

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
22163 Sumac Road
Neola, IA 51559-5069

*Saving a seat for you and your family.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

April 2023 News

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Boomer Township)
22163 SUMAC ROAD, NEOLA, IA 51559
Church Number: 402-915-2495**

Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com

Website: stpaulsneola.church

Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 9:30

*Just a reminder if you are not able to make it to Sunday Services they are still being
streamed on our Facebook page.*

Facebook: [@STPaulNeola](https://www.facebook.com/STPaulNeola) 

**Bible study will be held Sunday mornings at 8:15-8:45 in the church basement
Saturday's @ 7:30 am - Men's Prayer Group**

some nourishment. This is a wonderful example of a way to get youth into our church. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please reach out to Pastor Joe or Kiley Jenson.



Easter Service

7:00 a.m. service with a Breakfast/ Brunch to follow. The council members will supply the main food, drinks, preparing and serving . We ask the congregation to bring rolls, donuts. The confirmation kids will be on cleanup duty. The Easter Brunch will be a Free Will Offering and the money collected will go into a Youth Event Fund. We will be having an Easter egg hunt during the brunch for any kids who would like to participate.

We hope to see you there!



Sunday School

Sunday School will meet during service, right after the youth message. All youth are welcome to join us downstairs for a story, craft and snack. Kids will then return upstairs during the closing hymn.

Sunday School Dates are...

April 2nd

"we are going to add **April 30th** for Sunday School"

May 7th (End of Sunday School Celebration)

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

22163 Sumac Rd, Neola, IA

This is the Annual Congregational Meeting of St Paul's Lutheran Church held on Sunday, January 29 th ,

2023, in the basement of the church. There was a quorum of 31 members present.

Josh Bracker, as President, conducted the meeting.

The meeting began at 10:51 AM by Pastor Joe leading us in prayer.

Motion to approve the agenda by Bruce Bracker, 2 nd by Steve Anderson. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion to approve the Secretary's Minutes by Kiley Jenson, 2 nd by Julie Jenson. All in favor, motion passes.

Reports Discussion

Pastor's Report

Congregation Chairman: Josh Bracker also added "Thank you all". He is glad to see Sunday School and Bible Study going again. He believes the direction the church needs to go is to be handicap accessible. There are plans found from 1996 available to look at and use as a basis of where to go from here.

Women's Endowment Spending Account

Financial: Emily Pruett added that there is a charge of \$99 per year for Microsoft Office. No one has access to it, no one is using it, and it hasn't been found how to cancel the charge. Suggestion was made to speak with Nate Eckley to see if he had any recommendations.

Auditor's: Kiley Jenson added they have revisions to the process to make it easier for the next auditors to present at the next council meeting.

Motion to approve all reports by Bill Bracker, 2 nd by Steve Anderson. All in favor, motion passes.

Elections –

Deacon – 3 year term – Emily McKern

Trustee – 3 year term – Mike Van Sickle

Financial Treasurer – 3 year term – Bob Gregory

Nominating Committee – Jim Jenson, Josh Bracker, and Ramona Bracker

Bethany Lutheran Home – Bob Gregory

LCMC Annual Gathering – put in Newsletter who would be attending

Motion to approve all nominations by Bruce Bracker, 2 nd by Annette Bracker. All in favor, motion passes.

Blank ballots were passed out to voting members to elect the Congregational President. They were counted by Emily Pruett and Kiley Jenson. Monte Bracker was elected as the new Congregational President.

Approval of 2023 Proposed Budget. Motion by Bruce Bracker, 2 nd by Bob Gregory. All in favor, motion passes.

Old Business:

Endowment Fund Use: Motion to approve the Amended Endowment Fund Use by Jim Jenson, 2 nd by Julie Jenson. All in favor, motion passes.

New Business: its still a waiting game to purchase additional ground to expand the cemetery.

Adoption of 2023 Budget: Motion to adopt by Bruce Bracker, 2 nd by Kiley Jenson. All in favor, motion passes.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Bracker, 2 nd by Steve Anderson. All in favor, motion passes.

Closing Devotions: We sang the Luncheon Prayer together to conclude the meeting.

Respectfully submitted.

Rashelle Wohlers

Council Secretary

February 2023 Meeting Minutes

This is the meeting of St Paul's Lutheran Church held on Wednesday, February 8 th , 2023, in the basement of the church. Council members present: Monte Bracker, Julie Jenson, Rashelle Wohlers. Ruben Valdez, Steve Andersen, Bill Bracker, Emily McKern, and Mike Van Sickle.

Not present: Bob Gregory

Also present: Pastor Joe Lambert and Nate Eckley (IT).

Monte, as President, conducted the meeting.

Pastor Lambert led those present in the opening prayer.

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Bill, 2 nd by Ruben. All in favor, motion passes.

Nate Eckley reported the website continues to have a good number of visitors.

There was no Treasurer's Report to review.

Pastor's Report:

Things are going well with Gracie in Clear Lake. He has more availability in our area, especially during the day. He welcomes feedback on the guest speakers, both from the congregation, and the council. The next guest speaker is Ulette Song.

Call Committee

They haven't had a meeting lately, but have been in contact with Moses from India. There will be a meeting on Sunday.

Building Committee

Julie and Rashelle will make a survey to find out what priorities members have for our church.

New Business

Motion for Bill Bracker to be Vice President by Steve, 2 nd by Julie. All in favor, motion passes.

Lent/Easter Services

Ash Wednesday – 2/22 – soup at 6PM, service at 7PM

Easter Sunday – 4/9 – 7AM

Lenten Offering for New Pastor Fund

Motion to adjourn by Bill, 2 nd by Steve. All in favor, motion passes.

Next meeting will be on March 14 th at 6:30 PM.

We recited the Lord’s Prayer together to conclude the meeting.

March 2023 Meeting Minutes

This is the meeting of St Paul’s Lutheran Church held on Tuesday, March 14 th , 2023, in the basement of the church.

Council members present: Monte Bracker, Julie Jenson, Rashelle Wohlers. Ruben Valdez, Steve Andersen, Bill Bracker, Bob Gregory, Emily McKern, and Mike Van Sickle.

Also present: Pastor Joe Lambert.

Monte, as President, conducted the meeting.

Bill Bracker led those present in the opening prayer.

The previous month’s minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Steve, 2 nd by Julie. All in favor, motion passes.

The previous months’ Treasurer’s Reports were reviewed. It was noted that in the future, the soup supper funds need to go to the Women’s Group for their expenses.

Pastor’s Report:

Pastor “had a brainstorm” and hand drew some additional building plans. They’re on the table in the basement next to the architectural plans from 1996.

Middle School 3:16 group will be meeting at our church on April 5 th .

Lenten services are focusing on stewardship and discipline.

An anonymous donor gave money to help with the challenge of “if you had \$100, what would you do to promote Christ?”.

There is a Pastor’s Retreat for the Christian Motorcycle Association in Arkansas from March 20 th - 24 th .

Maundy Thursday Service is on April 6 th at 7:00 PM, and Good Friday Service is on April 7 th at 7:00 PM.

Gracie will be back from Clear Lake for a few months.

Building Committee

We discussed the potential movement of the communion rail to remove climbing stairs from communion participants.

A questionnaire was presented to Council Members seeking opinions from the congregation about possible renovations. This questionnaire will be sent out in the newsletter and passed out during the next two church services.

New Business

The Neola Park is asking for approximately 50 Forsythia plants. IA State Horticulture does not grow the type requested. Julie will contact Sherbondy’s to get prices.

New Members: Chris & Cathy Segrell. Motion by Bill, 2 nd by Emily to approve membership. All in favor, motion passes.

Vacation Bible School: Okoboji is sending a group down to teach at the Underwood Lutheran Church in July. Monte will contact them for more information.

Motorcycle Blessing date is to be determined. Pastor Joe will check into other bike events.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be on April 10 th at 6:30 PM.

We recited the Lord’s Prayer together to conclude the meeting.

Please fill this out and return to the church as soon as you finish. Thanks

St Paul's Lutheran Church Property Questionnaire

What do you like about the physical structure of our church and/or layout of the property?

Put yourself into the shoes of a potential new member... As that "new" person, what area(s) do you think could be improved?

Now as a person who is more familiar with the property, what areas need to be improved?

How much do you think the improvements you've suggested would cost?

Where do you think the funds to improve the property should come from?

If you are able/called to contribute to site improvements, how would you choose to do this? (ie labor, monetary contributions, prayers, etc)

In order to do God's simple, yet profound work, everyone must do their part. Contributing your time, your talent and your treasure is not about giving gifts equal to that of your neighbor, but in giving equal sacrifice. This idea comes from the Bible's teaching about proportionate giving and the blessings of sacrifice. No gift impresses God in terms of dollar amounts given, number of hours spent, or amount of talent provided. God looks at gifts as an extension of the love and obedience with which they are given and proportion of resources from which they come. In other words, God looks at the heart.

Please join us in prayer, study, and worship. Begin now to pray that God will guide St. Paul's and leave Christ's imprint on individual hearts. Ask God to keep us on the path of obedience and trust. Please remember that your experience with personal sacrifice is

not a one-time check or contribution, but a profound way of giving through your time, talent and treasure.

Thank you so much for being a part of St Paul's Church Family. Your input is valuable as we continue to look to the future of our church.