

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Congregational Profile

January 1, 2023

Part 1: Congregational Information

Address: 22163 Sumac Road, Neola Iowa 51559

Phone: 402-915-2495

Email: stpsecretary3123@gmail.com

Pastor Joe Lambert: jlambert@globalccs.net

Website: stpaulsneola.church

Facebook: @STPaulNeola

Congregation Council President: Monte Bracker

Cell Phone: 402-681-4163

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Call Committee Chair: Monte Bracker

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Four events that are an important part of our congregation's history:

1. 1881- St. Paul's Lutheran Church started by Danish immigrants
2. Sponsored a sister church in Underwood, Iowa in 1927.
3. Sponsored Bethany Lutheran Home with 14 other Lutheran churches in 1975.
4. Discontinued our association with the ELCA 2011 (approximate date). Joined the LCMC 11/25/2012.

Congregation Constitution Last Updated: January 2019 (see attached copy)

Part 2: Ministry Practices, Structure and Future

Describe the congregation's present program/practices.

Worship: Sunday mornings 9:30am-10:30am

Communion: on the first and third Sunday mornings

Education:

Children's Sunday School- second Sunday of each month

Adult Bible Study- Sunday mornings at 8:15am

Confirmation- taught by Pastor Lambert

3:16 Group- youth group we do in partnership with neighboring churches, meets 2-3 times per month

Evangelism: Livestream our church services

Occasional Sunday worship for Bethany Lutheran Home

Describe the congregations service ministries and community involvement.

Our regular attendance on Sunday morning is approximately 40. But we are financially sound. So, we are able to bless programs in the community with monetary donations. We have donated to the two local school systems to help provide clothing and food to students and their families. We donate to two local shelters: Micah House and Open Door Mission. We have sent a donation to South Vietnam to help build a church there. We have donated to a ministry in Asia that builds wells. We have donated to the local volunteer fire departments. And we donate to local families who are in need of assistance.

Describe the congregation's present staffing, including both paid and volunteers.

Pastor Joe Lambert, interim pastor that works half-time

Secretary- 10 hours per week, Emily Pruett

Volunteer

Church Council

Financial Treasurer- Nancy Hedegaard

Organist- Eileen Killpack and Gracie Lambert

Grounds upkeep

Church cleaning

Describe existing building issues.

We have limited wheelchair accessibility. And we have a chair lift that is not operator friendly. So, our priority for the future is to improve handicap accessibility.

Describe the congregation's stewardship practices.

Totally voluntary and normally enough to meet the year's expenses.

Current spending plan for the congregation

See 2022 annual report.

Congregation's Strengths

Everyone here at St. Paul's is loved like family. We watch out for one another. We have disagreements like any family but we don't have dysfunction. Our meetings are productive and fun. We are learning to embrace (kind of) social media. We are contracting with High Caliber Computer Systems to update our internet capabilities. This company is integrating our programs so that we have one complete system instead of separate cobbled together parts. We are pretty proud of our website and livestream.

Congregations Needs

Improved evangelism- in the community

Increased membership- young families

Unique attributes for prospective pastor to consider

This is a full-time pastoral position.

We are a rural congregation. Council Bluffs is a twenty- minute drive and Omaha is a thirty- minute drive. The church is located within the Tri-Center and Underwood Community School Districts.

We live in a safe and beautiful area in the Loess Hills.

Our parsonage remodel was completed in 2021. It has refinished hard wood floors, a fire place and new kitchen cupboards and appliances.