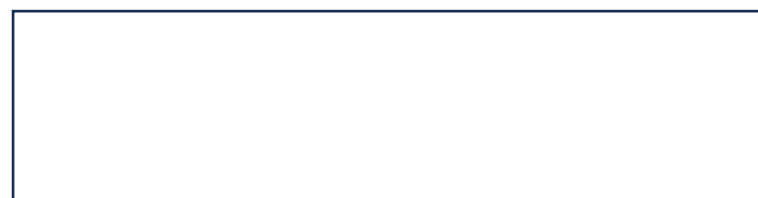




5410 CORBY STREET
OMAHA, NE 68104

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Christmas BOUTIQUE
GREAT SELECTION OF DONATED ITEMS

Department 56 Village Buildings
Santas
Nativity Sets
Handmade Christmas Crafts
and Much More!

CASH, VENMO OR CHECK ACCEPTED
FIND US IN ROOM 109 LOWER LEVEL

St. Paul
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADVENT FAIR
46TH YEAR!

DEC 08 2024 3:00-6:00 PM
5410 CORBY ST. BENSON

Purchase tickets to create a variety of crafts

- * Christmas Room
- * Pop Corn Sculptures
- * Photo Booth * Concessions
- * Cookie Decorating

Plus A VISIT WITH *Santa!*
* And Much More!

The building will be closed Monday & Tuesday, DEC 25/26 & JAN 01/02 in observance of the holidays

SAVE THE DATE Women's Spiritual Retreat MARCH 2-3, 2025

Stay Connected



FOLLOW, LIKE, SUBSCRIBE AND FRIEND US!
We're easy to find by searching for "SaintPaulBenson" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.

INSPIRATION

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST

DECEMBER 2024

December Events

Advent Fair

Sunday, December 8th
3 - 6 PM | Lower Level

UWF Mini Mart

December 14th & 15th
Before and after Services in the gathering areas

Children's Pageant

Sunday, December 15th
10 AM | Sanctuary

MasterSingers Concert

Sunday, December 15th
6 PM | Sanctuary

Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday December 18th
3 PM | Roth Chapel

Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 21st
5 PM | Roth Chapel
Sunday, December 22nd
10 AM | Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services

Carols, Communion & Candlelight
5 PM & 7:30 PM
Sanctuary

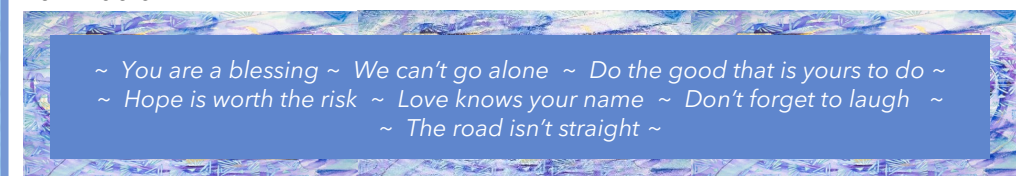
St. Paul Church Family,

As the calendar year draws to a close, we are invited into the sacred rhythm of Advent, a season of both endings and beginnings. It is a time to reflect on the past while stepping forward with hope into the future. In this holy season, we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ—a moment that changed the world forever and offers us new ways of living and loving.

Advent reminds us that even as the world spins madly on, God is making all things new. Pregnant Mary, surrounded by endings both personal and political, declared hope in a God who brings new beginnings. Christ's birth brought transformation to shepherds and Magi alike, even as King Herod sought to bring His story to an end.

In this Advent season, we, too, find ourselves navigating seasons of endings and beginnings—moments of change, challenge, and possibility. When the path ahead feels uncertain, we need reminders to guide us, words to steady us, and truths to anchor us in God's love.

Our new Advent series, "*Words for the Beginning*," by Sanctified art, will invite us to journey through this sacred season with hearts open to the lessons Advent teaches. Each week, we'll explore themes inspired by profound truths and simple reminders:



~ You are a blessing ~ We can't go alone ~ Do the good that is yours to do ~
~ Hope is worth the risk ~ Love knows your name ~ Don't forget to laugh ~
~ The road isn't straight ~

Through scripture, art, poetry, and music, we'll reflect on how these truths shape our faith and empower us to live boldly into the hope and love of Christ. Together, we will embrace the sacredness of this season as if entering a new chapter in our faith journey.

I invite you to join us each Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10am as we light the Advent candles, sing songs of expectation, and hold fast to the reminders that will carry us through. Let this be a season where love becomes our beginning and our strength, no matter what lies ahead.

May your Advent season be filled with hope, courage, and joy as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ!

With blessings and love,

Pastor Faith



St. Paul United Methodist
5410 Corby Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68104

402.556.2433
SaintPaul@StPaulOmaha.org

SaintPaulBenson.org

Staff
Rev. Faith Kubai
Lead Pastor

Rev. Marta Wheeler
Associate Pastor
Spiritual Director & Faith Formation
Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

Aretha Gearhart
Communications and Administrative
Assistant

Noni Cambridge
Bookkeeper

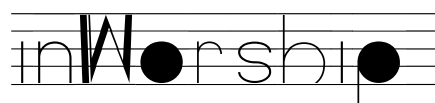
Community Counseling
Tabitha Jameson, MA, LIMHP
402.354.6891 ext. 23

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

Stay Connected
@SaintPaulBenson
f i y t



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.



Rev. Jerry Brabec

"Words from the Beginning" ...the theme that will guide our worship during this Advent 2024. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated **November 30/December 01**, the first weekend of Advent, with guest organist, David Schack at morning worship.

The second weekend of Advent, **December 07/08**, will be graced by music of our faithful Lorraine Hahn at evening worship.

December 14/15, the third Advent weekend, our Joy Bells and The Choir join in the Children's Ministries re-enactment of the Luke passage telling of Christ's birth, as part of 10:00 worship.

Any who find themselves suffering in body, mind or spirit are invited to join as we observe a service of Blue Christmas worship **Wednesday afternoon, December 18** at 3:00 p.m. in the Roth Chapel.

The 4th weekend of Advent will be observed with the traditional setting of Advent Lessons and Carols **December 21/22** in Chapel worship at 5:00 p.m. and the Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. with the Solid Brass and David Schack, organist.

We gather to celebrate **Christmas Eve** with two services of candles, carols, and communion, all in the beauty of the Saint Paul Sanctuary. The 5:00 and 7:30 services will include the singing of Malotte's "The Lord's Prayer" with The Choir leading the later worship. This rich tradition was established as collaboration between the Rev. Dr. Alva Clark and the Honorable Judge Walter Cropper in 1953. It will be the 71st consecutive year the beautiful melody has graced our worship.

As another year ends, we give thanks for the dedication and vibrant leadership offered by the many volunteers who grace the Music Ministry of St. Paul Church. Your perseverance and commitment make worship a true blessing from God!



Special music from the piano studio of Omaha Music Teacher's Association president, Lisa Batten, will fill the Sanctuary on **Saturday, December 14** at 7:00 p.m. One of the prime opportunities in showcasing the Yamaha C6 concert grand is the occasion to hear students representing a wide variety of skill levels. Such will be the opportunity provided by these young players ranging in age from 8 to 18. Each student will be featured in one classical song and one holiday favorite of their choosing. There will be a meet and greet reception following the recital in the Gathering Area.

We are pleased to host a concert of the MasterSingers of Omaha, under the direction of Dr. Lauren Pickle, on **Sunday, December 15** at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This a cappella ensemble has been rehearsing faithfully each Monday evening since September. "Holidays Shaken, Not Stirred" promises a 'swingin' good time' with familiar holiday tunes set in a jazz style. Ten free tickets are available to the Church, but all St. Paul concert goers will be given the "family and friends" discount price of \$10 per ticket. Our collaboration with the MasterSingers continues to prove fruitful, and we look forward to many years of partnership.



PRAYERS for God's People

Honorarium

In Honor of Claudia & Jack Griger: Jerry Brabec.
In Honor of Vicki Peyton & Jim Bruhn: Jerry Brabec.
In Honor of the Music Ministry / Concerts: Jerry Brabec.

Recent Hospitalizations

Shawn Ammon

From the Desk of . . . *Rev. Marta Wheeler*

Dear Saint Paul friends,

Four smart, goofy, fun, curious, enthusiastic and inquisitive boys meet in the 3rd floor classroom on Sunday mornings. We explore what it means to be Christians and wonder who else is there? Mothers of the boys and Mimi Kubai explain God's love even more deeply. Through sharing stories of life, all of us are exploring the world of faith in a safe space. The circular prayer rug is well utilized; it feels good to gather around and voice our prayers for one another, those we are concerned about, and Saint Paul Church. These young people have a strong desire to connect with the church family as a whole. I know you'll do your part in finding a way to show caring.

Like generations before them, the children are really looking forward to the Advent Fair in December! We are also looking for other children connected to Saint Paul through grandparents, etc. to make the traditional story of Christmas come alive by donning costumes on December 15th.

As we enter the Season of Advent, take a deep breath, meditate on, and give thanks for the Holy Birth of the Christ Child that has forever changed our lives!

Thank You to Our Amazing SPOT Team!

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible SPOT Team for their commitment and outstanding service to our church and community. Your dedication to making every event run smoothly, your warm smiles, and your willingness to step up wherever needed do not go unnoticed. You are the glue that holds so much of our ministry together, and we are deeply grateful for the energy and love you pour into everything you do.

On **December 7th**, the SPOT Team will once again be serving the community by assisting at the All-People's Pantry at Hanscom Park UMC. To support this important mission, we kindly ask our members to consider donating food items such as wheat flour (all-purpose, bread, rice, atta, fufu, corn, teff, coconut, cassava, or mecasa flour). If you're unable to bring these specific items, monetary contributions are also welcome, and the group will ensure the necessary items are purchased. Thank you for standing with the SPOT Team as they shine God's light through service!

YEAR-END GIVING

Your year-end gift helps us to close 2024 with our budget and mission share obligations paid in full.

Year-end gifts must be received in the church office by December 31st to be credited on 2024 giving records



ANGEL TREE

The Angel Trees are up in the Sanctuary and Chapel!

Stop by and choose a youth to shop for and help to bless a family this Christmas!

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

All are welcome either in-person at Immanuel Village or join the fun via Zoom.

The God of The Woods

By Liz Moore

SATURDAY
December 14th | 9 AM

NEW ENTRANCE: Assisted
Living Entrance in building
6901 Call Connie for info 402-660-8211.

UMW MEETING

Coffee with a program
fit for the holidays!

Wed. November 6
9:30 AM | Room 111

Quilting Group

Monday mornings
9:15 AM | Room 105

Holy Listening

Elmwood Tower
801 S. 52nd St., Omaha

Friday, Dec. 20 | 2:30 PM



HAT & MITTEN TREE

Hats, gloves and mittens are welcome on the Mitten Trees in the Chapel and Sanctuary.

Your warm gifts will be distributed to students at Fontenelle and Benson West Elementary

SAINT PAUL
Men

SATURDAY
DEC 14 | 9AM | RM.
109

All Men Welcome!

Joy and Celebration

You are a blessing.
If you hear nothing else,
if the wind howls,
if your brain runs amok,
if rebuttals and denials line up like
little toy soldiers,
then hear this—
you are a blessing.

I knew it the first moment I met you /
heard your name / learned there are 7
billion of us
on this planet.
I knew it in my bones,
the way my feet know the way home.
You are a blessing.

For our creating God
breathed life into your being.
And there is simply no way that,
along with that life,
some of God's goodness
didn't slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest.
Tell the toy soldiers to find another
hill,
because this one is reserved for joy
and celebration.
You are a blessing.
Breathe it in.

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified
Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

YOUTH MINISTRY

Ah, the youth—the energetic, sometimes mischievous, and always unpredictable heartbeat of our church. They keep us young at heart and, let's be honest, on our toes! December is shaping up to be a busy month for our amazing youth, and we couldn't be more excited (or slightly nervous about what they might plan next).

We will have our Advent Study in December. Then, on December 8th, they'll be participating at the Advent Fair. On December 15th, the youth will join forces with our littlest members for the Children's Pageant during the 10 AM service. Word on the street is there might be a few unscripted moments, courtesy of our youth, to keep things interesting. Later that day, they'll head to the Durham Museum for some history, laughter, and hopefully no attempts to rename the exhibits.

So here's to our youth—the joy, the chaos, and the future of our church! Join us this December to cheer them on, support their efforts, and maybe even help clean up the glitter. You don't want to miss it!

Tai Chi

JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY
4 PM | ROOM 111

