

SAVING A SEAT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

ST. PAUL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

22163 SUMAC RD NEOLA, IA 51559 | (402)915-2495



VBS at Arrowhead Park

OUR MISSION

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, Christlike servanthood and fellowship;
- Open ourselves to the Holy Spirit's leading, so that whatever we do, we do in Jesus' name

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

- JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM
- BIBLE STUDY SUNDAY MORNING AT 8:15
- MEN'S PRAYER GROUP SATURDAY MORNING AT 7:30
- LIVE STREAMED SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

*Happy
4th of July*

WHAT'S COMING IN JULY:

The Council will meet July 9th at 6:30 pm

The Worship Committee will meet on July 20th at 9:30 am

Join Pastor Paul on Wednesday evenings for bible study at 6:30 pm.



A perfect morning for church in the timber at the Jenson Farm

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR PAUL

Let's Talk Liturgics

A local church was having a difficult time recruiting new acolytes to serve for weekly worship. The following announcement was placed in the bulletin: "Attention anyone who likes playing with fire, smoke, and big sticks: We've got the perfect opportunity for you!"

Candles have been used in worship since God commanded the Israelites to build a tabernacle in the Old Testament and possibly even before that among other cultures and religions. In the ancient Jewish tabernacle, the large candle stand, or menorah, illuminated the holy place, and according to some sources, stood as a symbol of the seven days of creation. Fast forward to a time when the early Christians were forced to worship in the catacombs due to severe persecution. Their use of candles was much more practical than ceremonial or liturgical. Down in the catacombs, they needed a source of light, and the candles, or more likely oil lamps, became an essential for regular worship. The inclusion of candles in worship has continued in many churches over the centuries. However, the significance, or purpose, has shifted from being less practical to more ceremonial and liturgical.

Candles symbolize the light of Christ and His gospel. When Christians gather for worship with candles lit in the sanctuary, we are reminded that Christ is ever-present with us, and that He, as it says in the Gospel, is the Light of the world, and His Word is a guiding light for our lives (Psalm 119).

Candles have different special liturgical uses. The large, decorated Paschal candle symbolizes the light of Christ who was crucified, died, rose, and ascended into heaven. This candle is lighted during the Easter Vigil and all services during the season of Easter. The Advent Wreath includes four candles that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. The wreath also includes a "Christ candle" in the center that is lighted on Christmas Eve. Also, each newly baptized individual and/or godparent may receive a candle after baptism. This candle may be lighted from the Paschal candle and serves as a reminder of baptism. Many liturgical churches use a sanctuary/eternal candle recognized by its red glass lamp, and it is kept lighted to remind worshipers of Christ's presence among His people in both the sacrament of the altar and the proclamation of the Gospel. Some congregations also have two candlesticks on the altar: one representing the divinity of Christ and the other representing the humanity of Christ; together, they are a reminder that Christ came into our world and is present with us.

When we worship, we worship not only with our minds, but with our whole being: what we see, smell, taste, and hear. Colors, water, and candles are just a few things that enhance our worship and our awareness of God's presence and our reverence for Him.

Most liturgical services conclude with the acolytes extinguishing the candles. However, that does not mean that the light has gone out. We are the light, and we are to go out into the world and shine the light of Christ wherever we go. For Jesus said to His disciples and us in Matthew chapter 5 verses 14-16: "You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Blessings, Pastor Paul

JULY NEWS



The ladies had a lovely time at the Spring Tea



The Wideners hosted everyone for a movie night featuring The Sandlot



SUMMER
FUN
AT
ST.
PAUL'S!



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

July 7: Pentecost 7 | Reader: Terri Andersen,
Greeters: Bill & Annette Bracker

July 14: Pentecost 8 | Reader: Julie Jensen
Greeters: Harriette & Steve Andersen

July 21: Pentecost 9 | Reader: Chris Segrell
Greeters Terri Anderson

July 28: Pentecost 10 | Reader: Rashelle Wohlers
Greeter: Monte & Ramona BRacker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LANDRY BRACKER - 7/1

DAN KENEALY - 7/4

LAVERA JENSEN - 7/8

RAMONA BRACKER 7/12

EMILY REESE - 7/14

STEVE ANDERSEN 7/17

CADE BRACKER 7/18

MARLIN JENSEN - 7/21

CHARLIE HILLIS - 7/28

RASHELLE WOHLERS - 7/28

JACQUELINE OLSEN - 7/29



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO DAN & EMILY, MARLIN & JULIE, WENDY & ALAN, RUBEN & BETH!