurels. There is so much more of the Lord's harvest ahead for us to experience.

In the next few months our leadership and Congregation Council will be inviting us to an intentional discernment and 'listening' of God's ever-present voice. We will be discerning just how God is calling us toward a vision of a harvest that is abundant and full of God's grace for our congregation and the community we serve. We will be sharing stories, supporting one another through faith, and recruiting more disciples to help us in the harvest before us.

As we consider our post-pandemic mission, I want to lead us in a posture of thanksgiving for the gifts God has given to us in congregation. As such, I begin by highlighting our Congregation Council. They have led us faithfully and admirably through some uniquely challenging times.

For months, we have had more questions and uncertainty than we have had the luxury of answers. Those are not easy times to lead in. Specifically, we have immense appreciation and admiration for President, Jackie Froendt; Vice-President, Laurel Mooney; Secretary, Kim Hawkins; Treasurer, Lori Mueller; and all our talented staff for their constant support, encouragement, care, and stewardship to Morning Star.

Each of these members have dutifully fulfilled their callings to serve selflessly and faithfully without being intimidated or backing down from the challenges. Never have they been frustrated from a resolve towards fulfilling our mission as a congregation. To the contrary. They have risen to the occasion and embraced the moment. Please know, their primary concern has always been a care for you and the congregation. We are proud of each of them.

Now, as we discern the future of our mission and ministry, I sense God is preparing us to turn a page in the history of Morning Star. The only thing I know is that Jesus tells us that the harvest is plentiful. It's urgent. And it's calling and equipping each one of us to serve. Thank you very much for your support, your prayers, and your faith. More to come.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris



The Morning Star Preschool's VBS is "Discovery on Adventure Island" July 11-15. Let Greta know if you can help with any of these supplies. **Please deliver supplies by Sunday, July 10!**

- Hard shell chocolate dip or chocolate chips (10)
- Red checkered napkins (75)
- Frozen pancakes (50)
- Whipped cream (3 cans)
- Vanilla yogurt (1 32 oz tub)
- Pool noodles (15)



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!

Worship with us in person on Saturdays at 5:30^{PM} in the Chapel, Sundays at 10:00^{AM} in the Sanctuary or live-stream on Facebook at 10:00^{AM}.

The weekly worship service is on our website after Noon every Sunday.

Need communion kits for at home worship? Just call the Church Office to arrange pick up!



Alcoholics Anonymous are people who come together to solve their drinking problem. It doesn't cost anything to attend A.A. meetings. There are no age or education requirements to participate. It is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem. Two different groups meet at Morning Star on Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM} and 8^{PM}.



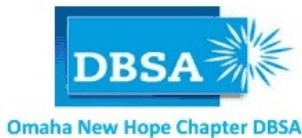
Al-Anon is a group for those who are worried about someone with drinking problems. An Al-Anon group meets at Morning Star on Wednesdays at Noon.



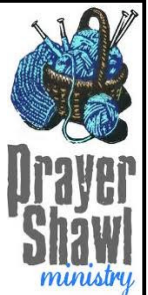
OFFICE HOURS

Just a reminder that the Church Office is open Monday-Thursday, 8^{AM}-4:30^{PM} (closed from noon to 1 for lunch) and Fridays, 8^{AM}-Noon. The Church Office is closed on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30^{AM} for weekly Staff Meeting.

If you've ever been at the church on a Thursday night, you've run into the DBSA, Depression, Bi-Polar Support Alliance. They meet at Morning Star every week at 7^{PM}. This meeting is open to anyone in need! Call 402-502-HOPE for more information.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides hand-crafted blankets given to those that need comfort. Prayers for peace and healing are prayed over each one as they are made. The shawls are available in the Welcome Center. Feel free to take one.



NURSERY Workers Needed

Morning Star is looking for nursery workers during our weekly Sunday morning worship. Attendants will staff the nursery from 9:45 to 11:15 in our preschool's Green Star room and Fellowship Hall area. Attendants must have a background check. Pay is \$30 per session. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Pastor Chris Hawkins directly at pastorhawkins@morningstaromaha.org.

Altar Flowers
& Bulletins
Ministry Opportunity

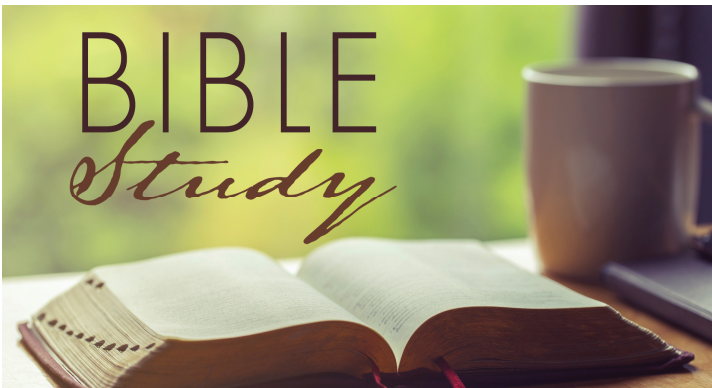
If you would like to be a sponsor, see the calendar in the Welcome Center or call the Church Office. Thanks **Piccolo Florists** for providing our Altar Flowers at a reduced rate and thanks to **Great Harvest Grain Company** for Communion Bread every week.

	Flower Sponsors		Bulletin Sponsors
July 3	Don & Bonnie Daubman	James & Shaila Clark	Available
July 10	Available	Available	Available
July 17	Delores Albanese	Janice Hass	Available
July 24	Available	Available	Available
July 31	Available	Available	Available

	Flower Sponsors		Bulletin Sponsors
August 7	Sharon McGrath	Available	Available
August 14	Kim & Karen Hawkins	Kim & Karen Hawkins	Available
August 21	Available	Available	Available
August 28	Gloria Miller	Available	Available

Council Highlights & CELEBRATION

1. Council voted for new executive team members: Kim Hawkins, Jr., President; Donna Walter, Vice President; and Sabrina Beck, Secretary. Congratulations to our new leaders! Lori Mueller will continue to serve as Treasurer. While Lori is not a member of council, she serves in an advisory capacity in the role of Treasurer.
2. Rick Jacobi will join us in July as our new organist.
3. Pastor Chris shared in his report that we're reinstating the Worship & Music Committee. This committee was inactive during COVID.
4. Pastor Chris shared information about our stewardship program *Building a Culture of Generosity*. We'll be partnering with 19 congregations for this program. Stay tuned for more details.
5. Council celebrated our continued success spiritually and financially as a congregation. Thank you to our members for the continued generosity!



Join Bible study Wednesdays at 10^{AM}. Contact the Church Office if you need a devotion booklets mailed to you.



If you've moved recently, changed your email or phone number, let the Church Office know so we can update the directory!

The need for worship assistants has increased! If you would like to help usher, serve communion or read the week's scripture, please contact the Church Office. No experience necessary!




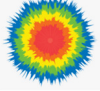
Worship Assistants for July

	Communion Assistants	Lay Reader	Greeter/Usher	Acolytes
July 3	Dave & Lynn Blagg	Dave Blagg	Dan & Laurel Mooney	Nathan Hawkins & Bryce Peterson
July 10	Greta Carlson & Susie Syx	Gloria Miller	John & Lynn Davis	Jackson & Ella Post
July 17	Lauren Gilmore & Rod Anderson	Jan Zarestky	Joel Rohde & Terri Micheels	Zac & Hallie Tonniges
July 24	Donna Walter & Kim Hawkins, Jr.	Donna J. Walter	Chris Hedican & Jim McGill	Anna & Hattie Moeller
July 31	Kyle & Arielle Wolfe	Kyle Wolfe	Marge Morgan & Carol Smith	Hailey Neussendorfer & Renny Maxwell


Worship Assistants for August

	Communion Assistants	Lay Reader	Greeter/Usher	Acolytes
August 7	Lauren & Bob Gilmore	Bob Gilmore	Joel Rohde & Terri Micheels	Zac & Hallie Tonniges
August 14	Kim Hawkins, Jr. & Donna Walter	Kim Hawkins Jr.	Dan & Laurel Mooney	Nick Bowman & Theo Hedican
August 21	Rod Anderson & Susie Syx	Rod Anderson	John & Lynn Davis	Bei & Quinn Warner
August 28	Greta Carlson & Susie Syx	Greta Carlson	Chris Hedican & Jim McGill	Kate Lieske & Anker Jensen

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
3 10 Worship	4  Morning Star Office & Preschool Closed	5 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	6 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon	7 6:30 Youth Tie Dye Night 7 DBSA 	8	9 5:30 Worship
10 10 Worship	11 6:30 Church Council Mtg	12 9:30 Staff Mtg 2 Youth Coffee with Greta 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	13 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 4 Organ Rehearsal	14 7 DBSA	15	16 5:30 Worship
		Preschool VBS				
17 10 Worship	18	19 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	20 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon	21 4:45 Faith Partners 7 DBSA	22 <div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Urban Immersion Youth Trip</div>	23 5:30 Worship
24 10 Worship	25 <div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Urban Immersion</div>	26 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	27 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 4 Organ Rehearsal	28 7 DBSA	29	30 5:30 Worship
31 10 Worship						

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 Outreach Mtg	2 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	3 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon	4 7 DBSA	5	6 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
7 10 Worship	8 6:30 Church Council Mtg	9 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	10 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 4 Organ Rehearsal	11 7 DBSA	12	13 8 Baby Shower Building Usage 5:30 Worship
14 10 Worship	15	16 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	17 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon	18 4:45 Faith Partners 7 DBSA	19	20 5:30 Worship
21 10 Worship	22	23 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	24 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon	25 7 DBSA	26	27 5:30 Worship
28 10 Worship 5:30 Youth BBQ 	29	30 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:30 AA Grp 1 8 AA Grp 2	31 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon			

URBAN IMMERSION

High School Summer Trip

July 22-25
Twin Cities, Minnesota

Our youth, accompanied by Pastor Chris & Greta, will head to Minneapolis July 22-25. Pray for our young people while they are away being immersed into ministry, fellowship and fun!

Confirmation Stole Making July 17 at 11:30 AM

Eighth graders preparing for Confirmation this fall can come work on their stoles in the Chapel. Contact Greta to arrange an alternate time.



Scholarship Winners



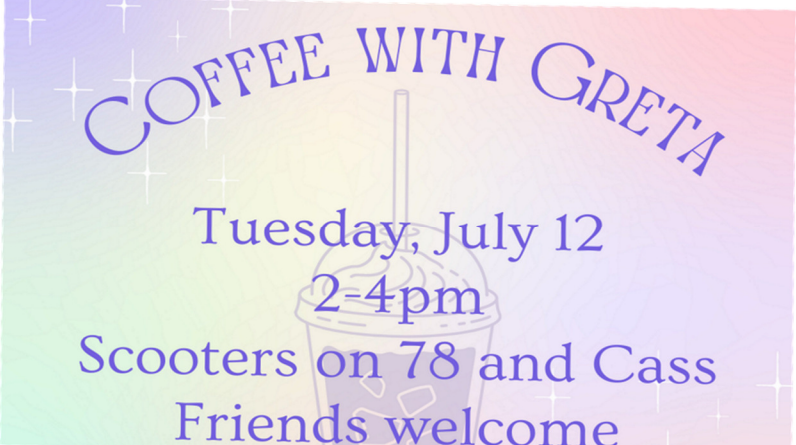
High School Graduates being honored during Worship



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHILDREN & YOUTH





**Morning Star Preschool
& Child Care Center**



Camping, fishing, beaches, and swimming are all part of summer fun. Dramatic play areas will include tents, grills, fishing ponds and other favorite summer activities. We will also be having a Hula Hoop Day.

The week of July 11-15 we will have Discovery on Adventure Island VBS which is based on Isaiah 60:1 "Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you." This verse proclaims the wonderful truth that God's glory shines upon us but it also calls us to shine, as well.

The ocean's creatures and features are fascinating for young children. For this theme, books and activities will help them learn facts about anemones, octopi, ocean habitats, and more.

Our ice cream theme will include pretend play in an ice cream shop and an ice cream truck. The children will also be making ice cream with an ice cream maker and experimenting with freezing and melting.

Missions and Outreach

Bringing the Light of Christ to ALL Creation

July Green Envelope

Project Hope, located at 6201 N. 60th St., is the focus for our Green Envelope in July. Project Hopes mission is to feed and clothe God's people in need. They believe nutritious food contributes to good health and they value people with love, hope, compassion and dignity. In addition to your financial donations, shelf-stable pantry items can be donated through the month of July.



August Green Envelope

Our August Green Envelope partner is Habitat for Humanity. All funds raised go towards building the Faith House each year.



- Delores Albanese
- Rae Austin
- Marcia Bergstrom
- Irene Bruckner
- Glenda Cannon
- Shelli German

- Lowell Gratopp
- Dave Haas
- Kim Hawkins, Sr.
- Deb Hysack
- Rick Jacobsen
- Betty Kellams
- Virgene Kobold
- Eunice Levisay
- Bev McCollum
- Bonnie Nigro
- Nick Saitta
- Angie (friend of the Moy's)
- Ashley Summers (Ann D.'s daughter)
- Bob & Family (friends of Maxwell's)

- Duane Wollenburg (Daryl's brother)
- Eileen & Ken (friends Wollenburg's)
- Jeff (friend of the Moys)
- Jennifer (Gloria Miller's cousin)
- Gary Rue (Dan Rue's father)
- George Zakaras (Amy Hawkins' dad)
- Harold (Pam Miller's dad)
- Jayson Grieco's Family (Tim Hass' friend)
- Korrie Hall (McWhirter's granddaughter)
- Kitty (friend of John & Donna Walter)
- McKay Family (friend of the Moy's)
- Megan (Betty Williams' daughter)

- Polly, Steve & Karlee (Patsy Behm's sister & family)
- Shelley Anderson (Carol Anderson's daughter)
- Sherry (Bev Hartman's friend)
- Susan (friend of Cindy Anderson)
- Terry (friend of Judy Hollander)
- Tim Jensen (Erik's father)
- Wally Koers & Family

