

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.*

September 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

September Celebrations....

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

Hunter Larson- 9/22

Michael & Emmalee

Reese- 9/25/2021

We had a very successful women's group meeting in August. There was great discussion on planning the soup supper and some other ways to participate in the church and community. We are going to meet again September 20th at 6:30 pm in the church basement. Please join us if you are interested in helping our group.



Upcoming Sunday's

September 3; Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Harriette Andersen**
Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

September 10; Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Emily Mckern**
Ezekiel 33:7-9 Psalm 32:1-7 Romans 13:1-10 Matthew 18:1-20

September 17; Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Bruce Bracker**
Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:1-12 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

September 24; Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost **Reader: Steve Andersen**
Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 27:1-9 Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 Matthew 20:1-16

October 1; Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Monte Bracker**
Ezekiel 18:1- 4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-10 Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18 Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)

October 8; Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Julie Jenson**
Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

October 15; Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Denise Kephart**
Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Psalm 67 Philippians 4:6-20 Luke 17:11-19

Sunday School

Sunday School will meet during service, right after the youth message. All youth are welcome to join us downstairs for a message and activity. Kids will remain downstairs until service is over.

September 10th: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

October 8th: "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus."

November 12th: "God loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."

December 3rd, 10th, 17th: Christmas eve program practice. Our program will be held during the first Christmas Eve service.

January 14th: "Do to others as you would like them to do to you."

February 11th: "Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here!"

March 10th: " You are a God of forgiveness."

April 14th: "Everyone who believes in him will have eternal life."

August 2023 Meeting Minutes

This is the meeting of St Paul's Lutheran Church held on Monday, August 14 th, 2023, in the basement of the church.

Council members present: Monte Bracker, Julie Jenson, Bill Bracker (by phone) Emily McKern, Mike Van Sickle, Ruben Valdez, and Pastor Joe Lambert. Also present were Charlie Narmi and Nancy Hedegaard

Not present: Rashelle Wohlers, Bob Gregory, and Steven Andersen

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

The previous month's minutes were reviewed. One correction was necessary regarding the proposed building cost. Upon correction, motion to approve by Ruben, seconded by Julie. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Charlie Narmi and Nancy Hedegaard were present to discuss the church finances. Charlie, with Baird, explained all three of the endowment accounts are managed the same, and Baird acts as a fiduciary on the church's behalf. All clients are treated the same, and their fee is one percent of the balance of the account. There is incentive to build the accounts because if it hits \$1 million the fee drops to .9 percent.

The accounts are heavy in equities, but Baird thinks they are very high quality equities. The current net return of the accounts is about 11 percent. Discussed money management with plans to take more money to pay for a full time pastor.

Nancy reported we keep going down a little bit every month and will need to have a plan for how to address. Pastor Pravin's request for support was discussed and whether we could afford an ongoing contribution. The Council felt this was an appropriate use of the outreach funds and can be used from that fund. Bob moved to send \$200 per month and Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor reported it's been an exciting month and good people are showing up. He is becoming more of an observer, helping to forge a pathway we've anticipated for a long time. He encouraged us to keep the attitude that we're all participants, especially as we welcome Pastor Widener.

Old Business

Golf course sign—still not up, but should go next to the second hole.

Water Test Results—Will shock the well this week.

Sound of Freedom—great showing, good attendance, and was a great community outreach project.

Soup Supper—Is scheduled for October 11 th . There will be a women's group meeting August 30 th to discuss details of the event and advertising for the event.

New Business

Grateful Heart Singers—Is scheduled for December 10 th at 6:00 p.m. Payment was discussed and Julie moved to have the funds come from the outreach account. Ruben seconded the motion. Motion was agreed to.

Call Committee—Is time to see this come to an end.

Pastor Widener—Will be coming the end of September. Will need to have a big welcome for him and plan the installation, etc. Additional planning will happen at the September meeting.

Ping Pong Table—The old table is in bad shape and broken. Ramona Bracker found a good used table for \$350 on marketplace. The youth fund will cover the expense.

Sunday School—Will begin again on September 10 th

3:16 Group—Looking forward to continuing with the group through the next school year.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12 th at 6:30 PM.

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

The St. Paul's Soup Supper will be October 11th from 5-7.

There will be sign up sheets in the narthex to give everyone an opportunity to help make this soup supper another success.

We will have a quilt raffle and a free will donation for the dinner.

Mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors!



We will be inducting Pastor Paul Widener on October 22nd. We plan on having a pot luck to welcome Pastor Widner to our church family as well as say a thankful goodbye to Pastor Joe Lambert and his wife gracie. Please join us for this Welcome/Farewell.

Greetings St. Paul's,

We are very excited about our upcoming move and are hoping to arrive the second week in October. Again, words cannot express our appreciation for all the kindness you showed us during our visit. April, Allie, and I are looking forward to being with you soon. I'd like to share a little about our family.

April and I have been married for twelve years. Our daughter Allie is nine. April and Allie will be attending AHSTW Community School in Avoca, and they can't wait to begin their year there. Allie is ready to make new friends as she enters the 4th grade. April is in her 14th year in education, and she is thankful for the opportunity to continue her teaching career in a smaller, rural school district.

Our family is anxious to enjoy ALL 4 seasons. In South Carolina, we generally experienced hot and *hotter*! Allie is a little worried about our chihuahua, Nacho, though. He is quite cold-natured and loves to be under a blanket all day. She can't wait to see his reaction to the snow!

I have been active in pastoral ministry for almost 20 years. I trust that my previous years of ministry have helped prepare me to serve the needs of St. Paul's. For most of my ministry, I have served as a bi-vocational pastor, working a secular job while pastoring two congregations. That experience has helped me better understand the pressures parishioners are faced with on a day-to-day basis, working outside the home while also maintaining a family.

We are excited to serve and become a part of the faith family at St. Paul's, growing and walking with you in this journey together. We know God has great things in store for St. Paul's, and we are grateful for the opportunity that He has given, and you have extended to us.

"I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion..." Philippians 1:3,4,6

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Paul, April, and Allie