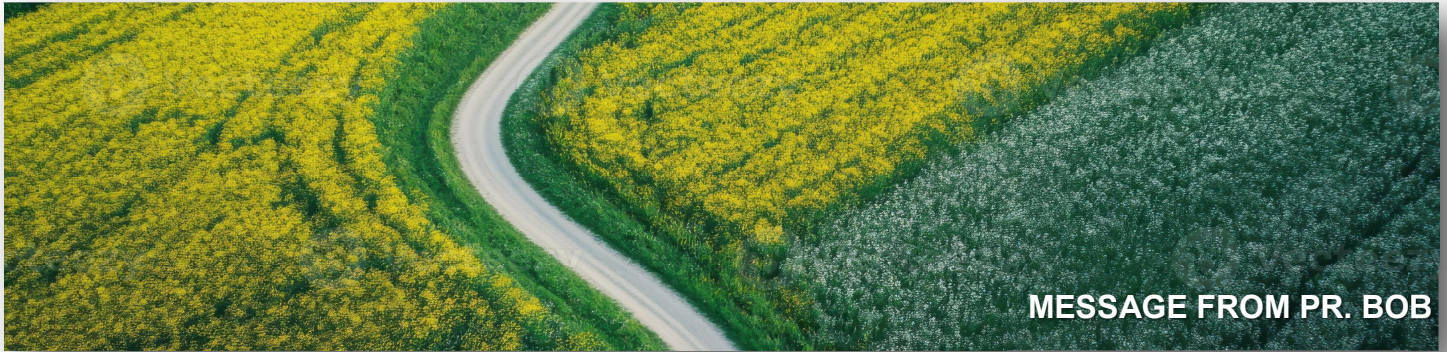


# MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH



MESSAGE FROM PR. BOB

## Summer Grace, Summer Faith

Summer has a way of changing our routines. School schedules shift, vacations are planned, weekends fill quickly, and calendars seem to take on a life of their own. Before long, the pace of life becomes just as busy in June and July as it was in the spring—only with warmer weather.

For many churches, summer can feel like a season of lighter attendance and stretched finances. Pastors notice it. Church leaders notice it. But more importantly, families feel it too. Many are carrying heavy schedules, rising costs, endless commitments, and the simple exhaustion of trying to keep up with life.

So rather than speak with guilt, perhaps summer invites us to speak with grace.

The church understands that life is demanding. We know families are balancing work, travel, children's activities, caregiving, and the need for rest. Rest is not laziness—it is holy. Jesus himself invited people to come away and rest awhile.

At the same time, rest does not have to mean disconnecting from the life of faith.

Summer can become a beautiful season to nurture the soul in simple ways:

- Begin the day with a short prayer before the rush starts.
- Pause outdoors and give thanks for creation.
- Read a Psalm on the porch or patio.
- Worship when you are in town, and join again when you return.
- Serve a neighbor in need.
- Share a meal with gratitude.
- End the day asking, "Where did I see God today?"

Faith does not only happen inside church walls. Yet gathering in worship remains one of the ways we are strengthened, encouraged, and reminded that we do not walk alone. We need community now as much as ever.

If summer pulls you in many directions, know this: God does not disappear when schedules get crowded. God is present at the lake, on the road, in the backyard, at the ball field, in quiet mornings, and in weary evenings. And when you can, come back to worship. Come back to prayer. Come back to the table. Come back to community.

Summer passes quickly. Let us not only make memories this season—let us also make room for God.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob

### Worship Times

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

### Office Hours

*Monday - Thursday*  
8<sup>AM</sup> - 4<sup>PM</sup>  
*Fridays*  
8<sup>AM</sup> - 12 Noon  
*Closed Major Holidays*

### Contact Us

331 S. 85th Ave.  
Omaha, NE 68114  
402.393.5553  
[Office@MorningStarOmaha.org](mailto:Office@MorningStarOmaha.org)  
[www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org)



Bringing the Light of Christ to All Creation  
**MORNING STAR**  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH



# COLLABORATION

## Morning Star's Three Year Strategic Plan

### Growth Area: Strengths to Build on

1. We will grow and thrive by supporting our outstanding Called Pastor, Administrative Staff and Organist/Music Minister.
2. We will continue to enhance our excellent music ministry with a wide variety of options.

### Growth Area: Opportunities for Improvement

1. We will improve our Christian education and faith formation for all generations and will strengthen and grow our youth ministry.

### Growth Area: Mission to Our Community

1. We will expand community outreach by building partnerships aligned with our mission to Bring the Light of Christ to ALL creation, including utilizing our lower level to house a ministry partner with an emphasis on mental health and/or children and family resources.
2. We will leverage our pivotal location in Central Omaha and utilize our beautifully remodeled campus to provide programming for the Omaha community (e.g., concert series, speaker series, fun cross-generational events open to the public).

### Growth Area: Aspirations for the Next 3 Years

1. We will configure our paid staff to meet the growing ministry needs for children and family ministry, youth ministry, and volunteer coordination.
2. We will continue finding ways to be an inviting, engaging, social and vibrant congregation that finds joy in the Gospel. (Be a place known for having fun!)

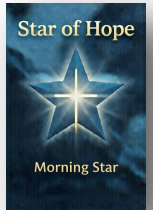
# COUNCIL *highlights*

- Welcome New Members Pam and Steve!
- New Executive Committee Restructure
- Retreat date identified



Check out our **Little Free Library** located on the parking island next to 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Take a book or leave one. As always, all books are free!

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.



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

# CALLING ALL KIDS



Come to Morning Star on Sunday, August 9th at 10 AM and have your backpack, knapsack, lunchbag or briefcase blessed! The Westside Boys & Girls Club will be with us that morning!

## VBS July 19-22, 2026

Five Omaha Area Lutheran Churches have joined forces to present Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS for Pre-K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. Older students are welcome to participate as staff! Dinner is provided 5:15-6 PM for all. Bible activities begin at 6 PM, and include story stations, craft activities, science experiments and games! Registration is NOW OPEN for helpers and participants now! Register with QR code or at [sttimothy.mycokeburyvbs.com](http://sttimothy.mycokeburyvbs.com).



# ALTAR FLOWERS

## Flower Sponsors

## Bulletin Sponsors

DATE	FLOWERS	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
July 5	James & Shaila Clark	Gloria Miller	<b>Available</b>
July 12	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
July 19	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
July 26	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
August 2	James & Shaila Clark	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
August 9	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
August 16	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
August 23	Susie Syx	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>
August 30	Alan & Alyce Berk	<b>Available</b>	<b>Available</b>

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.

# JULY & AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Sunday, July 5

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter  
 Reader: Donna Walter  
 Usher: Todd & Deb Washburn  
 Acolyte: Luke Lieske  
 Altar: Diane Meyer

## Sunday, July 12

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore  
 Reader: Lauren Gilmore  
 Usher: Mark Carnevalo & Dean Mathisen  
 Acolyte: Anna Moeller  
 Altar: Lauren Gilmore

## Sunday, July 19

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg  
 Reader: Kim Hawkins  
 Usher: Brian & Bryce Peterson  
 Acolyte: Grace Peterson  
 Altar: Lynn Blagg

## Sunday, July 26

Comm: JoAnn Wollenburg, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe  
 Reader: Kyle Wolfe  
 Usher: Chris Hedican & Jim McGill  
 Acolyte: Abigail Karnish  
 Altar: Bev Hartman

## Sunday, August 2

Comm: Brian, Tarah & Grace Peterson  
 Reader: Jan Zarestky  
 Usher: Jon & Sabrina Beck  
 Acolyte: Charlie Beck  
 Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish

## Sunday, August 9

Comm: Angie Hawkins, Todd & Jill Moeller  
 Reader: Gloria Miller  
 Usher: Dean Mathisen & Jim McGill  
 Acolyte: Anna Moeller  
 Altar: Angie Hawkins

## Sunday, August 16

Comm: Sarah Penn, Mark Carnevalo & Dana Wiebers  
 Reader: Sarah Penn  
 Usher: Rick Jacobsen & Dan Mooney  
 Acolyte: Brynn Wiebers  
 Altar: Diane Meyer

## Sunday, August 23

Comm: Betty Fiddelke, Sarah Lieske & Donna Walter  
 Reader: Donna Walter  
 Usher: Todd & Deb Washburn  
 Acolyte: Quinn Warner  
 Altar: Bev Hartman

## Sunday, August 30

Comm: Rod Anderson, Bob & Lauren Gilmore  
 Reader: Rod Anderson  
 Usher: Mark Carnevalo & Dean Mathisen  
 Acolyte: Zach Bowman  
 Altar: Lauren Gilmore

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



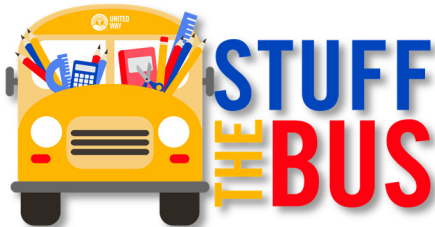
# ELCA

## July & August Green Envelope

Our Green Envelope offering for July & August goes to the ELCA Good Gifts "Stock a Health Clinic". Morning Star has the opportunity to provide funds to literally stock a health care clinic in an area with the most need! Just one week of supplies can help treat hundreds of people. Diagnostic tests, antibiotics and treatments for common illnesses are among the basic supplies every clinic needs to treat patients and save lives. Thank you for being the Light of Christ to ALL!

## July Service Project

Every year we help the Westside Boys & Girls Club students with back to school supplies to help relieve the financial burden on struggling families and to help ensure students have the essential tools required to succeed. Let's STUFF THE BUS located in the Lobby area. Below is a list of supplies needed:



- Pencil Cases
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters
- Notebooks
- Glue sticks
- Pens
- Dry Erase Markers
- Pre-Sharpended Pencils

## August Service Project

The Outreach volunteer opportunity for August is collecting donations for the Westside Family Resource Center's Food Pantry & Clothing Closet. Any family with a student attending a Westside school can receive items from the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet as needed. Their current needs are:



- New underwear (all sizes)
- Joggers/sweatpants for boys and girls (all sizes)
- Tennis Shoes (all sizes)
- Belts
- Plain t-shirts for teen boys
- Gym shorts (longer ones for boys)



## Crossroads Connection

Morning Star will host Crossroads Connection for worship and dinner on Sunday, August 23rd at 6 PM. Crossroads Connection is a community that supports the currently and formerly incarcerated and their families, because God's grace is extended to all. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Pam Chelavig or the Church Office.

>>> SAVE THE DATE >>> SAVE THE DATE >>> SAVE THE DATE >>> SAVE THE DATE >>> SAVE THE DATE >>> SAVE THE DATE >>>



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

# God's work. Our hands.

# HAPPY 250<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY AMERICA

The Church Office will be closed  
Monday, July 6th in observance of  
Independence Day!



We ALWAYS need help with  
Communion, scripture reading, ushering and  
serving coffee & donuts. Contact the Church  
Office to find out how you can help!



Omaha New Hope Chapter DBSA

The DBSA (Depression, BiPolar  
Support Alliance) meets on Thursdays  
at 7<sup>PM</sup>.



Alcoholics Anonymous is open to all!  
Groups meetings times are:

*Tuesdays at 5:30<sup>PM</sup>*  
*Tuesdays at 8<sup>PM</sup>*  
*Wednesdays at 5:30<sup>PM</sup>*



Al-Anon meets on Wednesdays  
at 12<sup>PM</sup>.




Carol Joy Holling Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

## Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 26, 2025



# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	<b>2</b> 7 DBSA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship 
<b>5</b> 10 Worship	<b>6</b> 6 Outreach Committee	<b>7</b> 10 Staff Meeting 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>8</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	<b>9</b> 7 DBSA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>12</b> 10 Worship	<b>13</b> 6 Church Council	<b>14</b> 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>15</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting	<b>16</b> 7 DBSA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>19</b> 10 Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>22</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	<b>23</b> 1:30 Lydia Circle 7 DBSA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>26</b> 10 Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	

# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 10 Worship	<b>3</b> 6 Outreach Committee	<b>4</b> 10 Staff Meeting 5 Exec Team Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>5</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	<b>6</b> 9 Metro Cluster Meeting at MSLC 7 DBSA	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> 9 Quilting Group 5:30 Worship
						<b>8</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>9</b> 10 Worship & Blessing of the Backpacks  	<b>10</b> 6 Church Council	<b>11</b> 10 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>12</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	<b>13</b> 7 DBSA	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>16</b> 10 Worship		<b>18</b> 10 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>19</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only 5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting	<b>20</b> 7 DBSA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>23</b> 10 Worship 6 Crossroads Connection  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10 Staff Meeting 5:30 AA Grp 1 7 Dancers Practice 8 AA Grp 2	<b>26</b> 10 Bible Study 12 Al Anon 5:30 AA Women Only	<b>27</b> 1:30 Lydia Circle 7 DBSA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>30</b> 10 Worship	<b>31</b>					



**MORNING STAR**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Address Correction Requested

**JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**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!



Keith & Sherri	Oltmans	07/01	Tom & Deb	Hysack	07/31
Brian & Tarah	Peterson	07/01	Robert & Sarah	Penn	08/01
Erik & Sara	Jensen	07/02	Ken & Roberta	Hagemann	08/04
Corey & Lynell	Stafford	07/06	Tim & Dawn	Karnish	08/05
Mike & Kim	Williams	07/10	Rich & Betty	Fiddelke	08/08
Jeff & Jurene	Wegner	07/12	Dave & Lynn	Blagg	08/11
Chris & Lindsey	Tonniges	07/14	Daryl & JoAnn	Wollenburg	08/15
Kim & Amy	Hawkins	07/18	Andy & Teggy	Maxwell	08/20
Bob & Lauren	Gilmore	07/25	Craig & Colleen	Estee	08/22

**Birthdays**

Kim	Williams	07/02	Wyatt	Washburn	07/13	Carol	Johnson	07/28	Alan	Berk	08/15
Shaila	Clark	07/02	Ann	Dieckgrafe	07/13	Jennifer	Groen	07/28	Hailey	Neussendorfer	08/16
Audrey	Schu	07/03	Sharon	Zahm	07/13	Carol	Anderson	07/29	Tamara	Kellams	08/16
Theo	Hedican	07/08	Bob	Elshire	07/15	Dawn	Karnish	07/29	Stephen	Wise	08/17
Abigail	Karnish	07/08	Ben	Page	07/16	Kimbo	Hawkins	07/31	Michael	Lierler	08/20
Emily	Knickerbocker	07/08	Patsy	Behm	07/18	Donna	Walter	07/31	Sawyer	Allen	08/23
Rod	Anderson	07/09	Stephen	Nye	07/20	Nina	Lierler	08/02	Quinn	Warner	08/24
Maddux	Duncan	07/11	Roberta	Hagemann	07/20	Lily	Warner	08/03	Molly	Wolfe	08/24
Sarah	Hunter	07/11	Dana	Wiebers	07/21	Marcia	Bergstrom	08/03	Tyler	Engel	08/26
Sarah	Penn	07/11	Faye	Nelson	07/22	Barb	Teter	08/07	Lee	Hollander	08/27
Alyce	Berk	07/11	Kenneth	Hagemann	07/22	Glenn	Schacht	08/13	Ben	Nore	08/28
Kim	Moy	07/11	Estelle	Garges	07/24	Virgil	Johnson	08/14	Sara	Jensen	08/28
Rick	Jacobsen	07/12	Ella	Post	07/27	Michelle	Warner	08/15			