



Mark 1:29-39

Jesus Heals Many

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.





PASTOR'S LETTER

Writing the February newsletter is always an easy task. It's easy because Valentine's Day brings its emphasis of love; consequently, all that needs to be done is to offer something that encourages the act of demonstrating one's love for another. Perhaps there are many ways of "hitting the mark" with a genuine expression of one's emotions. However, I am still a strong believer in "giving a hug."

The Scriptures say that we are to "**Greet one another with a kiss of love**" (1 Pet. 5:14). Well, in our society kisses have become a little bit questionable and even a little uncomfortable. Even so, hugs among friends and relatives are still quite acceptable and, as a matter of fact, they come highly recommended. Virginia Satir, former author and therapist known especially for her approach to family therapy, said, "*We need four hugs per day in order to maintain our personal well-being, and twelve in order to flourish.*"

The psalmist expresses this same idea of being "hugged" or "wrapped up" in the love of God by saying, "**Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one trusts in him**" (Ps. 32:10). And with this assurance of God's surrounding love, those who trust in the Lord will flourish in the joy of God's acceptance and forgiveness as it is regularly offered in Jesus Christ.

So then, enjoy the month of February and when given the chance to offer a hug to a friend or a relative, go for it because, in the end, hugs are appreciated and remind us of the "**Lord's unfailing love that surrounds [those] who trust in him.**"

In Christ,

Pastor Schultz



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS 2018

Feb. 1 Kartoe Makor
Feb. 2 Jean Makor
Noko Miller
Feb. 3 Janet Spink
Zabinski
Feb. 4 David Martin
George S. Norris
Feb. 7 Charles O. Morris
Feb. 13 Rondell Harmon
Feb. 14 Corvah Akoiwala II
Feb. 15 Herbert Jeschke



Feb. 16 Rev. Leon Schultz
Feb. 17 Jackie Pringle
Feb. 18 Andrew Buffington
Dianysha Varfley
Feb. 22 Leelah D. Graves
Feb. 24 Elizabeth Hencler
Feb. 25 Mayamu Drechsler
Ann Kuepker
Feb. 26 Mary Abbenante
Feb. 28 Margarete Falconer

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 15 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kuepker (59th)



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	READERS	COMM. ASSIST.	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS
4	Leela Ballah	Joe Norris Corvah Akoiwala	Mary Abbenante Dawn Nahlik	Youth
11	Patricia Martin		Mary Abbenante Dawn Nahlik	As Available
18	Bill Oehlkers	Rick Sinnigen Bill Oehlkers	Mary Abbenante Dawn Nahlik	As Available
25	Danlette Norris		Mary Abbenante Dawn Nahlik	As Available

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Dec. 21, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:06 p.m., on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 by President David Ballah. Present were: Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Buco, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris, and Pastor Leon Schultz. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor. Vice President and Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the Nov. 16, 2017, Church Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dan Robinson distributed a Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2017. Total income during this period was \$199,815.86 and total disbursements were \$183,708.81, resulting in net ordinary income of \$16,107.05. The balance of Memorial Funds as of Oct. 31, 2017, was \$250,671.90. Offerings are approximately \$13,000.00 above the amount budgeted. Expenses for snow removal and rubbish removal are respectively approximately \$3,000.00 and \$4,000.00 over budget. Dan said that the rubbish removal company had increased its rates. The Council discussed the problem of people in the neighborhood putting their trash in our dumpster and how this could be stopped. It was decided that we should send letters to the landlords and ask them to caution their tenants about placing items in our dumpster.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that he conducted the funeral and burial for Charles Rehbein on Dec. 4, 2018. Charles died on Nov. 30. The new schedule for Sunday School with the children going downstairs after the sermon is working well. Sunday School attendance has increased to 20-25 children. Samantha Robinson, Charlene Mastrostefano, and Marion Gbaie are helping with Sunday School.

Trustees. David Martin reported that the Fall Cleanup was canceled on Dec. 9 and also on Dec. 16 due to inclement weather. Given the lateness of the season, the cleanup has been postponed until spring. Dan Robinson contacted the anonymous donor who donated \$47,158.61 to replace the school roof. The donor has authorized that a portion of this money may be used to repair the school roof and also to replace three exterior doors: the door leading from the parish hall to the courtyard, the door adjacent to the left rear of the stage, and the office door. With respect to utilization of the rest of the money, the donor will let us know when s/he decides. The contract for repair of the school roof has been signed, and replacement of the three doors will be done in the spring. Our insurance company inspected the church property and found that the emergency lights in the parish hall were not working. David Martin will ask David Watson if he could look at them. Pastor suggested that the trustees check the

. David Martin will ask David Watson if he could look at them. Pastor suggested that the trustees check the expiration dates on the fire extinguishers. David Martin said that the trustees would do so. There are no immediate plans to replace the tree which came down near the church sign. The tree appeared to have been diseased, possibly as a result of having been planted on top of the decaying root system from the large Lindon tree which had been in that area.

Social Ministry. Danlette Norris reported that 23 ½ Thanksgiving baskets were distributed. The recipients were very grateful. The Board of Social Ministry continues to send cards to those who are hospitalized or shut-in. Dawn Nahlik made some baby blankets which were donated to Womens and Infants Hospital.

Deacons. Joe Norris reported that Pastor has agreed to work in 2018 for the same compensation he received in 2017. Regarding the Church Directory, Joe stated that he had spoken with the Deacons and they promise that they will try to complete it. Regarding the provision of communion to shut-ins, Joe stated that the Deacons were trying to provide communion every two weeks but it was difficult to do this. Pastor said that the past practice had been to commune shut-ins once a month. Pastor also said that he was well enough to bring communion to shut-ins and that he would do so.

Finance. Rick Sinnigen reported that he had been dealing with two issues relative to the proposed 2018 Church Budget: the amount of Pastor's compensation and the amount we are projected to receive from The \$30,000.00 Challenge. These issues now have been resolved. Pastor has agreed to work for the same compensation he received in 2017, and the money we receive from the maker of The \$30,000.00 Challenge will be placed in Memorials. Therefore, this money will not affect the 2018 budgeting process. Accordingly, the Board of Finance will attempt to complete the proposed budget by Dec. 31. The Church Council will then review it at a special meeting on Jan. 7 in the hope that it can be presented to the voters at a Voters' Meeting to be held on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018.

Old Business.

Church Directory. President Ballah directed the Deacons to have the Church Directory available for distribution by Mar. 1, 2018. He also directed that members who have joined the church since the photographs were taken be given the opportunity to have their photographs taken and be included in the directory.

New Business. President Ballah requested that a list of shut-ins be published in the church newsletter.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting ended at 8:28 p.m. with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary

MINUTES OF VOTERS' MEETING

Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018

A meeting of the Voters' Assembly was held on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018, in the Sanctuary following the worship service. The meeting was called to order at 10:55 a.m. by President David Ballah, Sr.

Acceptance of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the Sept. 24, 2017, Voters' Meeting. A motion was also made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the Nov. 12, 2017, Special Voters' Meeting.

Voting Membership. Pastor Schultz proposed that Robert Mastrostefano, Charlene Mastrostefano, Andrew Mastrostefano, Derek Laroche, Kate-Lynne Laroche, Eva Gaines, and Rachel Hutchins be admitted into voting membership. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to admit these members into voting membership.

Proposed Budget. Treasurer Dan Robinson presented the proposed 2018 church budget. Dan noted the following changes from the 2017 budget: salaries for the church secretary and organist increase by 3%; the amount budgeted for building maintenance increases from \$25,000.00 to \$27,500.00; the Church Council contingency fund increases from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00; and the amount budgeted for snow removal increases from \$5,000.00 to \$7,500.00. Dan explained that Children's Friend reimburses St. Paul's for 75% of the cost for utilities, rubbish removal, and snow removal. Dan also noted that Pastor's remuneration (salary, housing allowance, mileage) remains unchanged from 2017.

In response to questions, Dan stated that total receipts for 2017 were \$213,519.00 and that total expenditures for 2017 would not exceed \$186,049.00 by more than a few thousand dollars. The reason that the expenditures figure has not been finalized is that Dan is still waiting for some 2017 bills. However, he was confident that we would end up with a surplus for 2017 of more than \$20,000.00.

Dawn Nahlik asked why the cost of rubbish removal in 2017 was almost \$5,000.00 more than the amount budgeted. Dan explained that during 2017 the frequency of rubbish pick-ups increased from once a week to twice a week, and this resulted in greater cost. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the 2018 proposed budget as presented. A copy of that budget is attached to these minutes.

Old Business. Elaine Slavin asked when the congregational directories would be available. Chairman of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris answered that they would be available by March 1, 2018, and that members who had not had their photographs taken would be given the opportunity to do so.

New Business. Joe Norris thanked those members who had responded to an email request for assistance from David Martin and had helped clean out the parish hall gutters, down spouts, and window wells on Saturday, Jan. 27.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary