

Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting for the  
year of  
2022

January 29

2023

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church, LCMC  
22163 Sumac Rd, Neola, IA 51559-5069

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## AGENDA

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
22163 SUMAC RD, NEOLA, IOWA 51559-5069

JANUARY 29, 2023 – Following Worship

1. Determination of Quorum and Opening Devotions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Secretary's Minutes page  
2
4. Reports Discussion
  - a. Pastor Joe Lambert 4
  - b. Congregational Chairman 5
  - c. Womens 6
  - d. Endowment Spending Account 7
  - e. Financial 8
  - f. Auditors 13
5. Elections 14
6. Approval of 2023 Proposed Budget 15
7. Old Business:
  - a. Endowment Fund Use
8. New Business:
9. Adoption of 2023 Budget
10. Closing Devotions

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
22163 SUMAC RD, NEOLA, IOWA 51559-5069  
JANUARY 23, 2022**

The 141st Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's Lutheran Church was held in the church sanctuary following services on January 23, 2022, with 29 voting members present.

Josh Bracker, as president, conducted the meeting.

1. Determination of Quorum and Opening Devotions: Meeting was opened at 11:00 with a devotion and prayer led by Pastor Joe Lambert.

Pastor Joe thanked the congregation for welcoming him. He also spoke about his job as an interim and his role in helping the church with the call process.

2. Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Julie Jenson to approve the agenda; motion carried.

3. Approval of Secretary's Minutes: It was moved by Kiley Jenson and seconded by Julie Jenson to approve the 2021 annual meeting minutes; motioned carried.

4. Discussion and Questions of Reports:

- a. Pastors' - pages 4-5
- b. Congregational Chairman's - page 6
- c. Women's - page 7
- d. Endowment Spending Account - page 8
- e. Financial - pages 9-13
- f. Auditors' - page 14

It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Dale Stephens to approve the 2021 Pastors', Congregational Chairman's, Women's, Spending Account, Financial and Auditors' reports; motion carried.

5. Elections page 15

**Nominations:**

Deacon (3 year term)- Dale Stephens

Trustee (3 year term)- Monte Bracker

Financial Secretary (3 year term)- Julie Jenson

Josh Bracker asked for any other nominations. Bill Bracker was nominated to serve as Deacon. It was voted on by the congregation, in a 12 for Dale Stephens and 14 for Bill Bracker vote, to elect Bill Bracker as Deacon.

It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Terri Anderson to elect these as council members; motion carried.

**2022 Council Members:**

Rashelle Wohlers (secretary)

Monte Bracker (trustee)

Josh Bracker (deacon)

Bill Bracker (deacon)

Julie Jenson (financial secretary)

Steve Andersen (deacon)

Bob Gregory (financial treasurer)

Ruben Valdez (trustee)

Jim Jenson (trustee)

It was unanimously voted by the congregation to elect Josh Bracker as the 2022 Congregational Chairman. A round of applause was given to the new Chairman.

It was moved by Dale Stephens and seconded by Jim Jenson to approve Beth Valdez, Emily Pruett, and Terri Anderson as the 2022 nominating committee; motion carried.

It was moved by Bruce Bracker and seconded by Harriette Andersen to approve Bob Gregory as the Bethany Lutheran Home Delegate; motion carried.

It was moved by Dale Stephens and seconded by Kiley Jenson to approve Norm and Vonnie Jelken to attend the LCMC gathering; motion carried.

6. Approval and discussion of 2022 Proposed Budget: Josh Bracker discussed that the council is coming up with a variety of ideas to save money. This is a topic due to the decrease in funds coming in through offerings. Bruce Bracker and Dale Stephens would like to encourage the congregation to increase their giving.

It was moved by Steve Andersen and seconded by Marlin Jenson to approve the 2022 proposed budget; motion carried.

7. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

8. New Business:

a. Dale updated the congregation on the call process. The call committee is working diligently to find a new Pastor. They are working with Pastor Joe to share our name with a variety of places. The committee is taking its time to ensure that the best decision is made.

b. The council has decided that we need a full time pastor. In order to fund that they would like to use endowment funds to provide a full time salary.

9. Adoption of Budget: It was moved by Dale Stephens and seconded by Beth Valdez to adopt the Budget for 2022 as presented; motion carried.

It was moved by Rashelle Wohlers and seconded by Caleb Wohlers to adjourn the 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting; motion carried. We closed with the Table Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Pruett  
Church Secretary

## INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

Writing this report is a reminder of great and amazing things as well as things that seem rather sad. As your pastor for the past year I am primarily blessed to be a part of your community and your congregation. And as I have grown to know you so I have grown in the understanding of how God's love is expressed through the faithful lives of my brothers and sisters at St. Paul's Lutheran. It is good for me to be challenged in my faith and it is good for me to express my faith and see how it challenges you. The challenge, in the process of being both confused and enlightened, is always to keep our eyes focused on things above where Christ is and understand that His good and perfect will, being revealed in time, is being accomplished among us even before we perceive it. Simply amazing. Simply grace!

The sadness comes in the reality that my time is half gone. And the love and trust that exists between us is going to finally be expressed in your calling a new pastor to your fellowship and my moving on to whatever God would have me do next. It's exciting on all fronts – but sometimes I am sad. But as Paul says to the Philippians “Fulfill my joy! Have the mind of Christ!” (*Phil. 2:2, 5*)

What's been done and what's left to do? I am blessed to have welcomed new members to our congregation through baptism and through welcoming families. You have chosen to begin Sunday School in a clever and creative way that serves the families involved without overburdening anyone (I think). We have renewed our association with Group 3:16 and so our association with other congregations in the Tri-Center area is broadened and renewed also. We renewed our being on the schedule of Sunday chapel services at Bethany Home in Council Bluffs. I participated in one funeral service and helped park cars for a couple of other graveside services this year. Gladly, hospitals and care centers are welcoming visitors again so I was able to visit for illness and surgeries several times this year. I am thankful that you have encouraged me to renew some connections with my friends in LCMC at both a state (Iowa) and international (that's what really happens) annual gathering. This has enabled me to make some connections with students and others seeking a pastoral call. Consequently we will be visited by guest speakers throughout the spring who are being trained in pastoral ministry.

Left to do: Understanding that God is faithful to provide for His people – I want to continue to be a blessing to you all at St. Paul's so that together we can:

- Pray for the one who is being prepared to serve as our pastor.
- Fill ourselves with God's Word and Spirit so that we may be prepared to serve with our new pastor whoever it is and whenever he/she arrives.
- Continue to develop and enhance our local ministries inside and outside our congregation.
- Develop our congregation so that the door is always open to those seeking God's grace.
- Develop our facilities so that they present few barriers to anyone who would worship with us.
- Develop skills that enable us to live as loving and capable ministers of the Gospel.

This may require rather intensive times of study and skill development. Let me know how I may best serve you in that development.

- Be prepared to say good-bye with Joy and Gratitude!

*Grace and Peace to you all from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am always giving thanks for you and the grace that God has given you (1 Cor. 1:3-4)*

Your brother in Christ,  
Joseph A. Lambert, Interim Pastor

## CONGREGATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have to start by thanking Pastor Lambert for his continuing service to St. Paul's. As Interim Pastor he has enriched this congregation with a wealth of knowledge, experience and musical talent. We thank him also for helping guide the call committee with their work and reassuring us that he will be with us until the job is done.

The call committee will be interviewing pastoral candidates throughout 2023. The goal at this point, is to have a firm candidate for pastor at St. Paul's by January of 2024. As we continue to pray and seek God's will for His church, we recognize that ultimately things will happen according to His plan. As part of the interview process, we expect to have several guest pastors and possible seminary students giving sermons or in some way being a part of our church services this year. The call committee will do their best to keep everyone updated on the happenings of this endeavor. These people are fully committed and are working diligently and in creative ways to find the best candidate for St. Paul's.

Facility maintenance, repair and upgrades are another part of our preparations for the future. The council has developed a 5-year plan to make the church fully handicap accessible which includes fellowship hall and restroom facility upgrades. This plan is a work in progress and council members will be having conversations and encouraging input from the congregation before action is taken. The council continues to upgrade and slowly implement technology that will hopefully enhance services and allow us to reach people wherever they may be.

We are thankful to be once again having Sunday school. Thank you to those who stepped up to make that happen. I think it's safe to say that child and youth programs must be central in what we do here.

Thank you, members. For your dedication of time and talents to His church. There is a "whatever it takes, for as long as it takes" mentality at St. Paul's that is a joy to be a part of. Keep up the good work!

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Bracker  
Congregational Chairman

**WOMEN OF THE LCMC TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balance in Checking December 31, 2021 \$ 1,158.54

Income

Ruth Benson Funeral \$ 50.00

Total Income 50.00

1,208.54

Expenses

Mother's Day Altar Flowers \$ 10.00

Total Expenses 10.00

Balance in Checking December 31, 2022 \$ 1,198.54

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Killpack  
Treasurer

## ENDOWMENT SPENDING ACCOUNT REPORT

December 31, 2021	3,867.59
<b>Income</b>	
January deposit	660.00
Transfer from Endowment Investment	8,000.00
Total Receipts	<u>8,660.00</u>
Total	<u>12,527.59</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pastor Joe trip (AZ)	400.00
Christmas Adopt-A-Family	605.91
Backpack program	565.53
Gift Card	150.00
Microsoft Office @ \$8.25 per month x 12	99.00
Conference – Pastor Joe	438.38
Sherbondy Garden Center	473.68
Graduation gifts (\$500 x 2)	1,000.00
Charitable donation	800.00
Soup supper	522.01
Church booklets	487.50
Business cards	104.96
Office supplies	106.99
Business checks	86.45
Total Expenses	<u>5,840.41</u>
<b>December 31, 2022</b>	<u><b>6,687.18</b></u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Gregory  
Financial Treasurer



## 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>WORLD MISSION</b>		
Mission Development/Evangelism	6,500	5,400
Total World Mission	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>
<b>WORSHIP AND SERVICE</b>		
Music Ministers	1,000	0
Secretary	6,000	6,000
Postage	500	60
Christian Education/Supplies	500	266
Youth Program	1,000	0
Synod Conferences	1,500	738
Worship Supplies/Stewardship	800	1,068
Miscellaneous	1,000	2,050
Total Worship and Service	<b>\$12,300</b>	<b>\$10,182</b>
<b>PASTORAL CARE</b>		
Housing	36,000	36,000
Future Pastor Fund	0	0
Social Security	0	0
Travel Allowance	5,000	5,444
Professional Expenses	500	0
Pulpit Supply	300	250
Total Pastoral Care	<b>\$41,800</b>	<b>\$41,694</b>
<b>CHURCH HOME</b>		
Electricity	4,000	2,518
Propane	3,000	5,902
Insurance	8,000	8,176
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000	692
Parsonage Improvements	0	0
Office Machines and Supplies	1,200	1,196
Mowing	0	0
Telephone/Internet	2,500	1,600
Dumpster	700	660
General Fund Savings	0	0
Total Church Home	<b>\$22,400</b>	<b>\$20,744</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES</b>		
	<b>\$83,000</b>	
<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
		<b>\$78,020</b>

## FUND BALANCES

<b>General Fund</b>	
Balance December 31, 2021	17,162.57
Income	70,429.60
Expenses	(78,020.03)
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$9,572.14</b>

<b>Cemetery Maintenance Fund</b>	
Balance December 31, 2021	5,677.87
Income	100.00
Interest	17.48
Expenses	0.00
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$5,795.35</b>

<b>Harvest Festival</b>	
Balance December 31, 2021	0.00
Income	2,045.00
Less Donation (Danny Cox Ministry)	(2,045.00)
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Memorial Fund</b>	
Balance December 31, 2021	7,298.50
Income	0.00
Expenses	(5,496.89)
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$1,801.61</b>

<b>Miscellaneous Dedicated*</b>	
Balance December 31, 2021	17,137.61
Income	13,954.00
Expenses	(13,403.00)
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$17,688.61</b>

\*Insurance Claim Deductible: \$12,239.61

Grounds Beautification: \$2,365.80

Playground Upgrade: \$2,442.30

Lift Chair \$89.90

Youth Program \$551.00

<b>Future Pastor Fund</b>	
Balance December 31, 2021	7,200.00
Receipts	14,672.00
Disbursements	(315.00)
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$21,557.00</b>

<b>General Fund Savings</b>	
Balance December 31, 2021	7,200.00
Receipts	0.00
Disbursements	0.00
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$7,200.00</b>

<b>Building Fund</b>	
CD #1 Balance December 31, 2021	26,309.12
Interest	6.56
Balance December 31, 2022	26,315.68
CD #2 Balance December 31, 2021	20,768.38
Interest	5.18
Balance December 31, 2022	20,773.56
<b>Total Building Fund</b>	<b>\$47,089.24</b>

<b>Permanent Cemetery Fund</b>	
Savings Account Balance December 31, 2021	14,859.91
Contributions	200.00
Burial Plot Sales	0.00
Interest	1.42
Disbursements	0.00
<b>Savings Account Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>15,061.33</b>
CD #1	3,000.00
CD #2	15,900.00
CD #3	12,000.00
<b>Total Permanent Cemetery Fund</b>	<b>\$45,961.33</b>

Note: CD interest is deposited into the Cemetery Maintenance Fund

<b>Cemetery Expansion</b>	
Janice Nelson Estate CD Balance December 31, 2021	8,264.35
Interest	2.06
Balance December 31, 2022	8,266.41
Anonymous Donor CD Balance December 31, 2021	8,471.82
Interest	4.23
Balance December 31, 2022	8,476.05
<b>Total Cemetery Expansion</b>	<b>\$16,742.46</b>

<b>Seminary Fund</b>	
CD #1 Balance December 31, 2021	6,700.46
Interest	4.19
Balance December 31, 2022	6,704.65
<b>Total Seminary Fund</b>	<b>\$6,704.65</b>

## INVESTMENT BALANCES

### Charles and Grace Bracker Memory Fund

#### Lydia Young Endowment (\$20,216.11-7/31/17)

12/31/10	176,247.64
12/31/11	184,152.39
12/31/12	195,510.41
12/31/13	257,102.94
12/31/14	280,813.69
12/31/15	269,154.69
12/31/16	297,917.01
12/31/17	367,213.38
12/31/18	355,324.17
12/31/19	437,616.46
12/31/20	466,848.34
12/31/21	560,748.67
<b>Account Value December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$476,488.31</b>

### Bernice Hooge Endowment

Endowment August 2017	100,000.00
12/31/17	100,078.68
12/31/18	99,458.20
12/31/19	117,456.12
12/31/20	120,631.41
12/31/21	145,747.81
<b>Account Value December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$126,211.04</b>

### Marvin Hedegard Endowment

Endowment March 2018	182,352.35
12/31/18	181,122.81
12/31/19	220,153.09
12/31/20	231,485.56
12/31/21	276,369.74
<b>Account Value December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$243,249.92</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Gregory  
Financial Treasurer  
By Nancy Hedegaard

## **AUDITORS' REPORT**

We the undersigned have inspected the financial records of the church and find them in proper order.

As a matter of general information, we have insurance coverage on the church, parsonage and garage in the amount of \$1,588,711.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ramona Bracker, Auditor  
Kiley Jenson, Auditor

**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS**

**DEACON - 3 YEAR**

EMILY McKERN

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3)**

**TRUSTEE - 3 YEAR**

MIKE VAN SICKLE

**DELEGATES**

**BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME**

**FINANCIAL TREASURER - 3 YEAR**

BOB GREGORY

**LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING  
ST. CHARLES, MO – OCTOBER 1-4  
REGIONAL MEETING (TBA)**

**CONGREGATIONAL CHAIRMAN**

STEVE ANDERSEN (DEACON '23)  
RUBEN VALDEZ (TRUSTEE '23)  
RASHELLE WOHLERS (SECRETARY '23)  
TREASURER)  
BILL BRACKER (DEACON '24)  
MONTE BRACKER (TRUSTEE '24)  
JULIE JENSON (FINANCIAL SECRETARY '24)

**OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

JOSH BRACKER (DEACON)  
JIM JENSON (TRUSTEE)  
BOB GREGORY (FINANCIAL

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**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>WORLD MISSION</b>		
Mission Development/Evangelism	6,500	5,500
Total World Mission	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>
<b>WORSHIP AND SERVICE</b>		
Music Ministers	1,000	500
Secretary	6,000	6,000
Postage	500	200
Christian Education and Supplies	500	500
Youth Program	1,000	1,000
Synod Conferences	1,500	1,500
Worship Supplies/Stewardship	800	800
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000
Total Worship and Service	<b>\$12,300</b>	<b>\$11,500</b>
<b>PASTORAL CARE</b>		
Housing	36,000	36,000
Future Pastor Fund (per year)	0	0
Social Security	0	0
Travel Allowance	5,000	5,500
Professional Expenses	500	500
Pulpit Supply	300	1,000
Total Pastoral Care	<b>\$41,800</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>
<b>CHURCH HOME</b>		
Electricity	4,000	3,000
Propane	3,000	4,000
Insurance	8,000	8,500
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000	2,000
Parsonage Improvements	0	0
Janitor	0	0
Office Machines and Supplies	1,200	1,200
Mowing	0	0
Telephone/Internet	2,500	1,500
Dumpster	700	700
Savings Account (per year)	0	0
Total Church Home	<b>\$22,400</b>	<b>\$20,900</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$83,000</b>	<b>\$80,900</b>