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\***

**Pastor Norm Jelken**

**Pastor Mary Findlay**

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

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

**Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com**

**Facebook: @STPaulNeola**

**Monte Bracker, Cong. President**

Message from the Pastor….

I began my ministry here at St. Paul’s Lutheran church on July 7, 2011. I believe that the LORD called me here to assist in the healing process at that time. And I honestly believe that the Holy Spirit has now healed all of us. We are now once again a House of Prayer and a family in spirit.

We have ordained two into the ministry and have assisted not only in the start up of two Christian Churches in Vietnam but also provided monetary gifts to assist in the building of their churches.

We have also participated in “Jail Ministry” to spread the Gospels to those who had been incarcerated.

As you know; we have just finished a forty day period of prayer dedicated to finding a new direction for this church. We have prayed to the Holy Spirit for that direction so that we can now move to reach more people not only in our immediate area but also throughout.

Through this prayer period; I have been told that it is now time for me to step aside as your Pastor. It is time for me to transition back to the role of parishioner. To continue to serve but not spiritually lead. And as we are members of St. Paul’s; I would appreciate that opportunity to continue to serve in this congregation.

I have chosen January 1, 2021 as the end of my duties as lead Pastor of this church. As my wife and I are members of this congregation and because of the deep love and relationships with you; I will continue to help out with Pastoral Duties at St. Paul’s as long as my health is good and as long as this body of Christ desires.

In conclusion I want to thank everyone in this church for giving me this opportunity to serve. It has truly been the best years of my life.

Pastor Norm

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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 |

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| **Prepare yourself for worship.** Take some time to read the passages we will be hearing Sunday,  **July 5, 2020: Reader this week is ...**  **First Lesson:** Zechariah 9:9-12 Bruce Bracker  **Psalm:** 145:8-14  **Second Lesson:** Romans 7:15-25  **Gospel:**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30  **July 12, 2020: Reader this week is ...**  **First Lesson:** Isaiah 55:10-13 Julie Jenson  **Psalm:** 65:1-13  **Second Lesson:** Romans 8:1-11  **Gospel:**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23  **July 19, 2020: Reader this week is ...**  **First Lesson:** Isaiah 44:6-8 Steve Andersen  **Psalm:** 86:11-17  **Second Lesson:** Romans 8:12-25  **Gospel:**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43  **July 26, 2020: Reader this week is ...**  **First Lesson:** 1 Kings 3:5-12 Monte Bracker  **Psalm:** 119:129-136  **Second Lesson:** Romans 8:26-39  **Gospel:**Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52 |

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| **July Birthdays and *Anniversaries***  1- Landry Bracker  4- Dan Kenealy  *6- Dan & Emily Pruett*  12- Ramona Bracker  14- Emmalee Cain  17- Steve Andersen  18- Cade Bracker  21- Marlin Jenson  28- Charlie Hillis  29- Jacqueline Olsen | Children’s Acitvity:  Please fill out the “With My Own Two Hands” sheet and mail it to the church for display or share it on our Facebook page.  *The mystery of God’s way is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded for the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ’s invitato: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.* |

St. Paul’s is moving forward with a new normal….

We have had a rather difficult spring learning how to protect ourselves from a little organism that is so small that we cannot see it without a microscope.

This is not the first time in human history that we have encountered something that could kill us but we couldn’t see. Centuries earlier a little virus that was called the “Black Plague” killed millions throughout Europe. There was also a flu strain that killed millions in the early 1900’s and Emboli in the last decade. The list of microscopic killers in this world is large. And through all of these disasters many people either blamed God for this or were convinced that God was punishing sinful humans.

I would suggest to you that yes the LORD MOST HIGH did create those dangerous creatures. But He has never wreaked havoc upon mankind until He has first threatened them to change from their evil ways.

Our LORD truly is full of Grace and patient with us. He always gives us plenty of time to repent and move away from evil deeds. The key is that we understand that we must repent and sin no more.

As this outbreak is still prevalent in our communities we must remain cautious and protect our bodies. But we still must also continue to live.

Our little church is once again open and welcoming for all who wish to worship. We hope that you once join us on Sunday. It is time for all of us to move on while being just a little more cautious.

Pastor Norm

-Things look a little different to encourage everyone’s safety and health-

\* there are masks on the table in the Narthex for anyone who wishes to wear one

\* there is hand sanitizer out and people are encouraged to use it freely

\* we ask that everyone practice social distancing while in the church

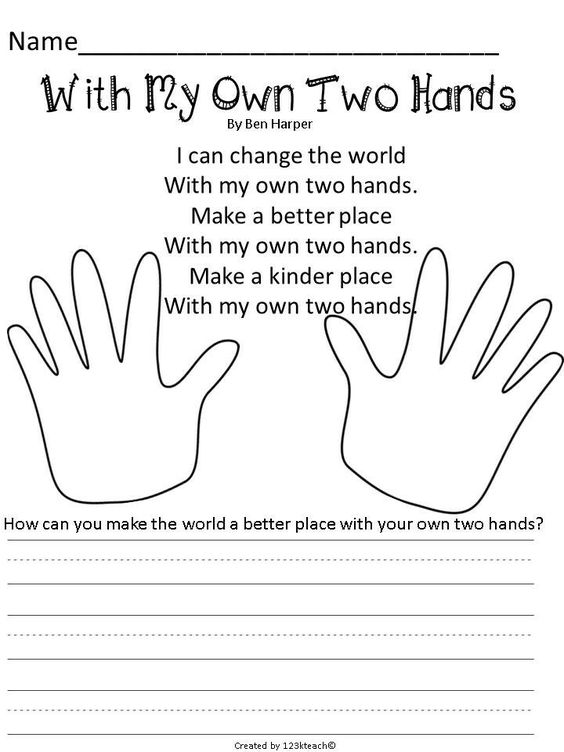
\* bulletins are placed on the pews to help keep a good distance during worship

\* we are not holding hands during prayers for the time being

\* we ask that you refrain from hand shaking and hugs

\* there is no fellowship after services in the basement

It is our hope that these changes will keep everyone safe while allowing us to continue to worship. If you feel like you are not ready to worship in our church building, please reach out to us so we may help you worship at home in a safe way. There are many options available including at home communion. Pastor Norm and Pastor Mary are willing to assist in many ways.



# **ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2020 6:30 PM

This is the meeting of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30 in the basement of the church. Council members present; Dale Stephens, Emily Pruett,Julie Jenson, Monte Bracker, Bob Gregory(via Phone), Ava Bracker, Josh Bracker

Not present:David Bartlett,Jim Jenson

Also Present: Mary Findlay, Pastor Norm Jelken, Nancy Hedegaard

Monte, as president, conducted the meeting.

Opening Prayer By Pastor Norm Jelken

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

Treasurer’s Report:

Nany proposed we move continuing ed, mission development, and youth camp into the general fund. We will also pay Norm his portion of the continuing ed fund before the funds are combined. This was moved by Josh and second by Julie, motion carried to move funds.

Nancy and Josh led a discussion to use some of the memorial funds for items around the church. The council will come up with some ideas and present them at the next council meeting.

It was moved by Dale and second by Josh to approve the treasurer's report, motion carried.

Trustees’ Report:

The propane tanks were painted by Monte, the angle from the prayer garden was switched with the angel by the front door.

It was moved by Dale and second by Josh to approve the trustee's report, motion carried.

Pastor’s Report:

It was moved by Ava and second by Bob, motion carried to approve reports.

**Old Business:**

-Pastor Norm would like to discuss helping Phuong: $1500.00 was sent

- 40 days of prayer ends May 21st: encourage everyone to keep praying

- Piano Lessons will now be $20.00 instead of the previous $15.00/ session. We have 4 kids participating in these.

-Timber Service will be June 28th at 9:30am with a potluck after.

**New Business:**

-Nancy Will be sending $440.00 (lenten offering) to Heifer international

-Pastor Norm presented the council with his letter of retirement. It was moved by Dale and second by Josh to accept his letter of retirement, motion carried. The council will have a closed meeting to discuss the next steps in the process of finding his replacement.

-Josh presented raising the cost of a grave space from $200 to $500 per space. $100 from each space purchased will go into the cemetery maintenance fund and $400 will be put into the permanent cemetery fund. It was moved by Josh and second by Ava to approve an increase of grave space from $200 to $500, motion carried.

-The council discussed the church’s mission statement. We reviewed the statement and agreed it is still an accurate statement for our church.We also discussed using it throughout the church and during service. The Mission Statement will be added to church service, placed in the monthly newsletter, and we are looking into making a sign to display the statement.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Minutes Reported by Emily Pruett, Council Secretary

**Tuesday July 14th at 6:30 pm will be the next council meeting.**

***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