



# Message from Pastor Chris

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:21



Welcome to Pentecost. When I think about celebrating Pentecost in worship, I can't help but to recall the tune to the hymn "Spirit of Gentleness." It plays in my mind. If you are familiar with the hymn, you have to admit that its soothing melody seems quite contrary to its words. There is nothing gentle about it. It speaks of wind on the sea. It recalls the sweeping story of salvation; the rushing of the wind; the breaking of ancient schemes.

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,  
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.***

Indeed, when Jesus confronts the disciples, who seem stuck in their old patterns, he breathes on them the Holy Spirit. That too must have been like the rush of a wind from the sea! After all, Jesus calls them out from their locked room and comfort zones. He frees them to do the Father's work in the world. There is nothing gentle about it!

When I think about the message of Pentecost, I wonder how God might be breathing on our congregation, waking us up from the old patterns to brand new ways of being the church. Indeed, it is the Holy Spirit that breaks down barriers; tears down walls; opens doors. It calls us forth from our comfort zones, through the freedom of the Gospel, to encounter the world as disciples of God's peace and grace. What does all of this mean for Morning Star Lutheran Church?

For starters, and as a part of our recent strategic mission goals, I am proud to announce the hiring of a brand-new staff member, Greta Carlson. Greta will serve as our Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministries. She will work closely with both our Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Teams. She will also relate closely to our preschool ministry.

Greta is a 'rock star' who brings an incredible acumen of leadership and organizational skills. She is relational in her leadership approach and will enhance and energize our ministry in many visible and constructive ways. I cannot wait for her to begin her time with us in late June!

While we are all eager to meet Greta in person, she will most likely begin getting to know our congregation while we remain in a posture of safety and concern for the well-being of all. Because of the unique risks of cross-generational gatherings relative to Covid-19, we will continue to offer virtual worship, including home communion opportunities in the near term.

We all want to return to our weekly gatherings for worship as well as the myriad of ministry opportunities that take place inside our building soon. For that reason, our Congregation Council has authorized two distinct task forces to help us prepare wisely for potential future gatherings.



These task forces, one for worship and one for our preschool ministry, are examining our building, meeting spaces, bathrooms, and sanctuary and offer recommendations and best practices to mitigate the spread of infectious disease. Please know that we will likely implement policies and procedures that follow the most recent guidelines of our public health officials. Once our Congregation Council has made these critical decisions, we will communicate thoroughly and swiftly with the congregation and larger Morning Star community.

In closing, please know that during this season of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is very much a part of these conversations. It has much to say to us as we are guided on pathways of wisdom, grace, and urgency of the Gospel. We will get through this. But please know, it may look different as we gather for worship and ministry together. On the other hand, I trust that the Spirit of Gentleness is creating for us new opportunities and frontiers in our mission and ministry. And there will be nothing placid about it!

As we enter into Pentecost and complete this important phase of preparation, please pray for wisdom and guidance for our leadership as we discern how to best gather together, worship, and continue our urgent mission of Sharing the Light of Christ with All Creation.

Pr. Chris



Way to go Morning Star! You helped raise \$1,520 for Omaha Gives on May 20 this year.

WELCOME TO  
**ONLINECHURCH**  
[www.FaceBook.com/MorningStarLutheranOmaha/Live](http://www.FaceBook.com/MorningStarLutheranOmaha/Live)



For Mother's Day we were able to collect food and funds to help families at the Boys & Girls Westside Club. As you can see, we were able to deliver an entire SUV -full of necessary food items as well as a check for \$936! Thank you ALL!



Morning Star Preschool & Child Care Center's annual graduation would have been held in May here but the current pandemic has temporarily postponed that along with many other things. We happened to catch this sweet family at the church having their own little graduation ceremony!

Congratulations to ALL of Morning Star's Orange Stars now becoming kindergartners! We will miss all of you and wish you the brightest future you can imagine!

**Green Envelope**

This month's Green Envelope supports ELCA's Disaster Relief. From floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and tornado disasters to the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic; Disaster Relief fund is there to help through the urgency, the on-going need and the rebuilding. Your support allow them to minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual sides of those in crisis. Thank you for your continued generosity!



*Gods Reach  
Envelops Every Need*



We need these supplies before we can open and we're

having trouble finding them. Thanks for help!

- Disinfecting Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Nitrile Gloves




*Greta Carlson, Director of Faith Formation & Family Ministries*

Hello! My name is Greta Carlson and I am so excited to join the Morning Star community beginning this summer! Originally from South Texas, I moved to Omaha in 2017 for the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. I fell in love with the city and have been working as a community organizer. I studied Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Texas Lutheran University and am committed to social justice in the community. I grew up in a Lutheran church where my mom was the youth and music director and I grew into leadership roles in the congregation that flowed into campus ministry, working at my synod's summer camp, and most recently my work as a community organizer. I am excited to meet you all and together create meaningful ministry. Blessings and good health to you all!

**faith** *at*  
**HOME** 

Join us each Wednesday at 10 AM for virtual Bible study via Zoom & Facebook with Pastor Chris and Pastor Glenn have been hosting "virtual" Bible studies LIVE on Facebook on Wednesdays at 10 AM or you can watch at your convenience online at [www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org).

In addition to that, the ELCA has put together some great resources for you and your children or grandchildren to dig deeper in your faith. For more information, visit our website! Daily devotion books are available for April, May & June. Call the Church Office to have one sent to you.




**CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!**

We are proud of the graduates of Morning Star! Congratulations to:

- ★ Jack Neussendorfer, Burke High School ~ Attending Hastings College this fall on a football scholarship!
- ★ Andy Anderson, University of Colorado Medical Center ~ Doctor of Pharmacy
- ★ Mitchell Krohn, University of Nebraska at Lincoln ~ Bachelors from College of Business. Mitchell works in Kansas City as an IT Consultant!
- ★ Delaney Micheels, Clarkson College ~ Bachelors in Nursing. Delaney will be working at Children's Hospital!

**OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Entrance to the building is by appointment only. Call 402-393-5553 to schedule an appointment where we will ask a short health screening questionnaire. Visits with either Pastor Chris or Pastor Glenn can be arranged by phone or in person. Thank you for your help to keep everyone safe and healthy!



The Prayer Shawl team have made hand-crafted blankets for those in need. Healing and God's peace have been prayed over each one. Contact Sarah Lieske if you need one. If you have some free time on your hands during this crisis, feel free to crochet or knit some!



# MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68114

*Address Correction Requested*

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## **June Service Project**

Our service project to help Rejuvenating Women continues! We will be collecting items from their shopping wish list. Rejuvenating Women provides hope and restoration to those enslaved in human trafficking in Nebraska and throughout the country by empowering survivors to lead healthy, independent lives. Together, we can put an end to human trafficking in Omaha! Learn more at [www.RejuvenatingWomen.com](http://www.RejuvenatingWomen.com)!



### **Current Wish List**

#### **Household Items:**

Dryer balls  
Bunt cake pan  
trash bags (13 gallons and smaller)  
Clorox/Lysol wipes  
Hand sanitizer (alcohol free)  
Food Storage bags  
Toilet paper  
CRAFTSMAN Wet/Dry Vac

Yard games

#### **Clothing:**

Socks  
Women's underwear (all sizes from small to XL)  
Tennis shoes (size 6- 10)  
Pajamas/pj sets (all sizes small to XL)

#### **Outdoor Items:**

New patio furniture  
Camping chairs for outdoor events  
Cooler for outdoor events  
Gardening equipment, pots, seeds, flowers  
Memberships to museums, state parks etc.  
Passes for putt putt golf, activities in the community