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**

**Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com**

**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.

2021 Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 24th following church service. All members are welcome to attend. We will livestream the meeting as well.

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| **Prepare yourself for worship.** Take some time to read the passages we will be hearing Sunday, **January 3, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** Jeremiah 31:7-14 Harriette Andersen**Psalm:** 147: 12-20**Second Lesson:** Ephesians 1:3-14 *communion Sunday***Gospel:**John 1:1-18**January 10, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** Genesis 1:1-5 Monte Bracker**Psalm:**29**Second Lesson:**Acts 19:1-7  **Gospel:**Mark 1:4-11 **January 17, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** 1 Samuel 3:1-20 Teri Andersen**Psalm:** 139:1-6, 13-18**Second Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 *communion Sunday***Gospel:**John 1: 43-51**January 24, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Steve Andersen **Psalm:** 62:5-12**Second Lesson:**1 Corinthians 7:29-31 “Annual Meeting After Service”**Gospel:**Mark 1:14-20**January 31, 2021: Reader this week is ...****First Lesson:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Bruce Bracker**Psalm:** 111**Second Lesson:**1 Corinthians 8:1-13 **Gospel:**Mark 1:21-28 |

# **From Pastor Mary Findlay**

St. Paul’s Bell:The bell was cast by the C.S. Bell Company of Hillsboro, Ohio. It is 40 inches in diameter and weighs over 1300 pounds. The church paid little over 50 dollars for the bell in 1906. The bell was rung at the beginning of each worship service, as well as before Sunday School. When the sexton lived nearby the bell would be rung one half hour before the start of the service to remind people to get ready. The bell was tolled three times at the close of the worship service symbolizing the Holy Trinity. It also was tolled for funerals when the casket left the church until it reached the cemetery. Over the years the tolling customs changed. Today the bell tolls at the beginning and end of the worship service.

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# **ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

 Meeting Minutes

 December 8, 2020 6:30 PM

This is the meeting of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:30 in the prayer garden of the church. Council members present; Dale Stephens, Emily Pruett,Julie Jenson, Monte Bracker, Bob Gregory

Not present:David Bartlett, Jim Jenson, Josh Bracker, Ava Bracker

Also Present: Nate Ekley, Pastor Mary Findlay, Gary Findlay, Nancy Hedegaard

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

Council Minutes: It was moved by Julie and second by Bob to approve the November minutes, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: It was moved by Dale and second by Julie to approve the November treasurer’s report, motion carried.

Trustees’ Report: A new flag is needed.

Pastor’s Report: It was moved by Dale and second by Julie to approve Pastor Mary’s November 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***

**December Agenda:**

**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.

**New Council Members**- There have been some names suggested to become members. Those people have been contacted and will be added to the ballot for the Annual Meeting.

**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.

**Christmas Eve Service:**There will be two services this year; one at 5:00pm and one at 7:00pm. Both services will be the same with exception that Pastor Norm will lead one and Pastor Mary the other. There will be a sign up sheet that will allow us to have a general idea of the number in attendance. It is the goal to keep each service around 40 people. Masks will be required and social distancing will be encouraged.

**Auditors for annual meeting**

**Proposed Budget:** Some of the members of the council will meet with Nancy after the meeting to discuss the budget for 2021

**Reports**

**Newspaper ad:**  It was brought to the council’s attention that we are still paying for a newspaper ad.The council decided that we are advertising successfully in other ways through Facebook, the new website, our live streamed services, the newsletter, and email updates. It was moved by Dale and second by Julie to remove this ad, motion carried. Emily will call the paper and cancel the ad immediately.

Poinsettias were ordered and will be delivered to members of the church. Christmas cards will be sent out as well. The poinsettias were ordered from Sherbondy’s and will be paid for out of the spending account.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

 Minutes Reported by Emily Pruett, Council Secretary

**Tuesday January 12 at 6:30 pm will be the next council meeting.**

***Sunday December 20, 2020 we held a meeting following church to vote on the contract for Pastor Mary Findlay.***

***Monte opened the meeting and told everyone what the council had offered Mary. A one year contract starting January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021. Her salary of $3000.00/month plus mileage, along with reimbursement of any other approved payments throughout the year.***

***Dale Stephens motioned this contract & Bruce Brace seconded it.***

***The church members voted by ballot and it was ( 25 ) yes ( 0 ) no***

***Pastor Mary thanked everyone and is looking forward to moving forward with our little church.***

***Meeting was adjourned.***

***There was a second meeting for the call committee..***

***It will be : Beth Valdez, Dale Stephens, Ava Bracker, Teri Andersen, Kiley Jenson, Monte Bracker, & Julie Jenson***

***The 1st meeting will be held on January 10, 2021 following church.***

***These minutes were respectfully submitted by Council Member***

***Julie Jenson***