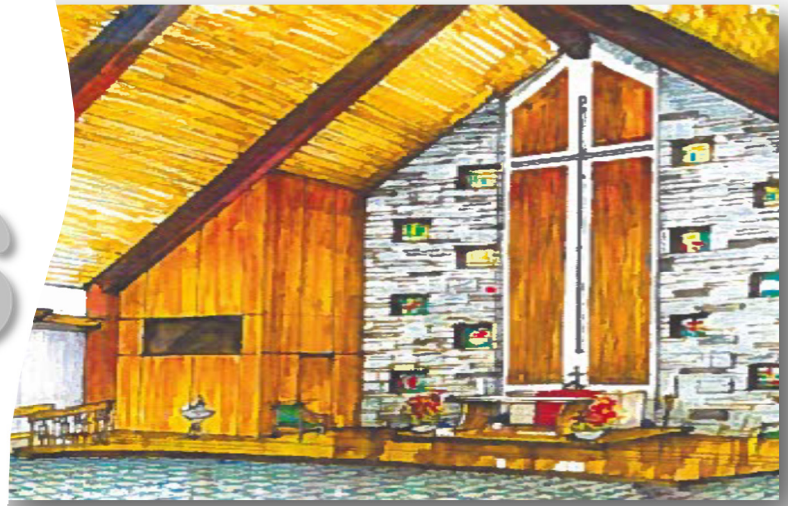




**MORNING STAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

April

# NEWS letter



**FROM PASTOR CHRIS**

*Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries*

*~ 1 Corinthians 4:1*

*"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious."*

*~ Albert Einstein*

I have a good friend with a Ph.D. in Physics. He is trained to examine his world through the lens of the scientific method. His reality is based on what can be observed, tested, and analyzed. If you want a chuckle, just tell him that some claim *Bigfoot* is real. He'll scoff. Quick he is to dismiss its non-reality based on the fact he has never personally witnessed such a creature. There are no peer tested studies. Neither has anything ever been published in a scientific journal. Fair enough. Interesting to me, he is also a person of faith.

Soon, we will gather to proclaim our faith in the mysterious. With gusto we will follow the pastor's bold proclamation, "*Christ is Risen,*" with our own "*He is Risen Indeed!*" Our words will echo through the assembly with assurance. It's powerful. It's the assertion upon which our entire faith rests. Without those words, there is no Easter. There is no church. There is no guarantee of new life. But remember, the Resurrection is not peer reviewed nor published in some scientific journal. It has never been proven nor analyzed. For all intents and purposes, the Risen Christ is still quite...*mysterious*.

Thomas is a disciple characterized by a pejorative. Through the years, he's been ridiculed as a *doubter*. He was skeptical because of his absence. He wasn't with his colleagues upon that first occasion of the Resurrected Jesus mysteriously appearing before his friends. Thomas had to see to believe. He needed proof. He needed to gaze his own eyes upon the radical new thing which God had done in the Resurrected body of Jesus, this teacher who died but had risen to life on the third day. Eventually, he did see Jesus and believed. I appreciate Thomas.

Thomas reminds me that not all activity of God fits neatly into the framework or paradigms of human understanding. Think about scripture. Moses encountered a burning bush unconsumed by flame. Manna was provided to starving Israelites in the wilderness. All who gazed upon a serpent on a pole were healed. Jesus turned water into wine. A storm on the Sea of Galilee was tamed by his outstretched arm. The blind and lame were healed with nothing more than mere words. Do we need to understand how all this happened to believe? No!

The Resurrection of Our Lord reminds me that we are indeed '*stewards of God's mysteries*' as St. Paul so lovingly tells the faithful in Corinth. Not everything God does is explainable or deserves answers. I would like to know how Jesus walks through a wall, but that is for another day. The truth is, much of what God does is God's business, not ours. God does what God wants, how God wants. If God's great mysteries were revealed, would we even begin to understand how the divine works anyway?

A story is told about Thomas Jefferson who once tried to bring the Bible 'up to date' according to the contemporary understanding of his day and age. Imagine Jefferson with scissors and glue clipping the Word of God. Only those passages of scripture that conformed to his limited understanding of the world would remain. Jefferson's Bible became the teachings of Jesus and 1 Corinthians 13. God had been reduced to conform to Jefferson's myopic worldview.

Indeed, the Resurrection challenges human limits of understanding. There is no framework for us to possibly comprehend it fully, at least in this life. It stretches the boundaries of what we consider possible in the universe. Easter is neither rational nor reasonable in its proclamation from the angel to the first witnesses of the empty tomb. The reality of Risen Lord is incomprehensible upon entering a locked room to breathe on his friends and declare his Peace. There is nothing sensible about God doing God's new thing in sending his only son to die for human sin. It might be mysterious. But it's also quite glorious. That's the point.

This Easter, I am not suggesting we check our brains at the door. Rather, I am inviting us to embrace the beautiful mystery of God's providence for our lives and our world. That there is something sacred in suspending our need to control or understand or to fully master God from a finite point of view. After all, there are such things as miracles. And the miracle of the Resurrection is gloriously unified with another miracle, the redemptive promises of Christ. We too will live again. It is not something for us to fully comprehend. It is something to finally trust. Thomas did.

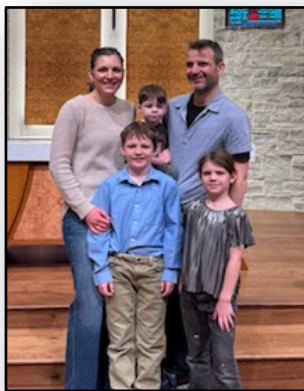
Blessed Easter to you and yours as we celebrate the mystery of the Risen Lord and the promise that we are eternally his.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Pr. Chris



Mark Carnavelo



Mara & Nate Seier  
With Jack, Delia & Finn



Meagan Dael & Evan Riley

*All Are Welcome!*

 **MORNING STAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Easter Services**

**6:30 AM Sunrise Service**

**8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Easter Celebration Services**



**Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt**  
**Saturday - 10 AM**

[www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org)

# JOURNEY WITH JESUS

*I am*



Join us every Wednesday evening throughout Lent for mid-week services featuring Holden Evening Prayer Service on a Journey with Jesus: I AM! Fellowship is at 6 PM with worship starting at 6:30 PM.

April 2  
April 9

I AM the Good Shepherd  
I AM the Resurrection and the Life

John 10:11-18  
John 11:17-27



**Palm Sunday**  
April 13  
10 AM

**Maundy Thursday  
& 1<sup>st</sup> Communion**  
April 17  
7 PM

**Good Friday  
Tennebrae**  
April 18  
7 PM

**April 20**  
Easter Sunrise 6:30 AM  
Easter Service 8:30 AM  
Easter Service 10:30 AM

## Easter Lilies



Cost is \$15\* per plant. Place your order by **Sunday, April 13** (you may pick them up after the services on Easter). Complete & place in the offering plate with your check or return to the Church Office.

☐ I would like \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies at \$15\* per plant!

Donated by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you wish to remain anonymous.

Dedicated to: The Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



\*Net proceeds benefit designated Outreach programs!



We expect a **LOT** of children for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. So we need a **LOT** of candy! Please consider purchasing some individually wrapped candy and bring to Morning Star. If you are too busy to shop, you can purchase the items conveniently on Amazon and they'll be shipped directly to us! Use the link below...

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ITDS8UCKD8UN?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ITDS8UCKD8UN?ref_=wl_share)

Children will receive 1<sup>st</sup> Communion during the Maundy Thursday service on April 17 at 7 PM.

# FIRST COMMUNION class



First Communion Class

## EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19  
10 AM**

**MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



Individually wrapped candy donations needed!



*Blessings to  
**Thayer James Clark**  
upon receiving the  
sacrament of Baptism on March  
9, 2025. Congratulations to  
James & Shaila Clark, parents,  
and siblings, Ralston & Ryan!*



The Preschool is hosting a Shoe Drive Fundraiser to help them secure funds to improve classroom resources and provide enriching experiences for the children in their care. Your support will help to continue to provide a nurturing and engaging environment where every child can learn, grow, and thrive. To help just donate gently worn, used and new shoes which are given a second life by those in need through small businesses in third world countries who sell the shoes as a support for their families. The preschool gets a price per pound for the shoes. The more they collect the more they make. Bring donations to the preschool office by **April 10**. Thank you for your support!

2025-2026 Winstrom Youth Service Scholarship applications are now available. Pick one up at the information center in the Gathering Space, go online or contact the Church Office for one. Accredited tech schools DO qualify!

**APPLICATION DEADLINE is May 30!**



# ENLIGHTEN

*the Spirit in Morning Star!*



331 South 85th Ave • Omaha, NE 68114 • 402.393.5553 • [morningstaromaha.org](http://morningstaromaha.org)

## Enlighten Campaign

We are back in our beautiful newly remodeled space and your gifts are needed now more than ever! If you haven't already done so, fill out the pledge form on the right and return to the Church Office. Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Worship Tech Volunteers Needed!

Do you enjoy working high tech equipment, appreciate our music ministry and want to help us sound our best? We are seeking to expand our volunteer corps and train two additional volunteers to assist with our brand-new audio/visual system. If you are interested in supporting this ministry on Sunday morning worship, for concerts, and other events, please contact Pastor Chris directly.

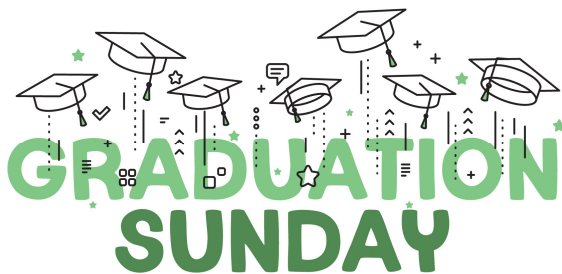


If you would like to be a sponsor, contact the Church Office. Thank you to **Piccolo Florists** for providing our Altar Flowers at a reduced rate and thanks to **Great Harvest Grain Company** for Communion Bread every week.

### Flower Sponsors

### Bulletin Sponsors

DATE	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
April 6	<b>LENT</b>	<b>LENT</b>	Don & Bonnie Daubman
April 13	<b>LENT</b>	<b>LENT</b>	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
April 20	Susie Syx	Pam Chelesvig	<b>AVAILABLE</b>
April 27	Elaine Kemper	James & Shaila Clark	<b>AVAILABLE</b>



Hey high school, trade school and college graduates! Graduation Sunday is May 25 during morning worship. We would love to honor you during that time. Please RSVP and send us your name, school, degree if applicable and future plans by April 30 to [Office@MorningStarOmaha.org](mailto:Office@MorningStarOmaha.org)!

## EASTER JOY CONCERT

Sunday, April 27th, at 3 PM Morning Star is hosting a concert, "Easter Joy", celebrating the Resurrection through music and scripture! This concert features musicians from Morning Star as well as the community. Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends!



# MISSIONS & OUTREACH

## April Green Envelope:

Lutheran Family Services (LFS) expresses God's love for all people by providing quality human care services that build and strengthen individual, family, and community life. LFS is committed to diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging. These foundational values are central to the mission, vision, and values of the organization. Morning Star's donations help LFS achieve their mission in Behavioral Health, Children's Services, Family Services & New Populations. Find out more at [onelfs.org](http://onelfs.org)!



## April Worship Assistants

### **Sunday, April 6**

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

### **Sunday, April 13 PALM SUNDAY**

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore  
Reader: Bob Gilmore  
Usher: Dean Mathisen & Dianne Misunias  
Acolyte: Brynn Wiebers & \_\_\_\_\_  
Altar: Lauren Gilmore

### **Thursday, April 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Comm: Jerry & Ann Dieckgrafe, Susie Syx  
Reader: Jan Zarestky  
Usher: Joel Rohde & Jim McGill  
Acolyte: Hattie & Anna Moeller  
Altar: Susie Syx

### **Friday, April 18 GOOD FRIDAY**

Reader: Janice Hass  
Usher: Marge Morgan & Carol Smith  
Acolyte: Charlie & Will Beck

### **Sunday, April 20 EASTER 8:30 AM**

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg  
Reader: Dave Blagg  
Usher: Todd & Deb Washburn  
Acolyte: Nathan & Noah Hawkins  
Altar: Lynn Blagg

### **Sunday, April 20 EASTER 10:30 AM**

Comm: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reader: \_\_\_\_\_  
Usher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Acolyte: \_\_\_\_\_  
Altar: Lynn Blagg

### **Sunday, April 27**

Comm: Kyle & Arielle Wolfe, Dean Mathisen  
Reader: Kyle Wolfe  
Usher: Chris Hedican & Nick Saitta  
Acolyte: Addi Hawkins & Abigail Karnish  
Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish

***We're looking for volunteers to serve at the 10:30 AM service on Easter morning. Please contact the Church Office if you can help!***

## *Thanks*












On behalf of the entire Loveland School Staff, I wanted to extend our heartfelt thanks for the awesome treat basket. It truly made our day. Thank you for your kindness & generosity!

Loveland Elementary School

We feel the love this month thanks to your church's recent gift of \$1,250 to Lutheran Family Services. Your donation allows us to support individuals and families through our core services like adoption, foster care, mental health services and refugee settlement. Thank you for believing in our mission! Your generosity means the world to our community and we hope you'll continue being a part of our mission throughout this new year. Please keep your eye out for our events and ways to support our community.

Chris Tonniges

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7 Polling Place 8 OAC Meeting 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>2</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6 Lenten Fellowship 6:30 Holden Evening Worship	<b>3</b> 7 DBSA	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
<b>6</b> 10 Worship 11:15 1st Communion Class: Chalice 11:30 Enlighten Team Meeting	<b>7</b> 5 Sound Tech Training 6 Outreach Team Meeting	<b>8</b> 8 OAC Meeting 9:30 Staff Meeting 3 Chapel Piano Work 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>9</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6 Lenten Fellowship 6:30 Holden Evening Worship 	<b>10</b> 7 DBSA	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>13</b> 10 Worship  <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 	<b>14</b> 5 Sound Tech Training 6:30 Church Council	<b>15</b> 8 OAC Meeting 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>16</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting	<b>17</b> 7 DBSA  <b>7 Maundy Thursday Service &amp; First Communion</b> 	<b>18</b>  <b>7 Good Friday Service</b> 	<b>19</b> 10 Easter Egg Hunt  <b>NO SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP</b> 
<b>20</b> 6:30 Sunrise Service 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship  <b>HAPPY EASTER</b> 	<b>21</b>  <b>HAPPY EASTER MONDAY</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICES &amp; PRESCHOOL CLOSED</b>	<b>22</b> 8 OAC Meeting 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2  	<b>23</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	<b>24</b> 12:30 Sarah Circle 1:30 Lydia Circle 7 DBSA	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 1 Private Party (FH) 5:30 Worship  
<b>27</b> 10 Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8 OAC Meeting 9:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>30</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 6:30 Confirmation			



# MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Address Correction Requested

**Sunday, April 20**  
**Easter Sunrise 6:30 AM**  
**Easter Service 8:30 AM**  
**Easter Service 10:30 AM**



## Prayers

Rae Austin  
 Mike Behm  
 Donna Crouse  
 LouAnn Henkens  
 Bev McCollum  
 Don Page  
 Nick Saitta  
 BeV (friend of Donna Walter)  
 Bob (Gloria Miller's cousin)  
 Bob (friend of the Maxwell's)

Dan & Sherry (friends of Dan & Bev Hartman)  
 Dave (family of the Maxwell's)  
 Donna Whisenand  
 Gordon Soderberg (Bev Jessen's brother)  
 Holly (Ronni Schacht's relative)  
 Jane (Carole Langan's cousin)  
 John Herkenrath (friend of Rod Anderson)  
 Kate Via (friend of Mark Thomsen)  
 Kim (Gloria Miller's daughter)  
 Linda Pauley  
 Lorraine P. (Janice Hass' friend)

Madison (Bowman's granddaughter)  
 Myron (Jan Zarestky's cousin)  
 Patti and Tracy (friends of the Maxwell's)  
 Patty (Pam Chelesvig's sister)  
 Rich Fiddelke  
 Seth (friend of Carol Bowley)  
 Sloan, Bill & Connor (family of the Maxwell's)  
 Tami Carlson (Diane Meyer's cousin)  
 Terry Crouse (Donna's son)  
 Tina (friend of Donna Walter)  
 Wally Koers (friend of Pastor Chris)

## 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 Birthdays

Tarah	Peterson	04/01	Kyle	Wolfe	04/07	Irene	Bruckner	04/18
Corey	Stafford	04/01	Tinsley	Garges	04/08	Ryan	Clark	04/19
Amelia	Hassler	04/02	Jesse	Warboys	04/08	Nicholas	Bowman	04/20
Laurel	Mooney	04/02	Fletcher	Placzek	04/09	John	Jacobson	04/20
Bryce	Nabity	04/03	Ronald	Ruh	04/09	Dianne	Misiunas	04/20
Hallie	Tonniges	04/03	Lynnette	Lindquist	04/10	Anna	Moeller	04/20
Christopher	Hedican	04/04	Donna	Walter	04/11	Karen	Hawkins	04/25
Leonidas	Hull	04/04	Mona	Lierler	04/12	Amy	Hawkins	04/25
Tim	Karnish	04/05	Michael	Williams	04/13	Lauren	Gilmore	04/27
Lesley	Turner	04/05	Brynn	Wiebers	04/14	Astrid	Elshire	04/29
Debra	Washburn	04/06	Kylie	Warboys	04/15	Noah	Hawkins	04/29
Beverly	Jessen	04/07	Drake	Stafford	04/16	Carole	Langan	04/30

### April Anniversaries

Don & Bonnie	Daubman	04/03
Dan & Sherry	Charf	04/15
Adam & Ande	Johnson	04/24
George & Marcia	Bergstrom	04/29

