

AGENDA

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
22163 SUMAC RD, NEOLA, IOWA 51559-5069

JANUARY 23, 2022 – Following Worship

1. Determination of Quorum and Opening Devotions	
2. Approval of Agenda	
3. Approval of Secretary's Minutes	page 2
4. Reports Discussion	
a. Pastor Mary Findlay	4
b. Pastor Joe Lambert	5
c. Congregational Chairman	6
d. Womens	7
e. Endowment Spending Account	8
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g. Auditors	14
5. Elections	15
6. Approval of 2022 Proposed Budget	16
7. Old Business:	
8. New Business:	
a. Endowment Fund Use	
9. Adoption of 2022 Budget	
10. Closing Devotions	

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
22163 SUMAC RD, NEOLA, IOWA 51559-5069
JANUARY 24, 2021**

The 140th Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's Lutheran Church was held in the church sanctuary following services on January 24, 2021, with 30 voting members present.

Monte, as president conducted the meeting.

1. Determination of Quorum and Opening Devotions Meeting was opened at 10:40 with a prayer led by Pastor Mary Findlay.
2. Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Bruce Bracker and second by Julie Jenson to approve the agenda, motion carried.
3. Approval of Secretary's Minutes: It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Kiley Jenson to approve the 2020 annual meeting minutes, motioned carried.
4. Discussion and Questions of Reports:
 - a. Pastor's - page 4
 - b. Congregational Chairman's - page 4-5
 - c. Women's - page 6It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Harriette Andersen to approve Pastor's, Congregational Chairman's and Women's 2020 reports; motion carried.
 - d. Endowment Spending Account - pages 6-7It was moved by Kiley Jenson and seconded by Julie Jenson to approve the 2020 spending account report, motion carried
 - e. Financial - pages 9-14
 - f. Auditors' - page 14It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Steve Andersen to approve Financial and Auditors' 2020 reports, motion carried.
5. Elections page 14

Nominations:

Deacon (3 year term)- Steve Andersen

Trustee (3 year term)- Ruben Valdez

Secretary (3 year term)- Rashelle Wohlers

It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Harriette Andersen to elect these as council members, motion carried. A round of applause was given for the new council members.

2020 Council Members:

Rashelle Wohlers (secretary)

Ava Bracker (trustee)

Josh Bracker (deacon)

Dale Stephens (deacon)

Julie Jenson (financial secretary)

Steve Andersen (deacon)

Bob Gregory (financial treasurer)

Ruben Valdez (trustee)

Jim Jenson (trustee)

It was voted by the congregation to elect Josh Bracker as the 2021 Congregational Chairman. A round of applause was given to the new Chairman.

It was moved by Kiley Jenson and seconded by Julie Jenson to approve Beth Valdez, Ramona Bracker, and Harriette Andersen as the 2020 nominating committee;
Terri Anderson as the Bethany Lutheran Home Delegate;
Gary & Mary Findlay and Ramona Bracker to attend the LCMC gathering, motion carried.

6. Approval of 2021 Proposed Budget: It was moved by Dale Stephens and seconded by Marlin Jenson to approve the 2021 proposed budget, motion carried.

7. Old Business:

a. Harriette Andersen would like lights outside along the flower path. She has been requesting this for several years. Bruce Bracker added to this with a request for lights over the stained glass windows. Dale also suggested brighter bulbs inside the church. These items will be added to the council agenda for further attention.

8. New Business:

a. Josh Bracker brought to the congregation's attention that we still have mowing and lawn care equipment. Due to the fact we are hiring this job done by an outside source he felt we should sell the equipment. Bruce Bracker volunteered to be in charge of this task and will report to the council when it is finished.

b. Ramona Bracker would like to pick a mission or project to work toward in honor of our 140th celebration. She will be working with Pastor Mary and reporting to the council with her ideas in order to come up with a plan.

c. Bruce Bracker mentioned we consider a Christian Defense Fund. This will be added to the council's agenda for further discussion.

d. It was mentioned during the auditors' report that we should get a reappraisal of the property once the parsonage is finished. This would be to ensure our insurance coverage aligned with the value of the property. This will be added to the council's agenda for follow through.

9. Adoption of Budget: It was moved by Dale Stephens and seconded by Bruce Bracker to adopt the Budget for 2021 as presented, motion carried.

It was moved by Paul Christoffersen and seconded by Ramona Bracker to adjourn the 140th Annual Congregational Meeting. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Pruett
Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT

(January to October)

The Lord has truly blessed me during this year as the Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran. Going from being the intern to Pastor was challenging, and I appreciate the help and guidance of the Congregation Council and members of the congregation. We have much to be grateful for, especially a community that has descendants of the founding members still attending this church. St. Paul's celebrated its 140th anniversary on July 11th. We had over 100 people attend the worship service and picnic. The Armouraires gave an amazing concert for all who attended this event.

In April of 2021, I was certified and rostered as an LCMC Pastor. During my time as Pastor, I taught Communion/Confirmation class to two students. These two students received their First Communion in March. I baptized two babies and officiated at a wedding.

I tackled a couple of projects this year, including one suggested by the Council President, for a "welcome packet" like one used by another church. The welcome packet for St. Paul's contains our mission/vision statement, what we believe, a welcome from the Pastor and other helpful information for a first-time visitor. The second project entailed going through ten years of church bulletins to update the church records. I built an extensive spreadsheet consolidating this information. This spreadsheet should give the next Pastor a foundation from which to continue to update and archive, as needed.

As a church, we have been lucky to have many of our members return to worship as COVID restrictions were lifted. Livestream and use of FACEBOOK continued to provide those who chose to stay home a means to engage in community worship. I continued to write daily devotions throughout the year.

We were blessed with several guest preachers this year: Pastor David Witkop from Thanksgiving Church in Bellevue, Nebraska, Pastor John Morse and our very own Carol Jensen.

During this time frame I felt God was guiding me to seek another calling. After several interviews, I accepted the call to another church. October 17th was my last worship service with the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

God has blessed me with lifetime friendships here at st. Paul's. I pray for this community each day and for Pastor Lambert who will be the Interim Pastor until a permanent pastor is selected. I will not say good-bye, but rather, until we meet again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Findlay
Former Pastor

PASTOR'S REPORT

It feels odd to me to be writing an Annual Report after being here at St. Paul's for only two months.

This is a wonderful congregation and I can't come close to telling you how grateful I am to be a part of your community. So, regardless of my tenure, I want to begin by saying thank you for welcoming me into your fellowship of faith.

Since I have a very brief history here, I will project a brief vision of the future. What it amounts to is the hint of a path that God may be preparing for St. Paul's. If the vision of the future is cloudy, the certainty of the presence and promise of God is Christ is the foundation on which we stand. Our confidence will be expressed in our continuing to put one foot in front of the other as long as God blesses us with life.

1. I understand that I am called to be interim pastor so I will be here for a briefer rather than a longer time.
2. I am helping and encouraging you all to look for the one who will be here to serve as your pastor for a longer time.
3. I have committed to a two year time frame with the call committee and the congregation council.
4. It could be shorter than two years if the congregation finds the candidate it is looking for.
5. In the meantime I hope to dialogue with many members and groups of the congregation to understand who it is we are looking for.
6. As we go down this path I intend to continue to rejoice with you all and serve as well as I am able to proclaim God's word, celebrate the sacraments, teach to develop a strong discipleship among us all, prepare us all for the day when Jesus calls us home and always be confident in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to eternal life.

Next year, when I submit my Annual Report for 2022, I will know more, probably fill up more paper and continue to rejoice in God's faithfulness on the path where he is leading us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Lambert
Interim Pastor

CONGREGATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

All praise, honor and glory to the Father.

Looking back, the highlight of the year for many was the anniversary celebration in July. Considering the challenges we all faced over the last couple of years with COVID, it was a joy to see the church filled to capacity again. We cherish the people, the memories and the stories of those last 140 years. Let's honor their dedication to God and each other by doing our part, in our time.

Our pastoral leadership has seen some changes this year. With Pastor Norm nearing a formal retirement in July, Pastor Mary took over his duties at the first of the year. The agreement being that she would be on the 'available for call' roster with the LCMC and that our call committee continue to seek candidates for a full time position. Pastor Mary received a call that led her to continue her ministry at a congregation in northwest Iowa. Many thanks to Pastor Mary and her husband Gary for all of their contributions to our congregation. Also, a debt of gratitude and thanks to Pastor Norm and Vonnice for the decade of service. Our congregation treasures these relationships.

Through the efforts of the call committee, we have been blessed with interim Pastor Joe Lambert. Pastor Joe and his wife, Gracia bring a wealth of knowledge, devotion and talent to this church family. Looking forward, there is a lot to do. We are dedicated to finding ways to reach young people and families. This may require some changes and will most certainly require all of our best efforts. Thanks to all for your time, talents and attendance, as these are all critical to the future of our congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Bracker
Congregational Chairman

WOMEN OF THE LCMC TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in Checking December 31, 2020		\$ 1,278.50
<u>Income</u>		
No Income	<u>.00</u>	
Total Income		1,278.50
<u>Expenses</u>		
Altar Flowers	\$ 28.48	
Parsonage Rug	41.48	
Donation	<u>50.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$ 119.96
Balance in Checking December 31, 2021		\$ 1,158.54

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Killpack
Treasurer

ENDOWMENT SPENDING ACCOUNT REPORT

December 31, 2020, balance	3,804.71
Income	
Transfer from Endowment Investment	8,000.00
Total Receipts	<u>8,000.00</u>
Total	<u>11,804.71</u>
Expenses	
Theisen Cleaning Services (annual expense)	1,844.68
Cash Withdrawal (cash for Harvest Festival)	200.00
Brian Wohlherter (Teams)	350.00
Gift Card	200.00
Microsoft Office (annual fee)	106.99
Microsoft Office @ \$8.25 per month x 12	99.00
High Caliber Systems Audio/Visual/Website	1,370.95
Sherbondy Garden Center (Christmas)	214.00
Christmas Gifts (A. Bracker)	657.85
Quilt (Harvest Festival)	250.00
LCMC Registration Fees (Pastor Mary)	460.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	300.28
Pastor Search	743.25
SPLC 140 th Year Celebration	1,140.12
Total Expenses	<u>7,937.12</u>
December 31, 2021	<u>3,867.59</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Gregory
Financial Treasurer

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budgeted	Actual
WORLD MISSION		
Mission Development/Evangelism	6,500	4,830
Total World Mission	\$6,500	\$4,830
WORSHIP AND SERVICE		

Music Ministers	2,000	2,000
Secretary	6,000	6,000
Postage	500	333
Christian Education/Supplies	1,000	0
Youth Program	1,000	818
Synod Conferences	1,500	0
Worship Supplies/Stewardship	500	869
Miscellaneous	1,000	2557
Total Worship and Service	\$13,500	\$12,577
PASTORAL CARE		
Housing	36,000	36,000
Future Pastor Fund	1,200	0
Social Security	0	0
Travel Allowance	6,000	3,948
Professional Expenses	500	0
Pulpit Supply	300	0
Total Pastoral Care	\$44,000	\$39,948
CHURCH HOME		
Electricity	4,000	3,227
Propane	3,000	3,160
Insurance	7,000	7,494
Repairs and Maintenance	4,000	1,304
Parsonage Improvements	3,000	11,054
Office Machines and Supplies	2,500	743
Mowing	2,500	0
Telephone/Internet	2,500	2,027
Dumpster	600	597
General Fund Savings	1,200	0
Total Church Home	\$30,300	\$29,606
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$94,300
ACTUAL EXPENDITURES		\$86,961

FUND BALANCES

General Fund	
Balance December 31, 2020	27,268.33
Total Income	77,870.57
Less Expenses	(87,976.33)
Balance December 31, 2021	\$17,162.57

Cemetery Maintenance Fund	
Balance December 31, 2020	2,337.58
Total Income	3,655.29
Less Expenses	(315.00)
Balance December 31, 2021	\$5,677.87

Harvest Festival	
Balance December 31, 2020	0.00
Total Income	3,896.00
Less Donation (Jill's Journey-Greater Europe Mission)	(3,896.00)
Balance December 31, 2021	\$0.00

Memorial Fund	
Balance December 31, 2020	7,500.50
Total Income	1,186.70
Less Expenses	(1,388.70)
Balance December 31, 2021	\$7,298.50

Miscellaneous Dedicated*	
Balance December 31, 2020	17,137.61
Total Income	32,333.00
Less Expenses	(32,333.00)
Balance December 31, 2021	\$17,137.61

*Insurance Claim Deductible: \$12,239.61

Grounds Beautification: \$2,365.80

Playground Upgrade: \$2,442.30

Lift Chair \$89.90

Future Pastor Fund	
Balance December 31, 2020	7,200.00
Total Receipts	0.00
Less Disbursements	0.00
Balance December 31, 2021	\$7,200.00

General Fund Savings	
Balance December 31, 2020	7,200.00
Total Receipts	0.00
Less Disbursements	0.00
Balance December 31, 2021	\$7,200.00

Building Fund	
CD #1 Balance December 31, 2020	26,273.04
Interest	36.08
Balance December 31, 2021	26,309.12
CD #2 Balance December 31, 2020	20,739.89
Interest	28.49
Balance December 31, 2021	20,768.38
Total Building Fund	\$47,077.50

Permanent Cemetery Fund	
Savings Account Balance December 31, 2020	13,223.53
Contributions	1,735.00
Burial Plot Sales	0.00
Sale of 2 Mowers	638.00
Interest	76.13
Disbursements	(812.75)
Savings Account Balance December 31, 2021	14,859.91
CD #1	3,000.00
CD #2	15,974.75*
Bank Error Correction from 2020	'(-74.75)*
CD #3	12,000.00
Total Permanent Cemetery Fund	\$45,759.91

*CD interest is deposited into the Cemetery Maintenance Fund

Cemetery Expansion	
Janice Nelson Estate CD Balance December 31, 2020	8,253.02
Interest	11.33
Balance December 31, 2021	8,264.35
Anonymous Donor CD Balance December 31, 2020	8,460.20
Interest	11.62
Balance December 31, 2021	8,471.82
Total Cemetery Expansion	\$16,736.17

Seminary Fund	
CD #1 Balance December 31, 2020	3,641.02
Interest	78.30
Disbursements (Combined all 3 CD's into 1 CD)	(3,719.32)
Balance December 31, 2021	0.00
CD #2 (Victor Petersen Memorial) Balance December 31, 2020	1,330.84
Interest	1.83
Disbursements (Combined all 3 CD's into 1 CD)	(1,332.67)
Balance December 31, 2021	0.00
CD #3 (125 th Anniversary Proceeds) Balance December 31, 2020	1,646.20
Interest	2.27
CD #1	3,719.32
CD #2	1,332.67
Balance December 31, 2021	6,700.46
Total Seminary Fund	\$6,700.46

Money Market	
Balance July 27, 2020	36,515.46
Interest	1.36
Less Disbursements	(33,962.65)
Closed Account (Transferred Balance to General Fund)	(2,554.17)
Balance December 31, 2021	\$0.00

INVESTMENT BALANCES

**Charles and Grace Bracker Memory Fund
Lydia Young Endowment (\$20,216.11-7/31/17)**

12/31/10	176,247.64
12/31/11	184,152.39
12/31/12	195,510.41
12/31/13	257,102.94
12/31/14	280,813.69
12/31/15	269,154.69
12/31/16	297,917.01
12/31/17	367,213.38
12/31/18	355,324.17
12/31/19	437,616.46
12/31/20	466,848.34
Account Value December 31, 2021	\$560,748.67

Bernice Hooge Endowment

Endowment August 2017	100,000.00
12/31/17	100,078.68
12/31/18	99,458.20
12/31/19	117,456.12
12/31/20	120,631.41
Account Value December 31, 2021	\$145,747.81

Marvin Hedegard Endowment

Endowment March 2018	182,352.35
12/31/18	181,122.81
12/31/19	220,153.09
12/31/20	231,485.56
Account Value December 31, 2021	\$276,369.74

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Gregory
Financial Treasurer
By Nancy Hedegaard

AUDITORS' REPORT

We the undersigned have inspected the financial records of the church and find them in proper order.

As a matter of general information, we have insurance coverage on the church, parsonage and garage in the amount of \$1,588,711.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Bracker, Auditor
Mary Bracker, Auditor

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

DEACON - 3 YEAR

DALE STEPHENS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3)

TRUSTEE - 3 YEAR

MONTE BRACKER

DELEGATES

BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - 3 YEAR

JULIE JENSON

**LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING
LAKEVILLE, MN – OCTOBER 2-5
REGIONAL MEETING (TBA)**

CONGREGATIONAL CHAIRMAN

STEVE ANDERSEN (DEACON)
JOSH BRACKER (DEACON)
BOB GREGORY (FINANCIAL TREAS)
JIM JENSON (TRUSTEE)
RUBEN VALDEZ (TRUSTEE)
RASHELLE WOHLERS (SECRETARY)

OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

AVA BRACKER (TRUSTEE)
JULIE JENSON (FINANCIAL SECRETARY)
DALE STEPHENS (DEACON)

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022

	2021	2022
WORLD MISSION		
Mission Development/Evangelism	6,500	6,500
Total World Mission	\$6,500	\$6,500
WORSHIP AND SERVICE		
Music Ministers	2,000	1,000
Secretary	6,000	6,000
Postage	500	500
Christian Education and Supplies	1,000	500
Youth Program	1,000	1,000
Synod Conferences	1,500	1,500
Worship Supplies/Stewardship	500	800
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000

Total Worship and Service	\$13,500	\$12,300
PASTORAL CARE		
Housing	36,000	36,000
Future Pastor Fund (per year)	1,200	0
Social Security	0	0
Travel Allowance	6,000	5,000
Professional Expenses	500	500
Pulpit Supply	300	300
Total Pastoral Care	\$44,000	\$41,800
CHURCH HOME		
Electricity	4,000	4,000
Propane	3,000	3,000
Insurance	7,000	8,000
Repairs and Maintenance	4,000	3,000
Parsonage Improvements	3,000	0
Janitor	0	0
Office Machines and Supplies	2,500	1,200
Mowing	2,500	0
Telephone/Internet	2,500	2,500
Dumpster	600	700
Savings Account (per year)	1,200	0
Total Church Home	\$30,300	\$22,400
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	\$94,300	\$83,000