

THE VISITOR

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"As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, and the business of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray!" – Martin Luther

I love the season of Lent.

This year is especially meaningful because Lent started about as early as it possibly can and, with this early start, brought an early spring.

Other than enjoying the weather being unseasonably warm, we as a congregation have been looking at a vision statement that calls us to be a place that helps build strong faith, strong relationships, and strong communities. This vision statement the Lord is leading us into requires us to be people who are fully dependent on him.

Now, I realize a statement that sounds like that might cause you to ask, "How in the world do I fully rely on God?" That's a great question and where I believe the season of Lent really comes into play. During Lent, we look at ways we can be renewed in our faith by practicing repentance and self-denial. These two spiritual disciplines are accessible to us as Christians through prayer.

Prayer is one of the two major focuses in the first priority of our vision-to be a place that helps build strong faith. I have been spending a good deal of time talking with many of you about how important prayer is and how we are reminded that prayer is more about a relationship than it is about a transaction. We pray in hopes of communicating with our creator, God.

But how do we know whether what we are praying actually matters or that God even listens? I suggest that these questions are great ways to point us back to Scripture, where we see how God responds to his people when they pray.



Jesus, in the Gospel of John chapter 17, shows us what it looks like to pray even when it seems like God isn't listening. Notice what he does: He keeps it simple by praying for himself (1-5), for those closest to him (6-19), and for all who might come to believe in him (20-26). He keeps it real by sharing what is at the forefront of his mind without making up a bunch of fancy words and thoughts but staying on point. Finally, he keeps up praying. Rather than saying, "God I don't really want to do this, help me out," Jesus keeps praying to the point that in Luke 22 we read, "And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."

Now, is the Lord asking you and I to pray so deliberately and earnestly that we would be to the point of sweating blood? I don't think that's the case, but we do read Paul's exhortation in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 to, "Pray without ceasing."

There are so many great ways to be part of prayer ministry here at Morningside Lutheran! As I write this, a new group is kicking-off meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 5-5:45 to pray for this church and all who gather here for worship and praise. Another meaningful experience that I would like to invite you to consider is our prayer vigil that takes place on Good Friday from 7:30pm to midnight in our sanctuary. You are invited to spend 30 minutes in the stillness of the sanctuary to simply pray. It might be a great way for you to practice meeting with God in a real way that also prepares your heart and mind for the Easter celebration in the coming days. Sign-up sheets will be out in the Foyer Starting Sunday March 17th.

May God bless you as you seek him in prayer!

- Pastor Paul



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.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

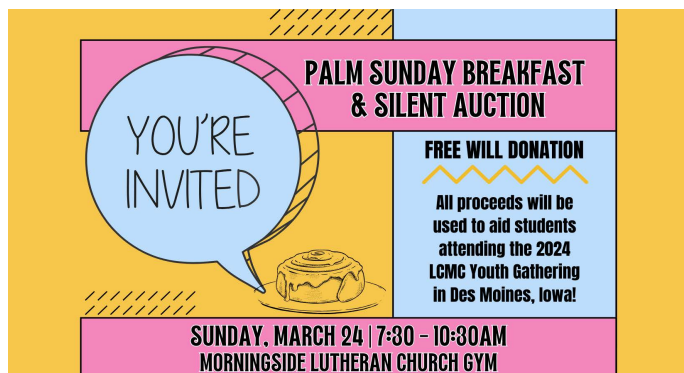
Palm Sunday | March 24 | All Services

Maundy Thursday | March 28 | 6:30PM

Good Friday | March 29 | 12:00 & 6:30PM

Saturday Easter Service | March 30 | 6:30PM

Sunday Easter Services | March 31 | 6:30, 9:00, and 10:30AM



BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER:

Join us in the gym Sunday, March 24, anytime from 7:30 - 10:30AM for a Palm Sunday breakfast and silent auction. Cinnamon rolls, eggs, and sausage will be served. Breakfast is free will donation, and all proceeds will be used to support students attending the 2024 LCMC Youth Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa.



EASTER EGG HUNT:

You are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 23rd at 10:00AM in the gym.

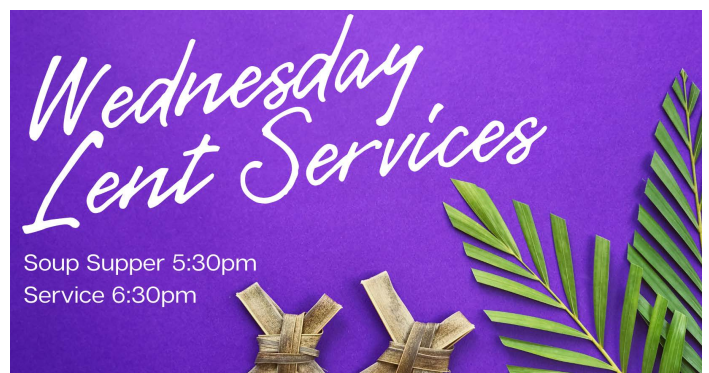
This FREE event is open to all families with students ages PK - 5th grade.

Questions? Contact Amy Wolf - amy@morningsidelutheran.com



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.



LENT SERVICES:

Wednesday Lent services will continue on March 13 and 20th at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.

Soup Supper begins at 5:30PM in the gym before each service.

BY THE NUMBERS

Budget Ministries Of MLC	YTD as of 12/31/22	YTD as of 12/31/23
Revenue	\$1,126,817	\$ 1,162,190
Less: Expense:	\$ 1,142,676	\$ 1,179,000
Net:	\$ (15,859)	\$ (16,810)

Organizations Receiving Mission/Tithes Distribution in December 2023: None

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

~ Finance Team

The above numbers are year-to-date through the end of December 2023. January and February approved financials will be in the April 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.:

March W.I.G.S. (Wednesday Inspirational Gathering of Seniors) will be March 13.

Cost: \$6

The meal will begin at noon with program to follow.

This month's program will feature Doug Manamen of Sioux Bee Honey. He will present on the history of Sioux Bee which has been in Sioux City for over 100 years, established here in 1921.

Sign up at church or call 276-2511 .

Helping build strong faith, relationships, and communities.



NEW VISION:

In case you missed it, in February we launched a new vision. Morningside Lutheran Church - helping build strong faith, relationships, and communities. Check out the sermon library at morningsidelutheran.com to hear more!

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.



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.

SUBSCRIBE



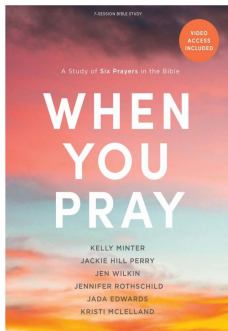
Join our weekly event email and stay in the know about what's happening at Morningside Lutheran!

To opt in, email mlc@morningsidelutheran.com

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To opt in, email mlc@morningsidelutheran.com



**Sign up by
Easter Sunday, March 31st**

Thursday Bible Study - 8 weeks
Book cost **\$25**
Begins April 18 9:00 - 11:00 AM

In this study of prayers in the Bible, six beloved Bible teachers will help you study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own prayers.

THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

A new session will begin on April 18th. This 8 week study is titled "**When You Pray**" and will run to June 6th.

The group meets from 9:00 - 11:00AM in the Kitchen Lounge each Thursday morning.

The cost of each book is **\$25.00**.

Please register by Easter Sunday, March 31st. To register, sign up at the Welcome Station in the foyer or call the office.

All women are welcome - non- members, too!

About the study:

Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all? You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

In this study, join with six beloved Bible teachers who will help you study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own. You'll learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You'll see examples of how to pray when you're alone and when you're gathered with others. Above all, you'll notice there's no one right way to pray. As you draw near to God through prayer, you'll find your faith strengthened and your heart united to Christ.

Authors:

Kelly Minter
Jackie Hill Perry
Jen Wilkin
Jennifer Rothschild
Jada Edwards
Kristi McLelland

THANK YOU

I want to thank all members of Morningside Lutheran for the caring, sharing, direction, and leadership over the past many years I have been a member. As I am living now in the Cedar Rapids area, I will miss seeing many of you, but you will always be in my heart.

May God bless us all as we continue to love and serve God and each other.

Sincerely, Barbara Frey



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

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!



COMMUNITY WORSHIP:

Our staff joined several church/ministry staffs around Siouxland to worship at Council Oak Supply.

Praise God for bringing church leaders together to build strong faith communities!



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.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

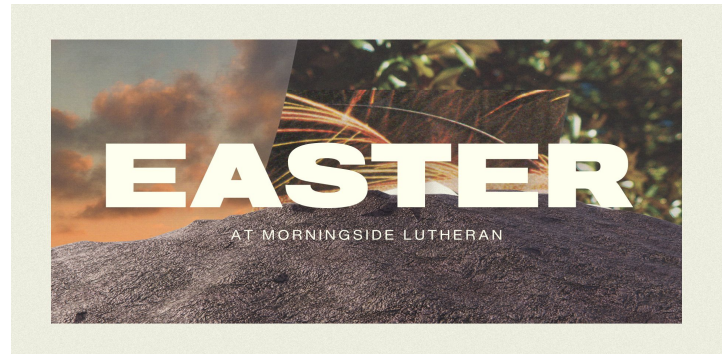
Violet Stolpe, daughter of Dacotah and Susan Stolpe was brought to the Lord in Baptism. We pray God will bless and guide her as she grows in her Christian faith.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Betty Gill, Al Welding, Phil Osborn, and Patricia Rysta**. 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!



EASTER VOLUNTEERS:

We are asking for volunteers for Easter Services. If you are able to help, please sign up at the Welcome Station in the foyer or contact Suzy.

mlc@morningsidelutheran.com

712-276-2511

CONTACT US

Phone: 712.276.2511

Email: mlc@morningsidelutheran.com

Web: morningsidelutheran.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

Morningside Lutheran Church 700 South Martha Street
Sioux City, Iowa 51106
Address Service Requested
Return Service Requested

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, April 5.
Email: mckenzie@morningsidelutheran.com