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.

**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 8:00 in the church basement**

**Pastor Mary Findlay**

**22163 SUMAC ROAD, NEOLA, IA 51559**

**Telephone: (712) 545-3123**

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**Facebook: @STPaulNeola**

**Website:stpaulsneola.church**

**Monte Bracker, Cong. President**

**If you are not receiving emails and would like to send an email to** **stpsecretary3123@gmail.com**

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| ***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 |

The COVID-19 guidelines are always changing. We are requiring all people to wear a mask while in the church building, while also encouraging social distancing. The pews have been taped off to avoid close contact. The bulletins are placed in the pews, the offering baskets are in the front to avoid passing them around, and communion is being done differently to avoid contact. Please respect these guidelines. We are doing our best to keep everyone safe and healthy. If you are not comfortable following these guidelines or attending service please join us online or live on Facebook. If you do not have access to the online streaming or would like any other assistance please contact Pastor Mary Findlay.

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| **Prepare yourself for worship.** Take some time to read the passages we will be hearing Sunday, **February 7, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** Isaiah 40:21-31 Harriette Andersen**Psalm:** 147: 1-11, 20**Second Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 *communion Sunday***Gospel:**Mark 1:29-39**February 14, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** 2 Kings 2:1-12 Monte Bracker**Psalm:**50:1-6**Second Lesson:**2 Corinthians 4:3-6  **Gospel:**Mark 9:2-9  **February 17, 2021: Reader this night is ...****First Lesson:** Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 Bruce Bracker**Psalm:** 51: 1-17**Second Lesson:**2 Corinthians 5:20- 6:10 **Ash Wednesday****Gospel:** 6:1-6, 16-21**February 21, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** Genesis 9: 8-17 Teri Andersen**Psalm:** 25: 1-10**Second Lesson:** 1 Peter 25: 1-10 *communion Sunday***Gospel:**Mark 1: 9-15**February 28, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Steve Andersen **Psalm:** 22: 23-31**Second Lesson:**Romans 4:13-25 **Gospel:**Mark 8:31-38 |

# My brothers and sisters in Christ,

# On Ash Wednesday we begin the 40-day journey leading up to Easter. Amongst many Christians Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and fasting/abstinence. It can also be a time of great spiritual renewal and deepening of faith as we consider the significance of season itself. The symbols of the season are visual, and historical/traditional within the church. As you will see, the church itself will be adorned with purple representing solemnity, penitence and prayer as the community meditates on the agony that Christ willingly endured for us. On Ash Wednesday the pastor traces the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ashes symbolizing not only our Baptism but mortality. This is especially significant as the words “Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return” are spoken. The music and liturgy are likewise changed by omitting the word “Alleluia”, as is any Hymn of Praise.

# We will continue the Lenten tradition at St. Paul’s by offering a Wednesday prayer service. Each service will focus on a specific topic with scripture readings, hymns, and reflection time/prayer. The service will begin at 6pm. (Due to COVID concerns there will not be a soup supper.)

Blessings to you,

Pastor Mary Findlay

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# **ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

 Meeting Minutes

 January 12, 2021 6:40 PM

This is the meeting of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church held on Tuesday, January 21, 2021 at 6:40 in the basement of the church. Council members present; Dale Stephens, Emily Pruett,Julie Jenson, Monte Bracker, Bob Gregory,Jim Jenson, Josh Bracker, Ava Bracker

Not present:David Bartlett

Also Present: Pastor Mary Findlay, Nancy Hedegaard

Monte, as president, conducted the meeting. Pastor Mary opened with a prayer.

Council Minutes: It was moved by Dale and seconded by Bob to approve the December minutes, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: It was moved by Jim and seconded by Ava to approve the December treasurer’s report, motion carried.

Trustees’ Report: A new flag has been hung. Some repairs are needed to the pole and will be looked into when the weather is warmer.

Pastor’s Report: It was moved by Jim and second by Julie to approve Pastor Mary’s December report.

**Old Business:**

-Sign for flower removal and mission statement (Julie is taking care of ordering signs):*The signs should be made soon and hung in appropriate places* ***Mary and Julie will be going to finalize these signs***

-It was requested by Lorene Jensen’s family to use her funds for a bench. Monte is going to discuss with the family about details. *Monte is working on details to get this bench ordered.* ***Monte spoke with the family to order the correct bench. It was moved by Jim and Second by Julie to use the Charles and Lorene Jensen family memorial money to purchase the bench. Motioned carried. The bench will be placed outside the North entrance. (Monte***

**Nate on Website:** Nate Ekley presented the new website. Some suggestions were made and those items will be changed. It is the hope of the council that the website will be finalized and running by January 1st. *The website is going well and Gary and Mary Findlay are keeping it updated at this time.*

**Scholarship fund**- There was some misinformation in regards to a past scholarship fund. We have not had a fund for this in the past. After some discussion this council has decided to grant a graduation gift of $500.00 to each graduating senior.

\**Josh and Ava Bracker objected to Ava qualifying to receive this gift because Ava is a council member. Some discussion happened between council members pointing out that Ava was not at the meeting during the time the decision was made, she is a senior and is an active participant in this church.*

**Auditors for the annual meeting** *will be Gary Fndlay and Marlin Jenson.*

**New Business:**

It was moved by Josh and second by Jim to accept the proposed budget for 2021 as written. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting January 24, 2021.

Thank you to the council members who have served their term We appreciate all that you have contributed. Monte Bracker, Emily Pruett and Dave Bartlett

Ava presented an idea to the council and requested use of church facilities. She would like to organize a discussion group of her peers. This will be a group that is open to share ideas and questions about faith. Ava will lead this group and the council assured to help her in any way she would like.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

 Minutes Reported by Emily Pruett, Council Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

 **22163 SUMAC RD, NEOLA, IOWA 51559-5069**

 **JANUARY 24, 2021– Following Worship**

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 Kylie 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 - page4-5

 c. Women’s - page 6

It 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 6-7

It 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 14

It was moved by Bruce Bracker and Seconded by Steve Andersen to approve Financial and Auditor's 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 approve elected council members, motion carried. A round of applause was given to 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 on 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 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. Ramon 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 Defence Fund. This will be added to the council’s agenda for further discussion.

 d. It was mentioned during the auditor’s 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 worth of the property. This will be added to the council’s agenda for followthrough.

 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 Christofferson and seconded by Ramona Bracker to adjourn the 140th Annual Congregational Meeting. Motion carried.

 Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Pruett, Church Secretary