

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.*

February 2023 News

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Boomer Township)
22163 SUMAC ROAD, NEOLA, IA 51559
New 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

January Celebrations....

Paul Christoffersen- 2/4

Audrey Wohlers- 2/16

Bob Gregory- 2/5

Eloie Jones- 2/24

Kristen Bracker- 2/6

Annette Bracker- 2/25

Kiley Jenson- 2/12

Upcoming Sunday's

February 5; Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Reader: Bruce Bracker

Isaiah 58:3-9a Psalm 112:1-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5:13-20

February 12; Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Reader: Julie Jenson

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37

February 19; Transfiguration of Our Lord

Reader: Terri Anderson

Exodus 24:8-18 Psalm 2:6-12 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

February 22; Ash Wednesday

Reader: Monte Bracker

Joel 2:12-19 Psalm 51:1-13 (14-19) 2 Corinthians 5:20b -6:10 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

February 26; First Sunday in Lent

Reader: Steve Andersen

Genesis 3:1-21 Psalm 32:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

March 5; Second Sunday in Lent

Reader: Emily McKern

Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-8,13-17 John 3:1-17

March 12; Third Sunday in Lent

Reader: Denise Kephart

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95:1-9 Romans 5:1-8 John 4:5-26 (27-30,39-42)

St. Paul's will be joining the rotation of the Group 3:16. This is a non-denominational, safe environment for all kids grades 6-8 to explore and learn more about their Christian faith. They welcome kids regardless of their church background. They try to have music and a game of some sort to help relay the message that the kids can relate to. The kids love to have speakers come in and speak with them. The group meets Wednesday nights at one of the 3 churches in the rotation. Dinner is provided by the hosting church and then the kids are broken up into groups for a message/ lesson. St. Paul's will be hosting **February 15th, and April 5th**. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please reach out to Pastor Joe or Kiley Jenson.

Sunday School

Sunday School will meet during service, right after the youth message. All youth are welcome to join us downstairs for a story, craft and snack. Kids will then return upstairs during the closing hymn.

Please let Emily Pruett know if you would like to teach a week of Sunday school.

Sunday School Dates are...

February 12th

March 12th

April 2nd

May 7th (End of Sunday School Celebration)

January Church council meeting

January 11,2023 5:30 p.m.

Attending: Josh Bracker, Jim Jenson, Bill Bracker, Steve Andersen, Ruben Valdez, Bob Gregory, Monte Bracker, Pastor Joe Lambert, Julie Jenson

Not present : Rachelle Wohlers

Opening Prayer: Pastor Joe opened with a video by Jordan Peterson then had a prayer.

Approval of December minutes: Bill Bracker 2nd by Steve Andersen

Treasurer Report: Jim Jenson 2nd by Steve Andersen

Pastor Joe Report: His wife Gracie will be the caregiver of Joe's mom in Clear Lake Ia . So there maybe times when Joe will be changing his schedule to be up there. We the council stand behind him 100%.

Had discussion on the Bethany Lutheran Home annual meeting.

He reminded us of our upcoming special guest speaker Tara Saunders on Sunday January 15, 2023.

Old Business:

Council Positions 2023 : Emily McKern (Deacon) Mike VanSickle (Trustee)

Budget 2023: Josh Bracker handed out the tentative church budget for 2023. The budget was approved by : Bill Bracker 2nd by Ruben Valdez

Annual Meeting: January 29 2023 in the basement following church service with a potluck dinner afterwards.

New Business:

Need to work on the Bell Tower --- 4x4 boards need to be replaced.

Follow up discussion with what the younger families of our church would like to see at our church going into the near future.

Handicap Accessibility into the church & basement and a bathroom upstairs. Josh Bracker found some old architect plans for the church.

With lots of discussion and ideas the council is going to continue to work on this. The plan would be to add a bathroom upstairs then work on handicap access to the basement. Josh Bracker was going to reach out to a friend to look over the old plans and give us some ideas on the cost moving on this project. We all left pretty excited about this project. To grow our church, we all know these things need to be done.

February 5th : Installation of new council members

Next meeting: February 8th 6:30 p.m.

February 12th: Guest Speaker Ulette Song

We thanked Josh Bracker & Jim Jenson for all their dedication & work during their terms on council.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Julie Jenson

Pastor's Page

February 2023

When I was a young father we had a system for defusing conflict among the boys (that's all we had for a while. When we adopted a daughter she was included in both the fusing and defusing of conflict!)

There was a sheet of paper on the refrigerator that represented the agenda for the "Family Meeting" on Saturday. If anyone had a complaint against his brother or against his parents, our response was, "Put it on the agenda."

Similarly, when the Christmas catalogs came out in September (on paper from places like Sears and Penny's) the requests for cool stuff came non stop. So in order to stop the flood of verbal requests a page was hung on each bedroom door. The parental answer to each request of "I want that..." was to say, "Put it on your list." The hope was that each son would see that his list needed to be stated more realistically. Some stuff is possible. Everything is not.

Two lists, at least, are coming to light as regards the future of ministry at St. Paul's. And it's a good idea for each of us who calls St. Paul's home to keep both of them in mind as this year progresses.

The first is what we'd like to see in the candidates for pastor. It's important for us to be as detailed as possible. Please talk to members of the call committee regarding any particular characteristics you'd like to see and hear and experience from our new pastor.

The second is how can we as the congregation of St. Paul's prepare ourselves to be the best community for our new pastor. Are there things that need work before we issue a call? Things with the building, the parsonage, our relationships inside the church, our relationships outside the church, the condition of my own heart (each person needs to ask). Talk to Council members, talk to officers, talk to me. We certainly don't have to wait to be doing things that demonstrate the life and love of Christ right now as we continue to wait for the call process to unfold. I have to put stuff on the agenda or I'll certainly forget.

As Gracie is working in Clear Lake with my mother most days of the week, I will be freer to keep more hours available to work at the church. If anyone has any special needs or concerns, please feel free to call either my number or the church number. Please leave a message so that I

can get back ot you. There is the possibility of lots of good things being planted at St. Paul's this spring.

Finally, Lent begins this February. Ash Wednesday is on the 22nd. Please make time on Wednesday evenings to focus on stewardship and discipline as well as enjoying each others company and some delicious food. For all who participate there will be a special challenge that will take us through the whole season.

I want to continue to thank everyone for your love and kindness and your cooperation in the ministry of our congregation. Worship and study is for us who belong to the fellowship of faith to prepare us for the service to our neighbors. That exists in our families and our work and our business and our recreation and in our neighborhoods as far as they extend.

Be well prepared in Jesus! **See you at worship this week!**