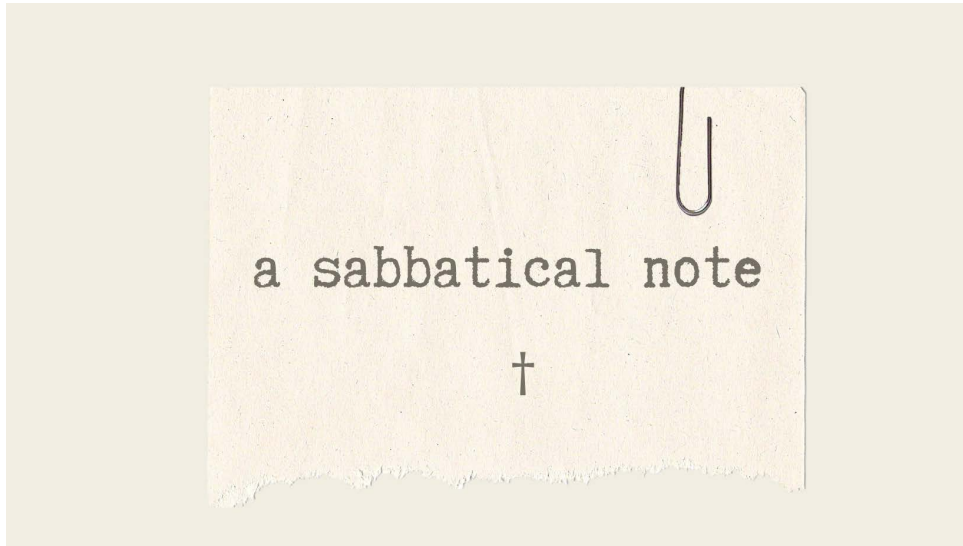


# THE VISITOR

a publication of Morningside Lutheran Church

APRIL 2024  
VOLUME 55  
NUMBER 3



Morningside Lutheran,

I want to express my great appreciation for your support as I enter a time of sabbatical leave.

In the month of April, I will be taking a sabbatical from my pastoral responsibilities to focus on three essential areas of my life:

1. faith development
2. family time
3. a deeper understanding of the Siouxland community.

As specified in my letter of call, this time of intentional reflection has been made possible through your gracious permission and encouragement, for which I am truly grateful.

During this sabbatical, I am eager to dedicate necessary time to prayer, devotion, and study. I believe that nurturing my own faith will enable me to return to you as a more grounded and inspired shepherd, better equipped to serve and lead our congregation.

Equally important is the opportunity to prioritize focused time with my family. In the fast-paced nature of ministry, it can be all too easy to allow these moments to slip by. I look forward to retreating with my wife, Emily, as well as spending meaningful time with my kids, Joel and Hannah.

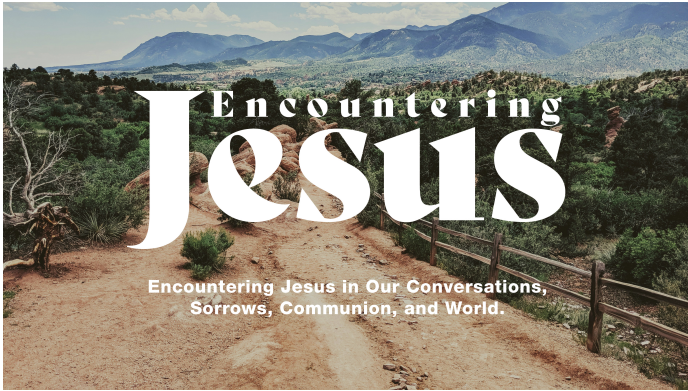
Lastly, I am carving out time to connect with different areas in Siouxland. There is much to learn and appreciate about our community. I will be spending time observing many different areas of Sioux City and the surrounding communities. I am eager to gain a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and joys this community faces.

As I embark on this sabbatical, I ask that you keep me and my family in your prayers, praying that I will be refreshed and inspired to undergo the many years of ministry in which the Lord is leading this congregation.

Thank you, and I'll see you soon!

God bless,

Pastor Noah Ruppert



**APRIL SERMON SERIES:**

There are enough distractions around us that make it difficult to see and hear what the Lord is doing. However, no matter the distractions, He is always there; we just need to open our eyes and look! Jesus can be encountered in all facets of life - in our conversations, our sorrows, in communion, and around our world.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
SUMMER 2024**  
JUNE 10 - 13  
5:30 - 7:30PM

**SETSAIL!**

REGISTER HERE!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024:**

Have you heard? Registration for Vacation Bible School is open! Students Pre-K thru 5th grade are welcome to attend!

Sign up at <https://morningsidelutheran.breezechms.com/form/vacationbibleschool2024>

Questions? Contact Amy - [amy@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:amy@morningsidelutheran.com) or Kathy - [kathy@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:kathy@morningsidelutheran.com)

**BIKER BLESSING**

**Saturday**  
9:00am **MAY 4TH**  
**2024**

MORNINGSIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
700 SOUTH MARTHA STREET  
SIOUX CITY, IA 51106

**MOTORCYCLE AND BIKER BLESSING:**

The annual Biker Blessing will be held Saturday, May 4th, at 9:00AM. The event will begin with a breakfast and be followed with a blessing over the bikes/riders.

Morningside Lutheran continues to partner with Kay Anderson for this event in efforts to raise bike and rider safety and awareness. Kay lost her son, Jeremy, in a bike accident.

**SENIOR SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 8:00AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM  
GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WILL BE  
RECOGNIZED IN SERVICES & GIFTED A QUILT  
Contact [amy@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:amy@morningsidelutheran.com) with any questions!

**SENIOR SUNDAY:**

On Sunday, May 19, graduating high school seniors will be recognized at services and gifted a quilt made by the Morningside Lutheran Morning Glories.

Questions? Contact Amy Wolf - [amy@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:amy@morningsidelutheran.com)

**You're Invited!**

**WHO:** You

**WHAT:** Monthly Prayer Group

**WHERE:** The Fireside Room

**WHEN:** The first Wednesday of each month from 5:00 - 5:45pm

**WHY:** To pray for churches, schools, communities, and leaders throughout Siouxland.

Sign up below!

**MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP:**

Join us as we pray for Morningside Lutheran Church, surrounding churches, schools, and leaders throughout the Siouxland community. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00 - 5:45PM in the Fireside Room.

**Safe Place**  
Safety • Advocacy • Support

**SAFE PLACE DONATIONS:**

We will have a drive set up in the foyer April 7, 14, and 21 to gather donations for SafePlace, an organization that provides safety, advocacy, and support for adults and children who have experienced domestic violence.

We are asking for donations of diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream for babies. Helpful donations for women include towels, washcloths, socks, underwear, combs, shampoo, and body wash. Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks can be made out to SafePlace.



# BY THE NUMBERS

| Budget Ministries Of MLC | YTD as of 01/31/23 | YTD as of 01/31/24 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue                  | \$82,190           | \$79,132           |
| Less: Expense:           | <u>\$(94,181)</u>  | <u>\$(91,620)</u>  |
| Net:                     | \$ (11,991)        | \$ (12,488)        |

## Organizations Receiving Mission/Tithes Distribution in January 2024:

None

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." –Proverbs 11:25

~ Finance Team

| Budget Ministries Of MLC | YTD as of 02/28/23 | YTD as of 02/29/24 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Revenue                  | \$172,316          | \$172,247          |
| Less: Expense:           | <u>\$(198,855)</u> | <u>\$(181,891)</u> |
| Net:                     | \$ (26,539)        | \$ (9,644)         |

## Organizations Receiving Mission/Tithes Distribution in February 2024:

LCMC Operations, Okoboji Bible Camp, Missionary Support, Sleep In Heavenly Peace

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." –Proverbs 11:25

~ Finance Team

March approved financials will be in the May Visitor.

# YOUNG AT HEART

## PICKLE BALL:

Gym  
 Mondays | 9:00-11:00AM  
 Tuesdays | 9:00-11:00AM  
 Thursdays | 9:00-11:00AM



## W.I.G.S.:

April W.I.G.S. (Wednesday Inspirational Gathering of Seniors) will be March 10. Cost: \$6

The meal will begin at noon with program to follow.

This month's program will feature Stephanie Conyers of Palmer Candy. She will present on the 100 year history of Palmer Candy. Sign up at church or call 276-2511.

## APRIL DAY TRIP: Thursday, April 25

The group will visit Freedom Park in South Sioux City and then have lunch at Harvey's in Riverside. The afternoon will be spent at the Sioux City Railroad Museum.

Cost: \$10.00 with lunch on your own.  
 Sign up at church or call 276-2511.

# GIVING OPTIONS



Text "GIVE" to 712-800-8611



Online



Offering Envelopes



Mail

## GIVING:

Did you know we offer multiple ways to give? If you've not picked up your 2024 envelopes, please stop in the office.

# SUBSCRIBE



Join our weekly event email and stay in the know about what's happening at Morningside Lutheran!

To opt in, email [mlc@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:mlc@morningsidelutheran.com)

## WEEKLY EVENT EMAIL:

Join our weekly event email, and stay in the know about what's happening here at Morningside Lutheran!

To opt in, email [mlc@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:mlc@morningsidelutheran.com)



## MILITARY RITES:

If you or your family would like to have military rites performed at your memorial services, you may contact Alvin Kay, Service Officer for Morningside American Legion Post 697, at 712-490-1654.



**SIouxLAND FOOD FESTIVAL:**

Check out the Siouxland Food Festival on Saturday, June 15 from 11:00AM - 3:00PM.

The event is hosted by the Food Bank of Siouxland and sponsored by Seaboard Triumph Foods.

One in every 10 adults and 1 in every 5 children in the Food Bank of Siouxland’s 11-county service area faces food insecurity. The Siouxland Food Festival aims to raise awareness and funds for neighbors in need while bringing the community together around the “picnic” table.

Grab your family and friends and discover your new favorite restaurant, caterer, bakery, and more.

NEW THIS YEAR! The event will feature a Bocce Ball Tournament!

**PLANT AN EXTRA ROW**

Help the Morningside Lutheran Church food pantry by planting an extra row this year. We love to give fresh produce to our clients to encourage a nutritious diet! Produce donations can be brought to the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**PLANT AN EXTRA ROW:**

Do you garden or farm?

Help the Morningside Lutheran Church food pantry by planting an extra row this year.

We love to give fresh produce to our clients to encourage a nutritious diet!

Produce donations can be brought to the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**THANK YOU**



**FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF STUDENT MINISTRY**

**From us to you!**

*Thank you so much for helping to make our Palm Sunday Breakfast and Silent Auction a success. We extend our appreciation to those who donated items for the auction, those who volunteered at the event, and to those who attended the event! Because of your support, students will have the opportunity to participate in an impactful ministry event this summer - more details to come!*

**With gratitude, Morningside Lutheran Church Student Ministry Team**



**FOOD PANTRY:**

The Morningside Lutheran Church Food Pantry is open Tuesdays from 4:00-6:00PM and Wednesdays from 10:00AM-Noon. There are no restrictions and families/individuals are able to come twice a month to receive food. No appointment needed, however, we do need to see a photo ID.

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**

Join us for New Member Class!

**APRIL 14 & 21**  
11:45am - 1:00pm

REGISTER AT [MORNINGSIDELUTHERAN.COM](http://MORNINGSIDELUTHERAN.COM)



**NEW MEMBER CLASS:**

Interested in membership at Morningside Lutheran?

Join us for New Member Class! Scan the QR code to sign up for the two-day course.

Lunch and childcare provided!





**FIRST COMMUNION:**

On Maundy Thursday, we had the privilege of witnessing these students partake in their First Communion alongside their families as we reflected on Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

**GRIEF SUPPORT:**

Have you been looking for a place to find comfort following the loss of a loved one?

You aren't alone.

Join others on the same journey for a time of discussion, sharing, and encouragement.

The group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 10:00am in the Fireside Room.

This is an open and ongoing group.

**RADIO:**

Did you know? We offer a weekly radio broadcast on KSCJ 94.9FM or 1360AM at 11:00AM on Sundays. The April 14th broadcast is sponsored by Ron and Barb Houske in honor of Barb's 75th birthday!

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Linda Stone, Danny Hegg, and Ivy Clausen**. We pray God will continue to comfort them during this time of loss.

**FACEBOOK:**

Don't forget - for the most current Morningside Lutheran Church information, check us out on Facebook!



**FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY:**

This year's FPU class, led by Karl Pauling, celebrated their graduation on March 24th. The group paid off debt, built savings, and cut up credit cards.

Financial Peace University teaches God's ways of handling money in a very practical, down to Earth way. The course teaches how to save for emergencies, quickly pay off debt, spend wisely, and invest for the future.

We were able to offer this year's class for free due to the outrageous generosity of some of our caring church members.

# CONTACT US

Phone: 712.276.2511  
 Email: [mlc@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:mlc@morningsidelutheran.com)  
 Web: [morningsidelutheran.com](http://morningsidelutheran.com)  
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

Morningside Lutheran Church 700 South Martha Street  
Sioux City, Iowa 51106

Address Service Requested

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MAILING LABEL

CHURCH STAFF:

Noah Ruppert.....Lead Pastor  
Paul Peterson.....Pastor of Connections  
Tom LoVan.....Pastor of Care  
Charity Peterson.....Director of Worship  
Amy Wolf.....Director of Children & Student Ministry  
Kathy Ewoldt.....Associate Director of Children & Student Ministry  
Jessie Matney.....Finance Manager  
McKenzie Matasovsky.....Office Manager  
Suzy Turnquist.....Administrative Assistant  
Scott Larson.....Head Custodian  
Corey Enright.....Assistant Custodian  
Adam Lang.....Assistant Custodian

CCVA:

Liz Croston.....President  
Peg Reinking.....Vice President  
Ted Massey.....Treasurer  
Terry Krei.....Secretary  
Kirk Bradley.....CCVA Member  
Tom Elsen.....CCVA Member  
Ron Smith.....CCVA Member  
Linda Urick.....CCVA Member  
Noah Ruppert.....Lead Pastor

Send in articles before the  
next deadline on Friday, May 3.  
Email: [mckenzie@morningsidelutheran.com](mailto:mckenzie@morningsidelutheran.com)