



MONTHLY NEWS OF SAINT PAUL BENSON AUGUST 2021

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

*Rev. Stephanie*

*Inspiration*

*“Face to face and far away, God is present among us . . .”*

The opening words of one of this year's Vacation Bible School songs have stuck with me, playing on infinite repeat in my mind's internal stereo. The tune is both upbeat and comforting and likely the true reason this "ear worm" has taken residence in my body, but the words . . . I find them both descriptive of where we have been as a people the last 16 months and compelling as we think about where we are headed next.

The truth of our faith is that we believe in a living God who is present whether we people are near or far away from each other, and whether that nearness is measured by physical distance, emotional readiness, opinion sharing-ness or anything else. As a congregation, we celebrate the infinite love of God for all people and the closeness of God even when we are apart and even when plans change.

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The Inspiration is published monthly.  
Submit info by the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month to be  
included in the next month's issue.

Email Kristin  
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RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

SAINT PAUL *Benson*  
PROUD TO BE A RECONCILING CONGREGATION

With God's love as our foundation, we  
celebrate friendship with all of God's  
people, affirming all sexual orientations and  
gender identities. Together, we will seek  
justice for all and do good in our  
community, nation and around the world in  
the name of Jesus Christ.

*Our August Calendar*

SPECIAL COMMUNAL OFFERING: MISSION SHARES

Mission shares, formerly known as apportionments, are unique to the United Methodist Church. Assessed to each congregation in proportion to the church's budget, mission shares support both the local and global church structure, mission and justice initiatives, and ministries around the world. Saint Paul is a recent recipient of significant support from our Conference, funded through mission shares, and we give thanks for this opportunity to support other congregations as they grow in ministry.

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM PianoSide Chat Worship Available on YouTube  
10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service  
In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream  
12:15 PM Kirundi/Kiswahili Worship (Wesley Hall) and Facebook Live

WEEKDAYS

7:00 – 5:30 Child Development Center Open  
9:00 – 3:00 Church Office Open

MONDAY

9:00 AM Lectio Divina Prayer Group (Offsite)

TUESDAYS

1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry

THURSDAYS

10:00 AM Art Group (August 12 and 26)

SATURDAYS

5:00 PM Worship in Roth Chapel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

4:15 – 6:45 PM Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

5 – 8 PM BFF Paul-a-Palooza Party in the Parking Lot!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

2 PM The Five Wishes Parlor

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

8:30 AM Soul Journeys for Women (Library (Rm. 203))

6 PM MasterSingers Concert Sanctuary

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

8 AM – 1 PM Red Cross Blood Drive Fellowship Hall

This month's cover illustrations were created by Bennett and Elliot Kupzyk. As part of our VBS Compassion Camp, each camper was given blank postcards to decorate with signs of love and share with people near and far.

**WOMEN'S  
RETREAT**

**Save The Date!**  
October 17/18

Enjoy a time of  
fellowship at our  
annual Women's  
Retreat in historic  
Brownville. More  
details coming soon!

## *in* WORSHIP

August 2021 is filled with possibilities . . . for a break in the heat of summer; for a return to a safe learning environment for those going into the classroom; for a venturing into the Sanctuary by those yet to return to worship. And God’s steadfast love and spirit goes with us as we head into unknown territory. “Do not be afraid,” says the messenger and we find courage to move forward in faith.

Prepare yourself to receive the sacred banquet as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion **July 31** and **August 01**. Handbell soloist, Kris Oertell rings praises on **August 22** at the 10:00 LiveStream service.

As part of the last three **August** weekends, we will enjoy the tried-and-true summer “shout & sing” at each 5:00 and 10:00 service, with the congregation lifting up individual favorites to be sung. Songs of faith tell us so much about our spiritual journey; those cherished memories of why and with whom our path has brought us thus far.

A variety of talented Saint Paul folk will offer their gifts as part of weekly worship in Roth Chapel each Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at both 8:00 PianoSide and 10:00 LiveStream.

*Rev. Jerry*

### **Guest Preacher:** AUGUST 22

We welcome Rev. Curnell Graham to our pulpit on Sunday, 8/22. He is pastor of Christ UMC in Columbus, OH, and has over 35 years of experience in ministry. He has led congregations in both Ohio and Nebraska, including Clair Memorial UMC, and is a respected teacher and leader in the areas of prophetic ministry, hospitality, and diverse congregations.

### **Pastoral Perspective** (continued)

This month I celebrate the many opportunities ahead to meet our neighbors face to face, and to continue to serve and worship together whether we are in the same physical space or find each other online. Keep reading to find ways you can grow in your faith journey here at Saint Paul, and help us stay connected with you by keeping us updated with your most current address, email and phone numbers.

Thank you for your faithfulness, for your willingness to see and seek God in the present as we give thanks for the past and look to the future with hope. God is indeed present among us.

*Rev. Stephanie*



### **Freedom from Hunger Food Drive**

The Mercy and Justice Team thanks you for your donations for the Living Hope food pantry. 42 bags of food and other household essentials were delivered.

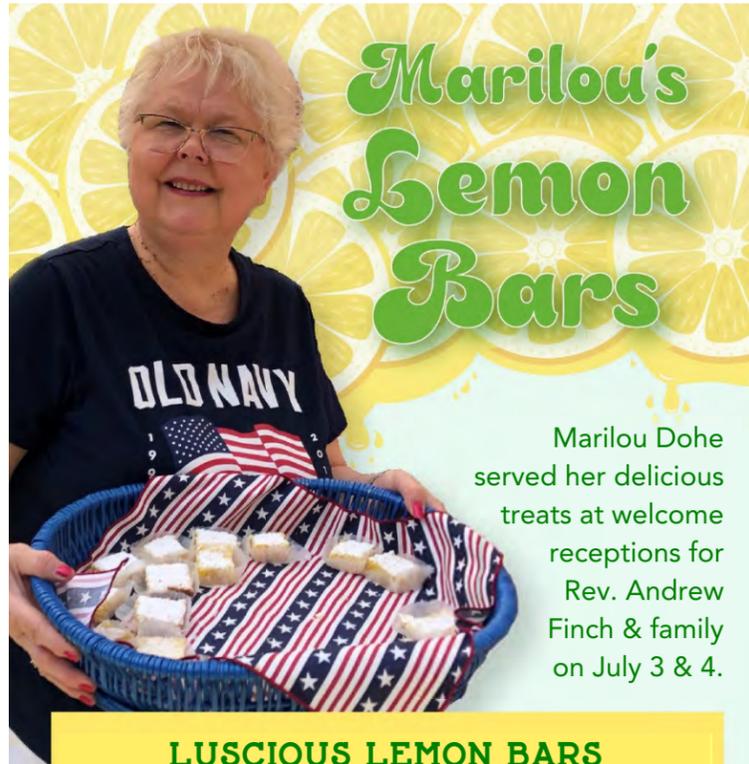


### **Serving Others: FEEDING YOUR SOUL**

We need your helping hands! Five people from Saint Paul Benson help serve dinner at the Siena Francis on the first Tuesday of each month.

Your next opportunity to join the crew is Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Meet there at 4:15 and expect to complete your shift by 6:45 PM. Ready to help? We are required to register online at SienaFrancis.org or type this link into your browser:

<https://sienafancis.volunteerhub.com/# =>



## Marilou's Lemon Bars

Marilou Dohe served her delicious treats at welcome receptions for Rev. Andrew Finch & family on July 3 & 4.

### LUSCIOUS LEMON BARS

#### CRUST:

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 2 sticks (1 cup) butter

Using a pastry blender or food processor, mix until crumbly. Pat in greased 9x13 dish. Bake 20-25 minutes at 350 degrees until lightly browned.

#### FILLING:

- Mix the following until smooth:
- 4 beaten eggs
  - 2 cups sugar
  - 1/4 cup flour
  - 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
  - 1/3 cup lemon juice (about 2 lemons)

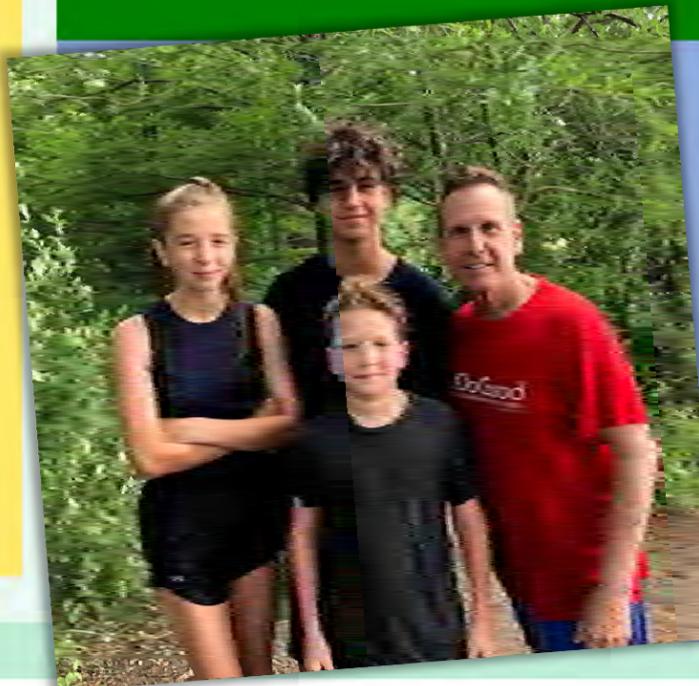
Pour over baked crust and bake about 25 minutes until center is firm. Dust with powdered sugar. Cut into bars when cool.

Note: I use only real butter & freshly squeezed lemon juice



### COURTYARD IS THE SPOT FOR VBS "COMPASSION CAMP" CELEBRATION

Following two evenings of online lessons and songs, Vacation Bible School ended with a fun in-person gathering on Sunday, July 18. The children shared their songs with those in attendance at worship, then headed to the Courtyard for games, sidewalk chalk, and a science-based craft led by Grace Warta. Rev. Wheeler even lead them in a bit of yoga! Special thanks to Paul McMahon and Maddie Warta for reading the scripture for our Planoside and in-person worship services.



### LAKESIDE BAPTISM

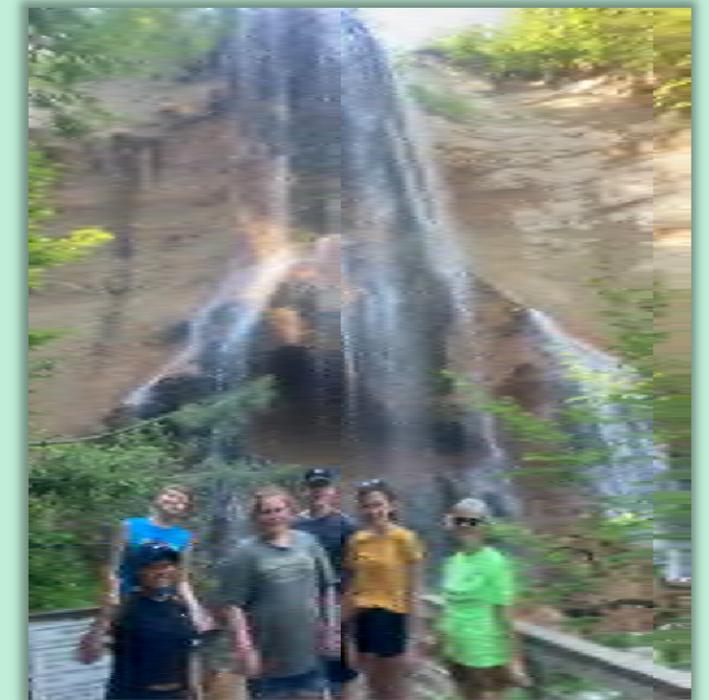
Rev. Jerry Brabec officiated at the baptisms of Sophie, Samuel and Seth, the children of Emily and Derek York.

Jerry "dunked" each of the kids in the cool water of Standing Bear Lake.



### SPB FLAG CORPS

The inaugural season of our flag corps included marching in the Field Club July 4th and Pride Parades!



### GO. SERVE. LOVE

Their mission trip offered SPB Youth plenty of opportunities to serve others and to grow with God – but also the chance to have fun in the refreshing waters of scenic Smith Falls.



### NATURE DEALS A BLOW TO OAK

The tall pin oak tree that graced the corner of Country Club and Corby for decades was no match for the severe storms of July 10. Your donations to alleviate the cost of removal are appreciated!



## Bringing All of Benson to our Door: PAUL-A-PALOOZA!

I bring you this month some exciting news involving our Community Engagement and Outreach! As I write this article, I am filled with excitement to announce that we will be hosting our first event together! Paul-a-Palooza will be a parking lot party where we will welcome our neighbors and the community on **Friday, August 6 from 5 - 8 pm.**

Paul-A-Palooza will run in conjunction with Benson First Friday (BFF) and allow us to re-establish our community of faith as “The Neighborhood Church” while having fun and fellowship opportunities with our fellow Bensonites. We are looking forward to a great time building relationships with our community. I personally want to invite you to come out and invite your friends, neighbors and family members, too!

### **I promise you don't want to miss this event!!!**

Paul-a-Palooza will feature two local food trucks: A Taste of Heaven and Pao 2 Go delivering authentic delights to tickle your palates. Plus, we'll have onsite art exhibits and fair trade vendors from Ten Thousand Villages and various other local partners.

For the kids in our community, we will have a Sidewalk Mural Art project. Relax in the courtyard with a yoga session lead by Rev. Marta. Attendees will be entertained by the sights and sounds of the New Life Ministry (Burundi Worship) choir and musicians, and so much more!

Help us make Paul-a-Palooza a success: we need volunteers! We have jobs for everyone that is young AND those that are young-at-heart. Reach out to me or contact the church office. You can sign up online by completing the Google form at this URL: <https://forms.gle/ngnVqi5sWDnEa5py8>

Let's get ready for an awesome community event on Friday, August 6th!

*Rev. Andrew*



## Discuss & Document Your Choices: THE FIVE WISHES

The Health Ministries team invites you to a special event on **Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 PM.** “The Five Wishes. A Better Way to Living and Dying” will include presentations by our own health experts who have gained wisdom through years of working in health ministry fields. A follow-up session on **Monday, August 16** will answer any questions about filling out The Five Wishes document and provide the necessary witnesses for completion. Registration appreciated! Email Rev. Marta ([mwheeler@stpaulomaha.org](mailto:mwheeler@stpaulomaha.org))



## Summer Wardrobe Essential: RAINBOW TEE AVAILABLE!

Show your pride in Saint Paul Benson with a new t-shirt! Summer-weight shirts are available in six colors, printed with the affirming message “All Means All.” Stop by the Church Office weekdays or on Sunday mornings to pick one (or more!) for \$10 each. The perfect thing to wear to Paul-a-Palooza!!



## Weaving New Friendships: PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

If you like to knit or crochet – or want to learn – you're invited to join the group every Tuesday at 1:30 PM in the Library (Room 203.) A fun, relaxing and rewarding opportunity to make friends and offer comfort through beautiful artwork. All are welcome!



**Ob-La-Di. Ob-La-Da:** LIFE GOES ON FOR MASTERSINGERS

Roth Chapel has been filled with song each Monday evening as the vocal ensemble, MasterSingers, preps for their Beatles Tribute concert being presented later this month. Formerly meeting at First Central Congregational, this 40+ member Omaha choral staple began rehearsing at Saint Paul Benson in mid-May. You may be interested to know that the roots of this organization are particularly United Methodist, being birthed by Mel Olson, one-time music director at First UM Church.

Since its inception in 1969, the MasterSingers (formerly “The Voices of Mel Olson” and later “Die Meistersingers”) have strived to nourish the health of choral arts in the region. Propelled by a fervent belief in the power of the choral experience, the group’s leadership has sought opportunities to transform its creative vision into reality, welcoming guest artists and conductors, producing recordings and commissioning new works by choral greats such as John Rutter, Edwin Fissinger, Dale Grotenhous, Robert Beadell, Jackson Berkey, Boyd Bacon, Dick Palmer, Ric Swanson and Jim Elsberry. With a tradition of presenting a wide range of musical styles, the “New” MasterSingers, under the direction of Dr. D. Laureen Pickle, have dedicated themselves to the art of jazz and pop ensemble singing. The change enables the group to hone in on the sounds of current groups such as Manhattan Transfer, New York Voices the Real Group and other outstanding groups of the genre, thus filling a musical void in the Omaha area. MasterSingers have appeared in several Nebraska and Iowa locations, and have performed with the SAC (now the Heartland of America) Band. The ensemble is composed of gifted singers from Omaha, eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. Educators, artists, professionals, students - each brings a unique background to the group. All share the love and talent for great choral music.



**TEN (10) FREE CONCERT TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

For their **Sunday, August 15** concert in our Sanctuary at **6:00 PM.**, The MasterSingers are offering ten (10) free tickets to Saint Paul members. Should those tickets be unavailable, Saint Paul members will receive the “Family and Friends” discounted tickets for \$10 each. Tickets will be available in the Church Office *after* August 01.

*in* **TOUCH**

*Christian Sympathy*

To Lorraine Hahn and family in the death of her brother.

*Honorarium*

In honor of the Baptisms of Seth, Sophie and Samuel York by Jerry Brabec

*Memorials*

For Garry Shepard: Connie Crawford, Patsy Woodside, Cynthia and Ted Sparks, Jr., Margaret Hawks, Laruen Hawks, Bryan Hawks, Margaret Shepard

For Virginia Stewart: George & Cheryl Adamson

For Warren Johnson: Susan Arnold

For Carl Buono: Judy Buono

For Billy Daniel Hall: Jerry Brabec



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**FRIDAY**  
**AUGUST 6**  
**5PM - 8PM**

**BFF** ♥

**EASTENDERS**  
**PAUL-a-**  
**PALOOZA**  
**NW RADIAL & 55TH**

**FOOD**  
**MUSIC**  
**ART**

**PARTY**  
**IN THE**  
**PARKING LOT**



*Let's Get Social!*

Be sure to Follow, Like, Subscribe and Friend Saint Paul Benson! Whether on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube, you'll find us by searching for "SaintPaulBenson."