

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.*

August 2022 News

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Boomer Township)
22163 SUMAC ROAD, NEOLA, IA 51559
Telephone: (712) 545-3123
Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com

Website: stpaulsneola.church
Josh Bracker, Cong. President

Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 9:30
*Just a reminder if you are not able to make it to Sunday Services they are still being
streamed on our Facebook page.*

Facebook: @STPaulNeola 

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

If you are not receiving emails, and would like to, send an email to
stpsecretary3123@gmail.com or officemanager@stpaulsneola.church

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

August Celebrations....

Terri Andersen- 8/4

Eileen Killpack- 8/25

Leana Christoffersen- 8/4

Trent and Ginger

Katie Bracker- 8/12

Larson-8/19/2006

Riley Tilley- 8/23

Duane Larsen-8/23

The Directory is ready for review. There is a rough draft available in the narthex of the church. Please check it out and make any corrections that are needed.



Upcoming Sunday's

August 7; Ninth Sunday after Pentecost *communion* **Reader: Terri Anderson**
Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-16, Luke 12:22-40

August 14; Tenth Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Rashelle Wohlers**
Jeremiah 23:16-29, Psalm 119:81-88, Hebrews 11:17-31, 12:1-3, Luke 12:49-56

August 21; Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost *communion* **Reader: Julie Jenson**
Isaiah 66:18-23, Psalm 50:1-15, Hebrews 12:4-29, Luke 13:22-30

August 28; 12th Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Monte Bracker**
Proverbs 25:2-10, Psalm 131, Hebrews 13:1-17, Luke 14:1-14

September 4; 13th Sunday after Pentecost *communion* **Reader: Bruce Bracker**
Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-35

September 11; 14th Sunday after Pentecost **Reader: Steve Andersen**
Ezekiel 34:11-24, Psalm 119:169-176, 1 Timothy 1:5-17, Luke 15:1-10

September 18; 15th Sunday after Pentecost *communion* **Reader: Terri Andersen**
Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-15, Luke 16:1-15

This is a website we use to get the readings and other materials each week. It has some wonderful information and tools.

www.solapublishing.com

Username: sower2958

Password: stpauls-neola

Prayer for Students

God of Life. . . I ask you to be with me today as I enter my school. Help me to learn all that you would have me learn. When I get frustrated, remind me to say a prayer to you for peace. When I get weary, give me energy to continue. When I don't understand, give me courage to ask for help. Let your light shine through me so that my classmates, teachers, and all who work in my school may see your love. Fill me with the fruits of your Spirit and bless my interactions with others so that your name may be known in all the earth. Amen.



August 21st; have your child bring their backpack to church for a blessing from Pastor Joe during the youth message.

St Paul's Pastor

Thanks to all who stepped in and helped conduct worship when Pastor Joe had another obligation, especially Bruce who gave an excellent message. During the message Bruce gave on July 10, he mentioned a discussion he had with Pastor Joe about Pulpit supply and the need for members of the congregation to be able to step up and fill in if the need arises. We have had some experience with that at our church, and we also have resources that are qualified but have not yet had the opportunity.

Two days before I heard Bruce's message, I was working on making a bulletin board for the Disc golf event that shared some of the history of St Paul's. I used the booklet that had been printed for the 100 year anniversary. There are copies in the basement and everyone should review it because it was well researched and written.

The history started well before the church was actually established. Danish immigrants settled the area and bought farmland for \$5/acre around the end of the civil war. Mormons and other denominations also settled in the area. In order to find a Lutheran Pastor for a wedding, baptism, or funeral, early settlers had to ride 15-20 miles in a wagon to Council Bluffs or Omaha.

Eventually, a circuit pastor started regularly stopping in Boomer township to conduct worship and study, and to administer the sacraments. They met in school houses or private residences. The first full time pastor was not hired until 1900. However, the church was formally established in 1881, and the first church building was erected in what is now the cemetery.

Between the first circuit pastors and 1900, St Paul's enjoyed numerous pastors on a part time basis. I pondered this while reflecting on the conversation Pastor Joe had with Bruce. I imagine that some individuals rose to leadership roles in the community. Some were gifted in music, some taught, some preached, and some donated time and resources to keep the church going. One article in the 100 year book discussed collecting firewood to heat the building and the parsonage.

Without a full time pastor, the congregation collectively utilized their various gifts to organize and establish the congregation. We inherited the building with all the trappings and have made some of our own advancements, like the video feed and the streaming service. But these early settlers started from scratch with limited guidance from a formal clergy member. We have to admire their determination.

I am not saying that we do not need a Pastor. I support the call committee and continue to pray for their efforts. I hope the disc golf event reminds us of the call process and encourages us all to pray for the call committee. Pastors play an important role in any church. We have had charismatic, devout pastors like Joe Ockre who attracted so many new members, we contemplated adding on to the church. We have also had pastors that divided the church and caused a reduction in membership and we have had numerous Pastors that fell somewhere else

on the spectrum. We have had interim pastors that have helped with healing and strengthening. Every church needs a Pastor.

However, the Pastor does not define the congregation and we should not expect or allow that to happen. Our congregation is made up from individuals with both similar and different experiences, but we share the same love for Christ and his teachings. While I continue to pray that we can call a great Pastor, I remain confident that whatever comes our way, we will rely on the many resources and gifts we have.

Bill Bracker



The start of the Sunday School Year will be September 18th. Our team is working out the specifics now and we will have more details next month. There will be food, games and worship to celebrate. Mark your calendars and tell a friend!!!

Brothers and Sisters at St. Paul's Lutheran,

You all have a wonderful fellowship here and you anticipate a great future in Jesus' love.

Here are five tasks of the congregation that will help develop the future in which you want to live! The call committee is working in this direction and the whole congregation should also be moving together. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please talk to me or one of the call committee members. Keep everything out in the open so that together we can walk in the light. And there is a short thought (which is usually all I can handle) from the May news letter: **"Take small steps but always in the right direction."** keep it in mind as you read on.

The Five Developmental Tasks of the Congregation

TASK 1: COMING TO TERMS WITH HISTORY

The time of pastoral change is an opportunity for a congregation to wrestle with its history, its story, and its identity. A pastor's leaving precipitates grief among the members. This must be dealt with. The better the congregation works at this developmental task of coming to terms with history, the more likely it will be to free itself to go on building a new future. They will be more likely to be able to use the strengths of the past to get some perspective and power over their weaknesses. They will be more able to choose an appropriate pastor for a new life together.

TASK 2: DISCOVERING A NEW IDENTITY

This is a time for taking a fresh look at reality and making adjustments in self-image.

TASK 3: ENABLING NEEDED LEADERSHIP CHANGE

During the time of the vacancy, members of the congregation can be aware of special opportunities to open doors to new leaders and to be appreciative and understanding of those who have been leaders in the past.

TASK 4: RENEWED CONNECTEDNESS TO OTHERS AND MISSIONS

Pastoral change is a time for a congregation to rethink and renew its relationship with local congregations, LCMC districts and the national LCMC association. Go to LCMC.net to help connect you to local, district, and national LCMC resources.

TASK 5: COMMITMENT TO NEW DIRECTIONS IN MINISTRY

Having come through this time together, the congregation has discovered a new sense of self. They have a sense of confidence that the new person selected fits the needs of the congregation's ministry and mission.

The **5 developmental tasks** have been at the heart of basic training, however, they are not exclusive of other tasks, such as:

Reduce the Level of Anxiety: Fear of the Unknown There is often a great mixture of grief, loss, and despair early in a transition period. The task is to rebuild trust and reaffirm that there is life after whoever went before or whatever happened before. This too will pass. There will be a new day ahead!

Rebuild the Infrastructure: Nearly always toward the end of a ministry, the infrastructures of a congregation -- procedures, policies, structural organization, and building maintenance -- will have been neglected and will need some revision and restructuring. The interim period is a good time to review and revise the internal organizational trappings that are essential for implementing the ministries and mission of the congregation.

Pay Attention to Stewardship / Financial Matters: The interim period is an opportune time to review assumptions about stewardship and financial support for the church. During the interim period, there is probably a greater openness to a new understanding of Christian stewardship as more than simply underwriting the budget. It is also a good time to examine the procedures for handling finances. These problems are better handled by an interim pastor than the next settled pastor who will want to be there over a long period of time.

Training in Leadership Skills: The congregation faces the specific task of learning how to recruit, train, and orient volunteers so that their gifts and skills may contribute to the ministry and mission of the church. It is also a time to help people understand the dynamics of change and conflict resolution skills so that they are better able to deal with change and conflict in the future.

Focus on Spiritual Needs of Membership: Congregations today have taken on much of the culture (??) and structure of secular institutions. There is a hunger for recapturing the spiritual power that comes from Bible study and prayer to discern God's will for the congregation and for individual members. Such a developmental task can easily dovetail with the search for understanding the congregation's identity, vision, and mission.

These two pages contain a lot of information and the tasks and goals may seem insurmountable – depending on your perspective at the moment. Once again from the May Newsletter “Take small steps but always in the right direction.” Listen to Jesus' voice and follow Him in faith – along with all your brothers and sisters.

See you at worship this week!