

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



2019



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
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WELCOME FALL



Luke 17:1-6

17 Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. ²It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. ³So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.

⁴Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them."

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

⁶He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey

"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

“Call Upon Me . . .”

My Dear Congregation—

My Very Patient and Loving Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This “newsletter” comes to you as a personal letter of thanks and appreciation. Once again, I was victim of a “setback” as related to my latest, back surgery. I returned to the Rhode Island Hospital: Co-operative Care Building—Room 203-1 on Saturday afternoon, October 5, around 1:00 p.m. I remember all the specifics because it's horrible to have to return for care due to an unknown “setback” after surgery. The pain that had penetrated my lower back was excruciating. I was convinced that something had “let loose” from my spine.

By Saturday evening, around 9:30 p.m., I was transferred to the main building to undergo an MRI with contrast. The procedure would last nearly one hour and twenty-five minutes and I was emphatically told, “Do not to move.” It was difficult to lie flat on my back for that duration of time; however, I was told that should I move, I would have to “redo the entire procedure in the morning.” I prayed for strength. I prayed for patience. I prayed that the Lord Jesus would be with me. My prayers were answered. I was returned to my room at 11:20 p.m. The images, I was told, were “really good.” Then, on Sunday, around 9:00 a.m., I once again was transferred to the main building for a CT scan. That was quick and easy. Thank God.

On Monday morning, Dr. Alan Daniels, my orthopedic surgeon, entered the room and told me that the results of the images were “excellent.” There was “no sign of damage to the surgical hardware.” I apparently had suffered from a “strained sacroiliac joint” and that “the pain would pass with time.” After Dr. Daniels left the room, I quickly and quietly bowed my head and thank God for his tender, loving care. The prognosis was fantastic! Through all of this, I, indeed, had been clinging to Psalm 50:15—“**Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.**”

I now am enjoying some added time for recovery thanks to your love and patience as the dear members of my congregation. Thank you. I pray that I now will fully recover and return to you soon, hopefully by Sunday, October 13. I truly am looking forward to my return more than I am looking forward to the beautiful, fall colors. And, yes, I am so much looking forward to offering continued praise and thanks and honor to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Pastor Schultz



OCT. 1 PAUL MARTIN

OCT. 2 HANNAH COOPER

GEORGINA DAUDA

OCT. 3 OYEYEMI KO-
LAWOLE

OCT. 4 DENNIS T. KOLLIE

OCT. 9 HELLEN MILLER

OCT. 10 GERTRUDE GRAY

OCT. 11 DANIEL BALLAH



OCT. 12 SOLOMON PAYE

OCT. 14 DEBRA MICELI

OCT. 19 LEELA BALLAH

OCT. 21 ROSELLA BOLLINGER

DONALD STOSKOPF

OCT. 25 KAREN BURGESS COUTU

JANA REDMAN

JAMES UREY

JUSTIN UREY

OCT. 27 CHRISTOPHER DAUDA



Oct. 11 Mr. & Mrs. William King (11th)

Oct. 29 Mr. & Mrs. John Sinnigen (64th)

Oct. 31 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Kollie (10th)



	READER/ACOLYTES	COMM. ASSISTANT	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS
6	Abel Dobson Abiodun Adekeye	Bill Oehlkers As Available	Donna Bucu Nancy Watson	Leela Ballah Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
13	Pat Martin Jacob Mastrostefano		Donna Bucu Nancy Watson	Rick Sinnigen Steven Nagbe Onu Stevens Andrew Mastrostefano
20	Bill Oehlkers Hawa Mulbah	Joe Norris Rick Sinnigen	Donna Bucu Nancy Watson	Kim King Bill King Joe Norris Helen Miller
27	Kevin Riley George Roberts		Donna Bucu Nancy Watson	Kevin Kehyei Danlette Norris George Dauda Grace Dauda

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

June 18, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, by President David Ballah. Present were: Treasurer Daniel Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Buco, Chair- person of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, and Pastor Leon Schultz. Also in attendance was Bill Oehlkers. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2019, regular meeting and the June 16, 2019, special meeting as submitted.

Treasurer's Report. Dan Robinson presented the Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through May 31, 2019. Total income during this period was \$89,890.91 and total disbursements were \$84,815.38, resulting in a surplus \$5,075.53. Current offerings are approximately \$2,000.00 more than budgeted. The balance of Memorial Funds as of May, 31, 2019, was \$250,517.68.

Trustees. At the request of David Martin, the Council agreed to hear the Trustees' report out of order. David presented a request from a local film production company for permission to film a scene on the front steps of the church on the evening of June 19. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to deny the request on the basis that it would not advance the mission of the church. David then presented three additional requests from Children's Friend stemming from the June 11th flood in the school basement. As set forth in Brian Greene's June 14, 2019, email to

David, the requests are:

"Remove the bottom 2 feet of drywall and insulation within [t]he inner drywall covered walls and replace them with new drywall and insulation."

"Remove and replace all of the wall/floor 4' molding and replace throughout basement."

"Remove and replace ALL flooring in the basement within the Children's Friend suite."

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to recommend to the Voters that the above actions should be taken. David also reported that F.G. Lees & Son (Lees) plans to install a check valve in the ground outside the school immediately adjacent to Carter Street on June 19. Lees believes that this check valve should prevent future flooding in the school basement. On another matter, the Council also agreed that the basement carpet near the foosball table should be thrown out as Donna reported that it had an odor. David said that this would be done.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that he baptized Murahamine B. Kuyateh and Ernest R. Marshall on May 26. He also presided at the June 8th marriage of his daughter Allison to Daniel Kalbach in Auburn, NY.

Deacons. Joe Norris reported that Pastor will be able to conduct the service on June 23. Pastor Kerner will be asked to conduct the service on another Sunday when Pastor cannot be here. Pastor's brother, Lowell, has been invited to be our organist on June 23. Ron Brown is fine with this. Presently, we do not have an organist for the communion Sundays in July as Emily (Brown) Suon is not available. Bill Oehlkers said that he would ask his sister, who lives in Connecticut, if she is available to play for those services.

Finance. Rick Sinnigen said he would make his presentation during "Old Business."

Old Business. Rick reported the result of his inquiry to the IRS regarding the deductibility of flowers placed on the altar. He said that the IRS had not given him a clear cut answer but had asked him numerous questions about the practice. It appears that if the flowers are given to the church and the donor does not wish to take the flowers after the service, the donation for the flowers is tax deductible. If the donor wishes to take the flowers after the service, the donation is not tax deductible. There was an extended discussion about how to implement this policy and ultimately it was decided to table the matter until the next Council meeting.

New Business. Dan Robinson said he remains concerned about the problem of mail, which bear our correct address, being returned to the sender as undeliverable. Recently, the premium notice from our new insurance company was returned to the company with a postal label stating that it was not deliverable even though the church's address was correctly printed on the envelope. David Martin said that he had sent two letters to Guy Buco, the local postal su-

, requesting his assistance with this problem but had not heard back from Guy. Donna offered to contact Guy and find out what action has been taken. The Council accepted Donna's offer. The Council also agreed that the Trustees should put up a sign outside the church office, identifying it as the "Office" and bearing the address "445 Elmwood Avenue." In addition, the Council agreed that the Trustees should obtain a mailbox which can be placed outside the office door.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Sept. 19, 2019, Church Council meeting.

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

July 14, 2019

A special meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 11:10 a.m., on Sunday, July 14, 2019, by President David Ballah. Present were: President Ballah, Vice President Corvah Akoiwala, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Bucu, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, and Pastor Leon Schultz. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor.

Pastor suggested that since Larry Nichols had stepped in and played the piano for today's worship service because we lacked an organist, the Council should consider compensating him for his services. The Council agreed, and a motion was made, seconded, and passed to direct the Treasurer to pay Larry \$100. Pastor then excused himself from the meeting.

Joe Norris explained that the purpose of today's meeting was to present the Deacons' plan for coverage during the six weeks that Pastor will be recuperating from his July 22nd surgery. Joe said that the worship services will be conducted by either Pastor Kerner or Larry Nichols as shown on the schedule below:

July 28: Pastor Kerner

Aug. 4: Pastor Kerner

Aug. 11: Larry Nichols

Aug. 18: Larry Nichols

Aug. 25: Pastor Kerner

Sept. 1: Larry Nichols

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the Deacons' plan for coverage while Pastor Schultz is recuperating from his surgery.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m., with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Sept. 19, 2019, Church Council meeting.

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Aug. 18, 2019

A special meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 11:30 a.m., on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, by President David Ballah. Present were: President Ballah, Vice President Corvah Akoiwala, Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Bucu, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, and Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris. Also in attendance were Bill Oehlkers and Dawn Nahlik.

President Ballah recognized David Martin. David said that he had requested the special meeting because he felt the Council should discuss the Sunday School situation. He cited the notice in last week's worship folder that no Sunday School classes would be offered in September if volunteers did not step forward. Bill asked Dan if he could share what Samantha's experience had been last year when she was Sunday School Superintendent. Dan said that Sam originally had five teachers but that she had experienced a problem with consistency. Both students and teachers would not show up on a consistent basis. There were Sundays when Sam was the only teacher, and she had children of widely diverse ages, making it difficult to present an appropriate lesson. The one thing that drew good participation in Sunday School was the Christmas program, but attendance dropped off markedly thereafter. A conundrum exists in that parents want Sunday School to be held during the worship service but doing so results in the Sunday School teachers missing all or part of every worship service. This makes it extremely difficult to find teachers.

After extended discussion, it was agreed that there will be a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 8, to explain the Sunday School problem and the importance of finding a solution. Prior to that meeting, members will be asked to provide to Joe Norris and/or Corvah Akoiwala the name, age, and school grade of any child that they would like to have attend Sunday School in September. This will help us determine how many teachers will be need. It was also agreed that at the meeting members should be presented with options in writing for when Sunday School should be held: 1) before the service; 2) during the entire service; 3) during a portion of the service, or 4) after the service. The advantages and disadvantages of each option should be listed. For example, with options 2 and 3 the teachers will miss every (or a portion of every) worship service.

David Martin agreed to make the announcement of the Sept. 8th meeting and also the request to members that they provide their children's names to Joe and Corvah on Aug. 25th and Sept. 1. No decision was reached with regard to who will conduct the meeting on Sept. 8th.

The second item on the agenda was a request from the daughter of Joe Roberts that he be given a burial service at St. Paul's on Friday, Aug. 30. Joe Norris stated that he has spoken to Larry Nichols, and Larry has agreed to conduct the service. As this item had been placed on the agenda only because Pastor Schultz would not be available, the Council deemed that the matter has been resolved, and no further action is required.

The final item on the agenda was organist coverage for Sunday Aug. 25 as Ron Brown would be recovering from minor surgery and not available. Joe stated that coverage has been arranged.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m., with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary



These minutes were approved at the Sept. 19, 2019, Church Council meeting.