


**St. Paul**  
**United Methodist Church**  
 OMAHA | BENSON  
 5410 CORBY STREET  
 OMAHA, NE 68104

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**JANUARY COMMUNAL OFFERING**

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY  
SUNDAY

**TOGETHER**  
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE



Your contributions support the creation of a beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community development initiatives, and efforts to assist at-risk teens.


 St. Paul  
 United Methodist Church  
 OMAHA | BENSON

**NEW YEAR'S  
EVE**

*Prayer & Worship Service*

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31  
11 PM | ROTH CHAPEL**


 St. Paul  
 United Methodist Church  
 OMAHA | BENSON

# Inspiration

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST

JANUARY 2025

## Pastoral Perspective

Dear Beloved Church Family,

As we step into the new year, we continue the celebration of Advent—a season of hope, expectation, and God’s light breaking into our world. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for the gift of your presence, your prayers, and your financial support. Not forgetting the numerous instances of volunteering each day. Thank you! Your faithfulness continues to make a difference in our St. Paul Church community. Together, we are living God’s vision for us, nurturing a space of love, worship, and service to God, others, and our church family.

The first Sunday of January marks the celebration of Epiphany, a time when we reflect on the revelation of Christ to the world. Our scripture readings, Matthew 2:1-12 and Isaiah 43:16-21, remind us that the journey of faith is not always a straight road. The wise men who followed the star to find Jesus encountered challenges, detours, and moments of uncertainty—but they persevered, and their persistence brought them to the light of Christ. Just as God made “a way in the wilderness” for Israel (Isaiah 43:19), we are reminded that even in seasons of uncertainty, God is guiding us forward with grace and purpose.

This year, our 2025 theme will be “You Are Part of a Bigger Story.” In the weeks to come, we will dive into the book of Nehemiah, a powerful story that calls us to rebuild, restore, and reimagine our place in God’s work. Just as Nehemiah inspired the people of Israel to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, we are called to come together as a community—strengthening our faith, supporting one another, and creating a church that reflects God’s transformative love.



## VISIONS for With Pastors Faith & Marta

Saint Paul Christmas Blessings slide into 2025! Rev. Faith and I will be hosting a Vision Board Party in the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm! Invite friends and family as we lay out our visions for 2025.

We will have a devotion, opening our minds to consider both big and small dreams and desires. How do you want to feel and grow in faith this coming year?



You may bring pictures, magazine clippings, and quotes to apply to the board and we will supply the rest! Snacks will be provided to stimulate the creative processes!

Our prayers for you and yours continue and a blessing that laughter and God’s love fill your heart and flow out to others!

~Pastor Marta

**Happy 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

*Prayer Shawl  
Ministries*

Stay Connected



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



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### 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  
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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.

*Stay Connected*  
@SaintPaulBenson  




RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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.

## Worship

### Rev. Jerry Brabec

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.

The House Band closes out the 2024 year, leading worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, **December 29**. 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.

Our first worship experiences of 2025 will be to celebrate a Wesleyan watch and Epiphany on Saturday, **January 04** at 5:00 p.m. in the Roth Chapel and Sunday, January 05 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated, and we will repeat the vows of the Wesleyan covenant, a New Year tradition at St. Paul Church. David Schack, organ and the Solid Brass Quartet as well as The Choir and Joy Bells will bring special music "fit for a king" to morning worship.

Our house band under the leadership of John Hough will offer musical leadership on **January 19** at 10:00 a.m. Both in-person services are graced by the Joy Bells offering their ministry through music on the weekend of January 25/26. Be present for worship...see you in church!



## ALL CHURCH ICE SKATING & SLEDDING PARTY



**SUNDAY FEB. 2 | 2-5PM**

**\$5 PER PERSON FOR ICE SKATING  
\*PARK ENTRY FEE APPLIES**

**MAHONEY STATE PARK  
28500 W. PARK HIGHWAY,  
ASHLAND, NE 68003**

## SAVE THE DATE

**Women's Spiritual Retreat**  
*"Praying With the Whole Self"*  
**MARCH 2-3, 2025**

**RSVP BY FEBRUARY 2!**

*\$140 includes food and lodging*

**The building will be closed Wed.  
JAN 01 in observance of the  
holiday.**



## PRAYERS for God's People

### Christian Sympathy

To the family and friends of Gail Cody.

### Memorial Gifts

For Gail Cody: Hank & Susie Robinson, Mary Stolzer.  
For Larry Engelhardt: Doris Engelhardt.  
For Collin Kroll: Doris Engelhardt

### Honorarium

In Honor of the Music Ministry:  
Mastersingers, Jerry Brabec.

### Recent Hospitalizations

Dee Maycock

### Births

Sutton Suzanne Ball,  
granddaughter of Aretha Gearhart



**SAINT PAUL  
Men**  
SATURDAY  
JAN 11 | 9AM | RM. 109  
*All Men Welcome!*



*All Women Welcome!*  
**SATURDAY,  
JANUARY 4**  
9:30 AM ROOM 111  
**PROGRAM & COFFEE**

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> | 9 AM**  
NEW ENTRANCE: Assisted  
Living Entrance in building 6901.

**A big THANK YOU to these ladies - Deb Kelley, Deb Stecker, Kathy Kelley, Dee Davis and Connie Crawford - who continue to make the Advent Fair more amazing year after year!**



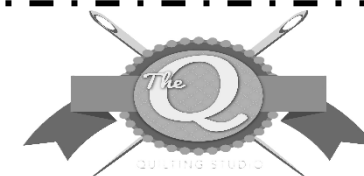
## Pastoral Perspective ...Continued

As we begin this new year, may you find renewed strength, purpose, and joy in knowing that you are part of God's unfolding story. The road may not always be straight, but we trust the One who walks with us every step of the way. My prayer for you is that 2025 will be a year of hope, healing, and new beginnings.

May God's blessings surround you and your loved ones in abundance.

With love and gratitude,

*-Pastor Faith Kubai*



## Quilting Group

Monday mornings  
9:15 AM | Room 105

## Church Conference

You are warmly invited to our Church Conference on **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the worship service. The **Strategic Planning Team** will share our vision and goals for the coming year under our guiding theme: *"You Are Part of a Bigger Story."* This is a wonderful opportunity to hear how God is calling us to grow together as a community, deepen our impact, and embrace our place in His unfolding story.

A **light lunch will be served**, and we look forward to your presence as we cast a collective vision for 2025. Together, let us commit to the journey ahead, supporting one another and building on the foundation God has set for us. Come, be inspired, and discover how **you** are an integral part of what God is doing at St. Paul Church.

## CELL GROUPS

We are excited to launch Cell Groups this February, and we encourage you to sign up and be part of this life-giving experience! There is a place for you **ALL**. Cell groups are where faith deepens, friendships grow, and we support one another in love and accountability as St. Paul family and beyond.

As it says in Hebrews 10:24-25, *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another."* Let us come together and encourage one another as a church family.

You can find the sign-up forms at the **Gathering Area** in our Sanctuary or on our website. Don't miss out—join a group and experience the power of community!