



# Pastor's helper

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS | DECEMBER 2019

## God's Reign Is And Always Will Be Supreme

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends:

One of the talking points of the political elite in our nation has revolved around a phrase like this: "You can't legislate morality." Most of the time they want most of us to shut up about what we believe to be moral standards in our culture. If it does not fit the current plan of moving 'forward' in our society, then there is no room for our voice. So when we try to reinforce laws and regulations that are not 'properly' situated, people get shouted down and advised to follow the advice on legislating morality.

Well, guess what is happening right now? Just this past week the country was treated to a shocking idea from Planned Parenthood. That notion? That abortion is not only necessary for "women's health," but that it is also moral.

Hear that? Abortion is moral! So the idea is to make sure that all laws currently on the books that allow abortion stay there. There must be no interference with the plan to make the death of babies normal in America.

Our God was the One who established all the moral laws necessary for human society. Among those laws was one that specifically said, "You shall not commit murder." When a group or society decides to overrule the laws of God, it has essentially set itself to take God's place in the greater culture. But God also commanded that we shall not have any other gods before Him. **His law, His rule, His reign is and always will be supreme.**

This month you will be asked to vote on a couple of additions to our Doctrinal Statement as found

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in the back of the Constitution and By-laws booklet. One of those new statements is a firm stance on the topic of abortion. It also subtly references any and all taking of human life that falls outside of God's rule. I hope that you will all pray about this and determine whether or not this truth is worth standing up for. I say this because I believe that one day there will be attacks on the Church for its faith and its stance on godly laws.

The second one deals with the issue of marriage. We will vote to affirm that our belief is marriage defined as one man and one woman, in a lifelong God-ordained relationship. This has been an unspoken tenet of our faith for many years. However, the changes are coming quickly around us, and we as elders and your consistory believe that we must have this truth in writing in our statement of doctrine. It will give us a much firmer basis of argument should it come to defending our stance on marriage in the church.

Please do not take this lightly. Pray over it. Discuss it. Read your Bibles about it. When the time is right, vote with your conscience. We need to be bold and courageous for God's Word and for the standards of morality He established centuries ago. Will we do this? I pray we do.

Blessings,

*Pastor Bruce*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Antoni & Lorin Wortel....December 31, 1981 (38 yrs.)

- Skip Reynolds..... December 2
- John Swinehart.....December 12
- Don Mateer..... December 13
- Gil Keen..... December 19
- Judy Wenger.....December 19
- Sandi Moffett..... December 20
- Bob Geist.....December 30



# Salem Evangelical Reformed Church, Hellers

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Office Hours: M-F, 9am—1pm

Mark Steller, Consistory President, 717-951-4212

Consistory: Mark Steller, President; George Cooper, Vice President; Harry Teigland, Secretary;  
Ron Nickel, Treasurer; Merv Bare; Ragen Burns; Marie Peazzoni; Eugene Rodgers; Larry Stoltzfus; Bruce Tully

www.salemhellers.com;

www.facebook.com/salemhellers



A



# From Our Music Director



Here we are on December 1 celebrating the season. Tonight, December 1, we enjoy opening our Advent Season with Servant Stage presenting a musical review of *Joy to the World*.



Look for me at the cantata!

Next Sunday afternoon (December 8) at 3:00 p.m., the Salem Hellers Cantata Choir will present a musically joyful cantata by our friend Joel Raney. The choir and All Saints Children's Choir has worked very diligently to bring this program to our congregation, and it is an effort that you, the reader, will be proud to share with you friends and neighbors. So – come – and bring others!



Look for me at the cantata!

There is a variety of great Christmas music planned as we “celebrate the season.”

On December 1 we begin Advent with the musical invitation, *Come Celebrate*. This is followed by asking the musical question *Can you hear the Christmas Bells?*

On December 8 we give you a preview of one of the songs to be presented that afternoon at 3:00 p.m. entitled *The Angels' Lullaby*, featuring the All Saints Children's Choir with a Bossa Nova- styled favorite Christmas carol right in the middle of this anthem.

On December 15, we bring to you the anthem, *Somebody Build a Manger*, a musical instruction to prepare for the Baby Jesus.



Look for us at the cantata!

On December 22, we open our worship service with a grand arrangement of *Joy To The World* that you will want to hear. This will feature our All Saints friends Rebecca and Debi on organ and piano. The choir announces musically that *Christ Is Born*.

And finally, on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m., we eagerly anticipate our lovely Christmas Eve by Candlelight Service, when the choir will present *This Holy Night*.

Well, my friends, that is the musical schedule for December, and I hope to see you all there. This morning, November 7, I made airline reservations for Robbie Sue, Johanna and me to spend Christmas with my family in Florida.

We fly out Christmas morning and return January 4. My Christmas wish for the Salem Hellers Congregation is for good health, a joyous Christmas Season, a blessed New Year, and that through our music ministry you will have been equipped to celebrate the season by being brought closer to Jesus and experiencing true worship.



Merry Christmas to all and to all, see you at church.





# Consistory Minutes, 11-12-2019

**1. Call meeting to order:** Mark Steller

**2. Devotional:** Mark -Thanksgiving, "We cannot worship God with an unthankful heart."

**3. Roll call:** Present: Mark Steller, Marie Peazzoni, Ron Nickel, George Cooper, Harry Teigland, Larry Stoltzfus, Merv Bare, Gene Rogers, Ragen Burns and Pastor Tully.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** The October Financial Statement was approved unanimously.

**5. President's Report:**

A. The Informal Budget meeting of the congregation will be held on November 24 in Cowan Hall, at 10:45 as a coffee hour.

B. Consistory Christmas Dinner will be held at Oregon Dairy on Tuesday, December 10 at 6pm. Cost to non-staff members will be \$22/person.

**6. Pastor's Report:**

- ◆ On Oct. 11 I attended the Mom's House Annual Gala. The Missions team sponsored a table at the event. While four of the others at our table were familiar with Mom's House, another couple of people were not, and we were pleased to act as ambassadors for Mom's House by providing information to them.
- ◆ Met with Ron G. to prepare for the upcoming Advent season. Worked on Advent candle-lighting prep as well as the cantata and other pre-Christmas events.
- ◆ Attended the CVM Bible study that afternoon.
- ◆ Also present at the Memorial Committee meeting that evening. In this meeting we planned and prepared for this year's All Saints' celebration scheduled for Nov. 3.
- ◆ Choir continues to meet, and the Christmas Cantata Choir started rehearsals. This program will be presented on Dec. 8 at 3 PM.
- ◆ Spiritual Council met on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We spent most of our time (following prayer) on developing two new additions to the Congregational Doctrinal statement that appears in our Constitution and By-laws. These were edited, approved, and will be submitted to Consistory. Pending Consistory approval, we will ask for congregational approval at the congregational budget meeting.
- ◆ Worked the Missions' Bazaar all day on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Decent turnout as the weather was good. The proceeds will be used to replenish the Pastor's Discretionary fund.
- ◆ Had a private meeting with a congregational member in my office. Pertinent details will be provided to those who will need to know them.
- ◆ Met for a breakfast meeting with a local donor to one of our missions-supported groups. Collected donations to be taken to CVCCS.
- ◆ Annual All Saints service was performed on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ◆ Devotions and prayer with the Agape group on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Steve Davis was our guest preacher on the 10<sup>th</sup>. I took on the role of worship leader. We held a coffee hour following worship in honor of this missionary family. A special offering was taken to help offset travel costs.
- ◆ Nov. 11 I was again privileged to offer both invocation and benediction at the Leola-Bareville Veterans' Day Breakfast.



**7. Reports of Ministries:**

**A. Lay Life/Fellowship:** Will provide coffee plus for the informal Budget meeting.

**B. Worship:** Pastor and Ron met to orchestrate Advent and Cantata events.



## C. Property:



### Completed projects:

We had 11 people at the work party on Oct. 5 to clean off the steep southern bank along Industrial Drive, removed the wax from the rearmost pews in the sanctuary, and cleaned up the Superintendent's office. Further work - installation of motion sensors switches in bathrooms, bank plantings, surveillance cameras aimed, steeple lights aligned, and roof leaks fixed in Cowen Hall.

### Current projects:

1. Cowen Hall roof – get new bids in February, verify that MR roofing quote of \$13656.82 still good. Skip will write something in the Pastor's Helper explaining why this was not done with the rest of the roof.
2. Cowen Hall Exterior door near kitchen leaks – get quotes on a replacement door and on closing off the door opening – hold off until spring
3. Emergency exit layout – Ragen Burns working on it.
4. Narthex and Foyer ceiling tile painting almost completed.
5. Public water regulations project tabled indefinitely.
6. Installation of speaker and CCTV in new nursery – Ragen Burns working on it.
7. Cemetery renewal – Levi King has not talked to Harold recently but Perpetual care will pay for it.

### Old Business

1. A/C units in Cowen Hall and Sanctuary – Three units in Cowen Hall are working and the Sanctuary remained cool enough throughout the summer, so we are going to make do with what we have. Ressler and Mateer sent a list of the ages of our equipment but they did not include all of the units. Gene would like a complete list. They estimated to replace the mini split AC in Cowen Hall at \$4000 each and \$18,000 for the rooftop AC unit that serves Sanctuary.
2. Don Graves will see that Gail receives the "Serve Safe" certificates.
3. Gene Rodgers will call Lancaster Stained Glass to notify them that we will not be rebuilding the large north side window this year. It is on hold.
4. Floor finishing will be completed on Nov 14 and Ragen Burns will assure that Consistory removes furniture in Cowan Hall and the kitchen.
5. Don Graves is looking into adding more receptacles in upstairs Sunday School rooms.
6. Protective Thermostat Cover – Ragen Burns looking into having a remote temperature sensor installed to replace the current thermostat controls.
7. Mowing Service – DWD Landscaping Service gave a proposal for mowing \$50 per hour times 4 hours and weed whacking \$40 per hour times 6 hours on Thursday or Friday. MOTION: Larry made a motion to hire DWD Landscaping starting 2020, weed whacking every other week on Thursdays or Fridays. It was seconded and passed unanimously.
8. Ragen Burns met with a Chris Duffy from Vermont about replacing the CD music player with a Digital player called Carillon. They tested our equipment and we will need only the digital player. It has an internal calendar to the year 2099 which knows all of the liturgical seasons and plays the correct music. It has over 1000 chime configurations. Can be programmed to ring bell on the hour up until 9:00 p.m. It will cost around \$5300. The Latschars have been notified that CD player that they donated is not working and must be replaced. They are ok with it. Memorial Committee said that they will purchase whatever Property Committee suggests. RECOMMENDATION: The Property Committee recommends that the Memorial Committee purchase the Carillon, the latest digital technology.
9. Levi King received an estimate on replacing the present steeple lights with LED. It came with graphs on how much electric we can save if we change. The first option would cost \$4500 which would give us the same effect (300 watt). For a 78 watt lights it would cost \$2800. Don Graves is going to check with PP&L about rebates. This is on hold until further information is obtained.

### New Business

1. Bruce Ranck has resigned from Property Committee; we all wish him well.
2. Proposed to have another work party to finish removing the wax from the pews and caulk the windows. It was tabled until after Christmas.
3. Further ceiling tile repair upstairs on hold.
4. Ragen Burns will investigate another contractor to repoint our brick in Bell tower.
5. Ragen Burns will contact Comcast and try and renegotiate the price and services.
6. Don Graves will make sure that the Sanctuary is vacuumed after their service.



Separate Item at Consistory: A request was made by the owner of a regular cemetery plot to use it for three cremation urns. Discussion proceeded, motion was made and seconded to allow this, this time. Property will discuss further and make appropriate policy changes.

**D. Personnel**-no report

## 8. Committee Reports

**A. Memorial:** Met to organize the All Saints Service; Agreed to replace the Carillon broken music player with a new digital system.

**B. Missions:** Bazaar to be held on October 26, 2020. Will meet to organize mission trip to Guatemala next Spring.

**C. Membership Care/Shut-in:** No report

**D. Nominations:**

1. There may be a new person available and qualified to serve as a deacon next year.
2. Harry Tiegland has been asked to consider becoming an Elder. He qualifies according to our Church By-Laws and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

## 9. Old Business

A. Sharing space/facility with All Saints Church

Contact/Liaison: Don Graves (717-466-7040) [dgraves8@comcast.net](mailto:dgraves8@comcast.net)

B. Sign Project - Nothing new, yet.

## 10. New Business

1. Need to set a date for the Formal Budget Approval.

2. Two additional items for the Church Doctrinal Statement from the Spiritual Council

were presented to the Consistory for discussion. Our church policy on marriage being between one man and one woman is defined. The other is a statement about the sanctity of life, especially as related to abortion, but not limited to this. Both of these statements will be distributed along with the proposed 2020 budget.

**11. Motion to adjourn** - Unanimous. (We were adjourned to clear Cowan Hall for floor polishing.)

Marie closed with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary



# ADVENT EVENTS



**ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT**  
DEC. 1—5:30 p.m. Potluck  
7:00 p.m.— Servant Stage



**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**  
DEC. 8—3:00 p.m.



**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH  
LESSONS & CAROLS**  
DEC. 15—6:00 p.m.



**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
Dec. 24—7:30 p.m.

# ATTENDANCE & TREASURER'S REPORT

## OCTOBER

### ATTENDANCE— WORSHIP

OCT. 7    69  
 OCT. 14    80  
 OCT. 21    65  
 OCT. 28    69

Average worship  
attendance for  
August is 70.

## OCTOBER

### ATTENDANCE— SUNDAY SCHOOL

OCT. 7    26  
 OCT. 14    17  
 OCT. 21    NONE  
 OCT. 28    20

Average Sunday  
School attendance for  
August is 21.

## OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT\*

Current .....\$14,730.88  
 Missions.....\$2,922.50  
 Improvement.....\$3,940.00  
 Cemetery Fund.....\$923.75

\*For more information, please see the Treasurer's Report on the Community Bulletin Board in Cowan Hall.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### GREETERS

Dec. 1: JoAnn Gribble & Arlene Kofroth  
 Dec. 8: Judy Wenger & Kathy Hinerdeer

Dec. 15: Mary & Betsy Lichty

Dec. 22: Bill & Cindy Portner

Dec. 24: Bob & Rosene Burns

Dec. 29: Bob & Sandy Geist

### FLOWER DISTRIBUTORS

Dec. 1: None

Dec. 8: None

Dec. 15: Marie Peazzoni

Dec. 22: None

Dec. 29: None

### USHERS

Scott Gribble (Head); Ron Nickel, Dave Sensenig, Margaret Sensenig, and Betsy Lichty

### OFFERING BAGGERS

Gene Rodgers and Harry Teigland

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22—Advent Schedule;  
 Dec. 29: George Cooper



Heavenly  
Humor

Sign on the outside wall of a Maryland convent:

"Trespassers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."  
 — *The Sisters of Mercy*



# Announcements



The Congregation is invited to have dinner with our missionaries Dennis and Barb Freed on Monday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Cowan Hall. The dinner is provided by the Missions Committee. Please sign up at the Information Desk if you plan to attend. Dennis and Barb will share about their ministry with ORI.

If you wish to order poinsettias in memory or in honor of your loved ones, please fill out the Poinsettia Order Form and submit it with payment to the church office by no later than Sunday, December 8.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

## Yuletide Events

- 11.24.19 | Ornament Making with Salem Hellers, 12:00 pm
- 12.07.19 | Ladies Christmas Tea, 2:00 pm
- 12.08.19 | Salem Hellers Cantata with ASC Children's Choir, 3:00 pm
- 12.15.19 | Lessons and Carols Service, 6:00 pm
- 12.24.19 | Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 pm
- 01.03.20 | Wine Tasting Party (adults only), 7:00 pm
- 01.06.20 | Epiphany Feast, 6:00 pm

For additional details and to RSVP, please visit [allsaints-church.com/yuletide](http://allsaints-church.com/yuletide)

All Saints Church is kindly inviting you to attend any/all of their Yuletide Events. For more information or to sign up for any event, please stop by the Information Desk.

At Agape's meeting on Tues., Dec. 3, we will be preparing Christmas cards for mailing to our homebound members plus Gene and Janet Rodgers will provide us with Christmas entertainment. Everyone is welcome to attend at 10:00 a.m. in Cowan Hall. Lunch will follow at Rosario's.



We will have our annual Formal Budget Meeting after church on December 15 in Cowan Hall. There will be no Sunday School that day.

As a reminder, anything involving the usage of the church building needs to be scheduled through the Church Office to avoid schedule conflicts. Thank you for your help with this.

2020			
<b>January</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>February</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	<b>March</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>April</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
<b>May</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>June</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>July</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>August</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
<b>September</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>October</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>November</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>December</b> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

In case of cancellations for any services or activities due to inclement weather, please check the "Cancellations" tab at the top left of our website. If you do not have internet at your home, please call someone who can check this for you. If you're unsure, please stay home to be safe.



# Thank you!



Salem Hellers Church would like to extend our sincere thanks to All Saints Church for their generous gift of \$9,000 to our roof repair fund. This will go toward our next project of replacing the roof over Cowan Hall. We are grateful for their kindness!

# December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu		
<b>1</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Sunday School; 5:30 Potluck; 7:00 Servant Stage	<b>2</b> 6:00 p.m. Potluck <b>with</b> Dennis & Barb Freed	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m.— Agape; 7:00 p.m. Property	<b>4</b> 6:15 p.m.- Evening Prayer	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Sunday School; 3:00 p.m. Cantata	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 p.m. Consistory Dinner	<b>11</b> 6:15 p.m.- Evening Prayer	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Sunday School; Formal Budget Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary	<b>18</b> 6:15 p.m.- Evening Prayer	<b>19</b> No Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship; 10:45 am – Sunday School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service 	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>						
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship; 10:45 am –Sunday School  Pastor away	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Worship  →	<b>31</b>				