

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 2021 News

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Boomer Township)**

**Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 9:30
*the church is open for services or you can join us virtually through our
facebook page***

**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**

**22163 SUMAC ROAD, NEOLA, IA 51559
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Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com
Facebook: [@STPaulNeola](https://www.facebook.com/STPaulNeola)
Website: stpaulsneola.church
Josh Bracker, Cong. President**

**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

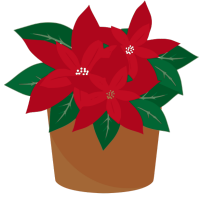
(Please let Emily know if I missed your Birthday or Anniversary so it can be added to our master list. You are important and we want to share it!!)

December 23rd: Happy Birthday Olivia Matson



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 



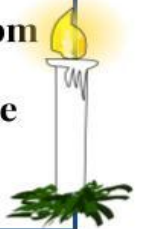
If you would like to order poinsettias please let Emily Pruett know. They are \$7.00 each. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. They will be on display at church then Please take them home and enjoy them after Christmas Eve Service. We order them from Sherbony's, a local and family owned business. It is great to support them and they always provide a wonderful product.



**Annual Christmas Carol
Worship Service
Cookies, coffee & hot
chocolate
Wed., Dec. 15th at 6:30 pm**

**Christmas Eve Service
December 24th@
5:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

**Both services will be
the same.**



There is a donation tree in the narthex. The donated items will be given to the nurse at Tri-Center to distribute to students in need throughout the year.

Items that we are looking for include... kids socks, kids underwear, kids sweatpants (sizes 4-10).

Prepare yourself for worship. Take some time to read the passages we will be hearing Sunday,

December 5, 2021 *Communion*

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-7

Psalm: 66:1-12

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:2-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-14, 15-20

Reader this week is ...

Julie Jenson

December 12, 2021

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm: 85:1-13

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 7:18-28, 29-35

Reader this week is ...

Rashelle Wohlers

December 19, 2021 *Communion*

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: 80:1-7

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, 46-56

Reader this week is ...

Harriette Andersen

December 24, 2020:

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Readers this evening are ...

Bill Bracker

Monte Bracker

December 26, 2021

First Lesson: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

Psalm: 111:1-10

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Reader this week is ...

Terri Anderson

When I wrote my last newsletter article for Stratford Lutheran Church in Stratford, Iowa it was October 2020. I was leaving a call that I had served for 20 years among people I knew and loved but I believe God was calling them to a new relationship with a new pastor. And I believed God was calling me to a new adventure in Omaha, Nebraska following my wife's lead as she had been taking care of our grandchildren during COVID shutdowns. By and by and after developing some wonderful relationships through work opportunities and worship with Christ Lutheran Church in Blair, NE, I received a letter from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neola, IA. The letter indicated a desire to find a new pastor according to God's plan. Being old and all my children having grown up, I thought I wasn't exactly the model the letter described. But I want the congregations of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) to move into the 21st century with a simple, Biblical focus on the relationship between pastor and congregation so I submitted my name and profile to the call committee in order to at least interview and meet some awesome people. Mission accomplished. It's been great to not only meet the call committee but the congregation it represents. Thank you all for inviting me and welcoming me into your adventure of preparing to meet your new pastor. Pray for that faithful servant of Christ and pray that God prepares your hearts for your future ministry.

The best way to be prepared is to find yourself at worship!

Here we are talking about worship. And I may use the connection to power as a parable. Worship is not the power source. Our Father in Heaven, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is the power. God's is the promise that holds us in time and eternity and theirs is the power that creates, redeems and sanctifies.

Worship is the switch that keeps us attached to that power. It's part of Martin Luther's genius that he identified worship and God's word as the focus behind the command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." "Regard God's word as holy and gladly hear and learn it," he reminds us. Worship is therefore not an event (weekly, monthly, yearly or however often you get to **public** worship) as much the permanent connection with life itself. God wants you to know who he is, who you are and how he loves you and wants you to be his forever. He is a great and perfect God. Without his grace you are a lost and condemned sinner. In Christ you are redeemed, forgiven, being prepared for eternity. Worship, weekly – daily – constantly – keeps you connected. In Christ! Bring the kids.

See you at worship (every time I see you) this week!

November 2021 Meeting Minutes

This is the meeting of St Paul's Lutheran Church held on Sunday, November 14th, 2021 in the basement of the church. Council members present: Josh Bracker, Steve Andersen, Dale Stephens, Bob Gregory, Julie Jenson, Ruben Valdez, and Rashelle Wohlers.

Not present: Ava Bracker and Jim Jenson

Also present: Pastor Joe Lambert

Josh, as President, conducted the meeting

Opening Prayer by Dale Stephens

Minutes from the previous meeting were not read aloud.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed. Motion to approve the report by Bob Gregory, 2nd by Steve Andersen, all in favor, motion passes.

Pastor's Report – no Pastor's Report due to Pastor Joe having minimal notice of the meeting

Old Business:

- Bob Gregory was to meet with Jon Narmie about the endowments, but that had to be rescheduled. Hopefully, they will meet this next week.
- Emily emailed about adopting a family through Tri-Center School District for Christmas. Motion to approve adopting two families at approximately \$750 by Steve Andersen, 2nd by Ruben Valdez, all in favor, motion passes.
- Christmas Eve Services will be held at 5PM and 7 PM this year. Both services will have the same content.
- Nominating Committee – three people will have fulfilled their terms this year:
 - o Ava Bracker as Trustee
 - o Dale Stephens as Deacon
 - o Julie Jenson as Financial Secretary
 - o An announcement will be made in church today that those three positions are available for the next term.
- Auditing the Treasurer's Books – Ruben and Steve will meet with Nancy Hedegaard to audit – this has to be completed before the Annual Meeting.
- Date for Upcoming Events:
 - o Deck the Halls – Saturday, December 4th at 9AM
 - o Christmas Caroling – Wednesday, December 15th at 6:30 PM
- Next Council Meeting is Wednesday, December 8th at 6:30PM.

New Business:

- Pastor Wohlhuter is putting together a group of six churches from the area to form Teammates, which will have a back-to-school Backpack Program. Motion by Dale Stephen, 2nd by Julie Jenson to donate \$350 to the program. All in favor, motion passes.
- Harvest Fest offering will be donated to Jill's Journey.
- Motion to adjourn by Steve, 2nd by Ruben, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

We all recited the Lord's Prayer in closing.