

Volume LVIII
Number 10

December 2020



Messenger

MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

7301 N 28 Ave Omaha, NE 68112 402.455.8700 MountOliveOmaha.com



ADVENT

Waiting can be hard, and not just for children. But I do love Advent: this four-week time when the Christian church prepares for Christmas. Maybe I like Advent so much because it involves active waiting, not thumb-twiddling. It is a gift the church offers the world, to be active (which isn't the same as busy) in ways that open our hearts — and the hearts we touch — to the true meaning of Christmas.

Mother Teresa said, “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God’s own love and concern.”

When I take time during Advent to remember in prayer and with gifts of money and time those who have less food than I do, those who are lonely, those without a home; when I pause to share love with a child or an elder, or gratitude for a healthcare worker, pastor or teacher; when I wait for justice to replace oppression but, while I wait, find ways to work for that result ... the Spirit’s warmth fills my waiting heart.
I am ready to welcome Jesus.

—Heidi Mann

From Pastor Moorhead.....Another Top Ten List

December 2020

1. On November 8, my sermon included references to the hymn On Eagle's Wings. This link will show you an article from a few years ago from former Omaha World-Herald columnist Mike Kelly. It fills out the story I told you in my sermon about the hymn. https://omaha.com/news/kelly-on-eagles-wings-first-soared-at-omaha-accountants-funeral/article_9b66b462-bec8-50da-9569-d89a358fb4c4.html
2. I have been making several phone calls every week to Mt. Olive members. If you want to talk to me sooner, call me at 402.651.2239 (or text). You can also email me at revhawk@cox.net.
3. Your Call Committee remains focused. By the time you read this, the Committee will likely have completed at least three candidate interviews. See elsewhere in this newsletter for other updated information on the call process.
4. As I write this, I am looking forward to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas with you. We also anticipate a Christmas visit from our daughter and her family. There are also other special days and traditions that will be observed in December.
5. I thoroughly enjoy teaching the Sunday and Wednesday morning Bible studies. On Wednesday we study the appointed First Lesson for the following Sunday. So we've met some interesting folk, like Isaiah, Amos, Ezekiel, and Zephaniah. On Sunday we study the appointed Holy Gospel for that Sunday. So we've become better acquainted with Matthew in recent weeks. On November 29 we'll start in on Mark. I have also shown you a Roman denarius, archaeology items from the Holy Land, and pictures from our Holy Land trip in 2018. I also use my Israel map to help you "see" where some study texts are.
6. Which reminds me.....Ashby liturgical calendars are now available. Get your family's free calendar now and track the story of God and His people through the whole year. Every commemoration and celebration helps to tell the whole story. For me the Church Year is a diamond with 52 facets. We focus each week on one of the facets, from Advent I to Christ the King Sunday.
7. I pray for you. Please pray for Martha and me.
8. If I make a misstep, please tell me. It's better to know and make a course correction than to be kept in the dark.
9. I continue to be busy as your Circuit Visitor for the Omaha North Circuit with meetings, call processes, potential circuit realignment, conferences, District convention, North Circuit Executive Council, leadership retreat, communication, monthly meetings of Circuit pastors, & etc. I find the work challenging and rewarding. And, at times, frustrating.
10. I enjoy getting to know you. Being your vacancy pastor is a good fit. I hope you think so, too.



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

December 2020

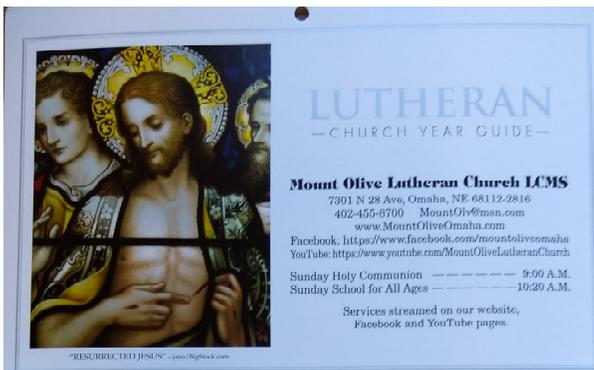
By the time you read this Mount Olive's Call Committee plans to have completed all four interview of pastoral candidates. Our next step is meeting to discuss the candidates and determining which one God has put in place for Mount Olive. We ask that God bless our work and send the fruits of His Spirit to our committee, our congregation, our future pastor and the congregation he is now serving.



CALL PROCESS

-Mike Townsend, Jr.

Call Committee Chairman, Director of Lay Ministry



Ashby Liturgical Calendars Are Here

We have ordered personalized wall calendars for all the households in the congregation. The Ashby calendar provides lectionary readings for each day. It also notes religious holidays and commemoration days as well as the proper color for the church season. Calendars will be in the narthex and handed out while supplies last. Calendars may also be given out to any visitors to our church. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

| JANUARY 2021 | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |

“Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind.”
—Helen Steiner Rice



**Office Hours
and Staff**

Church Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00-3:00
 Church Secretary: Jill Clausen
 Organist/Choir Director/Worship Planner: Rachel Misiolek
 Part-Time Vacancy Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William G. Moorhead
 Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Roland A. Jank, Jr.



Life Line Screening

Mount Olive will host a visit from Life Line Screening on Friday, December 18th.

Appointments are required and may be made by calling 1-888-653-6450. Make sure to ask for a \$10 discount. Please see the enclosed insert for more information.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve: 5:30 and 7:00

Christmas Day: no service



Receive Devotionals by Mail

Does Mount Olive offer a devotional book that you enjoy but because of COVID-19 you haven't been by church to pick one up? If you let the church office know, Jill can put it in the mail to you. Just call the office at 402-455-8700 or email at mountolv@msn.com.

We receive *Hope-Full Living*, *Our Daily Bread* and *Portals of Prayer*.

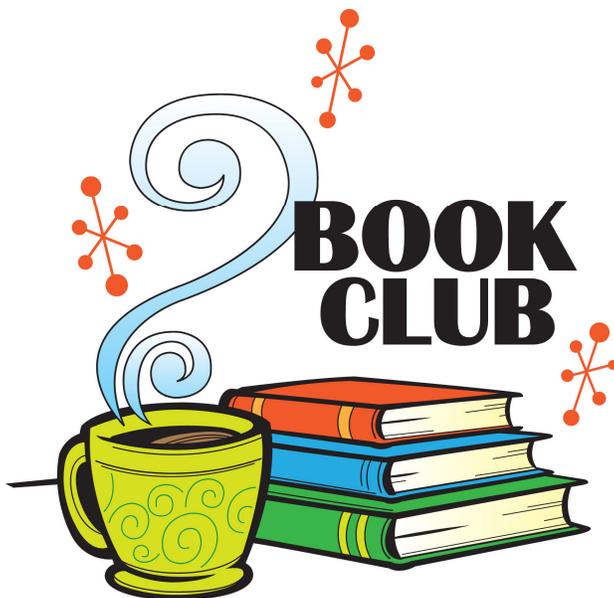
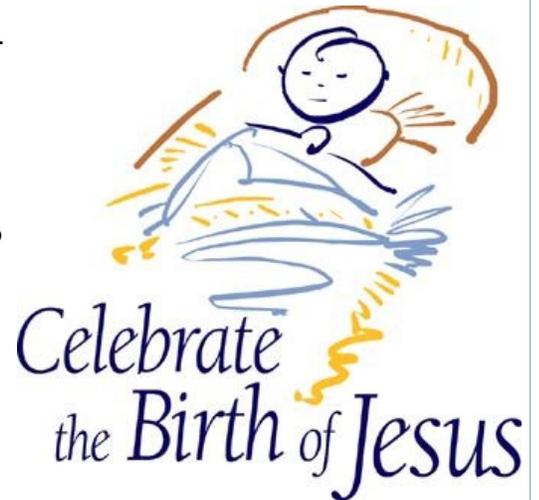
Mount Olive Scholarship Fund

Your Mount Olive Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the 2021-22 academic year. Applications must be submitted and postmarked by March 15, 2021. Remember, that (i) high school seniors, (ii) current college and vocational school attendees, and (iii) adults seeking to further their education may apply. Eligibility, other information, and applications are available on Mount Olive's website at <https://www.mountoliveomaha.com/scholarship-appl>.

WINTER WEATHER As winter weather is unpredictable, please keep in mind that church operations may be impacted. Monday through Thursday, if conditions are difficult, call the church office before stopping by to make sure the office is open. Likewise, if it seems possible that worship may be cancelled due to weather conditions, check one of the following sources for notification-Mount Olive's Facebook page or Mount Olive Weather Notification Group on Facebook, our website www.mountoliveomaha.com, a special edition of our Mount Olive Weekly email or local news stations. Remember that your safety is more important than your attendance. Please speak to **Mikale Townsend, Jr.** or one of the other lay ministers if you have questions.

Our Sunday School families have received a copy of the book “The Way to the Manger, A Family Advent Devotional” The book is a countdown to Christmas and can be used for many years. It includes activities for the children and their families to share the hope and love of this special time of year.

We are also hoping to put a Sunday School Christmas Video together. We hope to take family or individual videos of the children singing, reciting verses, doing finger plays or poems, or acting out the Christmas story. We may set up family sessions at the church to do this. Phone videos may also work. We hope with editing all the videos together we can create a lasting Christmas 2020 memory and share the Joy and Good News of Jesus’ birth with others! Please contact **Melissa Lorang** at 402-350-0253 to be included.



The Mount Olive Book Club will meet Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00. To allow social distancing we will hold our meetings at church for at least the first few months. Due to a rising number of COVID cases we will not serve dessert. New members are always welcome. We borrow Book Club bags from the Omaha Public Library so there is no cost. You can come every month or once in a while.

This month’s book is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. This award-winning and best-selling book will soon be made into a motion picture. With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war.

The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

If you have any questions or would like to join us please contact **Liz Matson, Peggy Posey** or **Bonnie White**.

Care of Sick at Home

When a member of the household is sick with COVID-19 or seasonal flu, adhere to the following advice to protect yourself and others. If you have any questions or need help thinking through your unique situation or problem solving, give me a call (402-740-1987) and I'll help you as best I can.

For most people with COVID-19, symptoms last a few days and they feel better after a week to 10 days. It helps to remember this as you are trying your best to keep everyone healthy. Help the ill person with basic needs. Help them follow their doctor's instructions for care and medications, including those medications the person usually takes. Try over the counter medications for fever and flu like symptoms if their doctor recommends. Make sure the ill person drinks lots of fluids and rests. Keep the home quiet and peaceful and uncluttered by surroundings. Help them with grocery shopping, medication prescriptions and getting other things they need. Consider having items delivered through a delivery service if possible.

Be prepared for worsening symptoms. Have the sick person's doctor's phone number on hand and call if the person gets sicker. Call 911 if medical emergency occurs: increased shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in chest, new confusion, inability to stay awake or wake up, bluish lips or face. Tell dispatcher the person has COVID-19 or is suspected to have it. Protect the caregiver and other household members. Limit contact with the sick person. COVID-19 spreads between people in close contact through respiratory droplets in the air or if these droplets settle on surfaces or from hand contact. These droplets are created when someone talks, coughs or sneezes. Staying away from others stops the spread of COVID-19 to others. If possible, the main caregiver should NOT be someone who is at high risk: over 65 or adults at any age with these conditions: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD and other respiratory conditions, heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathy, immunocompromised (weakened immune system), obesity (BMI of 30-40), severe obesity (BMI of 40 or greater), pregnancy, sickle cell disease, smokers and those with diabetes. However, this may not be possible and in such a situation the caregiver must take great care that they themselves are protected.

In all situations, the sick person should isolate and be separated in the home as much as possible. The sick person should have a separate bedroom and bathroom, have their own "sick room" and stay away from others (6 feet minimum) as much as possible, wear a mask (be sure nose and mouth are continuously covered) in shared areas even if no one else is around and if going out to medical appointments. Make sure shared areas have good airflow, open windows for part of the day everyday. Avoid visitors to the home, even if those visitors will not have close contact with the ill person. Caregivers and anyone having close contact with the sick person should stay home and follow quarantine guidelines. Eat in separate rooms. Don't allow used items to sit. Wash dishes and utensils as soon as possible using disposable gloves, dish detergent and hot water. Use dishwasher on hottest wash/dry setting possible. Clean hands after disposing gloves or handling used items.

Do not share items such as dishes, cups/glasses, silverware, towels, (*Continued on pg. 9*)



Health
Ministry
News

OUR MISSIONARIES ABROAD

Mount Olive is helping to support two missionaries and their families who live abroad. We remember them periodically in our public prayer. We ask that you continue to support them financially with your regular gifts. Information about their work is shared on the north hall bulletin board and in our Sunday worship. May it serve as an encouragement for your continued interest and support. For the year 2020 our missionaries abroad are:

Julie Lutz
PO Box 803
Mt. Hagen,
Western Highlands
Province
Papua New Guinea
Julie.lutz@lcms.org

**Rev. David &
Mrs. Barbara Bush**
1333 S. Kirkwood Rd.
Attn: Amy Schaefer
St. Louis, MO 63122
david.bush@lcmsintl.org



As positive cases of COVID-19 rise in the Omaha area we encourage you to worship with us remotely. In person Sunday Worship will continue but we ask if you have symptoms, are in contact with anyone with symptoms, or are in a high risk category please stay home and follow along on our YouTube channel.

We will not sing any part of the service.

Wednesday night services will continue.

Subscribe to our channel (Mount Olive Lutheran Church Omaha) on YouTube or by visiting our Facebook page. Our YouTube channel can also be found at <https://www.youtube.com/MountOliveLutheranChurch>.

We remember in Prayer-

...**Neve Anson, Mary Hogue, Gary Jacobson Rod & Karen Lorang, Robbie Moffett, Connie Townsend & Irene Yeck.**

...**William Kowalik**, who is serving with the 82nd Airborne at Ft Bragg, NC.

...Pastor **Bill Moorhead** who serves as our part-time pastor.

...our Mount Olive Call Committee as they continue their work.

...all who are affected by the Coronavirus.

...our members and friends who are unable to join us at worship.

...our future pastor and his family.

...all God's children that we may prepare our hearts to welcome our Savior with joy.

...The pastors, staff and members of our North Circuit congregations, schools, and preschools.



In everything give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

I wish to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers during my stay in the hospital. With God's help, I will keep getting better. I thank God for my family.

Irene Yeck

Thanks to **Amie** and **Brian Rikke** for not only gathering the church's recycling but also making sure that the building is sanitized after each use. This adds up to multiple visits every week. Thank you for your diligence in keeping us safe.

Thank you to the following for assembling and preparing the November Messenger: **Dixie Gerhart, Becky Hurt, Barb Stacy, Bonnie White and Linda Williams.**

Thank you **Barb Stacy and Bonnie White** for taking the Messenger to the post office.

Many thanks to those who have agreed to serve on the Call Committee. They are **Galen Behr, Josh Callahan, Jill Clausen, Melissa Lorang, Rachel Misiolek, Amie Rikke, Mark Sorensen, Paul Whitmore, Max Williams and Mikale Townsend, Jr.** (Chairman). Please keep them in your prayers.

We would like to extend our gratitude for your church and it's members. We really appreciate your generosity, especially at such a difficult time for everyone. We would also like to thank you for the gift card from the community action team and the other donations we received such as clothing and toys. We were able to begin the process and get our electrical work done with your donations. That will be really beneficial in getting the rest of our home completed. Joshua really enjoys attending and helping his grandparents clean the church after services. We hope that everyone had a happy and safe thanksgiving.

Thank you,

David, Sarah and Joshua Rikke

Thank you to **Kristi Townsend** for faithfully managing the Mount Olive Prayer Chain. **Kristi** has done this job behind the scenes for many years. Prayer requests can be emailed to **Kristi** at : townsend.kristi@gmail.com or contacting her by phone at 402-457-9611. If you would like to join the prayer chain, you may do so by contacting Kristi.

Thank you to all directors and coordinators at Mount Olive. Covid-19 has changed some of our events for a short time but we look forward to returning to our traditions and are thankful for those who continue to make plans for the future.

(Continued from pg. 6) bedding, electronics (T.V. remotes, cell phones, keyboards) with the sick person. Towels should be kept separated and replaced if visibly soiled or daily at minimum. The sick person's toothbrush and toothpaste should also be separated, not in contact with other toothbrushes and replaced after symptoms improve. Remove clutter from counters. Caregivers should wear a mask if entering the sick person's area and remember to ask the sick person to wear one also. Caregivers should wear disposable gloves when coming in contact with ill person's blood, stool or body fluids such as saliva, mucus, vomit and urine or items like toilet paper or Kleenex. Throw out gloves and contaminated disposable items into a lined trash can and wash hands with soap and water. Caregivers should practice everyday preventive actions to keep from getting sick. Wash hands often, avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth and frequently clean and disinfect surfaces.

Clean hands often. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Make sure everyone in household is washing their hands properly and often. Remind each other. Dry hands well and have hand lotion available to reduce dry skin and prevent cracked skin. Soap and water is preferred over alcohol hand cleansers. If soap and water are not available use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands with the sanitizer and rub together until dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, face and mouth. When using disposable gloves, do not try to reuse them or clean them. They are not made for repeated use, and should be disposed of properly and not reused. Kitchen gloves, such as those used to wash dishes are intended to protect skin from water and detergent and are not able to be sanitized properly in household settings. These are not recommended for personal use in the care of sick persons.

Clean and disinfect the high touch areas around your home everyday, even if the ill person is not in contact with these areas. These areas include tables, doorknobs, cabinet knobs, light switches, handles, desks, counters, sinks, faucets, toilets, electronics, cell phones and rotary phones.

Only clean the area around the ill person when needed to limit contact. Ask the ill person to clean their own area if they are able and assist them in this by providing support and needed items. If sharing a bathroom, the sick person should clean and disinfect after each use, wearing a mask. If the caregiver needs to clean the bathroom, do so after each time the sick person uses it, wait as long as possible for air droplets to settle and be sure to wear a mask and disposable gloves, washing hands well.

Laundry handling. Do not shake dirty laundry. Wear disposable gloves while handling laundry and wear mask. Dirty laundry from sick person can be washed with other people's items. Wash items according to label instructions in warmest water setting with detergent. Remove gloves, throw in lined trash and wash hands right away. Dry laundry on hot if possible, completely drying them-do not leave items damp. Wash hand after placing in dryer. Clean and disinfect any surface dirty laundry had contact with including counters, hampers, tops and other surfaces of washer and dryer. Wash hands after. Use bag lined trash cans. Place used disposable gloves, masks and other contaminated items in lined trash can. Wear gloves when removing trash bags and handling and disposing of bags. Wash hands afterward.

Dedicate a lined trash can for the sick person. Use care when gathering up the bags. Do not release or press air from the bag as you are gathering them up and (Continued on pg. 10)

(Continued from pg. 9) securing the opening. Keep your mask on, face away from the opening and take out to the main garbage container promptly.

Caregiver's health. Caregivers should stay home and monitor their own health while caring for sick. Symptoms to monitor include fever, cough, shortness of breath. Other symptoms may be present. Call 911 if trouble breathing or for a medical emergency.

Caregivers should continue to stay home after care is complete. Caregivers can leave home 14 days after last close contact with sick person or 14 days after person who is sick meets criteria to end home isolation. In general, a person with COVID-19 or suspected COVID-19 can be around others if all three of the following are met:

- 1) After it has been 14 days since first symptoms appeared **and**
- 2) It has been 24 hours with no fever-without the use of fever reducing medications **and**
- 3) Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

Recommended cleaners and steps to sanitize home:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/six-steps-safe-effective-disinfectant-use>

When you can end home isolation and be around others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

Older adults and COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>

CDC guidelines for caregivers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html>

Info about high risk individuals:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fgroups-at-higher-risk.html

Here's another good link on quarantine stop/start recommendations:

<https://www.douglascountyhealth.com/images/>

COVID-19/

Quarantine_Infographic_color_coded_2.pdf

Yours in Christ,

Amie Rikke RN,

Parish Nurse/Health Ministry Coordinator

402-740-1987



Special days in December



Baptisms

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|-----------------------|---|----|----------------------|---|----|
| Rodney Lorang | - | 3 | Amanda Flemmer | - | 17 | Kara Kowalski | - | 29 |
| Jacob Markham | - | 10 | Cameron Padron | - | 26 | Caden Seefus | - | 31 |
| Cindy Wilbanks | - | 14 | | | | | | |

Birthdays

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----|----------------------------|---|----|---------------------------------|----|
| Nelson Kosch | - | 5 | Joe Matson | - | 15 | Shannon O'Neill-Peterson | 21 |
| Madison Webb | - | 5 | Gideon Rager | - | 15 | Mackinsey Whitmore | 26 |
| Everett Misiolek | - | 6 | Parker Nordaker | - | 16 | Jason Stacy | 27 |
| Cody Markham | - | 8 | Epiphany Ramos | - | 19 | Jaxton Corcoran | 29 |
| Caden Seefus | - | 11 | Rachel Misiolek | - | 20 | Ryan Flemmer | 30 |
| Jill Clausen | - | 13 | Robbie Moffett, Jr. | - | 21 | Mary Seefus | 31 |

Anniversaries

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|
| Stephen & Cindy Webb | 9 | Dean & Rose Hinsley | 27 |
| Bill & Elaine Witt | 18 | | |

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

| Date | Worship | Communion |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| November 1 | 69 | 61 |
| November 4 | 7 | 7 |
| November 8 | 57 | 49 |
| November 11 | 5 | 5 |
| November 15 | 37 | 36 |
| November 18 | 5 | 5 |
| November 22 | 40 | 37 |
| November 25 | 3 | 3 |
| November 29 | 50 | 48 |
| <i>Total</i> | 273 | 251 |
| <i>Weekly Average</i> | 54 | 50 |

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Lay Minister</i> | - Mikale Townsend, Jr. |
| <i>Lector</i> | - Dixie Gerhart |
| <i>Cantor</i> | - Sarah Callahan |
| <i>Acolyte</i> | - Kamree Townsend |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Becky Hurt, Linda Williams |

Directory Corrections

Please make the following updates to the 2020 Directory:

Sorensen, Mark 3420 Nebraska Ave, Omaha NE 68111

Contact the church office with any corrections or updates.