

# MARCH NEWSLETTER 2018



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
445 ELMWOOD AVE.  
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OFFICE 941-5100

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR  
LORD IN OUR GBARNGA LUTHER-  
AN TRAINING CENTER

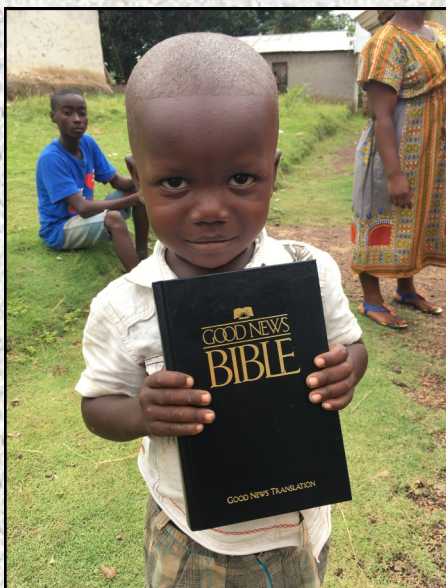
2017 TRIP UPDATE PAGE 6



Jesus Clears the Temple Courts JOHN 2:13-15



WELCOME SPRING



"St. Paul's Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ committed to helping all people by actively practicing the Gospel in word and deed."

## PASTOR'S LETTER

### **It's Good To Be Prepared!**

A great deal of material is provided to assist us in future, financial preparations. Likewise, a vast amount of information is provided to assist us in future, spiritual preparations. Preparing for the future is a good thing—both financially and spiritually! I recommend that we all take more time to investigate the future and what it has in store because it's simply foolish to enter the future unprepared.

This month of March is a very special time in the life of the Church because it leads us into Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Then, on Sunday, April 1, we will once again celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout this month, a vast amount of Scripture will be provided in order to prepare for Easter Sunday. And these Appointed Lessons are intended to prepare us for eternal life, the ultimate reality of faith.

It's good to be prepared for the future. We spend a great deal of time considering our financial needs, and the bottom line is that it is difficult to be financially prepared for all circumstances. Nevertheless, the Scriptures teach that it is anything but difficult to be prepared for a future life with Christ.

The Lenten Season portrays the Crucified Christ. It emphasizes his life as a ransom. It reveals his struggle in order that we might be without challenge or stress, and it clearly offers us priceless information to prepare us for his Second Return. By grace through faith in Christ, our future already has been secured. He has prepared all things in our behalf.

Take a little extra time over the next days to think about these things—financial and spiritual preparations. Both are important and neither one should be neglected nor ignored because it IS good to be prepared!

In Christ,

**Pastor Leon Schultz**

# March Birthdays

2 Dorothy Johnson Akoiwala

Maggie Baysah

Galimah Baysah

Dennis Clark

3 Randy Dauda

Nyekeh Forkpa

4 Hardlyne Dauda

Minerva Johnson

George S. Norris

5 Diane Pendergast

7 Charles O. Morris

8 Katherina Cooke

Edith Jourdan-Grittner

Rolf Kohm

Gerry Quarm

10 William Oehlkers

Dakhena Sheriff

11 Lois Oehlkers

13 Rondell Harmon

14 Corvah D. Akoiwala II

17 Thomas E. Richard

20 Veretta Jungwirth

22 Leelah D. Graves

23 Nellie Ballah

Kyle Walmsley

25 Tiler Thomas

28 Ralph Gbaie

## Anniversary

**14th Mr. & Mrs. William Hervey (29th)**

Date	Readers / Acolytes	Comm. Assistants	Altar Guild	Ushers
4	Titi Adekeye Acolyte: Titi Adekeye	Joe Norris Rick Sinnigen	Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Leela Ballah Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
11	Kevin Riley Acolyte: Christopher Dauda		Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Rick Sinnigen Onu Stevens Mack Maker Andrew Mastostefano
18	Rick Sinnigen Acolyte: Abiodun Adekeye	Corvah Akoiwala Bill Oehlkers	Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Kim King Bill King Dennis Kollie Helen Miller
25	Jacqueline Pringle Acolyte: Jacob Mastrostefano		Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Kevin Kehyei Danlette Norris George Dauda Grace Dauda

# MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service 10am with comm. Bible class 9:00am	5	6	7	8	9	10 Set your clocks Ahead
11 Wor-ship 10am Daylight Savings Time Bible class 9:00	12	13	14 Gbarnga Board Mtg. 7:00pm	15 Council Mtg. 7:00pm	16	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day
18 Wor-ship 10am with Com-munion Bible class 9:00am	19	20 SPRING BEGINS 	21	22	23	24
25 Worship 10am Bible Class 9am PALM SUNDAY CONFIRMATION 	26	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday	30 Good Friday	31



The Stewardship Board has posted pictures from the soon-to-be-published St. Paul's photo directory on a board in the Fellowship Hall. Look for yours. If you are not there and would like your picture to appear, con-tact Richlieu Norris or Joe Norris. The purpose of these pictures is to help us to get to know each other better.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION UPDATE 2017 TRIP  
PICTURES BY JON ROSSMAN



## MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Jan. 18, 2018

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, by President David Ballah. Present were: President Ballah, Vice President and Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Bucu, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, Chairperson of the Board of Stewardship Bill Oehlkers and Pastor Leon Schultz. Dawn Nahlik was also present as an observer. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the Dec. 18, 2017, Church Council meeting.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Dan Robinson distributed a Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2017. Total income during this period was \$224,371.95 and total disbursements were \$202,371.96, resulting in net ordinary income of \$21,999.99. The balance of Memorial Funds as of Oct. 31, 2017, was \$250,800.27. Dan noted that the cost of snow removal in 2017 exceeded the amount budgeted by more than \$5,000.00. However, Children's Friend pays 75% of this cost which lessens its impact. Expenses for building maintenance (\$27,204.57) also exceeded the amount budgeted (\$25,000.00) largely due to heating repairs.

**Pastor's Report.** Pastor reported that he conducted the funeral and burial for Manfred Rapp on Jan. 10, 2018. Samantha Robinson and Charlene Mastrostefano are working on establishing a board of education for the Sunday School. Pastor estimates that attendance in Sunday School is up 60%-70%. Steven Nagbe and Andrew Mastrostefano are working with the youth.

**Trustees.** David Martin reported that he and Steven Nagbe had removed a good number of the black marks from the white tile floor in the basement beneath the parish hall. The Trustees ask everyone to remind the children to remove their shoes when playing on the tiles. There is a leak coming from behind the wooden casement along the south basement wall. Pastor will ask Luis of J & A Commercial and Residential General Contracting to disassemble the casements so the leak can be located. We have renewed our annual lawn fertilization contract with Tru-Green for \$354.00.

**Social Ministry.** David Ballah reported for the Board of Social Ministry. Donations, both cash and in kind, are needed to support the Coffee Hour. Donna will make a list of the items that are needed. Donors of trash bags should make sure that they are larger than the 33 gallon size. People are putting trash in the recycle dumpster. David Martin volunteered to make a sign for the kitchen, stating that the small dumpster is only for recyclables. Trash should be put in the large dumpster.

**Deacons.** Joe Norris reported that the Deacons expect to meet the Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> target date for distribution of the church photo directory. Prior to the distribution, members whose photographs have not been taken will be given another opportunity to be photographed. Pastor will make a final review of the names in the directory to insure that it will be as current as possible.

**Finance.** Rick Sinnigen reported that the special Council meeting scheduled for Jan. 7, 2018, to review the 2018 proposed budget lacked a quorum. However, the four members present (Rick, Dan, Donna, and David Martin) reviewed the proposed budget. Dan subsequently emailed a revised 2018 proposed budget to all Council members. Dan noted that the amount budgeted for offerings in 2018 was less than the amount received for offerings in 2017 because it is uncertain whether we will again receive Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from members' IRA accounts as we did last year. With respect to employee compensation, Pastor's compensation remains the same in 2018 in accordance with his agreement with the Deacons. The salaries of the church secretary and the organist will increase by 3%. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the proposed 2018 church budget and to recommend its passage to the Voters.**

**Stewardship.** Bill Oehlkers reported that the amount of the increase in offerings in 2017 was \$15,010.83. This is the amount that qualifies for matching funds under The \$30,000.00 Challenge. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to place the \$15,010.83 in matching funds in restricted memorials when it is received.**

**New Business.** President Ballah asked the Deacons to provide the secretary with lists for readers, acolytes, communion assistants, and ushers so that these positions are covered and the members filling them are identified in the worship folder. President Ballah also asked that members be reminded at the Voters' meeting about using their offering envelopes.

**Sexton services.** David Martin presented a proposal that Steven Nagbe be engaged to provide four hours of sexton services every Monday commencing Feb. 5 at a rate of \$12.50 per hour. Funding for Steven's services will come from four sources: \$250.00 from Pastor's discretionary fund; \$500 from the Council's Contingency Fund; \$1,000.00 from Building Maintenance; and \$650 from David. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the proposal for sexton services as presented.**

Dawn Nahlik requested and received permission to place prayer cards which she had made next to the Portals of Prayer booklets in the sanctuary.

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