

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.*

December 2022 News

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

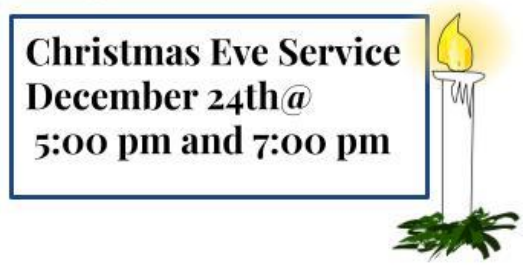
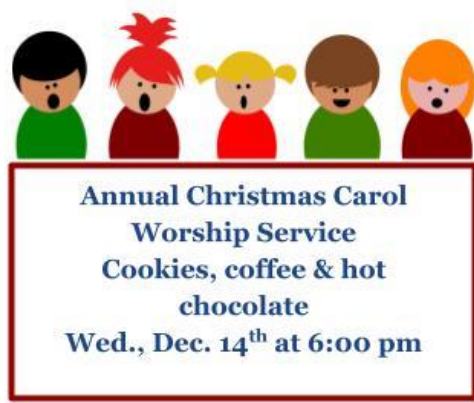
Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com

Website: stpaulsneola.church
Josh Bracker, Cong. President

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



St. Paul's will be joining the rotation of the Group 3:16. This is a non-denominational, safe environment for all kids grades 6-8 to explore and learn more about their Christian faith. They welcome kids regardless of their church background. They try to have music and a game of some sort to help relay the message that the kids can relate to. The kids love to have speakers come in and speak with them. The group meets Wednesday nights at one of the 3 churches in the rotation. Dinner is provided by the hosting church and then the kids are broken up into groups for a message/ lesson. St. Paul's will be hosting October 19th, January 4th, February 15th, and April 5th. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please reach out to Pastor Joe or Kiley Jenson.

Next Council meeting is December 7th.

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...

December 11th & 18th

January 8th

February 12th

March 12th

April 2nd

May 7th (End of Sunday School Celebration)

Pastor's Page

December 2022

Remember: **Take small steps but always in the right direction.**

Some small steps are beginning to open up possibilities and evidence that we are actually moving across the wilderness. I suppose Moses might have said something like that on the way to the promised land. Whether anyone of the Israelites who had left Egypt behind believed him is another thing but in retrospect we can see that he was telling the truth. We are not in that same frame at St. Paul's. I don't believe our journey will last 40 years but we have to keep walking in faith if we hope to get where we're going.

I hope we will be hosting some guest preachers in the next few months. The first is planning to be here on the second Sunday of December. I hope the second will be visiting us in January. I hope again that others will be coming throughout the winter, spring and summer. All this is to the benefit of the congregation as the gospel is being proclaimed through different voices – but it will still be the same gospel of the Lamb who takes away our sins and rises to reign forever. It is also to the benefit of our guests who will be blessed by the fellowship of St. Paul's. The Spirit of God who lives in you will help provide direction for everyone who comes to visit. Perhaps we will discover a relationship with one whom God has been preparing as our next pastor. We are indeed beneficiaries of a great and merciful God.

Well, on our way it is the darkness of the year moving toward Christmas. The light that we proclaim must shine in the darkness as we anticipate the coming of our Lord Jesus. Here are some lessons that we will be dealing with at our Sunday Worship. **I especially want to invite**

you to Bible Study at 8:15 on Sunday mornings to deepen your relationship with God who holds you mercifully in his hands!

December 4 – Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 – Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Justin Pithan from Pleasant Hill will be our preacher

December 18 – Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, Christmas Eve! Christmas program and Candlelight!

- Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 110:1-4; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 1:18-25

December 25 – Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2:1-12; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18

AND AS LONG AS WE'RE AT IT

January 1 – Isaiah 63:7-14; Psalm 111:1-10; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-23

It's all telling the old, old story of Jesus and his Love. Be among those who know it best who continue to hunger and thirst to hear it. Invite those who have never heard and so fulfill your ministry of making disciples as you go. God is with us by his promise! We are with God according to our following in his path.

See you at worship in December!

November 2022 Meeting Minutes

This is the meeting of St Paul's Lutheran Church held on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022, in the basement of the church. Council members present: Josh Bracker, Monte Bracker, Julie Jenson, Rashelle Wohlers. Ruben Valdez, Steve Andersen, Bill Bracker, and Jim Jenson

Not present: Bob Gregory

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

Josh, as President, conducted the meeting.

Pastor Lambert led those present in the opening prayer.

Nate (IT) reported the church's website has had 1400 new website visitors viewing the home page at a minimum. He requested more pictures to keep the site updated. He stated that its great that we're posting the monthly newsletter because it shows we're an active church. Julie and Pastor Joe were to meet the next night with Nate about setting up a Google phone number.

The previous month's minutes (September) were reviewed. A meeting was not held in October due to a busy harvest with minimal rain days. Motion to approve the discussion by Jim, 2nd by Julie. All in favor, motion passes.

Treasurer's Reports were reviewed. There was some discussion on the amount that is available in the Future Pastor Fund. Motion to approve the report by Bill, 2nd by Monte. All in favor, motion passes.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Joe has been with our church for a year. He feels that we've taken many steps forward, and have shown we are a church body with many talents. In terms of seeking a pastor for our church, he believes that as long as God calls you to a particular task, you should remain faithful to the plan. Don't get anxious, instead keep persisting.

Harvest Fest – on November 13th – guest speaker will be Danny Cox, and offering will go towards his ministry.

Soup Supper – on October 12th from 5-7 PM – raised \$1,338 to be divided between Neola, Crescent, Minden, and Missouri Valley Food Pantries.

Hedegaard Endowment Spending Policy – tabled until next meeting.

New Business

Motion to spend \$600 to adopt a Tri Center family for Christmas by Julie, 2nd by Bill. All in Favor, motion passes.

End of year reports

Auditor: Jim & Kiley Jenson

Budget: Bobby Gregory, Ruben, & Rashelle

Christmas Eve Services

5PM – Kid's Nativity Service

7PM – Traditional candlelight service

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

Next meeting will be on December 7th at 6:30 PM.

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