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 8:15-8:45 in the church basement**

**Saturday’s @ 7:30 am - Men’s Prayer Group**

**Tuesday’s @ 10:00 am - Woman’s Prayer Group**

**Pastor Mary Findlay**

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

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

**Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com**

**Facebook: @STPaulNeola**

**Website:stpaulsneola.church**

**Josh Bracker, Cong. President**

**If you are not receiving emails and would like to send an email to** [**stpsecretary3123@gmail.com**](mailto:stpsecretary3123@gmail.com) **or**

**officemanager@stpaulsneola.church**

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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 |

We will be returning to a “normal” service starting July 18th. Communion will take place at the communion rail agin. Ushers will be limiting the amount of people at the rail at a time. We are still encouraging social distancing to respect everyone’s wishes. The pews will no longer be taped off. The bulletins will be handed out by the ushers and offering will take place during service. 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 by calling the church or via email ***pastormary@stpaulsneola.church*** .

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**June/July important dates:**

**Sunday June 27th 9:30am Outdoor Service @ the Jenson’s**

**Potluck will be held in their shed after service**

**July 1st Happy Birthday Landry Bracker**

**Saturday July 3rd 5:30pm Due to Independence Day celebrations services that were scheduled for July 4th will be held Saturday night. There will NOT be communion during this service.**

**July 4th Happy Birthday Dan Kenealy**

**July 6th Happy Anniversary Dan and Emily Pruett**

**July 10th Happy Anniversary Marlin and Julie Jenson**

**Sunday July 11th 140th Celebration**

**July 12th Happy Birthday Ramona Bracker**

**July 14th Happy Birthday Emmalee Cain**

**July 16th Happy Anniversary Wendy and Alan Matson**

**July 17th Happy Birthday Steve Andersen**

**July 18th Happy Birthday Cade Bracker**

**Sunday July 18th CeCe Mickels from Bethany Lutheran will be at the church to speak with the congregation.**

**July 21st Happy Birthday Marlin Jenson**

**July 28th Happy Birthday Charlie Hillis**

**July 29th Happy Birthday Jackie Olsen**

(Please let Emily know if I missed your Birthday or Anniversary so it can be added to our master list. You are important and we want to share it!!)

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| **Prepare yourself for worship.** Take some time to read the passages we will be hearing Sunday,  **June 27, 2021** *outdoor service*  **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Lamentations 3:22-33  **Psalm:** 30 Julie Jenson  **Second Lesson:**2 Corinthians 8: 7-15  **Gospel:** Mark 5:21-43  **July 3, 2021** *Saturday Night Service* **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Ezekial 2:1-5  **Psalm:** 123 Harriette Andersen  **Second Lesson:**2 Corinthians 12:2-10  **Gospel:** Mark 6: 1-13  **July 11, 2021 Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Amos 7: 7-15  **Psalm:** 85: 8-13 Bruce Bracker  **Second Lesson:**Ephesians 2:11-22  **Gospel:** Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56  **July 18, 2021** *Communion*  **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Jeremiah 23:1-6  **Psalm:** 23 Julie Jenson  **Second Lesson:**Ephesians 2:11-22  **Gospel:** Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56  **July 25, 2021 Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**2 Kings 4:42-44  **Psalm:** 145: 10-18 Monte Bracker  **Second Lesson:**Ephesians 3:14-21  **Gospel:** John 6:1-21 |

***Prayer Request Process: All prayer requests should be sent to Pastor Mary at the following email address: pastormary@stpaulsneola.church, or officemanager@stpaulsneola.church . You can also call the church—the phone is forwarded to the pastor. To serve the community more fully we need complete information. Please include your contact information, the prayer request itself and whether the request can be made public, and whether the individual wants the pastor to call. We will include the prayer requests on the refrigerator page for two weeks.***

What time is it?

I am now retired from federal service and have the ‘enviable’ task of finding ways to fill my time. There are no more meetings, or deadlines for reports and briefings. I am not one to remain idle for long. Old habits die hard as I still maintain a calendar and write out a to-do list to keep on track. Time is a precious commodity, and how we spend it speaks volumes about what we regard as important. Like many we have family responsibilities, we work to support our families, and have volunteer responsibilities in the community, and of course summer vacations to plan. Spare time is indeed a precious commodity. As Christians, how do we look at the gift of time?

Scripture reminds us that God lavishes many blessings on us, our lives, family, resources and most importantly our redemption and eternal life through Jesus Christ his Son. 1 Corinthians 12 describes spiritual gifts that are given to us by God. We are called to use these gifts to serve our brothers and sisters, the kind of service that brings honor and glory to God for his incredible grace and love. There are plenty of spiritual gifts inventories available on the internet. These inventories are helpful in discerning one’s gifts and provide guidance on how best to use them for service in God’s kingdom. We have many opportunities to serve both here at the church and within the surrounding communities.

On July 11th, we celebrate the 140th birthday of St. Paul’s. This is a great opportunity to be the light to the community. As you can imagine there are plenty of chances to serve. For example, we need prayer warriors to cover this event with prayer, prayer for good weather, for hearts and minds to be open to God’s call on their lives and his incredible love. We will need help in greeting our guests, setting up and taking down. These are just a few of the opportunities to serve. This celebration is our chance as a community to show who we are, and whose we are. A beacon on the hill.

Beyond our birthday celebration we would like to set the vision for the remaining part of the year especially in Christian education, and discipleship beyond the walls of St. Paul’s. This is an exciting time, and we as a Christian community can truly step out of our comfort zones to serve.

In closing I want to encourage you to pray and seek discernment of what the Lord is calling you to do, no task is too small in the kingdom of God. I would like to put in a word for the two prayer groups we have: the Men’s group meets each Saturday at 7:30; and the Women’s group meets every Tuesday at 10:00.

Blessings,

Pr. Mary

# **St. Paul’s will be celebrating their 140th year anniversary July 11th.**

**Please spread the word and invite any past members. We would love to celebrate this joyful occasion with our neighbors and friends.**

**\*There will be musical guests, the Armouraires during church service.**

**\*Paul Christopherson will be giving us a one of a kind history lesson.**

**\*There will be a picnic lunch following service to allow everyone a wonderful opportunity to share their memories and enjoy fellowship.**

If the walls could only talk, oh the stories they would tell. 140 years of history, founding families and faithful service to the surrounding communities. A church whose stories are part of Danish-American history and that of western Iowa. These pioneering Danes left their homeland to embark on a wonderful, yet risky, adventure. Their goal was to establish farming communities in which they could farm the land as they chose to, and to worship as they saw fit. Yes, they planted churches throughout the Midwest and faithfully gave of their resources and lives to build a legacy.

The early days were indeed challenging as more and more immigrants were moving into western Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The mission field proved to be very fruitful for many denominations to plant churches; among these denominations were the Mormons, Baptists, and Adventists. In 1875, Lutheran pastors came and organized churches in Omaha, and Council Bluffs. It took several years for the movement to spread into the countryside. In 1877, Pastor Hansen, who had recently planted churches, came out to Boomer Township, and baptized Niels Christensen whose parents were part of earliest Danish settlers. Within this group of immigrants are names that are quite familiar to the current generations: Hansen, Nielsen, Bondo, Jensen, Rasmussen, and Christiansen. All in all, about 20-25 families within the area confessed adherence to the Lutheran Church. In 1881, this group began to meet in a little schoolhouse and sometimes in the homes of members of the church. So begins the history of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The St. Paul’s Lutheran Church newsletters contain other stories of our past and are worth reading. But for now, we begin the next chapter of the church, and its next 140 years.

(Information gathered from the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Centennial Book)

June 6, 2021

10:45 a.m.

Church Council Meeting

Attending- Josh Bracker, Jim Jenson, Dale Stephens, Julie Jenson, Steve Andersen

Pastor Mary Findlay

Absent – Ava Bracker, Rashelle Wohlers, Bob Gregory, Ruben Valdez

Guest- Monte Bracker.

Opening prayer was said.

Dale Stephens handed out the Congregational Profile to everyone .

The profile was approved by the council . Motioned by Jim Jenson Seconded Steve Andersen

Monte Bracker spoke on the endowment money and moving forward with putting together

a package for the incoming Full time Pastor.

Proposal for new pastor:

$ 42000.00 yearly salary

15000.00 health insurance contribution

6500.00 social security yearly

$ 63,500.00 Total Yearly

Also included:

Living in the parsonage

utilities paid by the church

The call committee sent out 800 letters on Friday June 4 2021. All responses will be going

to Dale Stephens.

Pastor Mary spoke:

July 18th Pastor CeCe Mickels from Bethany Luthern home will be speaking at our church. She may assist Pastor Mary with the service.

Pastor Bruce Kotila would like to come visit our church some evening and speak on Church healing. Pastor Mary will contact him and set up the date and time,

The Minden Food Bank is back open and is looking for volunteers . We will be finding out

what items they are running short on.

Anna Baxter asked if our church could pay for 2 girls ( Mohn family ) and possibly (1) other

girl to attend church camp at Lake Okoboji July 11- 16 2021. Motioned by Jim Jenson, Seconded

by Steve Andersen and approved by the council ,

We had a new family attend church Sunday June 6, 2021 and Pastor Mary greeted and visited with them and handed them a Welcome Book. They will be coming again.

Pastor Mary performed a baptism at Underwood Lutheran May 29, 2021 for the Geise

family ( Terri Anderson asked) Pastor Scott was out of town. The council agreed to pay

mileage for this.

The council voted to LIFT all COVID prodocal starting July 2021.

We are go back to having communion at the altar with only (6) people at a time,

The used wine cups will be picked up after each group.

NO holding of hands during the prayer.

We will be having our service on Saturday July 3rd 2021 at 5:30P.M. with NO Communion.

NO church service on July 4th 2021.

VBS for Adults--- August 2021-- dates to be determined. Bible readings, singing, games, snacks

June 27th Timber service at the farm of Marlin & Julie Jenson – service at 9:30 a.m. And a potluck to follow.

The meeting ended with a prayer .

Minutes Reported by Julie Jenson