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**Mid Week Update ~ September 22, 2021**

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*Worship with us!*

**Saturdays | In-Person Only 5:30 PM**

**Sundays | In-Person or Online 10:00 AM**



Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. has been welcoming refugee families all summer. Even more are expected throughout the rest of the year. Resettling refugee families takes a lot of behind-the-scenes work consisting of finding affordable housing, furnishing a home, stocking it with household supplies, kitchen items, and groceries, and preparing the family for employment and education them about their new community.

As many as 18,000 Afghans and their families await approval of their visas to escape persecution. Often, SIV cases (Special Immigrant Visas) arrive in Nebraska as “walk-in” cases, meaning we will have little to no knowledge of their travel prior to their arrival. Once they are approved and in the LFS system, we must quickly find housing and supplies to help them resettle in their new community.

Morning Star can help! We are collecting household items for Afghanistan Refugees coming into the Omaha area. Some of the items needed are [\(complete list HERE\)](#):

Towels and wash clothes  
Queen & Twin sheet sets

Pillows  
Writing Materials  
Dish Soap  
Bathroom cleaner  
Kitchen cleaner  
Sponges, rags, paper towels  
Laundry detergent  
Waste Baskets  
Mop or Broom  
Vacuum  
Trash bags

[Read more HERE!](#)

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All ladies are invited to join the Sarah Circle Bible study on Thursday, September 23 at 12:30 PM. BYO Lunch!

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Morning Star Lutheran Church Parking Lot  
Friday, October 29  
5:30 - 7:00 PM

*Join us for some socially-distanced Fun, Food & Fellowship!*

We need help with...

**CANDY & TRUNKS  
SET UP & TEAR DOWN  
ACTIVITY STATION  
FOOD SERVERS**

Sign up [HERE](#) to help at this year's Trunk or Treat. Call 402-393-5553 for more information or visit [www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org).



You are invited to join us **IN PERSON** for Bible Study every Wednesday at 10 AM! We will continue to broadcast on [Facebook LIVE](#) for those who are unable to attend. This week's study materials below:

**Bible Study Sheet**

First Reading [Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29](#)

Psalm [Psalm 19:7-14](#)

Second Reading [James 5:13-20](#)

Gospel [Mark 9:38-50](#)



If your child is in their last year of preschool or starting Kindergarten and has not received a Bible from the church, you are invited to a class on October 10 to receive their story Bible on October 17.

If your child is entering 3rd grade or greater and has not received their elementary Bible, you are invited to join a class on October 31 to receive their Bible on November 7. Sign up with Greta or the Church Office for either of these classes.

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In-person Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, September 22 at 6:30 PM. If you have a student entering 7 or 8 grade or older who hasn't been confirmed, contact Greta ([Greta@MorningStarOmaha.org](mailto:Greta@MorningStarOmaha.org)) or the Church Office to enroll.

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Sunday School for the whole family will meet monthly on the second Sundays at 9 AM before Worship. We'll be outside as long as the weather lets us.

**Family Sunday School Dates:**

October 10  
November 14  
December 12

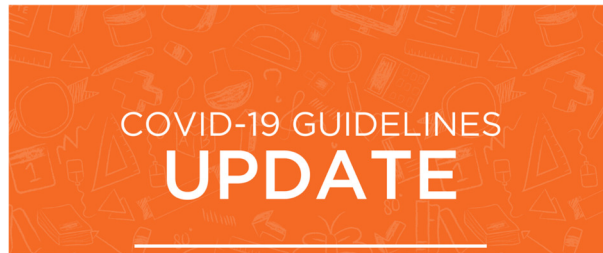
Any youth or adult interested in helping lead an activity or song, please contact Greta!

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

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Due to increased possible risk of acquisition and transmission of the Delta variant (the predominant strain in Nebraska) even amongst the vaccinated, combined with the updated [CDC guidance for mask use](#) amongst the vaccinated in public places, updated recommendations are needed to optimize the protection of our congregation, staff and students during this evolving phase of the pandemic. These changes are important particularly to reduce transmission of the Delta variant those who are unvaccinated, the under vaccinated (such as the immunocompromised or older persons in which a vaccine may be suboptimal) or those who have high-risk family members at home or family members, such as children, who cannot be vaccinated.

The COVID Task Force is recommending the following changes in order to maintain the safe environment that we have established here:

- Masks/face coverings are required for entering the building.
  - Seating in every other pew.
  - Holy Communion will be received via prepackaged elements. Worshippers may come forward to the altar to receive the pre-sealed, non-alcohol elements and return to their seats or they may select one of the consecrated kits at the welcome table prior to worship.
  - No coffee fellowship following worship.
  - Groups using the church building can do so as long as they remain masked and socially distanced.
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**Children**

Check out our Children's & Youth Ministry page by clicking on the picture above for help to strengthen young people's faith at home! Your very own children's bulletin is [HERE!](#)

**Youth Fall Plans**

View the schedule of youth events at Morning Star [HERE!](#)

- ELCA Youth Gathering registration due September 26!
- Confirmation starts Wednesday, September 22 at 6:30 PM. Watch the mail for your letter & schedule!
- Confirmation Service for 9th Grade Students on September 26 at 10 AM.



**2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Preparations have begun! Registration is due September 26th!**



Congratulations to this year's Confirmands. They and their families will join us this Sunday, September 26 at 10 AM as they affirm their baptism. Blessings to this year's Confirmands:

***Nick Bowman  
Nathan Hawkins  
Anker Jensen  
Kate Lieske  
Renny Maxwell  
Hattie Moeller  
Hailey Neussendorfer  
Jackson Post  
Mason Rue  
Hope Weber***



Drink From the Well is a ministry of Seeking the Spirit Within: The Nebraska Synod Institute for Spiritual Direction Formation. It is a unique opportunity to learn from spiritual directors from around the Nebraska Synod ELCA.

From October through May, on the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM, a synod-wide webinar will introduce a 90-minute lesson with additional time for Q&A. In the middle of the month, you will meet with a small group.

More info and register at [www.seekingthespiritwithin.org](http://www.seekingthespiritwithin.org). Click on Drink from the Well.



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## *Church Council* **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Council met on Saturday, September 11 for our regular council meeting and annual retreat.
- Membership for 18 individuals was approved by the Council. The new members were received and presented to the congregation at the September 12 service.
- The Council approved continuing with one Sunday morning service at 10 AM through the end of 2021.
- The stewardship campaign was approved by the Council. We ask for your continued support and giving, as you pray about your 2022 pledge.
- The Council approved a team for the building assessment process. This team will be working with the architect, HVAC, and electrical engineer for a comprehensive review of our facilities over the next couple of months. This project was approved by the congregation in June.
- After the Council meeting, we reviewed a framework for strategic planning. The Council is excited to begin this work with participation and input from the congregation. Part of the process includes bringing the congregation together for conversation and listening, which is difficult with COVID. We are hopeful that we can start this work in 2022.



Food4Friends is an original Morning Star ministry that provides a complete Thanksgiving dinner to the “working poor” families of the Omaha Metro area. Morning Star is able to deliver around 150 people a delicious meal during a time that can be financially taxing to families barely making ends meet. The time and cost associated with this outreach is entirely sustained by Morning Star. We hope to raise several thousand dollars in the next few months to continue this beloved and necessary outreach event. Thank you for your help in making this a reality!

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Oct 3	Jan Dahlk	Jan Dahlk	Jan Dahlk
Oct 10	Ric & Pam Miller	Ric & Pam Miller	Neil & Cindy Lindquist
Oct 17	Nancy Sweetwood	Nancy Sweetwood	<b>Available</b>
Oct 24	Gloria Miller	Mike & Patsy Behm	<b>Available</b>
Oct 31	Mike & Patsy Behm	Mike & Patsy Behm	Neil & Cindy Lindquist

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## LOST & FOUND

Have you lost items while at church? It's possible we've found them. Check the lost & found baskets in the Gathering Space to see if your missing items are there! Items left after September 30 will be donated.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Tuesday, September 21**

- 9<sup>AM</sup> Staff Meeting
- 5:30<sup>PM</sup> AA Meeting (Chapel)
- 5:30<sup>PM</sup> Personnel Committee Meeting (Library)

### **Wednesday, September 22**

- 10<sup>AM</sup> Bible Study (Conference Room)
- 6:30<sup>PM</sup> Confirmation Class (Gathering Space)

### **Thursday, September 23**

- 12:30<sup>PM</sup> Sarah Circle (Gathering Space)

7<sup>PM</sup> DBSA (Chapel)

***Friday, September 24***

***Saturday, September 25***

5:30<sup>PM</sup> Worship (Sanctuary)

***Sunday, September 26 ~ Confirmation Sunday***

10<sup>AM</sup> Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

***Monday, September 27***

***Tuesday, September 28***

9<sup>AM</sup> Staff Meeting

5:30<sup>PM</sup> AA Meeting (Chapel)

***Wednesday, September 29***

10<sup>AM</sup> Bible Study (Conference Room)

4:30<sup>PM</sup> Covid Task Force (Gathering Space)

6:30<sup>PM</sup> Confirmation Class (Gathering Space)

***Thursday, September 30***

7<sup>PM</sup> DBSA (Chapel)

***Friday, October 1***

***Saturday, October 2***

9<sup>AM</sup> Quilting Group (Gathering Space)

5:30<sup>PM</sup> Worship (Sanctuary)

***Sunday, October 3***

10<sup>AM</sup> Worship (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)



***September 26 Readings***

First Reading [Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29](#)

Psalm [Psalm 19:7-14](#)

Second Reading [James 5:13-20](#)

Gospel [Mark 9:38-50](#)

