

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.*

June 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**

If you are not receiving emails, and would like to, send an email to stpsecretary3123@gmail.com or officemanager@stpaulsneola.church

The Mission Of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to make disciples of all nations. therefore, with God's help, we will:

Proclaim Christ in word and deed;

Invite the unchurched to "Come and See Jesus";

Commit ourselves to discipleship through Bible study, worship, prayer, Christ-like servanthood and fellowship;

Open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's leading, so that whatever we do, we do in Jesus' name.

Amen

June Celebrations....

(please let Emily Pruett know of any new birthdays or anniversaries)

Jim and Kiley Jenson- 6/4

Hunter Valdez- 6/15

Jim Jenson- 6/16

Emily Pruett- 6/17

Gerald Jensen- 6/17

Harriette Andersen- 6/25

Ryleigh Valdez-6/25

Upcoming Sunday's

June 4th; Holy Trinity

Reader: Terri Andersen

Genesis 1:1—2:4a Psalm 8 Acts 2:14a, 22-36 Matthew 28:16-20

June 11th; Second Sunday after Pentecost

Reader: Harriette Andersen

Hosea 5:15 - 6:6 Psalm 119:65-72 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13

June 18th; Third Sunday after Pentecost

Reader: Monte Bracker

Exodus 19:2-8 Psalm 100 Romans 5:6-15 Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-20)

June 25; Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Reader: Chris Segrell

Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 91:1-10 (11-16) Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

July 2nd; Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Reader: Emily McKern

Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 119:153-160 Romans 7:1-13 Matthew 10:34-42

July 9th; Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Reader: Bruce Bracker

Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:1-14 Romans 7:14-25a Matthew 11:25-30

A while back the council decided to share the total offering given each month. We were putting this information in the refrigerator page and now have moved it to the newsletter. We appreciate all giving and want to keep our congregation informed. You will notice some of our spending is listed in the council minutes each month. This is the April offering.

April 2	2023	225.00	Lenten Service
April 2	2023	1425.00	Sunday Service
April 6	2023	295.00	Maundy Service
April 9	2023	1228.00	Easter Sunday & Flowers
April 9	2023	195.00	Easter Breakfast
April 9	2023	100.00	Dawn Real Hough Family
April 16	2023	1689.00	Sunday Service
April 23	2023	1941.25	Sunday Service
April 30	2023	1069.97	Sunday Service

TOTAL Deposits 8168.22



We are looking for some volunteers to clean the church. It takes about an hour and a half just once a week. If you would be interested in taking on a month or two please let Julie Jenson know. You can get a group together and it will be done in no time!



Date Change!



Lydia's graduation party date is being changed to **June 17th** from 5-8 pm at Bracker shed 22838 Teakwood Rd. Lydia has made the South Dakota State Cheer Team and their first practices start on our original party date. We hope everyone understands and can still come and celebrate. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Pastor's Page

June 2023

(Just a brief note before a reprise of an article from last year that bears repeating because we are still in a process of finding and developing leadership for the future.)

It may be that God is leading us to a new pastor and leading a new pastor to us in the near future. It may be that we are moving through a time of trial before we get to that place. It is important to stay faithful in the light of Jesus' provision where we always live in the sufficiency of His grace.

Sundays during the summer we are going to be focusing on Luther's catechism starting on June 11. First Baptism, Then the Lord's Supper. Then the commandments. Then the prayer. Then the Creeds. We'll deal with the Office of the Keys if we have time. Please be part of the process every week.

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. during the summer meet at the church to develop the skills and the confidence to sustain the congregation in case we need to survive with our own internal resources for a while while we wait – in hope. Come on Wednesday this week and I'll have a handout with topics we'll be dealing with. Peace to you all!

Brothers and Sisters at St. Paul's Lutheran,

You all have a wonderful fellowship here and you anticipate a great future in Jesus' love.

Here are five tasks of the congregation that will help develop the future in which you want to live! The call committee is working in this direction and the whole congregation should also be moving together. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please talk to me or one of the call committee members. Keep everything out in the open so that together we can walk in the light. And there is a short thought (which is usually all I can handle) from the May news letter: **"Take small steps but always in the right direction."** keep it in mind as you read on.

The Five Developmental Tasks of the Congregation

TASK 1: COMING TO TERMS WITH HISTORY

The time of pastoral change is an opportunity for a congregation to wrestle with its history, its story, and its identity. A pastor's leaving precipitates grief among the members. This must be dealt with. The better the congregation works at this developmental task of coming to terms with history, the more likely it will be to free itself to go on building a new future. They will be more likely to be able to use the strengths of the past to get some perspective and power over their weaknesses. They will be more able to choose an appropriate pastor for a new life together.

TASK 2: DISCOVERING A NEW IDENTITY

This is a time for taking a fresh look at reality and making adjustments in self-image.

TASK 3: ENABLING NEEDED LEADERSHIP CHANGE

During the time of the vacancy, members of the congregation can be aware of special opportunities to open doors to new leaders and to be appreciative and understanding of those who have been leaders in the past.

TASK 4: RENEWED CONNECTEDNESS TO OTHERS AND MISSIONS

Pastoral change is a time for a congregation to rethink and renew its relationship with local congregations, LCMC districts and the national LCMC

association. Go to LCMC.net to help connect you to local, district, and national LCMC resources.

TASK 5: COMMITMENT TO NEW DIRECTIONS IN MINISTRY

Having come through this time together, the congregation has discovered a new sense of self. They have a sense of confidence that the new person selected fits the needs of the congregation's ministry and mission.

The **5 developmental tasks** have been at the heart of basic training, however, they are not exclusive of other tasks, such as:

Reduce the Level of Anxiety: Fear of the Unknown There is often a great mixture of grief, loss, and despair early in a transition period. The task is to rebuild trust and reaffirm that there is life after whoever went before or whatever happened before. This too will pass. There will be a new day ahead!

Rebuild the Infrastructure: Nearly always toward the end of a ministry, the infrastructures of a congregation -- procedures, policies, structural organization, and building maintenance -- will have been neglected and will need some revision and restructuring. The interim period is a good time to review and revise the internal organizational trappings that are essential for implementing the ministries and mission of the congregation.

Pay Attention to Stewardship / Financial Matters: The interim period is an opportune time to review assumptions about stewardship and financial support for the church. During the interim period, there is probably a greater openness to a new understanding of Christian stewardship as more than simply underwriting the budget. It is also a good time to examine the procedures for handling finances. These problems are better handled by an interim pastor than the next settled pastor who will want to be there over a long period of time.

Training in Leadership Skills: The congregation faces the specific task of learning how to recruit, train, and orient volunteers so that their gifts and skills may contribute to the ministry and mission of the church. It is also a time to help people understand the dynamics of change and conflict resolution skills so that they are better able to deal with change and conflict in the future.

Focus on Spiritual Needs of Membership: Congregations today have taken on much of the culture (??) and structure of secular institutions. There is a hunger for recapturing the spiritual power that comes from Bible study and prayer to discern God's will for the congregation and for individual members. Such a developmental task can easily dovetail with the search for understanding the congregation's identity, vision, and mission.

These two pages contain a lot of information and the tasks and goals may seem insurmountable – depending on your perspective at the moment. Once again from the May Newsletter “Take small steps but always in the right direction.” Listen to Jesus’ voice and follow Him in faith – along with all your brothers and sisters.

See you at worship this week!

May 2023 Meeting Minutes

This is the meeting of St Paul’s Lutheran Church held on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, in the basement of the church.

Council members present: Monte Bracker, Julie Jenson, Rashelle Wohlers. Bill Bracker, Bob Gregory, and Emily McKern.

Not present: Steve Andersen, Ruben Valdez, and Mike Van Sickle.

Also present: Pastor Joe Lambert.

Monte, as President, conducted the meeting. Pastor Lambert led those present in an opening devotion and prayer.

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

The previous month’s Treasurer’s Reports were reviewed. Bob checked with Scott Greenlee on the investment amounts. There was discussion about whether the permanent cemetery and seminary funds were being invested. Bob will speak with Nancy Hedegaard about those funds. Motion to approve by Bill, 2nd by Bob. All in favor, motion passes.

Pastor’s Report:

Guest Speaker Tara Sander on 5/14.

Guest Speaker Keith Mentor on 6/4 for Pastor Joe & Grace to go to Denver.

July 2nd, a men’s singing group from Christ Community Church will be performing.

This summer’s sermons will focus on The Small Catechism.

Old Business

Trustee’s Report

Monte suggested replacing the siding on the garage.

Building Committee

June 4th: Congregational Luncheon at 11:00 with small group discussion on construction possibilities.

Bill Bracker was “nominated” to chair the Building Committee. Rashelle will compile the data from the questionnaires into a document.

Motion by Bill and 2nd by Bob to appropriate \$34,000 from Hedegard Endowment and \$16,000 from Hooe Endowment toward the Building Fund. The Building Fund would then have \$97,089.24, nearly \$100,000, to possibly kick start a project. All in favor, motion passes.

Bible School

We will hopefully be partnering with the Minden Church, and the schedule is looking like the end of July.

Neola Park Project

Emily stated plants were out of stock through Arbor Day Foundation but could be ordered from a different location. They were slightly more, so she just wanted to verify that we still wanted to purchase before doing so.

Golf Course Sign

Ramona paid for the sign, and Bob will reimburse her.

Biker Rally @ St Paul's

Pastor reported that we are not yet on the schedule for the CMA.

Water testing

Monte believes it has been tested, now awaiting results.

New Business

Motion by Bill, 2nd by Rashelle to adjourn. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14th at 6:30 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted.

Rashelle Wohlers