

We are God's people working together to accomplish something bigger than ourselves, effecting change in our community, in our nation, and around the world – all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Monthly News of Saint Paul United Methodist Church

February, 2016



In February, let's celebrate the love! Even though our celebration of Saint Valentine's Day shows little connection to the Christian faith, its roots are! The story is that a priest named Valentine stood up against the Roman ruler when the ruler declared that the men in his army were not to marry! The priest, believing in the institution of marriage secretly married some of the soldiers to their sweethearts. In the year 269 A.D. the priest was brutally executed. The Catholic Church later established a day to remember Valentine. Today we give cards, candy and gifts with little thought about why we remember Saint Valentine.

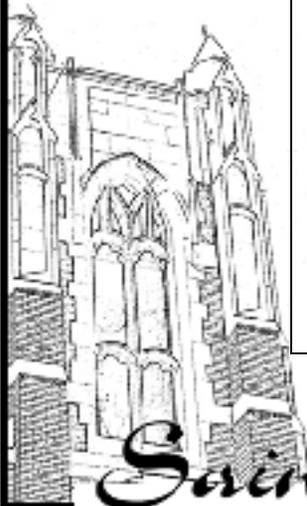
The word LOVE is one we used quite often in our "Christian" dialogue. We talk about the love of God, the love Jesus showed to others, etc. But the word LOVE is not a simple little word meaning the affections we feel. During February Rev. Marta Wheeler and I will be delivering a series of sermons on "showing the love." And we will see how this little word, love, actually has a large range of meanings! So, we will look at the words used in the Bible to explain what love is --- phileo, eros, storge and agape. Come to worship in February and we will have "a lovely time!!" (There goes my humor again!)

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Keith W. Johnson, Leader Pastor

The graphic features the word "Lenten" in a large, purple, cursive font. Below it, the word "Worship" is written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word "Schedule" is written in a white, sans-serif font on a red rectangular background.

Lenten
Worship
Schedule

Ash Wednesday	February 10, 7:00 p.m.
M&M Worship	February 17, 7:00 p.m.
One Great Hour of Sharing	March 6, 10:00 a.m.
M&M Worship	March 16, 7:00 p.m.
Palm Sunday	March 20, 8:15, 9:35, 11:05 a.m.
Maundy Thursday	March 24, 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday	March 25, 7:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday	March 26, 5:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday	March 27, 6:30, 8:15, 9:35, 11:05 a.m.



Saint Paul in Spiration

Saint Paul Church

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Omaha, NE 68104
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FAX 402-556-2372

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www.stpaulomaha.org

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Rev. Jerry Brabec
Minister of Worship

Kathy Rice
Director of Stephen Ministry

Rev. Marta Wheeler
Youth Pastor

Stephanie Rosenberger
Director of Children's Ministries

Sue Bobek,
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Connie Almgren
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The Inspiration is published monthly. Information is due to the editor by the 19th of the month to be included in the next issue.

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Following is the 2016 Budget that was approved at the Church Conference on October 25. Also shown is the 2015 Budget.

Budget

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
1. Staff Support	\$383,452.00	\$410,513.00
Clergy		
Program Staff		
Office Staff		
Maintenance Staff		
2. Building	\$122,000.00	\$122,000.00
Upkeep		
Insurance		
Cleaning Supplies		
Yard Maintenance		
Snow Removal		
Utilities		
Van		
House/Corby Street		
3. Administrative	\$ 48,400.00	\$ 42,400.00
Office Supplies		
Contracts		
Postage		
Telephone & Internet		
Computer		
Bank Fees		
Other		
4. Program	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Worship & Music (all services)		
Sunday School		
Children's Ministry		
Youth Ministry		
Adult Sunday School		
Stephen Ministry		
Health Ministry Team		
Adult Ministry Team		
Archives Team		
Mercy & Justice Team		
Communications Team		
Congregational Care Team		
Hostess Fund		
5. Mission Support		
beyond the local church	\$ 55,337.00	\$ 70,629.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 15,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 6,487.00</u>
TOTAL for this Budget	\$652,189.00	\$682,029.00
	\$29,840.00 less than 2015	

For the Love of...A Sermon Series

The Greek language distinguishes at least four different ways as to how the word love is used. Each weekend in February one of the four will serve as a focus for a sermon series on "For the Love of..." Services on February **06/07** will hub on *phileo* or the love between friends; February **13/14** will spotlight *eros* or romantic love; February **20/21** will center on *storge*, the love of family; and February **27/28** will conclude the series with the love of God, *agape*. All worship services will hear the same scripture on which Dr. Johnson or Rev. Wheeler will base their message.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, a day of atonement (at-one-ment) for Christians and the first of forty days of spiritual fasting we call Lent. Our service marked by the imposition or receiving of ashes, will be held on **February 10** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This worship will include a time of silent reflection, heartfelt confession and joyful reconciliation. The combined vocal choirs and Joy Bells will be joined by the Solid Brass Quartet and David Schack, organist. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will also be celebrated.

M & M Continues

Our monthly M & M service to be held Wednesday, **February 17** at 7:00 p.m. continues to feature laity reminding us of "how St. Paul has helped me on my spiritual journey." This month we will hear from Folk Gospel Choir member, Linda Mead. Linda, an educator at Creighton Prep until her retirement, has been a member of St. Paul Church since 1991. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as part of our time together in the Roth Chapel.

Single Service Celebrations for 2016

We are excited to announce the single Sunday services, a chance for the entire St. Paul faith community to worship at 10:00, during the remainder of 2016:

March 06 ~ One Great Hour of Sharing;

May 29 ~ Memorial Day;

July 03 ~ Independence Day;

September 04 ~ Labor Day;

November 06 ~ All Saints Day; and

Christmas Day, **December 25**.

As usual, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at all services that coincide with the first Sunday of the month. As well, our Saturday evening service held in Roth Chapel at 5:00 will be offered every week regardless of the Sunday morning schedule. Together, we are the body of Christ!

Liturgist Training



Monday, February 22

Sanctuary @ 7:00 p.m.

For any who would like to read the scripture as part of worship.

February Special Offering—Guatemala Stove Project

The Problem

Mayan people are very poor and live in basic bamboo or cement block huts. They prefer to cook in a separate hut but sometimes cook in the same small room where they sleep.

Families in Guatemala cook their meals over a wood fire. These wood fires are on the ground or floor of a hut with no ventilation. Women's long skirts catch fire and children fall into the fires. The #1 killer of women in Guatemala is lung and eye diseases from the smoke in their kitchens due to cooking on wood fires with no windows and no ventilation. In addition, a lot of wood is burned, deforesting the countryside.

The Solution

Work teams travel to Guatemala and train local men to build the stoves. Cost per stove is \$120. The Guatemalan family pays \$20. We work to raise \$93.50 for supplies and \$6.50 for the Guatemalan stove builder. A total of \$100 per stove is provided by generous US citizens.

Work teams continue to travel to Guatemala to help build stoves but the need for stoves is huge.

Why Is This Project So Special?

- One strength of this project is that we train local people to build stoves. When the work team leaves, the stove builders continue to build stoves. We are helping people help themselves.
- All material used in building the stoves is purchased locally, so we are helping the local economy.
- The stove is virtually indestructible! It is made of cement blocks, bricks, and a 6-inch diameter cement stove pipe. The stove is off the ground, so children don't fall into the fire. Women can cook in a smoke-free room.
- The placha is custom made of steel. It fits snugly on the stove so that the smoke is forced into the stove pipe. The stove uses less wood than an open fire.
- Each family contributes \$20 toward the cost of the stove, they move building materials from the drop-off point to their home, and families help the stove builder on building day.
- The Stove Builders of Guatemala has a relationship with the National Methodist Church of Guatemala.



If you can donate money to buy a stove (\$100), or buy part of a stove, that would be very much appreciated by a Guatemalan family. Make your donation to Saint Paul UMC and designate it for the Guatemala Stove Project.

Thank You Note for Previous Stove Project Donations

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Thank you for your gift for the stove building project. Life is never the same for a family who receives a stove. And life is changed and enhanced for our Guatemalan stove builders who have built over 550 stoves. You are now part of a God-led mission and ministry.

God's peace be with you.

Karen Fiesir for Stove Builders of Guatemala.



**January
Special Offering
Human Relations
Day
\$336.00**

**The container for food pantry
donations is by the front door
to the courtyard.**

Donations of food and other items are taken to the food pantry regularly. Think of them next time you shop for groceries, and pick up a extra item or two.

Help is Needed to Serve Dinner

Thank you to all the Saint Paul UMC members and friends who have helped serve dinner at Siena/Francis House the first Tuesday of each month.

There is no team scheduled to serve in February, so we are looking for volunteers. Can you serve dinner to homeless men, women and children on Tuesday, February 3, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.? Call the church office, 402-556-2433, to sign up. If you would like to carpool to Siena/Francis House, please meet others in Saint Paul UMC's north parking lot at 4:15 p.m.



Youth News, February 2016

In order to have family time over the holidays, St. Paul Youth had a few weeks off before heading to the Winter Jam concert at Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs and then to The One Event In Grand Island. We heard the Gospel message in new (and loud) ways and were incredible experiences!

Chili, cornbread, and bars will be served on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday by the youth, along with the Mercy & Justice Team. Please see the Chili Feed article in this newsletter. If you're unable to stay for lunch we will also accept your offerings of money or cans of soup.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day as Generosity Day. The focus will be on generously loving our God and neighbor. We will meet from 4:30 to 6:00 to create Valentine cards and then distribute them to neighbors nearby.

During the Season of Lent we will learn about spiritual practices that help us focus inward so that we will better hear the voice of God encouraging us to love and serve others.

I hope to return from a Youth Conference in Dallas, TX with lots of new ideas in being in ministry with the youth!

Thank you for all of your support and prayers for the youth of St. Paul UMC!

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Help Wanted at the TipTop Shop

Help wanted to work in the TipTop Thrift Shop, 5910 Maple St. This thrift shop benefits the Youth Emergency Services. St. Paul United Methodist Women help to provide volunteer staff for the thrift shop the fourth and fifth Wednesday each month. Youth Emergency Services is an organization whose mission is to end youth homelessness in Omaha. The funds earned at the Tip Top go to Youth Emergency Services. If you are able to volunteer a few hours each month to this very worthwhile project, please contact Joan Hindman at 402-397-5394, or at joanseven@cox.net



During the Summer of 2014 the number of churches which have Stephen Caregiver Ministry went over 12,000. We are one of those member churches. Two of our Stephen Caregivers are meeting with two persons in need of support. IF you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, please check the pew cards, talk to Kathy Rice, or talk to Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson. Confidentiality is absolutely maintained.

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

February 2016

Love and sacrifice cannot be separated. All love, whether it is that of warm friendship, respectful love for parents, the consuming love of husband and wife, or the devout, reciprocal, complete love between God and men ... all love pre-supposes sacrifice. In all cases, love is proven and deepened by positive acts of sacrifice.

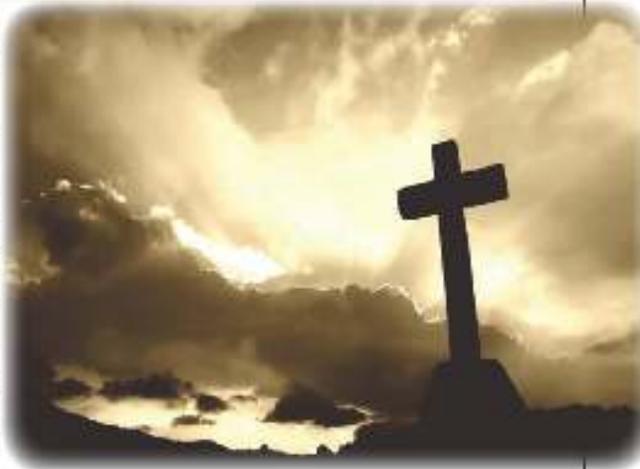
The essence of love, is the giving of oneself, or a representation of self, to another and for another's service.

No one could give himself more completely than does God. God's love for people is so great that he gives us all. He gives us human life and a world with all that is in it. And yet this counts for nothing because there is so much more: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son; and the Son so loved us that he gave his life for our salvation."

Could God do more to prove his love? God gives all of creation for the service of humankind; he gave himself at Bethlehem and on the cross to serve our happiness and salvation; he constantly gives himself, his love, his power, his strength and his virtues. Would that people could give themselves completely to God! To give all back to God would mean absorption in love.

God wants our hearts, our minds, our souls and a material gift that is acceptable, a gesture, a representation of humankind's love for the beloved.

This means sacrifice. Sacrifice that would suit the dignity of the Beloved, as well as the representative of the lov-



er. If people seek to sacrifice their most precious gifts ... their mind, will, and soul ... then the symbol of that giving must be precious.

The first fruits of what he has given us is indeed representative. Generously setting aside a definite portion of all God has given us is a way to eliminate material things from humankind's love; it is wealth that is often most precious to people and can be sanctified in this way. Those who have let their love influence their spirit of sacrifice, and vice-versa, have happily learned the meaning of the words from the marriage ceremony: "Sacrifice is unusually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy and perfect love can make it a joy." ☩

We all have some talent to give. Our own growth and the growth of our church depend on the willingness of us all to invest that talent for others. As a member of your church, you are called to share in all aspects of its life.

Membership is responsibility - the response to the call to ministry, and service. To be a church member is to answer that call with time and talent.



A Christian steward works as an instrument of God. In all aspects of daily life, he or she cheerfully performs the work God has planned for his people. Being a Christian is accepting the role of steward. There is no need to dwell on our responsibility, for it is clearly presented to us in Sacred Scripture - the command to take care of creation and the command to love one another. It is time to start living as a Christian steward, giving our time and our talents for God's work on earth.



A pastor was once asked to define "faithful giving." His eye-opening reply was simple: "All I ask is that you apply the same standards to your church giving that you would to other areas important to your life!" Now, if you don't think that is too much to ask, please consider the following:

- *If your car starts one out of three or four times, do you consider it faithful?*
- *If the paper boy skips your Monday and Thursday editions, would you miss them?*
- *If you fail to come to work two or three times a month, would your boss call you faithful? If your refrigerator quits for a day now and then, do you excuse it and say, "Oh, well, it works fine most of the time?"*
- *If you miss a couple of mortgage or car payments during the year, would your bank say, "Oh, well, 10 out of 12 isn't that bad?"*
- *Or, finally, if you count on someone to meet you at a certain place or certain time each week, and he consistently stands you up, do you consider this person faithful in his promise to you?*

If you contribute financially only now and then, are you faithful? Why not try to apply the same standards to your giving to your church as you do in other areas of your total life? ☩

If we ask what stewardship of time means in a purely practical way, there is much to be said. The Scriptures abound in illustrations about people who, when God called, placed their time at his disposal, and the point is that the Bible should be read in such a way that we find ourselves at home in this kind of life.

This demands, above all, a strict discipline in the use of time. This is required already in the Third Commandment. The day of rest is given, that is, as protection against the danger that we might otherwise be swept away in the general confusion of life. With the new content given to this in the New Testament, we find the basis for all stewardship of time.

From a proper use of the Sabbath is derived, subsequently, a right attitude toward time in the other days of the week. For the Third Commandment does not deal only with rest ... it also deals with work (Exodus 20:8-11). On the practical level of life, people must be so trained in the discipline of time that they will become good stewards as a result. This concerns the use of time for worship, family life, and work. "In the fullness of time" God gave his "unspeakably rich gift" (Galatians 4:4, 2 Corinthians 9:15). So also are we obligated to give our gifts "in the fullness of time." ☩



The Unheard Cheer

Give me a T!
Give me an E!
Give me an A!
Give me an M!
Give me a T-E-A-M! Yay, team!

If you've ever been to a high school football game, you've probably heard a cheer like that. Well, you probably didn't just hear it. That kind of cheer demands that you participate. Admit it - you were shouting as loudly as everybody else, weren't you?

But what about this one?:

Give us your T!
Give us your E!
Give us your M!
Give us your E!
Give us your T-I-M-E! Volunteer!

That is probably a new one. Not that there aren't many organizations that need exactly that. If you heard that cheer, would you give your time? Or, are you already volunteering?

As Christians, we're called to give time to others as a part of our stewardship. If we do, we may one day hear this: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." ☩



The Good Steward

When our choir director passed away, our church choir dwindled miserably but then Jane Foley, a high school music teacher, was brought to our door. When Jane learned of our plight, she eagerly accepted the position of choir director. She wrote up an invitation inviting parishioners to try out for the choir and posted it in the monthly church newsletter.

Jane's invitation read: *Come have your voice tested. New choir members are needed to sing praises to God on Sunday mornings. No experience necessary. Must be willing to exalt his name and enter into a servitude of voice.*



Her invitation brought forth young and old to try out for the choir.

"Most parishioners don't feel their voices are good enough to sing in a choir," Jane said. "But I tell everyone that practice makes perfect and if you're willing to exalt God's praises, he'll recognize your stewardship and help you be a better singer for your efforts." ☩



Taking a seat opposite the treasury, Jesus observed the crowd putting money into the collection box. Many of the wealthy put in sizable amounts; but one poor widow came and put in two small copper coins worth about a cent. He called his disciples over and told them: "I want you to observe that this poor widow contributed more than all the others who donated to the treasury. They gave from their surplus wealth, but she gave from her want, all that she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44

gen·er·ous

adj 1: free in giving or sharing 2: noble *syn* open-handed

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!





Chili Feed

St. Paul Youth, along with the Mercy & Justice Team, will sponsor a chili feed on Sunday Feb. 7th from 12:15 -1:15pm. That'll warm us up in body and spirit for the Super Bowl game later that day!

Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy around the nation's largest sporting event to inspire youth to fight hunger and poverty. 100% of the offerings given will be donated to Y.E.S. You will be given the opportunity to provide funds and/or cans of soup for Youth Emergency Services.

Y.E.S. pulls homeless young people off the streets and provides housing, food, and acceptance for them.

Please plan to attend and support us as we strive to make a difference for the homeless youth of Omaha.

Family Fun Day

February 28

1-4:00 p.m.

at SkateDaze

132 & B Streets



\$14 Price Includes:

- Roller skating & skate rental
- Bumper cars or roller coaster
- Playdazium
- Pizza

Sponsored by the Children's Ministry Team

Church Member Directory Update

We hope the Saint Paul church member directory is up to date, with accurate addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Our directory is maintained online and can be continually updated. However, sometimes we don't have the most current information.

Please help us keep our directory current. Let us know when you move, change phone numbers, get rid of that landline, or change email addresses.

If you don't know what information we have about you in the directory, we will have printed copies of the directory available for you to check on the weekends of February 6/7 and February 13/14. Copies will be at the back of the chapel for the Saturday night service, at the back of Fellowship Hall for the Fusion service, and in the Gathering Area for the 8:15 and 11:05 services.

If you would prefer, you can check your information online. The directory is on the Saint Paul website (www.stpaulomaha.org). Click on the Church Member Directory box on the home page. You will need the password to access it, and you can get the password by calling the church office.

Perhaps your picture doesn't appear in the directory, or your family's picture was taken before that new baby was born. Or maybe you just don't like your picture. Stop by the church office anytime, and we can get a new picture to be inserted into the directory.

Smart phone users can get our church member directory on their phone, and it will be updated every time we make a change. Stop by the office and pick up instructions for getting the app, or give the church office a call.

Printed copies of the directory can be ordered at any time, and you will get the most up-to-date information available. If you just want the name and address pages, there is no charge. If you would like the picture pages included, there is a small charge to cover the color printing.

UMW NEWS

Featuring the activities of the United Methodist Women of St. Paul UMC. Feb. 2016

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:
Kathy Rice
Vice President
Linda Mead
Secretary
Jackie Pospisil
Ass't. Secretary
Jan Walker
Treasurer
Pat Leslie
Advisor
Judy Stransky

Remember...

Serving in
February
Ruth Circle

March
Esther Circle

February brings us another interesting program.

Mr. Matt Holland will speak about his father's work in opening opportunities for persons of color , including within the school system.

Please join us for coffee at 9:30 am followed by our program and business meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Mark your calendars

February 13
Legislative Days in Lincoln

February 20
Mission Study
Papillion St. Paul's

March 19
Spring Retreat
First Church Omaha

FIRST MINI-MART OF 2016

FEBRUARY 6th and 7th

Reminding all members...we need your baked goods and Valentine's crafts on Saturday if possible..

Recent Hospitalizations

Dean Lubberstedt, Norma Parker, Howard Corbaley

Christian Sympathy

To Muntunutwe Beatrice, in the death of her mother, Ndayizera Editha.

To Lane & David Sidebottom & family in the death of Lane's mother.

To Helen Fosler & family in the death of her husband, Merle.

To Grace Beck & Peggy Sterling in the death of their sister, Mary.

To Tom Zwink in the death of his wife, Fern.

Congratulations

To B.J. Davis & Kelsey Sis on their January 2nd marriage.

To Nick & Ashley Noerrlinger in the birth of their daughter, Adelyn Grace. Adelyn's grandparents are Gary & Carla Noerrlinger. Her great grandparents are Chet & Betty Noerrlinger & Darlene Spencer Nash.

Choir Exchange with Temple Israel

On January 24, Saint Paul UMC welcomed Cantor Wendy Shermet and the Temple Israel singers, who joined our choir for some special music at the 11:05 worship service. The two choirs, along with Temple Israel accompanist, Julie Sandene, were featured in a variety of settings of Psalm 150.

Our choir also joined the Temple Israel choir for Shabbat service on Friday, January 22.



The Dinner Group will meet on Saturday, February 27, at Parker's Smokehouse. Meet outside the chapel after the 5:00 p.m. worship service, or meet the group at Parker's Smokehouse, 7524 Pacific Street, at approximately 6:30 p.m. All adults are welcome.



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Memorials

For Betty White—David White

For Harry & Irma Henderson—Ronald & Muriel Cisar

For Cheryl Hurley—Jerry Brabec

For Shea Klein—Jerry Brabec

For Edna Hounshell—Jerry Brabec

For Jean O'Day—Jerry Brabec

For Lou Anna & Hank Mion—Martha Shields

For Robert P. & Doris P. Mascher—Robert & Connie Acker

For Micki & Scott Leslie—Jerry & Patricia Leslie

Wondering what's going on at Saint Paul UMC this week?

Can't remember when a meeting is? Check the calendar on the Saint Paul website. Just Control + click on [calendar](#) or go to the Saint Paul website (www.stpaulomaha.org) and click on the Calendar tab.

Book Club

"Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee is the book the Book Club will be discussing at their February meeting. The Book Club meets at Immanuel Village on Saturday, February 13, at 8:30 a.m. For directions, call Dee Maycock at 402-571-5599.



Saint Paul

United Methodist Church

5410 Corby Street, Omaha, NE 68104

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



in *W*orship

Saturday Evening

5:00 p.m. Roth Chapel

Sunday Morning

8:15 and 11:05 a.m. Sanctuary

9:35 a.m. FUSION Fellowship Hall

12:30 p.m. African National Service



Inclement
Weather
Policy



Monday through Friday—If the Omaha Public Schools are closed because of inclement weather, the church office, preschool, and child care are all closed, and all meetings and other activities are canceled.

Saturday and Sunday Worship Service cancellation announcements:

1. Call the church office (402-556-2433)
2. Check the website (www.stpaulomaha.org)
3. Check the KETV, Channel 7 cancellation board.

in *O*ffice

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

*Saint Paul in S*piration