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**

**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 |

The COVID-19 guidelines are always changing. We are requesting 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 by calling the church or via email ***pastormary@stpaulsneola.church*** .

# **St. Paul’s will be celebrating their 140th year anniversary this summer. If you would like to help with this event in any way please contact Ramona Bracker at** [**1956bracker@gmail.com**](mailto:1956bracker@gmail.com)**.**

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| **Prepare yourself for worship.** Take some time to read the passages we will be hearing Sunday,  **May 2, 2021** *Communion* **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Acts 8:26-40  **Psalm:** 22:25-31 Carol Jensen  **Second Lesson:**1 John 4:7-21  **Gospel:** John 15:1-8  **May 9, 2021**  **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Acts 10:44-48  **Psalm:** 98 Harriette Andersen  **Second Lesson:**1 John 5:1-6  **Gospel:** John 15:9-17  **May 16, 2021** *Communion* **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  **Psalm:** 1 Terri Anderson  **Second Lesson:**1 John 5:9-13  **Gospel:** John 17:6-19  **May 23, 2021**  *Pentecost* **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Acts 2:1-21  **Psalm:** 104:24-35 Monte Bracker  **Second Lesson:**Romans 8:22-27  **Gospel:** John 15: 26-27; 16:4-15  **May 30, 2021**  **Reader this week is …**  **First Lesson:**Isaiah 6:1-8  **Psalm:** 29 Julie Jenson  **Second Lesson:**Romans 8:12-17  **Gospel:** John 3:1-17 |

***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.***

Pentecost

Fifty Days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all the boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God’s mercy to places we least expect- to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ’s love with the world.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit flowed unconstrained, empowering the people. The Comforter protects and sustains us by interceding for us when we do not even know our own needs. The Spirit at work in God’s gift of water powerfully sustains all creation. It is essential for life, and it holds a sacred place in our relationship with God. Water connected to the Word- God’s saving promise in Jesus Christ- is at the center of the baptismal celebration; water is a sign of cleansing, dying, and new birth.

Congratulations Ava and Sara!!!!!

We would like to give a special congratulations to our 2 seniors. Ava Bracker and Sara Kephart will graduate on May 16th from Underwood High School. We have been blessed to see these girls grow and bloom into wonderful young ladies. With Christ as their guide we are confident that these two are going to do great things. They both are wonderful examples of character and grace. We wish them the best in their future endeavors and remind them that there's always a seat for them at St. Paul’s.

April 2021 Meeting Minutes

This is the meeting of St Paul’s Lutheran Church held on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 in the basement of the church. Council members present: Josh Bracker, Julie Jenson, Ruben Valdez, Dale Stephens, Bob Gregory, Jim Jenson, Ava Bracker, and Rashelle Wohlers.

Not present: Steve Andersen

Also present: Monte Bracker and Pastor Mary Findlay

Josh, as President, conducted the meeting

Opening Prayer by Pastor Mary Findlay

Minutes were read from February meeting - motion to approve by Julie, 2nd by Bob – all in favor – motion passes

Treasurer’s Report was reviewed – motion to approve by Jim, 2nd by Bob – all in favor – motion passes

Pastor’s Report was reviewed – discussion of how to preserve the church records – Pastor Mary and Gary to research some digital formats and/or companies that can preserve them – motion to approve by Dale, 2nd by Julie – all in favor – motion passes

Old Business:

Thomas Moore Society coming Sunday, June 6th at 4:00PM with light refreshments available – other churches will be invited – Julie to arrange light refreshments

Anniversary celebration – July 11th – plan for 200 people – Jim to coordinate a tent

Insurance raised to $40,000 on parsonage for $108 annual premium increase, church insured value $940,000, church contents $226,720, baptismal statue $11,440, garage is $31,000 – total premium is $7,222 annually

Property Maintenance –

* Remodel update: doors need to be installed – fireplace to be installed on April 26th - will have to coordinated the finish work on the mantle
* Signs: Pastor Mary and Julie to meet at a place in Council Bluffs sometime this week
* Sidewalks and bench installation – Jim does not have an estimate yet – the bench has arrived
* Safe for church records – Emily is looking at different options
* Web equipment update – have spoken with Nate, but he is very busy, and we’re on the list
* Bell Tower Rope – one came undone – looking at how to fix it

Questionnaire update – to go out in the May Newsletter

New Business

* Approve financial package for call committee – discussion of whether the pastor position will be full time or part time – an email will be sent out deciding a time for the council and the call committee to meet together

The meeting was closed by Pastor Mary leading us in prayer.

*The Following is a survey that the council and Pastor Mary put together for the congregation to complete. Please fill this out and place responses in the collection plate or mail them to the church.*

10 Questions:

1. Where do you see that we need to focus more attention on?

a. Discipleship

b. Youth Programs

c. Community Involvement

d. Missions

e. Bible Studies

f. Care Ministry

2. Would you support offering a contemporary service on a weeknight?

3. Would you support changing the time of the Sunday Service?

4. Are you interested in Bible Studies? If so, in what format?

a. Face-to-face

b. Via ZOOM

c. Or a combination of the two media

5. Would you be interested in facilitating a Bible Study?

6. What Youth Programs would you support?

a. Expanded Sunday School

b. AWANA

c. “Grow”

d. Okoboji Camps

7. Continue St. Paul’s financial support of:

a. Foreign missions

b. Local Community missions

c. Other?

8. 2021 is St. Paul’s 140th Anniversary. What would you be interested in helping?

9. In the last year St. Paul’s worked with the Neola Lions Club on a service project for the City of Neola. Would you support continued partnership with local communities? If so, how?

10. Do you have any suggestions for projects/ or ministries for St. Paul’s?