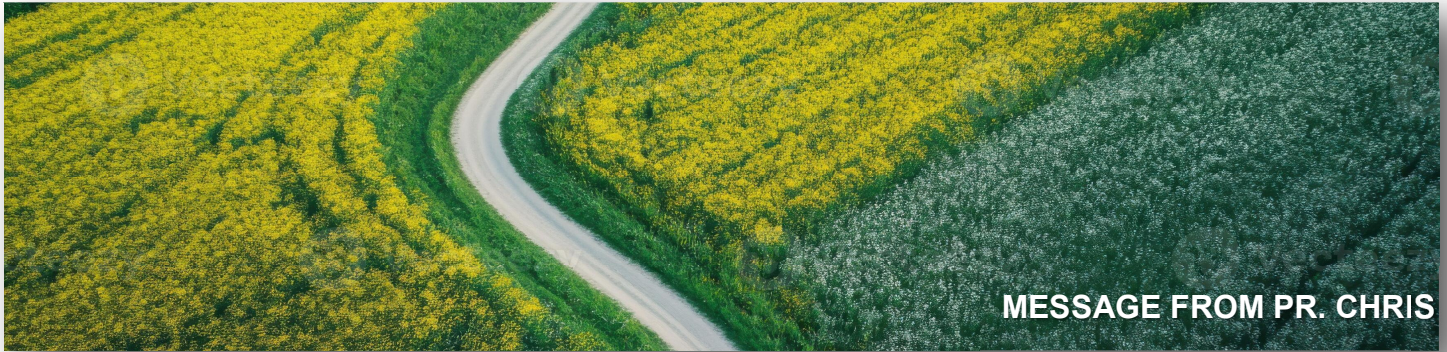


# MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH



MESSAGE FROM PR. CHRIS

May 25, 2026

Dear Member(s) of Morning Star Lutheran Church:

The closing of the Morning Star Preschool and Early Childhood Education Center, while difficult, has created a new opportunity for our congregation to use this vacant space for mission. Our church building provides not only a welcoming and beautiful place to worship, but also a space to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. Forward-thinking congregations are increasingly finding ways to do this through community partnerships whose missions align with that of the church. I believe we have discovered such an opportunity with Lutheran Family Services.

Over the past several months, our Congregation Council and I have been in conversation with Chris Tonniges, President and CEO of Lutheran Family Services, about a potential partnership that could be mutually beneficial. LFS, a service arm of our ELCA Nebraska Synod, is seeking additional office and program space for its staff and services in the Omaha area. Morning Star is an excellent possibility because of both our unique location and the availability of space in our building.

Morning Star would benefit from this partnership in at least three important ways. First, it would help our congregation fulfill our mission of sharing the Gospel more broadly in the Omaha area alongside a trusted ministry partner. Second, welcoming LFS onto our campus would increase our visibility in the community, both physically and missionally. Third, this relationship would provide a financial benefit to the congregation through lease income.

On Sunday, June 7, following worship, I invite you to join us for a congregational meeting to discuss this potential ministry partnership. This will be a time to receive more information, ask questions, and vote on whether to formally invite LFS to become a mission partner and tenant in the lower level of our church building.

Many details still need to be worked out between LFS and our Congregation Council. However, a vote to approve this partnership would allow us to move forward in developing a lease agreement and exploring any necessary space configuration related to LFS programming.

In the meantime, I invite you to pray for our congregation, for Lutheran Family Services, and for the wonderful potential this ministry partnership may provide. I also encourage you to read through the enclosed frequently asked questions to become more broadly familiar with this opportunity and what it could mean for 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<sup>AM</sup> - 4<sup>PM</sup>  
*Fridays*  
8<sup>AM</sup> - 12 Noon  
*Closed Major Holidays*

## Contact Us

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402.393.5553  
[Office@MorningStarOmaha.org](mailto:Office@MorningStarOmaha.org)  
[www.MorningStarOmaha.org](http://www.MorningStarOmaha.org)

**Morning Star Lutheran Church Partnership with Lutheran Family Services  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is LFS?**

Lutheran Family Services (LFS) is a non-profit Health and Human Services agency that has programming in 4 primary areas 1) Mental Health 2) Children and Family Services 3) Refugee and Immigration Services and 4) Housing. With its 21 locations and 305+ employees, LFS serves as a place of Safety, Hope, and Wellbeing for the roughly 20,000 people it impacts annually. 134 years ago, the origins of LFS started as orphanages born out of Trinity Lutheran Church (MSLC) in Fremont and Immanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Omaha. While still deeply rooted and partnered with the global Lutheran Church, LFS is a self-perpetuating and independent 501c3 that receives no National Church support from either denomination.

**2. What services will LFS provide at MSLC? How will these services impact the community?**

LFS is proposing to house a Family Resource Center at MSLC. These services will include case management, care coordination, benefits enrollment, therapy services, health parenting classes, foster care and adoption support and healthy fatherhood programming. Our partnership with Children's Hospital continues to evolve and we feel the proximity to Children's only enhances what the two organizations can do to assist families in need across the region.

**3. How long will this partnership and lease agreement last?**

Our intent is to provide a long-term lease agreement with LFS for at least ten years in length.

**4. What areas of the lower level will be occupied by LFS and its services?**

It is the intent of LFS to lease the entirety of the space previously occupied by the Preschool Center and have some access to additional space (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen) on an as needed basis for larger classes, support groups, etc.

**5. Will it be necessary to update or reconfigure this space to accommodate LFS and its services?**

Yes, the terms and payments for this re-development are still under discussion.

**6. Who will pay for any potential remodeling of this space?**

That is currently under discussion. It is likely that most of the costs associated with reconfiguring the space will be sourced from LFS and/or grants to LFS.

**7. How will this impact the daily ministry of MSLC?**

LFS will be focusing on low impact to our daily ministry, but high impact to our opportunity to support LFS in service to families/children in the community by offering an opportunity to connect people to a community of faith.

**8. Will there be any revenue benefit to MSLC relative to the lease?**

Yes, but this is still under discussion as the terms of the lease and details of the reconfiguration are finalized.

**9. Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the space? Who pays utilities?**

MSLC is responsible for its campus and the upkeep thereof. LFS may be responsible for its own high speed fiber optic internet.

**10. What will be the days and times of LFS operations? Will this impact MSLC ministry?**

It is still being determined, but programming hours would be 7:30 AM-7:30 PM Monday through Friday. It is the intention of LFS to not interfere with MSLC ministries but rather be complementary to it.

**11. Will building security be an issue?**

No, LFS has strict requirements around access to its program areas, and they will work with their security provider to limit access to joint access areas. Public access will be limited.

**12. Will this eliminate the use of the education wing on the lower level?**

We will encourage faith formation/education/Sunday school on the main level. Access to the Fellowship Hall will be available for programming on Sundays.

**13. What liability issues does MSLC need to be concerned about?**

LFS is fully insured for liability and property and willing to assign MSLC as an interested party on any policy deemed necessary.

**14. Will there be a partnership with Children's Hospital?**

Yes, LFS already partners with Children's on several program areas and we see this only continuing to grow.

**15. Who will be responsible for cleaning of the LFS occupied areas?**

LFS will pay for the cleaning needed for its leased space. It has not determined if LFS will leverage its current solution for cleaning or hire its own provider.

**16. What volume of traffic will LFS anticipate to our parking lot and 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue?**

In the programs referenced above, LFS anticipates serving approximately 100 clients daily. Not all appointments will be handled at the MSLC location, so we anticipate there to be peaks (i.e. classes and support groups) of up to 20. But an estimate of hourly traffic would be 4 to 6.

**17. Will the congregation still have access to the lower level?**

Mutually agreed upon common space will be accessible to members, but there may be certain limits during the week pending LFS programming. LFS will defer to all needs of MSLC for common areas (i.e. funerals, receptions). This is MSLC's home and LFS just wants to be part of the mission field in partnership with the church.

**18. What will happen to the Morning Star playground?**

LFS has a desire to keep and provide upkeep for a portion of the playground. It serves as a great alternative to work with parents and kids as weather permits.

**19. When will we expect LFS to begin using the space?**

LFS has committed to begin using the space as soon as security and minimal modifications can be done to better utilize the space.



**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!)

**Special Congregational Meeting**

We have an exciting missional opportunity before us. Morning Star is currently in discussion with Lutheran Family Services to be a partner in ministry on the lower level of our church building. Soon, you will receive a letter with frequently asked questions that will be helpful in explaining this exciting potential partnership. Please mark your calendars for a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 7th, following worship to discuss and vote on this promising missional partnership.

Thank you!  
Pr. Chris

# JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Sunday, June 7**

Comm: Kim Hawkins, Dave & Lynn Blagg  
Reader: Dave Blagg  
Usher: Rick Jacobsen & Dan Mooney  
Acolyte: Addi Hawkins & Hallie Tonniges  
Altar: Lynn Blagg

**Sunday, June 14**

Comm: JoAnn Wollenburg, Kyle & Arielle Wolfe  
Reader: Kyle Wolfe  
Usher: Jon & Sabrina Beck  
Acolyte: Charlie & Will Beck  
Altar: Bev Hartman

**Sunday, June 21**

Comm: Brian, Tarah & Grace Peterson  
Reader: Bryce Peterson  
Usher: Dean Mathisen & Jim McGill  
Acolyte: Zach & Josh Bowman  
Altar: Angie Hawkins

**Sunday, June 28**

Comm: Angie Hawkins, Todd & Jill Moeller  
Reader: Gloria Miller  
Usher: Chris & Theo Hedican  
Acolyte: Abigail Karnish & Brynn Wiebers  
Altar: Tim, Dawn & Abigail Karnish

# CONFIRMATION & BAPTISMS



**Blessings to Michael Lierler upon his confirmation on May 24, 2026.**



**Blessings to Callum Vande Berg upon receiving the sacrament of Baptism on May 17, 2026.**



**Blessings to Ellie Mae Duncan upon receiving the sacrament of Baptism on May 24, 2026.**



**Blessings to Baker Bornemeier upon receiving the sacrament of Baptism on May 31, 2026.**

# CALLING ALL KIDS

## VBS July 19-22, 2026

Five Omaha Area Lutheran Churches have joined forces to present Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS for children Pre-K (potty trained) - 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: [sttimothys.mycokesburyvbs.com](http://sttimothys.mycokesburyvbs.com) or use QR code.



## COUNCIL *highlights*

- Thank you to our outgoing Council Members, Jerry, Donna, & Kyle! Welcome Steve Bross & Pam Miller!
- Met with Chris Tonniges to explore partnership with LFS!
- Approval of the four growth areas of strategic plan!

# MISSIONS & OUTREACH



**A Beacon of Hope and Healing**  
The Behavioral Health & Wellness Center at Children's Nebraska

A project of the Mental Health Innovation Foundation. Partners include Kiewit and HOK.

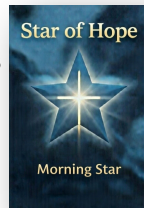
## June Green Envelope

Our Green Envelope continues with Children's Hospital's Behavioral Health & Wellness Center for the month of June. Families have access to a full continuum of services, including crisis assessment, outpatient therapy, inpatient care, partial hospitalization, and family-centered support, all in one location. This innovative, holistic model ensures that every child and family receives timely care, clear next steps, and ongoing support, offering hope, healing, and a stronger future for our community. Visit Morning Star's website for their Amazon wishlist to use with the patients and families at BHWC or scan the QR code!



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.

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry Annual Golf Scramble is Friday, June 12 in Lincoln. Register with the QR code or at <https://bit.ly/NeLCM2026>. Funds support college age ministry!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

**Join Us for Build Day**

June 6, 2026

Sign Up in Lobby

Morning Star joins St. Tim's build at the Pope Leo Houses in the Blue Stem Community. Use the QR code to register.

*Building homes. Building community.*

# ALTAR FLOWERS

## Flower Sponsors

## Bulletin Sponsors

| DATE    | FLOWERS              | FLOWERS          | BULLETINS               |
|---------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| June 7  | James & Shaila Clark | Gloria Miller    | Jim & Marguerite McGill |
| June 14 | Donna J. Walter      | Donna J. Walter  | <b>Available</b>        |
| June 21 | Rod & Cindy Anderson | <b>Available</b> | <b>Available</b>        |
| June 28 | <b>Available</b>     | <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.

# Class Of 2026



**Theo Medican**  
Brownell Talbot High School  
Unsure of future plans at the moment.



**Bryce Peterson**  
Westside High School  
Unsure of future plans at the moment.



**Hallie Tonniges**  
Roncalli High School  
Hallie will attend UNO to major in aviation!

**Abby Wolfe**  
University of Nebraska College of Medicine  
Abby will go into a Sports Medicine Fellowship  
at Children's Mercy Hospital  
Kansas City, Missouri



**Madison Wolfe**  
University of Nebraska College of Medicine  
Madison will go into General Pediatrics at  
Village Pointe Pediatrics—Dundee  
Omaha, Nebraska



Omaha New Hope Chapter DBSA

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



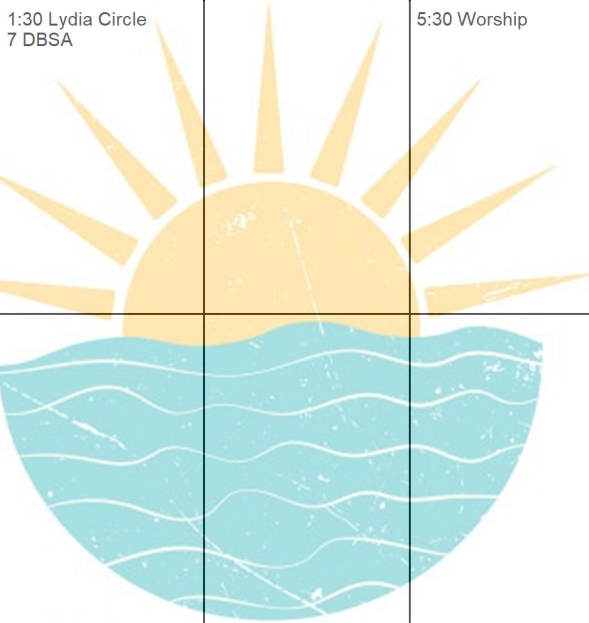


Alcoholics Anonymous is open to all!  
Groups meetings times are:  
Tuesdays at 5:30<sup>PM</sup>  
Tuesdays at 8<sup>PM</sup>  
Wednesdays at 5:30<sup>PM</sup>



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

# JUNE

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|
|  | <b>1</b><br>6 Outreach Committee                               | <b>2</b><br>5 Exec Team Meeting<br>5:30 AA Grp 1<br>7 Dancers Practice<br>8 AA Grp 2 | <b>3</b><br>10 Bible Study<br>12 AI Anon<br>5:30 AA Women Only                                  | <b>4</b><br>7 DBSA  | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b><br>No Quilting Group<br>8 Habitat Build with St. Tim's<br>5:30 Worship |
|   | <b>7</b><br>10 Worship<br>11:15 Special Congregational Meeting | <b>8</b><br>5:30 MIF Committee<br>6 Church Council                                   | <b>9</b><br>5:30 AA Grp 1<br>7 Dancers Practice<br>8 AA Grp 2                                   | <b>10</b><br>10 Bible Study<br>12 AI Anon<br>5:30 AA Women Only | <b>11</b><br>7 DBSA  | <b>12</b>   |
| <b>14</b><br>10 Worship   | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b><br>5:30 AA Grp 1<br>7 Dancers Practice<br>8 AA Grp 2                       | <b>17</b><br>10 Bible Study<br>12 AI Anon<br>5:30 AA Women Only<br>5:30 Faith Partner's Meeting | <b>18</b><br>7 DBSA   | <b>19</b><br> | <b>20</b><br>5:30 Worship   |
| <b>21</b><br>10 Worship   | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>5:30 AA Grp 1<br>7 Dancers Practice<br>8 AA Grp 2                       | <b>24</b><br>10 Bible Study<br>12 AI Anon<br>5:30 AA Women Only                                 | <b>25</b><br>1:30 Lydia Circle<br>7 DBSA                        | <b>26</b><br>  | <b>27</b><br>5:30 Worship   |
| <b>28</b><br>10 Worship   | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b><br>5:30 AA Grp 1<br>7 Dancers Practice<br>8 AA Grp 2                       |   |   |  |   |



# MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Address Correction Requested

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### *June Anniversaries*

|                   |           |      |
|-------------------|-----------|------|
| Neil & Cindy      | Lindquist | 6/2  |
| Kyle & Arielle    | Wolfe     | 6/3  |
| Dan & Bev         | Hartman   | 6/8  |
| Mark & Kathy      | Hawkins   | 6/8  |
| Tyler & Ciprianna | Engel     | 6/10 |
| John & Tamara     | Kellams   | 6/13 |
| Brett & Jackie    | Froendt   | 6/17 |
| Josh & Shelby     | Duncan    | 6/18 |
| Jim & Marguerite  | McGill    | 6/29 |
| Todd & Deb        | Washburn  | 6/29 |

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!



### *June Birthdays*

|         |           |       |          |               |       |            |         |       |
|---------|-----------|-------|----------|---------------|-------|------------|---------|-------|
| Anita   | Bernstein | 06/01 | Sophie   | Wolfe         | 06/13 | Campbell   | Mooney  | 06/25 |
| Norma   | Rygg      | 06/01 | Margaret | Bross         | 06/13 | Marguerite | McGill  | 06/25 |
| Gary    | Byers     | 06/03 | Shelby   | Wulf          | 06/16 | Hazel      | Karnish | 06/26 |
| Madison | Warboys   | 06/04 | Caelan   | Ladd          | 06/18 | Ralston    | Clark   | 06/27 |
| Steven  | Bross     | 06/04 | Arlette  | Little        | 06/18 | Dennis     | Moy     | 06/27 |
| Aidan   | Jackson   | 06/05 | David    | Evenson       | 06/20 | Lynn       | Bowman  | 06/29 |
| Jackie  | Froendt   | 06/05 | Jack     | Neussendorfer | 06/24 | Marvene    | Evenson | 06/30 |
| Watson  | Placzek   | 06/11 | Laurie   | Nye           | 06/24 |            |         |       |
| Traci   | Owen      | 06/13 | Rhonda   | Wise          | 06/24 |            |         |       |

