

# OMAHA NEBRASKA STAKE NEWSLETTER

January 2025

## A MESSAGE FROM THE STAKE PRESIDENCY

Happy New Year! Much is said about new beginnings in January. Primary children's classes change, youth classes or quorums change, and some have Church meeting times that change. We all grow a little older and wiser. The apostle Paul invites us to become "new creature[s]" in Christ. In the Book of Mormon, we read about being born again, "becom[ing] new creatures." And in the Doctrine & Covenants, it reads "That they may grow up in Thee." Recently, Elder Bednar taught:

Consider the spiritual connection between the principle of "grow[ing] up in thee" and that of being spiritually reborn. We are spiritual infants as we are born again and begin to become new creatures in Christ. Just as a child grows up, so each of us "grows up" and becomes more spiritually mature over time as we come unto the Savior and honor our covenants.

In 2025, we pray that our stake vision will help us "grow up in [the Lord]," becoming one with Him in His work in preparation for His second coming. Our stake vision is that we will all seek to daily

- Choose Him
- Join Him, and
- Rejoice with Him

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones in all your efforts. We testify that He was resurrected, and He will come again in full glory. Let us choose Him, join Him, and rejoice with Him.

Omaha Nebraska Stake Presidency

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# 2025 OMAHA NEBRASKA STAKE VISION

CHOOSE  Him

JOIN  Him

REJOICE WITH  Him

I gave unto them their knowledge...[and] agency. And unto thy brethren have I said, and also given commandment, that they should love one another, and that they should choose me, their father.

Moses 7: 32-33



Choosing to follow Jesus Christ and live as His disciple is not a one-time choice. Every day we choose to let God prevail in our lives as we choose Him over competing choices or distractions.

What choices can you make today that will show increased love towards God, His Son Jesus Christ, and others?

Follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do.

2 Nephi 31:12



As disciples of Jesus Christ, He encourages us to follow Him and labor with Him in His vineyard. When we do so, we become more like Him, and we help others come unto Him. We can abide in His presence more fully and join Him in God's work of salvation and exaltation.

We invite all stake members to

- Have daily experiences worshipping the Lord and studying His gospel.
- “[Worship] in the temple as regularly as your circumstances permit.”
- Commit yourself to 1) pray for your ministering families by name every day and 2) have a ministering interview with your RS or EQ presidency quarterly.

And blessed art thou; for because ye have been diligent in laboring with me in my vineyard... behold ye shall have joy with me.

Jacob 5:75



Our Savior Jesus Christ rejoices in His Father's plan. He rejoices in our repentance, and in our service. He rejoices in our sacrifice and consecration. We can share in that same joy with Him.

What can you do that would allow you to feel more powerfully this joy that is available to you?

# january

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Fast Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Why I Believe Fireside at Trail Center, 7pm	13	14 FSY Pre- Registration Due	15	16 Finalize FSY Registration, see <a href="#">page 6</a>	17	18
19 Stake Youth Committee Meeting, 3 pm, see <a href="#">page 6</a>	20	21	22	23 Temple & Family History Devotional, see <a href="#">page 5</a>	24	25 Omaha Stake Youth Activity for all Youth, see <a href="#">page 6</a>
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Weekly Mission and Temple  
Preparation Classes  
Youth, Sundays, Stake Center  
@ 4pm

## WARD CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2025

- 12 Jan. Old Mill, Pacific Ridges
- 19 Jan. Bennington, Eagle Run
- 26 Jan. Blair
- 9 Feb. Elkhorn
- 16 Feb. Columbus
- 23 Feb. Fremont
- 9 Mar. Winter Quarters YSA

## NEW YEAR! NEW COME, FOLLOW ME

This year we will be studying the Doctrine & Covenants! You can find the manual in the Gospel Library App or online, [here](#).

## LOOKING AHEAD

### February 2

- Young Adults Worldwide Devotional
- Young Women Leadership Council, for young women presidencies, see details on [page 7](#)
- Trail Center: Untold Stories Open House, see [page 9](#)

### February 9

- Why I Believe Fireside, Trail Center, 7pm

### February 15

- Primary Children Friend to Friend Broadcast, see [page 8](#)

### February 22

- American Red Cross Blood Drive, Stake Center, 7:30 am

### March 6-8

- RootsTech 2025, see [page 5](#)

### March 15 - 16

- Stake Conference

# TEMPLE COMPANIONS

In a 2017 RootsTech session, Elder Erich W. Kopischke, a General Authority Seventy, told a story about a young woman who approached him after a church meeting and spoke of a deceased ancestor, saying: "I love my great grandmother. I just went with her to the temple, and the two of us, we had a great time."

This brief anecdote has caused me to reflect on temple companions and what kinds of experiences we can have with them. I have memories spanning from my youth to just this morning of going to the temple with friends or family members and being strengthened together in temple service. Whether it is with an old friend or a new friend – perhaps a new convert – we can strengthen our kinship with our brothers and sisters in the gospel as we participate together in temple work. As a husband and father, some of my treasured memories are of times I have been able to be in the temple with my wife and children.

The story told by Elder Kopischke provides thoughtful perspective. We have the opportunity not only to take a name to the temple for a deceased ancestor, but to share that experience with them. The young woman in the story had – spiritually – eyes to see and ears to hear. Through the Holy Ghost, she was able to create a bond with her great grandmother as she performed ordinances on her behalf.

In the recent (October 2024) General Conference, President Russell M. Nelson explained that we have the opportunity to have another temple companion. He said:

"Brothers and sisters, now is the time for you and for me to prepare for the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Now is the time for us to make our discipleship our highest priority. In a world filled with dizzying distractions, how can we do this?"



"Regular worship in the temple will help us. In the house of the Lord, we focus on Jesus Christ. We learn of Him. We make covenants to follow Him. We come to know Him. As we keep our temple covenants, we gain greater access to the Lord's strengthening power. In the temple, we receive protection from the buffetings of the world. We experience the pure love of Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father in great abundance! We feel peace and spiritual reassurance, in contrast to the turbulence of the world.

"Here is my promise to you: Every sincere seeker of Jesus Christ will find Him in the temple. You will feel His mercy. You will find answers to your most vexing questions. You will better comprehend the joy of His gospel."

I invite you to create meaningful experiences with temple companions and strengthen connections with friends, living family, ancestors, and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Creighton Omer

GATHER WITH US FOR A  
*temple & family history*  
 DEVOTIONAL

Thursday, January 23, 2025

7:00 pm

Omaha Stake Center

For Ward Council Members, Stake Leaders, Temple and Family History Consultants, and anyone interested in learning more about temple & family history work

SPEAKERS

Elder Rodney A. Ames, *Area Seventy North America President* & Sister Pincock, *Winter Quarters Temple President* & Sister Calaway, *Nebraska Omaha Mission*

ROOTSTECH 2025 CONFERENCE

March 6 - 8

Online registration is free. Visit

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

This devotional should last until about 8:15 PM. All who live within an hour of the stake center are invited to attend in-person. This is a coordinating council (multi-stake) event. If you are unable to attend in person, you may attend virtually via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/98237057598?pwd=gjWEADN7hWL7E3xp6lcHk2JFWG0dlk.1>  
 Passcode: 436840

FAMILY SEARCH CENTER HOURS

Open every Tuesday  
 noon-2pm and 7pm-9pm,  
 or by special appointment

(402) 252-5131  
 Stake Center

Get free help from a FamilySearch consultant, or bring a friend!

TEMPLE RECOMMEND STAKE INTERVIEWS

David Robles

(801) 971-5194

Old Mill, Pacific Ridges, Eagle Run & YSA Wards

Matthew Nielsen

(719) 464 - 8456

Bennington, Blair, Columbus, Elkhorn & Fremont Wards

## JANUARY 19TH

### SYLC MEETING

For all ward youth representatives

3:00 pm

Omaha Stake Center  
14680 California Street



## SUNDAYS

### MISSION & TEMPLE PREP CLASSES



Stake Center  
Primary Room

@ 4pm

## JANUARY 25TH

### WORLDWIDE EVENT FOR YOUTH

Omaha Stake Activity for All Youth



3:00 pm-4:30 pm

Church Dress  
Invite a Friend  
Refreshments

Omaha Stake Center  
14680 California Street

## JANUARY 14TH

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR  
FSY DEADLINE

## JANUARY 16TH - 29TH

FINALIZE REGISTRATION  
FOR FSY

### FSY INFORMATION

- Pre-Registration (Oct 22, 2024 – Jan 14, 2025): No advantage for early vs. late; all must complete by Jan 14.
- Pre-Registration Finalization (Jan 16 – Jan 29, 2025): Session assignments announced. Finalize or decline; unfinalized spots forfeit.
- Priority Registration (Jan 30 – Feb 12, 2025): Youth who didn't finalize or didn't receive an assignment can register for their stake's sessions. Registered youth may transfer.
- Standard Registration (Feb 13 – Feb 26, 2025): All approved youth can register or transfer within their stake's assigned sessions.
- Open Registration (Begins Feb 27, 2025): Youth can register for any available spot in their country.
- Off-Cycle Registration (Begins Mar 13, 2025): Limited availability; on-cycle youth should register before this date.

## SUMMER CAMP DATES

For the Strength of Youth (FSY) Summer 2025

- (For Youth turning 14+)
- 1st Session: Lincoln June 16-21
- 2nd Session: Lincoln June 23-28

Stake YM Summer Camp 2025

- May 28 - 31 at Camp Eagle

Stake YW Summer Camp 2025

- June 3 - 7, 2025
- June 3 YCL's only
- June 4 - 7 All YW



# YOUNG WOMEN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING FOR ALL WARD/BRANCH YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCIES AND SECRETARIES



February 2, 2025

4:00-5:30 pm

Omaha Stake Center Relief Society Room

Light Dinner will be served



## Girls Camp 2025



Stake Young Women Camp 2025 will be June 3 - 7 at Camp Catron. The 3rd is for the YCLs to prepare for camp. The rest of the young women arrive June 4th. Please note that the cost of camp will be covered by the stake budget this year.

### January Preparation Meetings

Who: All adult camp leaders and the YCLs (young women turning 16 to rising seniors)

Where: Young Women room at the Stake Center

When: January 12 & 26th

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Register on the  
YW Camp Website

January 12 -  
April 15

Girls Camp Website

<https://OmahaStakeYWcamp.com>

### Other Dates to Note

February 9 & 23: YCL Meetings

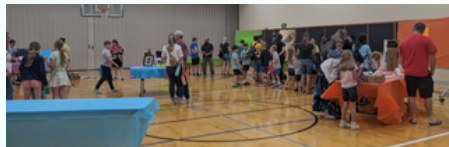
Wednesday, March 5: Camp Kickoff! More details to come.



Hey, parents and leaders of primary activity age children,  
we are doing it again!

## 2ND ANNUAL GOAL SHOWCASE

coming to you in the Fall of 2025!



We had such a great response to the goal showcase this year that we are gearing up for another amazing opportunity for the kids to show what they are capable of.

To start this year, please work with your children and their leaders so they can display what they have accomplished.



### FRIEND TO FRIEND DATES FOR 2025

FEBRUARY 15TH & SEPTEMBER 6TH



The February 2025 episode of Friend to Friend features Elder David A. Bednar and his wife, Susan. Hosted by the Primary General Presidency, this 15-minute episode includes children's stories about sharing Jesus' love through service, along with music, inspirational messages, and a visit from Louie the Toucan. It's designed for kids and can be used at home or in Primary.

For more information and links to access the February Friend to Friend, click [here](#).





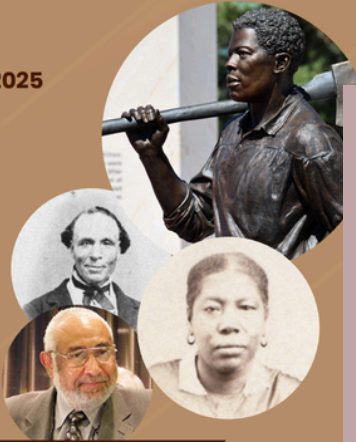
# TRAIL CENTER EVENT

## Untold Stories of the Black Pioneers at Winter Quarters

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2025**  
**2:00-6:00**

Mormon Trail Center  
3215 State Street  
Omaha, NE 68112

Free entry  
Refreshments served



### OUR ANCESTORS AFFIRM US.

They encourage us that we can overcome and pass hope forward.  
We want to share and learn stories of inspiration about Black pioneers.

Did you know there were black pioneers at Winter Quarters? Yes, many! The Mormon Trail Center invites you to a special celebration honoring their contributions. Come hear their untold stories!

Youth have a special opportunity to participate! If you would like to sing or share a story, use the attached QR code to indicate your interest!

**We need your  
voice!**

**Black Youth and Young Adults**  
Share an empowering story

**Singers of all ages**  
Join a choir for a historic event



Share the story of a Black Pioneer or sing in the choir at a monumental, historical open house to share "Untold Stories" at the Mormon Trail Center

*Script, song, and costume provided*  
*Rehearsals on January 25th and February 1st (morning)*  
*Share song or stories at the Open House on February 1st, 2:00-6:00*



**Sign up here by January 7th!**

<https://forms.gle/pR4SxZ5bDY3HA4pN9>



# CALL FOR ARTISTS

EASTER ART SHOW  
2025 THEME

*We shall*  
**SEE HIM**  
*as He is*

1 JOHN 3:1-3

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Those interested in submitting work for the Easter Art Show can learn more by clicking [here](#). This year's art show theme is *We Shall See Him as He Is*.



Check out these service options and others at [JustServe.org](http://JustServe.org).  
Click on the links below to sign up today!

Elder D. Todd Christofferson, describing how we can improve unity in the world, states: "In sum, it is every man seeking the interest of his neighbor, and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God."

## LOCAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### SALVATION ARMY: BURROWS CENTER PANTRY REGULAR HELP



We are looking for energetic & friendly individuals to assist in our pantry. From escorting and assisting program participants through the food pantry to unloading and organizing deliveries, there are multiple ways you can help. This is a fun way to gain job skills, meet new people, and support our community.

Learn more, by clicking [here](#).

### COATS & WINTER GEAR FOR REFUGEES



CIRA will be extending a warm welcome to hundreds of refugee adults and children in Omaha over the upcoming cold months. As the temperature drops, your support becomes a vital source of warmth for newcomers.

Your donation will not only offer physical warmth, but also symbolize a compassionate embrace from the Omaha community.

Learn more, by clicking [here](#).

### TEAMMATES MENTORING OF MILLARD, NE



Become a mentor to local students. Meet with students during the school year for at least 30 minutes a week, most weeks of the school year. Seeking those who can commit to a long-term volunteer experience.

To learn more about becoming a mentor, click [here](#).