

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

2018



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
445 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
401-941-5100

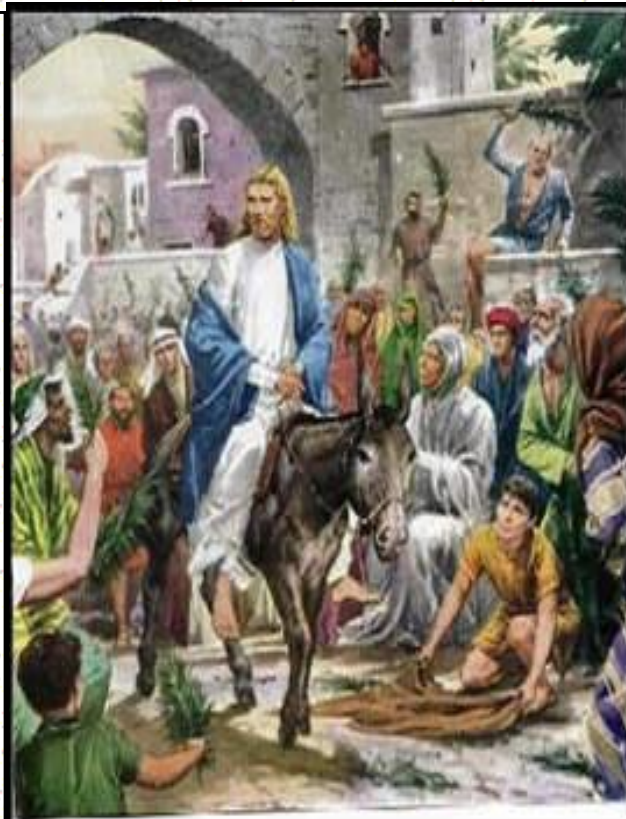


Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

Gospel of Luke 19:37-38

³⁷ And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

³⁸ Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.



ADVENT

The season of **Advent**, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

PASTOR'S LETTER

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6).

Christmas is the most glorious time of the year. It is the holiday of giving. Although there are many who would convert every holiday into a season of gifts and giving, the month of December holds its own because people carry within their hearts the “Spirit of Christmas,” that is, they feel the urge to share of themselves in uniquely marvelous ways. Even though streets can be busy and stores can be overflowing with shoppers, I still love Christmas and all that transpires over the course of its days.

And then we hear the Christmas message: **“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.”** Within this proclamation from the prophet Isaiah comes the picture of a great and loving God—a Christmas God who graciously wants to be among his people.

As we move further into the holiday season, we look forward to what lies ahead: the special moments with loved ones, the special meals and cakes and candies, and, of course, we do anxiously await a possible gift or two which have our name affixed to the decorative bow. Gifts are a wonderful thing, and it’s exciting to be on the receiving end of a gift every now and then. Consequently, we anxiously await the days to come.

Then there is the gift of Jesus Christ: **“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.”** Within the fulfillment of this prophecy, we benefit the pleasure of God’s kindness, namely, his precious gift of eternal life. And all we now need to do is respond to him in the same way as we do with each other every Christmas Day by saying, “Thank you. Thank so much for thinking even of me!”

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to all!

Pastor Schultz



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	READERS /ACOLYTES	COMM. ASSISTANTS	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS
2	Abel Dobson George Roberts	Bill Oehlkers Joe Norris	Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Leela Ballah Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
9	Jacqueline Pringle Cameron Arrudell		Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Rick Sinnigen Mack Makor Onu Stevens Andrew Mastrostefanoo
16	Bill Oehlkers Hawa Mulbah	Joe Norris Rick Sinnigen	Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Kim King Bill King Dennis Kollie Helen Miller
23	Patricia Martin Camille Arrundell		Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Kevin Kehyei Dan- lette Norris George Dauda Grace Dau- da
24 Christ- mas Eve	Kevin Riley AS AVAILABLE		Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	AS AVAILABLE
25 Christ- mas Day	Pat Martin AS AVAILABLE		Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	AS AVAILABLE
30	Danlete Norris Ciannah Akoiwala	Corvah Akoiwala Rick Sinnigen	Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Kim King Bill King Dennis Kollie Helen Miller



Dec. 1 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Richard 62
 Dec. 28 Mr. & Mrs. William Varfley 33
 Dec. 29 Mr. & Mrs. Felix Cintron 27

4 Martha Richard
7 Beatrice James
8 Kollette Barclay
14 Eleanor Sinnigen
15 Melanie Cooke
16 Sackie Makor



24 Constance Stoskopf
Marie Makor
25 Comfort Kehyei
29 Brian M. Pendergast
31 Nancy Watson

DECEMBER 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30 Team One James Woods
2 <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>Communion</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8 9:30 Team Two Rose Ko-lawole
9 <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>Voters' Meeting</i>	10	11 Deacons Meeting 7:00PM	12 Gbarnga Meeting 7:00PM	13	14	15 9:30 Team Three Richlieu Norris
16 <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>Communion</i>	17	18	19	20 Council Meeting 7:00PM	21	22 9:30 Team Four David Martin
23 <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship</i>	24 Christmas Eve 8:00PM Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00AM Service	26	27	29	30
31 <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>Communion</i>						

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL**October 18, 2018**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:07 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, by President David Ballah. Present were: President Ballah, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Bucu, Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris, and Pastor Leon Schultz. Also present was Dawn Nahlik. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor. Vice President Corvah Akoiwala joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the Sept. 20, 2018, Church Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Dan Robinson presented the Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Sept. 30, 2018. Total income during this period was \$156,371.04 and total disbursements were \$143,429.20, resulting in net ordinary income of \$12,941.84. The balance of Memorial Funds as of Sept. 30, 2018, was \$247,832.15.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that he conducted the baptism of Sarah Viola Sackie, daughter of Louis Sackie and Loupu Stevens, on Sunday, Oct. 14. The same day he also attended the Lutheran Women's Missionary League zone rally at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Smithfield. Bible class resumed on Sunday Oct. 7. It starts at 9:00 a.m.

Deacons. Corvah Akoiwala reported for the Deacons. He noted that Deacon Steven Nagbe had spoken to the congregation last Sunday about turning off cell phones during worship and relocating young children who are creating a disturbance to the room off the narthex or downstairs. The Deacons are investigating whether a speaker can be installed in these areas so that parents who take their child out could still listen to the sermon. The Deacons are also investigating whether a projector and a screen could be installed in the sanctuary. Some vendors who have been consulted indicated that the historic nature of the church presents a problem.

Trustees. David Martin reported that the carpeting in the school basement which was damaged by flooding has been removed and new tile installed. The school roof has been repaired, but two leaks were detected in the hallway which leads from the parish hall to the school office. David has contacted our roofer, Gordon Chandler, about these leaks. The gas pipes located outside the kitchen have been painted. The Rose Window has been caulked and painted on the outside. The Trustees can now proceed to have a new plexi-glass shield installed over it. This Saturday, Oct. 20th is Tree Planting Day beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Social Ministry. Danlette Norris reported she had received a call from a woman priest at All Saints Episcopal Church who expressed interest in having some joint fellowship for the youth. Danlette referred her to Pastor.

Old Business. Alarm Charges. Dan reported that we have not yet been charged for the false burglar alarms that occurred over the summer. Dan noted that sometimes there can be quite a delay between the incident and our receiving a bill from the City for the police response.

Litter. David Martin made a motion to rescind the following motion which had been passed at the Sept. 20, 2018, Council meeting: “Because the appearance of the church and its grounds is a factor in whether people choose to worship at St. Paul’s, and because that appearance can be marred by litter, effective Jan. 1, 2019, the duties of the church secretary shall include picking up litter from the church grounds on a daily basis, and to compensate her for performing this task, which is outside the scope of those normally performed by a church secretary, her annual compensation shall be increased by 2%, which increase shall be in addition to any cost of living increase recommended by the Board of Deacons and/or Board of Finance for 2019.” David explained that although no one had spoken against the motion prior to its passage, some members contacted him afterwards to express their opposition. These members included Pastor who felt it was inappropriate to ask the secretary to pick up litter. The motion to rescind was seconded by Dan who said that he was one of the members who had expressed opposition following the Sept. 20 meeting (which Dan had been unable to attend). The motion to rescind was passed unanimously.

There was extended discussion about how the problem of litter should be addressed. The consensus was that the matter should be referred to the Board of Trustees with instructions that they consider hiring in 2019 a part time sexton from the congregation or engaging a company such as J&A General Contracting to provide sexton services for a limited number of hours per week.

New Business. The problem of unauthorized vehicles parking in our parking lot and the resulting litter was discussed. The Council requested that the Board of Trustees obtain a quote for extending the island perimeter (so that the opening to the parking lot is no wider than 20 feet) and installing a gate to keep out unauthorized vehicles.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. with recitation of The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Nov., 2018, Church Council meeting:

