

MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR CHRIS

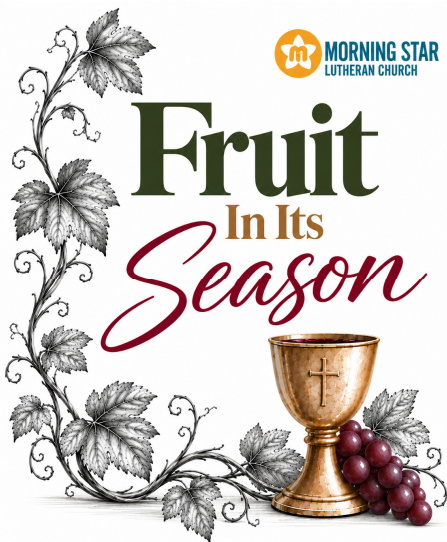
September 9, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Morning Star Lutheran Church:

There's a short hymn we sing nearly every Sunday without thinking much about it. When the offering comes forward, we stand and ask God to let the vineyards be fruitful — to bring in a harvest and set it on the table. That brief offertory response makes a large claim: the fruitful harvest was never ours to begin with, and what we bring forward in worship is a part of the harvest we share.

Through its many generations these past seventy years, Morning Star has continued to bear the fruit of the Gospel, sharing the story of salvation in Omaha and beyond. This congregation exists for the sake of mission, and your partnership in ministry is tremendously valuable and appreciated. Thank you for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure, and for all the planting you have done for generations still to come.

This October, we'll spend four weeks celebrating God's harvest in our stewardship series, ***Fruit in Its Season***. The theme is inspired by the trees planted by streams of water in Psalm 1. The Psalmist describes trees that bear fruit in God's time. Their leaves do not wither. They prosper and bear much fruit. As such, I hope you will join us for worship during this season as we reflect on what we have planted in our ministry together, give thanks for what God is doing through this congregation, and consider how we will keep sharing God's fruit for years to come.



Also, following worship on October 25, please join us for a catered Celebration Luncheon in the fellowship hall. There is no cost. This is simply a chance to sit down together, share a meal, and enjoy the day. We do need an accurate count for the caterer, so please RSVP to the church office by October 18.

Thank you again for your faith and your commitment to our ministry together.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pr. Chris

Worship Times

Saturday Worship
5:30 PM
Sunday Worship
10:00 AM
Coffee Fellowship
11:15 AM

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8^{AM} - 4^{PM}
Fridays
8^{AM} - 12 Noon
Closed Major Holidays

Contact Us

331 S. 85th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68114
402.393.5553
Office@MorningStarOmaha.org
www.MorningStarOmaha.org



COLLABORATION

Morning Star Lutheran Church is excited to welcome **Lutheran Family Services (LFS)** into our building as they develop a Family Resource Center. The space will bring a variety of services and supports together in one location for children and families.

LFS plans to offer services including foster-care support, fatherhood services, Family Wraparound, Parents as Teachers, children's therapy, peer support, and other resources for families. The facility will also host educational workshops, training classes, and support groups for foster youth, adoptive families, post-adoption parents, and teens.

By bringing these services together, families can access coordinated support without having to navigate multiple locations. The goal is to provide a welcoming, trauma-informed, strength-based environment that builds resilience and strengthens families.

For Morning Star, this is an exciting extension of our commitment to being a place of hope, help, and healing—not only on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week. We are grateful for the opportunity to share our building with an organization doing such important work in our community.

Lutheran Family Services moves in on October 1st!

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



Camp Carol Joy Holling has several retreats this fall:

Family Campout ~ September 18-20

Fall Festival ~ October 3

Fall Kinnect Retreat ~ November 6-8

Middle School Retreat ~ November 13-15 or December 4-6

Mother-Daughter Retreat ~ November 21-22

Go to www.NLOM.org for more information!

Hey High School Students!



You're invited to a Senior High Youth BBQ at Pastor Chris & Angie Hawkins home On Sunday, September 13th, 5:30—7:00 PM. RSVP with the Church Office.



Confirmation begins Sunday, September 20 immediately after worship. If you aren't signed up for this year's Confirmation class, contact Pastor Chris or the Church Office.

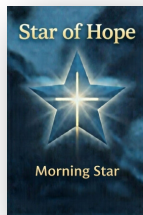
ALTAR FLOWERS

Flower Sponsors

Bulletin Sponsors

DATE	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
Sept 6	James & Shaila Clark	Alan & Alyce Berk	Available
Sept 13	Jon & Sabrina Beck	Virgil & Ruth Johnson	Available
Sept 20	Susie Syx	Francy Van Meter	Jim & Marguerite McGill
Sept 27	Jon & Sabrina Beck	Gloria Miller	Jim & Marguerite McGill

The cost of the Altar Flowers is \$45 per arrangement. Bulletin sponsorships are \$30 per week. Contact the Church Office to sponsor. Thank you for continuing to sponsor the beautiful flowers that adorn our altar.



WRAP Classes

WRAP, The Wellness Recovery Action Plan, Program will begin classes here at Morning Star on Wednesdays, at 7 PM beginning October 7th. WRAP is a structured approach to mental health and wellness that empowers individuals to take control of their recovery journey. It provides tools and strategies to manage stress, improve well-being, and build resilience through personalized plans. WRAP is rooted in self-advocacy, self-awareness, and a commitment to achieving long-term wellness. Contact Kyle Wolfe for more information about WRAP or Star of Hope.

STAR OF HOPE

Join the Star of Hope meetings on the third Wednesday of every month!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry has handcrafted blankets given to those that need comfort with peace and healing are prayed over each one as they are made.



Alcoholics Anonymous is open to all! Groups times:
Tuesdays at 5:30^{PM}
Tuesdays at 8^{PM}
Wednesdays at 5:30^{PM}



Al-Anon meets on
 Wednesdays at 12^{PM}.



Omaha New Hope Chapter DBSA

The DBSA (Depression, BiPolar Support Alliance) meets on Thursdays at 7^{PM}.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, September 6

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg
 Reader: Dave Blagg
 Usher: Brian & Tarah Peterson
 Acolyte: Addi Hawkins
 Altar: Lynn Blagg

Sunday, September 13

Comm: JoAnn Wollenburg, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe
 Reader: Kyle Wolfe
 Usher: Chris Hedican & Jim McGill
 Acolyte: Abigail Karnish & Brynn Wiebers
 Altar: Susie Syx

Sunday, September 20

Comm: Brian, Tarah & Grace Peterson
 Reader: Jan Zarestky
 Usher: Jon & Sabrina Beck
 Acolyte: Charlie & Will Beck
 Altar: Diane Meyer

Sunday, September 27

Comm: Angie Hawkins, Todd & Jill Moeller
 Reader:
 Usher: Dean Mathisen & Jim McGill
 Acolyte: Zach & Josh Bowman
 Altar: Angie Hawkins

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

September Green Envelope

Our Green Envelope offering for September is for Food for Friends, a Morning Star original outreach event where we provide people working to make ends meet with a complete Thanksgiving meal, turkey included! This outreach has continued to grow over the years. Last year we handed out around 175 meals. Thank you for helping to make the difference in the lives of people in Omaha!



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!

Backpack Blessing ~ Backpack Supplies ~ Westside Boys & Girls Club



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

God's work. Our hands.

Join us for the ELCA Church Wide Day of Service where there is something for everyone! The Outreach Committee is providing burgers with drinks. Please bring sides or desserts to share! This year's service projects include:

Baptismal Font Cleaning
Habitat T-Shirt Rolling
Kitchen Cleaning

Playground Clean Up
LFS Project (TBD)
BHWC Card Writing

Stuff a Sock for Homeless Vets

We need donations for the Stuff a Sock project. Please bring deodorant, body wash, lip balm, shampoo, conditioner, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, small snacks, Kleenex packs.

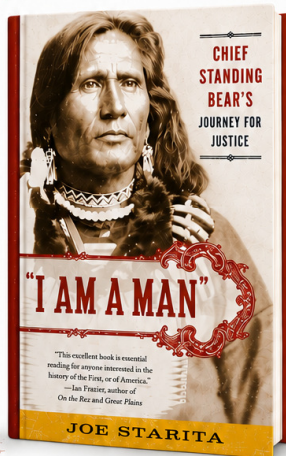
**FREE
OF CHARGE**
ALL ARE
WELCOME!

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON WITH
— **AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR** —
JOE STARITA

*Investigative Reporter. Acclaimed Author.
Powerful Storyteller.*

Joe Starita is a two-time
Pulitzer Prize nominee and
the author of three acclaimed
books on Native Americans.

His story of Chief
Standing Bear, *I Am a Man*,
is being made into a full-length
feature film.



TRUTH. JUSTICE. NATIVE STORIES.

Voices That Matter.



SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025



3:00 PM



**MORNING STAR
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

331 S. 85th Ave.
Omaha, NE 68114

www.MorningStarOmaha.org

*Refreshments will be served
following presentation.*

October 2, 2026
Four Person
Scramble
Ashland Golf
Course

9 AM registration;
10 AM Shotgun
Start



\$700/team includes
round of golf, cart,
gift bag, breakfast
and late lunch. Prizes awarded for all levels of
golfers. Visit CarolJoyHolling.org to
register.



Updated Directory

We will be updating the directory this fall and
providing hard copies for anyone that would
like one. Please submit any updated
information and/or photos to the Church
Office by September 27.



OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) are
scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 6th.
We will meet for fellowship at 12:30 PM in
the chapel. Bring a sack lunch. Coffee will
be available. See you there!

Community Garden

Come to our Community Garden planning meeting on Tuesday,
September 15 at 6:00 PM in the Large Conference Room.
Many skills needed to assist with gardening, planting,
harvesting, planning, education, grant writing, and outreach.
Interested but can't make the meeting? Please contact an
Outreach member or e-mail Donna J Walter at
djwalter@cox.net.





Scholarship Award Winners



If you have pastoral care needs, please contact the Church Office to notify our pastoral staff.



Crossroads Connections

Church Council Retreat

The Church Council will have their annual retreat on Saturday, September 26 from 9 AM to Noon at Camp Carol Joy Holling.

Council Highlights

- Approved the quote for the kitchen drainpipe repair.
- Scheduled the fascia repair for August.
- Made progress on the LFS lease.



THANKS

The Oak Hills Alcoholics Anonymous group wants to thank Morning Star for offering the chapel as a place where we can meet. Thank you as always and have a great summer.

~ Tuesday 8 PM AA Meeting

Thank you for supporting our summer ministry team (SMT) with your wonderful gift of \$5,000. The impact of camp and the work of our SMT members is profound, often exceeding expectations. Parents frequently share how one week at camp transforms their child's life, thanks to the lasting influence of their counselors. Your generosity makes it possible for us to hire exceptional youth to lead approximately 1,400 campers in a week filled with fun and faith. Your support makes a difference in the lives of so many—thank you.

~ Jacob Spilker, Director of Development
Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

Thank you from all of us at Children's Nebraska for the contribution of \$3,071 that you so generously provided. Many of the children here face challenges that are difficult for most people to imagine, let alone experience. But here at Children's, the compassion and level of expertise they also experience proves time and time again there is simply no better place for a child to be. Every child, every patient's family, and every member of our team benefit from your generosity. And every day we see miracles happen that otherwise wouldn't be possible. Because of donors such as you, Children's makes a difference in the lives of children, from the smallest premature infant to teens. Your thoughtfulness ensures the fulfillment of our mission and for that we are very thankful.

Sincerely,
Matt Boyd, SVP, Executive Director &
Chief Development Officer

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	2 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	3 7 DBSA	4 11 Lynam Funeral	5 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
	6 10 Worship	7  Church Office Closed	8 10 Staff Meeting 12:30 OWLS 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 6 Outreach Meeting 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	9 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	10 7 DBSA	11 9:30 Moms in Prayer
12 5:30 Worship						
13 10 Worship 11:15 Lunch 11:45 GWOH Projects 5:30 Youth BBQ 	14	15 10 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 6 Community Garden Meeting 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	16 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting	17 7 DBSA	18	19 5:30 Worship
20 10 Worship 11:30 Confirmation	21	22 10 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	23 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	24 12:30 Sarah Circle 1:30 Lydia Circle 7 DBSA	25 9:30 Moms in Prayer	26 9 Council Retreat 5:30 Worship
27 10 Worship 11:30 Confirmation 3 An Afternoon with Joe Starita 	28	29 10 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	30 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only			



MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

331 S. 85th Avenue

Address Correction Requested

SEPTEMBER 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!



Anniversaries

Jon & Sabrina	Beck	09/01
Alan & Alyce	Berk	09/01
Nathan & Andrea	Hines	09/01
Virgil & Ruth	Johnson	09/01
Brian & Erin	Hanke	09/12
Philip & Torrie	Niewohner	09/12
Lee & Judy	Hollander	09/13
Mike & Patsy	Behm	09/18
Jim & Denise-Stange	Olmsted	09/22
Todd & Jill	Moeller	09/27

Birthdays

Alexandra	Johnson	09/03	Sheryl	Cuba	09/13	Janice	Zarestky	09/25
Jeremy	Ring	09/06	Max	Engel	09/13	Teagan	Pierce	09/25
Dorothy	Vacek	09/06	Leslie	Palmer	09/13	Bob	Gilmore	09/26
Deb	Bruckner	09/08	Laura	Ring	09/13	Kathy	Hawkins	09/27
Grace	Peterson	09/08	Alec	Stevens	09/14	Josh	Bowman	09/28
Sarah	Lieske	09/09	Charles	Bowman	09/15	Susie	Syx	09/29
Mitchell	Krohn	09/09	Sabrina	Beck	09/17	Stacie	Neussendorfer	09/29
Torrie	Niewohner	09/10	Adam	Hedican	09/23	Charlie	Beck	09/29