



St. Stephen the Martyr
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Encounter, Know, Proclaim

August 31, 2025

Pray & Worship

Mass Schedule

Daily: Monday-Friday at 6:30 AM & 8:15 AM*;
Saturday at 8:15 AM*

Weekend: Saturday at 5:00 PM; Sunday at 7:30 AM,
9:00 AM, 10:30 AM* & 6:00 PM

*These Masses are live-streamed on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StStephensCatholicChurchOmaha>) and our website.

Private Prayer

Daily Mass Chapel and Worship Space are open 6 AM-9 PM Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM-7:30 PM Saturday & 6:30 AM-7:30 PM Sunday. Church doors are locked during school Mass from 8:20-9:05 AM on Tues/Wed/Fri. The Adoration Chapel is available 24/7 via door access code: 9675*

Exposed Adoration

Mondays from 7 to 8 PM and on first Friday of the Month from 9 AM to 2:30 PM in the Worship Space

Contact Us

Parish Office:

Phone: (402) 896-9675
Emergency: (402) 896-9675 ext 2
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, M-F

Pastor: Fr. David Belt

Associate Pastor: Fr. Matthew Pohlman

Staff Contact Info: stephen.org/staff

Bulletin Deadline: Monday, 5 PM

Submit requests to Rachel at r.cooley@stephen.org.



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” - Lk 14:13-14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 C.C.D. ©LPI

Pastor’s Message — From Father Dave

“When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”



In our Gospel reading for this weekend’s liturgy, we hear Jesus continue to teach as he makes his way to Jerusalem, where he will die on the cross. He was invited to a meal at an important person’s home, and he noticed that there were some people who were pushing their way to be seated at places of honor around the banquet table. Jesus tells them that they should take the lowest place at the table, so that the host will see the person’s humility and invite them to a higher position. Jesus goes on to teach that when a person hosts a lunch or dinner, they shouldn’t invite friends or relatives or those who have the means to return the favor. Instead, they should invite “the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.” Even though these people cannot repay the host, he will be repaid at the resurrection of the dead.

Jesus is teaching us today that the virtues of humility and generosity go hand in hand. It challenges each of us who have been blessed with so much to consider how well we reach out to those who are struggling with life. Generosity and gift-giving take on new significance if we share who we are and what we have with people who do not have the means to return our gifts and favors. Only by acting with a spirit of humility and generosity can we hope to be given a place of honor at the heavenly banquet.

We must remember that there is more to life than the days we spend on earth. We have eternity waiting ahead of us, and it is up to us whether or not we will spend eternity around the banquet table of heaven. It is only in our desire to love God and generously serve his people—especially the poor—that we will know the fullness of life and joy in the kingdom to come.

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”
-C. S. Lewis

*In Christ,
Father Dave*



Happy Labor Day

- ⇒ Join us for 8:15 AM Mass on Monday, September 1st.
- ⇒ There will be no 6:30 AM Mass.
- ⇒ Parish Offices will be closed.

“Work is dignified and an intrinsic good, and workers must always be respected and valued.”
~ St. John Paul the Great
from his Encyclical ‘On Human Work’

St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us!



Congratulations, Newly Married!

Madison Krull & Isaac Heimes

Our faith community wishes you many blessings!

16701 “S” Street, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675 | stephen.org

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 PM & Saturday: 3:30-4:45 PM

Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays. Parents are required to attend a preparation class. Contact the parish office for information or visit: stephen.org/sacraments.

Matrimony

Preparation for Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the desired wedding date. Contact parish office for more information.

Anointing of the Sick & Homebound Eucharist

Contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Becoming Catholic! Order of Christian Initiation

Contact Adam Ybarra, Director of Mission, at (402) 861-4507 or a.ybarra@stephen.org.

Financial Stewardship

Offertory & Online Giving 8/19 - 8/25/2025:

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Actual: | \$49,914 |
| Budget: | \$51,780 |

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| FYTD Actual: | \$351,653 |
| FYTD Budget: | \$414,240 |

St. Stephen the Martyr operates on a Fiscal Year from July 1—June 30

Thank you for your generous giving!

Your financial support is vital to the well-being of our church and school. To make a gift simply scan the QR code or go to stephen.org/give. Offertory envelopes may also be mailed to our office: 16701 S Street, Omaha, NE 68135.



School News

United in Christ to ignite the joy of faith, community, and learning.

- ⇒ **School Masses:** School Masses have resumed at 8:15 AM in the Worship Space on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Please note that because the Worship Space becomes an extension of our school at this time, the Worship Space will be locked. Thank you for understanding.
- ⇒ **Curriculum Night:** School families may join us Tuesday, Sept. 4th for our annual Curriculum Night. Plan to attend one of the many presentations available throughout the evening. Visit school.stephen.org for all the details!
- ⇒ **We still have room for your student!** We still have space in most classes for the 25-26 school year, including our PreK and Kindergarten classes! Request a tour or apply at school.stephen.org/admissions.

Religious Education

- ⇒ **No Religious Education Classes September 2nd & 3rd:** Classes will resume the following week on September 9th & 10th.
- ⇒ **New to the parish and have children in the public school system?** We would love to share our Catholic faith and traditions with them. Visit our Religious Education registration page at stephen.org/re-registration/. We offer traditional Catechist-led classes and a Parent-led home-based program.
- ⇒ **Do You Have One Hour A Week Free?** Assistant to the Catechist is a volunteer role which requires no outside preparation but is vital to providing a positive and constructive environment in our classrooms. We still have many classes who would benefit with a second person in the room. Please contact our office if you are interested at (402) 896-5683.

Youth Ministry

- ⇒ **Witness Wednesdays: Youth Night for High Schoolers:** Join us Wednesday, September 3rd for Scripture Study Night at St. Wenceslaus. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us every Wednesday! Snacks and drinks are provided. Learn more at stephen.org/witness-Wednesdays.

- ⇒ **Catching Fire for Middle School Seeking Volunteers:** Our Parish Middle School Ministry, CATCHING FIRE, will launch a youth group program in early 2026 and is looking for volunteers to join the core leadership team! If you are feeling the call to action with our Middle Schoolers, let's talk!



No matter what your level of interest is, no matter what your skill set, no matter what your availability might be --- let's talk! Please contact Mike Kennedy, Coordinator of Middle School Ministry at m.kennedy@stephen.org or (402) 861-4509.

- ⇒ **NEW! Young Women's Group for High Schoolers:** "Sisters in Christ" will meet Monday evenings at 8 PM in the Parish Center. Want to learn more? Refer to the graphic on the left for details and registration.
- ⇒ **NEW! Ascension Theology of the Body Discussion Group for High School Students:**

ASCENSION
The Faith Formation Leader

YOU.

LIFE, LOVE, AND THE THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Join us for High School Youth Group
10 Sessions
St. Wenceslaus School Community Room
Thursdays Sept 11th - Nov 13th
7:30-9:30 PM
Scan the QR to RSVP Before September 1st

ST. STEPHEN'S & WENCESLAUS'S YOUTH MINISTRY (SSWYM)
PRESENTS...

*Sisters
in
Christ*

OPEN TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

Join us for our fall session!

MONDAY EVENINGS
SEPTEMBER 15TH - NOVEMBER 17TH
8:00PM-9:30PM
ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH CENTER

REGISTER:
<https://forms.gle/bf5Jeio2LYYoF7xaA>

QUESTIONS?
Contact Julie Shaner at
jhannibalshaner@gmail.com



COME AND SEE NIGHT THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 6-8 PM | PARISH CENTER

Join us for an **open house**-style volunteer social—just pop in when you can! Meet other volunteers, learn about roles big and small, enjoy heavy apps and drinks, and get the inside scoop on event details. Most of all, come help us celebrate another year of this amazing event—**no pressure, just fun!**

LET'S RAISE A GLASS AND GET EXCITED FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT!

RSVP APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED:

Contact Catiana Urrutia | c.urrutia@stephen.org

CHECK OUT OUR LIST OF

Book & Bible Studies

Our parish has many small groups who study and grow in their faith together. Please feel welcome at our book & bible studies. Check out a full list of options on our website.

STEPHEN.ORG/BIBLE-AND-BOOK-STUDIES



FAMILY PRAYER & PIZZA

Sunday, Sept. 28th
4 PM | Worship Space

Family night made easy! Join us for a Family Rosary in the Worship Space followed by pizza in the Dining Room. Faith, food & fellowship for the whole family!

*Don't know the rosary? No problem! We'll have booklets.
Need to feed your kids Sunday night? We'll have pizza! This is a great opportunity to pray as a family and enjoy your parish community.*

We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Patrick at patrickj.cooley@gmail.com.



COAT DRIVE

thank you for helping
to keep
others warm

August 30th - September 28th
Collecting cash/checks or gently worn coats of any size. NEW scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens are needed too!

Look for containers for monetary donations and boxes in the Gathering Space and Parish Center.

Food Pantry Curbside Drop-off

Saturday, September 6th | 10 AM - noon

Knights of Columbus will collect
donations in front of the Parish Center



Needed hygiene items:
Women's deodorant,
toothpaste, adult toothbrushes

Needed Food Items:
Spaghetti sauce, canned fruit,
green beans

**Any donation you can provide will be appreciated and used.
The items listed above are particular needs at this time.**

Thank you for continuing to support the SSM Food Pantry!

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Join our Parish Family

St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church is a community for all people to encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ.
Welcome visitors and newcomers! Scan the QR Code if you would like to register as a parishioner. To learn more about ways you can get involved & grow closer to Christ, contact Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org.



COR Men's Group

Wednesdays at 6 PM | Parish Center
Beginning September 10th

Cor



Men of St. Stephen are welcome to join our new COR Men's Group. The goal of the group is to strengthen the men of the parish through prayer, formation, and fellowship. Each hour will include prayer, formation content, and discussion.

Questions? Contact Brian at blangel101@gmail.com

Learn More



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question: Does chewing gum break the fast before Communion?

Answer: If you look in Canon Law or in the Catechism, there is no mention of chewing gum. I guess it does not rate the attention of the universal church! The Church requires us to fast for one hour before we receive the Eucharist. Basically, we are to refrain from food and drink, not including water or medicine. There are also exceptions for people who are ill. Overall, the fast is intended for us to prepare ourselves to receive the Eucharist and in some small way to literally as well as spiritually hunger for what we are about to receive. Chewing gum, while not really food, does at least break the spirit of the fast. Besides that, it is a distraction and rude. What do you do with the gum when it is time to receive Communion? People have actually come to the altar chewing away, oblivious to what they were doing or Who they were receiving. At best, it is distracting and irreverent. At worst, it adds a barrier to giving our best to receiving God's best. ©LPi

walking with purpose

SO MUCH MORE THAN A BIBLE STUDY

Come as you are.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Join Friday Faith & Fellowship!
Fridays | 9:30-11 AM | Starts Sept 5

For the 2025/2026 year, we will work through a 22-week study called Opening Your Heart from the Walking With Purpose program founded by Lisa Brenninkmeyer. This study invites us to explore how our Catholic faith can shape and guide our everyday lives.

No advance preparation is required, and you are welcome to join at any time.

Questions? Email Christie at czhinton@mac.com or scan the QR code to learn more.



www.walkingwithpurpose.com

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST



Join us in the quiet to worship Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Mondays | 7 PM | Worship Space

Join us in the Adoration Chapel 24/7.
The code for access is 9675*.

Questions? Contact Glea at (712) 551-6293.

*"The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny, white host."
~ Venerable Fulton Sheen*

"BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB, I KNEW YOU..." - JEREMIAH 1:5

Blessing of
Expectant Mothers



AFTER
MASSES ON
SEPT. 6TH & 7TH

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE
DAILY MASS CHAPEL
AFTER MASSES THIS
WEEKEND TO
RECEIVE A BLESSING.

First Saturday Rosary

Saturday, September 6th

Prior to
8:15 AM Mass
Worship Space



First Friday
Adoration
Friday, September 5th
9 AM - 2:30 PM

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favor with God. (Sir 3:18)

Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.
(Ps 68)

Second Reading:

You have not approached that which could be touched
and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness. (Heb 12:18)

Gospel:

"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor,"
Jesus instructs. "Blessed indeed will you be
because of their inability to repay you." Each
of us has our own banquet to offer, our own
gifts to share. Who will we invite?

Observances for the week of August 31, 2025

- Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Labor Day
Wednesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparents' Day



How can we pray for YOU?

You are not alone! St. Stephen has prayer warriors who are ready to pray
for YOUR intention! God has given us this incredible gift to intercede on
behalf of others through prayer and thanksgiving! Submit your prayer
request to at stephen.org/prayer-line or call Beth at (402) 669-4793.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, Aug 30

8:15 AM † Jerrene Langel (DB)
5:00 PM † Elaine Grimes (MP)

Sunday, Aug 31

7:30 AM † Richard Lupardus (MP)
9:00 AM † Yvonne Kamphaus (DB)
10:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 PM † Dennis Moore (MS)

Monday, Sept 1 Labor Day

8:15 AM † Joe Pawloski, Jr. &
Timothy Pawloski (MP)

Tuesday, Sept 2

6:30 AM † Frank Bryl (MP)
8:15 AM † Nellie Kurtz (DB)

Wednesday, Sept 3

6:30 AM † Irene Hosier (MP)
8:15 AM † Eldred Keane (DB)

Thursday, Sept 4

6:30 AM SI Erika & Skyler Joyce (DB)
8:15 AM † Linda Lichter (DB)

Friday, Sept 5

6:30 AM † Leonard Kruse (MP)
8:15 AM † Ann & Joe Rush (MP)

Saturday, Sept 6

8:15 AM † Jerrene Langel (DB)
5:00 PM † Rich McCormick (MP)

Sunday, Sept 7

7:30 AM † Bill Knudsen (MP)
9:00 AM † Richard Meyer &
SI Luella Meyer (DB)
10:30 AM SI People of St. Stephen the Martyr (DB)
6:00 PM † Don Reiner (MP)

SI = Special Intention † = Repose of the Soul

DB = Fr. Dave Belt; MP = Fr. Matthew Pohlman
MS = Fr. Matt Spotts

Please note: Priest schedule subject to change
If you'd like to reserve a Mass intention, please contact
Erika in the parish office at e.riforgiate@stephen.org.



Pray For...

Pray for deceased souls of our parish:

Howard Gillespie, father of Eileen (David) Smith
and Sheryl (William) Lenagh
Joan Kruml, mother of Jacquie Welch

Pray for those sick/injured/healing:

Anne Audas, wife of Dick
Joyce Murphy, mother of Peg (Rick) Thiesen
Brenda Kreber, wife of Dave
Mary Risavi, cousin of Nancy Major
Doris Braun, mother of Rich Braun
Ron Rauart
Maurice O'Toole, brother of Sharon Pratt
Rocky Epperson, brother in-law of Lisa Goldsmith
Larry Comer, husband of Janie
Rod Heng, husband of Carol
Nick Skar, son of A.J. & Kim
Molly Felker, daughter of Mike and Stacy



Join the PrimeTimers

Cards and Games Thursdays: Stop by and see what's happening at Cards and Games Thursdays! Join us on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 1 PM in the Parish Center.

Mark Your Calendars - Hillbilly Party! Get your hillbilly clothes out of mothballs and into the wash tub—we're having a party! Thursday, September 11th, 6 PM in the Parish Center.

- ⇒ Happy Hour at 6 PM – enjoy a drink and mingle
- ⇒ Dinner & Dessert served at 7 PM
- ⇒ Cost: \$20 per person
- ⇒ BYOB – and bring a few \$1 bills for fun!

RSVP by Monday, September 1st to Peg, Moe, Pat, or Rosemary. Cash preferred (give to any of us) or checks payable to Pat Miller. Questions call Pat at (402) 201-7945.



Join our Monthly Events!

Monthly Meeting & Fellowship September 2nd at 7 PM in the Parish Center: You are welcome at our monthly meeting scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month in the Parish Center from 7-8 PM with fellowship through 9 PM. We also host a Social Night every third Thursday of the month at 7 PM in the Parish Center. There are many other opportunities for service and fellowship. Please join us! To sign up for emails, please visit stephen.org/councilofcatholicwomen.

Community News

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR FAMILIES: Join the Serra Club of West Omaha on Monday, September 15th, for a beautiful Holy Hour to Pray for Families at Holy Family Shrine, 23132 Pflug Road, Gretna. This special prayer event begins with greetings at 5:30 PM. At 6:00 PM we will gather in the chapel for the Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Presider will be Father Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club. Together we will pray a Rosary for the Healing and Protection of Families, reflect on a Gospel reading and homily, and will also recite the Litany of the Holy Family. We will spend time in silent adoration and sing hymns as we pray for families in the Archdiocese of Omaha. All are welcome! For questions, contact Lori Hamilton, Serra VP, at 402-699-5027 or email westomaha@serrainternational.org. Learn more at serrawestomaha.org and follow us on Facebook @serrawestomaha.

WOMEN'S CARE CENTER LPN/RN/ULTRASOUND TECH: The Women's Care Center in Omaha is looking for someone who shares our prolife commitment to serving others with compassion. Our mission is to help pregnant women choose life for their babies, have healthier pregnancies, and become better parents...with support from cradle to kindergarten. 92% of moms choose life for their babies! We are currently hiring for a part-time or full-time LPN/RN/Ultrasound Tech. A nursing degree OR ultrasonography is required and Spanish-speaking is a plus! For more information and to apply, please email Barb Stoyell-Mulholland at barb@womenscarecenter.org. Also, please visit our website: <https://www.womenscarecenter.org/> If you know someone who might be a good fit, please share this announcement with them! Join us in serving our community and new mothers.

MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT: St. Charles Borromeo (7790 S192nd Street) will be hosting "Two Souls United in Christ," a two-day retreat for married couples on Friday and Saturday, September 12th & 13th. Join Peter and Theresa Martin from the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, as they share Pope St. John Paul II's Rule for Marriage. The retreat promises to help couples deepen their spiritual union with each other and with Christ. Space is limited, so register soon! (Register by August 15th to qualify for the early bird discount.) Scan the QR code for more information and to register. Visit wojtylaci.com to learn more about the Martin's mission to spread the good news about JP II's Rule for Marriage.



OMAHA ARCHDIOCEAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN 101st CONVENTION: Monday, Sept. 15, 2025. Msgr. Cyril Werner Activity Center, 502 S. Broadway, Hartington, NE 68739. Guest Speaker: Juli Burney, native of Hartington and Cedar Catholic Graduate who has spoken all over the US with her comedy and motivation speaking. Register Online: oaccw.org/home/meetings.

JUBILEE YEAR ECO PILGRIMAGE CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' LETTER, LAUDATO SI: We are excited to announce an ECO Pilgrimage planned for Saturday, Sept. 20th at 1:30 PM on the College of Saint Mary Campus. This pilgrimage is an opportunity to deepen our faith through a program of spiritual nourishment and action focused on protecting and caring for all of creation as part of the Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope for Creation initiative. All are welcome! Register at <https://bit.ly/3JdtGjI> or by using the QR code. If you have questions, contact Mike Poulin at mpoulin@sistersofmercy.org



West Omaha Family of Catholic Parishes

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13943 Dowd Drive | Boys Town, Nebraska | (531) 355-1030

Mass Times

Sun: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Daily: 11:40 a.m.

Confession

Tue and Thu: 11 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Stephen the Martyr

16701 S St, Omaha, NE 68135 | (402) 896-9675

Mass Times

Mon - Fri: 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Confession

Tue: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Sat: 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

or by appointment

St. Vincent de Paul

14330 Eagle Run Dr, Omaha, NE 68164 | (402) 496-7988

Mass Times

Mon - Fri: 6:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.; Sat: 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11a.m. and 5 p.m.

Confession

Sat: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.; Sun: 10:15 - 10:45 a.m.

anytime by appointment

St. Wenceslaus

15353 Pacific St. Omaha, NE 68154 | (402) 330-0304

Mass Times

Mon - Thu: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Fri: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m.

Sat: 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Sun: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., Noon and 5:30 p.m.

Confession

Mon - Thu: 5 PM until line ends

Sat: 9 AM until line ends; 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

anytime by appointment

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Matthew Leonard



Barbara Heil

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Sr. Anne Marie Walsh, S.O.L.T.



Fr. Scott Traynor, J.C.L.



Fr. Matthew Nigencymer



Julie Storr

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Agent & Parishioner tschmitz@farmersagent.com

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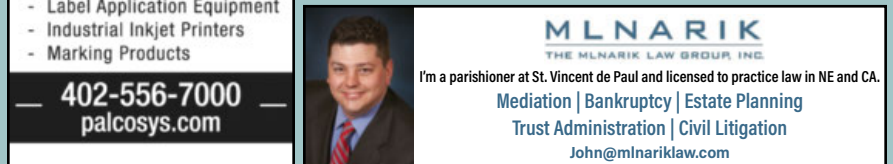


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