

Pastor's *helper*

SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS

APRIL 2021



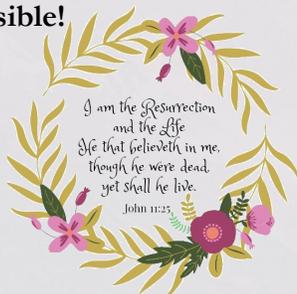
MAY YOUR SPIRITS SOAR ONCE AGAIN

My Friends:

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

I am overjoyed to be able to say that we have been able to celebrate all the experiences and events of Holy Week this year. There was a real sense of disappointment last year when, just before Palm Sunday, we ended our in-person worship. It was to have been only a couple of weeks, to 'flatten the curve' as the now-famous quote goes. By now that curve has been flattened into the thinnest line possible!

Of the two holiest times of the Christian year, I find the time of the Passion and Resurrection to be the most meaningful. Christmas is beautiful and thrilling in its own way, but the gamut of emotions experienced in the death and resurrection progression can shake you to your core. The idea of betrayal and rejection of the Lamb of God; the sham trials leading to the brutal execution of the Prince of Peace; and the glorious morning on which the empty tomb revealed the risen



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King of kings is spiritually soul-shaking.

To be able to gather as a family of Christ in our sanctuary is a gift. We may have not realized how much we treasure it until we had to forgo it over the past year. To gather especially in worship of the victorious Christ is even more treasured. This is the true heart of our faith. That Jesus Christ, the Son of God himself, willingly laid down his life for you and me, and took the bottomless bags filled with our sins to be buried forever, covering our sinful lives with the lily-white righteousness of his own, fills us with great awe and wonder.

Our songs, our Bible readings, and the Word that comes to us in the midst of Jesus' heartache, his misery, his anguish and at last his joy, sets before us a scene of glory. I would pray in all these things you are deeply touched and blessed. May your spirits soar once again. May you find freedom from fear, especially the fear that has kept us apart, and rejoice as we come again into the house of the Lord for worship.

Many blessings to you all!

Pastor Bruce

Easter in 40 Words

Love gave.
Help came.
Compassion reached.
Mercy saved.

Beauty filled.
Hope instilled.
Burdens lifted.
Grace revealed.

Death ended.
Breach mended.
Joy danced.
Peace extended.

Curtain torn.
Power soared.
Freedom breathed.
Life reborn.

He forgave.
Truth overcame.
Glory rose.
Light reigns.

by Debbie McDaniel



Salem Evangelical

Reformed Church, Hellers

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Consistory: Mark Steller, President; Harold Teigland, Vice
President; George Cooper, Secretary;

Ron Nickel, Treasurer; Merv Bare; Ragen Burns;
Marie Peazzoni; Eugene Rodgers; Margaret Sensenig;
Bruce Tully

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Arlene Kofroth.....April 3
- Lorin Wortel.....April 11
- Doug Rineer.....April 11
- Jared Kreider..... April 11
- Laura Gribble.....April 21
- BJ Groff.....April 27
- Bob Brinker..... April 27

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- Levi & Mary Ann King.....April 17, 1966
(55 years)
- Skip & Marlene Reynolds..... April 21, 1979
(42 years)
- Bob & Rosene Burns..... April 26, 1958
(63 years)



A

FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
(Psalm 47:1)



In 1970 there was a Tony Award winning musical titled *Applause*. In the title song there is a repeating theme that is sung throughout the song that says, “I live for the Applause.” What a contrast! The psalmist refers to clapping hands (applause) as a praise to God. The actor, on the other hand, refers to applauses a purpose for living, to be praised for the actor’s skill or talent, and actually requires a daily dose to continue on life’s journey.

In concert going, there is an unwritten protocol that has more than once caused embarrassment to those unaware. A symphony performed by an orchestra is typically divided into four segments. These segments are known as movements. As a general rule, the first movement could begin moderate in tempo and intensity. The second would be a slower and quieter movement. The third movement is usually a dance of some kind, many times in $\frac{3}{4}$ time, or waltz-like. It may have the name *Minuet* or *Gavotte* but is known as the dance movement. The fourth movement is more robust, most frequently ending at a faster pace with increased volume that at the playing of the final chord inspires the audience to break into applause. In fact, it is an emotional response to the music. But that pesky protocol that sometimes causes embarrassment happens after movements 1, 2, or 3. That tradition is that there is NO applause between movements. Just imagine the feeling of starting to applaud vigorously in a beautiful concert hall, and you are the only one doing so. I hate it when that happens! Been there – done that! I suppose that one school of thought is that the composer is telling a musical story and there should be no distraction or interruption to destroy the flow of the presentation. This gives you some background in the secular world of theatre or concert hall.

But what about in church? When is it appropriate to applaud? The Bible refers in many places to clap your hands as an offering of praise to God. And yet many churches remain totally silent during their worship, while others vigorously clap their hands in time with the music. So when is it proper to applaud in church? I do not have a right-or-wrong/when-or-when-not-answer over this question. Like the concert hall, tradition also plays a part. So here are a few considerations as you think about this subject.

First of all, our musicians are not like the Broadway actors. We do not live for the next standing ovation. The big difference is that the focus is on worship and praise to God. Remember: *Soli Deo Gloria*, only for the Glory of God. Therefore, understanding the motive of the music relieves you of the necessity of applauding.

Next is the message and style of the music. Some music that is quiet and contemplative loses effectiveness if in the quiet end of a song, there is a burst or even a sprinkle of clapping hands. It breaks the worshipful moment that has just been created.

Next is what is being applauded. Is it the continuation of worship, or is it a sense of saying “that was a good performance?” And that, I think, is the point. As a choir, we do not perform. We present music that inspires, instructs, or encourages. It is an offering of worship. There are two arrangements that we have sung several times over the years. One is *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, and the other is *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. Both of these arrangements end so dramatically intense that responding with applause is literally involuntary, and that response is appropriate.

I think in our church culture at Salem Hellers as a congregation, we strike a good balance of knowing when and when not to applaud. Being sensitive to the words, the music, and the worshipful atmosphere is guidance enough.

Now, one last thought. Our musicians love to know that their ministry is appreciated. I continually thank and appreciate their willingness to devote time and effort to learning and then presenting our choral music. Not long ago we sang an anthem, and I thought on my way home that day how thankful to God I am that Salem Hellers is able to have such a nice sounding choir in spite of the COVID challenges. Do not ever hesitate to let the choir members know that you appreciate them.

And if you are going to go to a symphony concert, do not applaud between movements.

Until next Time, Ron

CONSISTORY MINUTES, MARCH 9, 2021



1. Call meeting to order-Mark Steller began with prayer.
2. Devotional-Mark from *Jesus Always*. My ways are always mysterious, but good.
3. Roll call: Present: Mark Steller, Harry Teigland, Ron Nickel, Gene Rogers, Merv Bare, Margaret Sensenig, Ragen Burns, Pastor Tully, George Cooper, and Marie Peazzoni.
4. Treasurer's Report: Read and approved February report.
5. President's Report: Activities: Feb. 20-Lasagna Dinner; Feb 28-Congregational Meeting; March 21-Lay Leader.
6. Pastor's Report

In mid February I met with the pastoral staff at Stumptown Mennonite Church to discuss how they have gone about handling livestream events for their church. I gathered a good amount of practical information for us to review before deciding on our own implementation. Ragen and I met earlier this evening to go over the information and begin our research. On February 16 I met with the CVM for our monthly time of study and prayer. February 17 was our annual Ash Wednesday service. While slightly fewer people attended than in the past years, we managed to have a meaningful time to start our Lenten period of meditation, sacrifice, and prayer. The weekend of the 20th and 21st was filled with work for the Missions Lasagna Dinner. More details on that in the Missions report. February 23 was the funeral and committal service for Ingrid Liss. Also that evening was our monthly elders meeting. Once again, with all elders and deacons invited, we had a relatively light attendance. After a time of prayer, we moved to our topic

discussion. We spent a fair amount of time learning about the place and geography of the OT lands. This is valuable as it applies to reading the Bible and visualizing things in one's mind. Again, I urge all elders and deacons to consider spending this one hour per month in acquiring more insight into the Word of God. Choir rehearsals began again on February 25. March 2 was the CVM meeting. This time we met at Groffdale Mennonite Church. Guest speakers were two of the new leadership from Love Inc. It would be good for us to invite them to Hellers some time soon to speak to us about current situations and the ministry's response. On March 9, I met with two of the local ministry leaders for fellowship. We also had a short discussion on the upcoming Good Friday service to be held at Breakout Ministries on April 2. More information will follow. The Berean class has been well-attended. We have had lively discussions about topics derived from the morning's sermon. There are still a few chairs available!

7. Reports of Ministries

- A. Lay Life/Fellowship: No report.
- B. B. Worship: No report.
- C. Property:



FINISHED PROJECTS Miller and Sons submitted the bill to make the well look EPA compliant to today's standards by raising a thicker casing height to 18 inches above the grade, installing a concrete base, installing a lockable and screened cover, and updated electrical connections. Quoted \$5200 but only billed us \$4335.

DONE Harry updated our property insurance information with Bitner Henry Insurance Group.

DONE Signed a UGI gas contract that goes into effect from April 2021 to March 2023. Fixed rate of 0.497 / Ccf (lowest rate offered).

DONE Had another go-round with the boiler and Ressler and Mateer during their semi-annual check-up. It seems that when they reinstall the burner after cleaning it, if they are not careful, it refuses to reignite. We had to manually restart it four times. However, we will watch the system and see if anything else needs to be done.

NEW BUSINESS Sunday night, Feb. 28th, the boiler did not restart. Had to manually restart. Gene and Skip to check on it. Investigate range hood water leak – water fills up the center light globe. Gene and Skip to check on it.



Voiles in the front yard by the sign. Merv will check with the garden supply store and take care of it.

DONE: Clean up hallway shelves and Youth Room.

Saturday, March 13, four men from All Saints have agreed to help us with some projects. We should set the priorities.

Finish wiring up a new Honeywell temperature controller in the boiler room that would control a space heater. The armored cable is run and we have the T4031A controller. The cable needs to be hooked up to the Pushmatic breaker panel and connected to the controller. Ultimately, we will have to install a motorized damper in the boiler room for make-up air for the boiler. This would eliminate the chance of our pipes freezing with the system we are using now OR continue working on a motorized damper for the boiler room door, thus eliminating the space heater and 4A.

Add a switch in line (near the elevator vestibule on the main floor) that would turn on/off the slab heater by the four front doors. Check the emergency lighting fixtures. Check two different receptacles for why only one half of them are live (choir room and storage room). Install a new receptacle in the basement youth room to eliminate extension cord usage for dehumidifiers. Check the illuminated cross that used to work over the side entrance of the educational wing. If it is difficult or too expensive to repair, just tuck the wire back behind the cross. Replace the ceiling lights in the office administrator's office with 7 dimmable LED's.

All Saints Men will have a work day on March 13th -tackle as many projects as time permits.

OLD BUSINESS Yard sign – Harry reviewed paperwork and application and met with Reaver Sign Co. Still looking into options. Paint ceiling tiles in men's upstairs restroom and upstairs meeting room at the end of the hall. Seeking volunteers, materials will be supplied. Any suggestions from the Personnel Committee for turning on/off the heating pads? Marie Peazzoni has volunteered to take on this project. Trim trees at 2575 Horseshoe Road. Levi is scheduling it. Replacing the cemetery shed doors. Getting cost estimates. Levi will contact Dan Fisher about rebuilding the left door frame exiting the north bell tower. Levi is taking care of it.



SPRING PROJECTS Awarded a work order for James Baker to repoint and seal the exterior sanctuary and bell tower brick for \$1500-2000. Install speaker and/or CCTV for worship service coverage in the new nursery room. Surveillance system. Education wing window cleaning. Upper Leacock Township Stormwater management plan. Looking for a concrete crack sealer for the front slab pad. We will be working on these projects.

The next Property meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2021.

D. Personnel- No report.

8. Committee Reports

A. Memorial: No report.

B. Missions: Lasagna Dinner sales \$4000; Income for local missions \$2,841.05. CVCCS bags were completed; Community Meal on March 19.

C. Membership Care/Shut-in: No report

9. Old Business - Nothing else done toward the 300th Anniversary.

10. New Business— Leadership Training Program. 10 minutes for Consistory to respond to questions about our own leadership activities.

11. Motion to adjourn - Unanimous.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by George Cooper, Secretary

H E I S R I S E N !



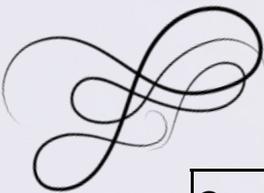
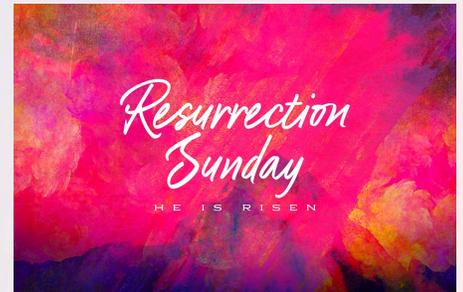
ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year we will hold our Upper Room Communion in the Sanctuary on Thursday, April 1, in two sessions, 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. Special precautions will be taken due to the Covid virus. Please plan to join us for this special time of remembrance.



On April 2 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Community Good Friday Service at Breakout Ministries in Leola. Pastor Tully will be participating in this along with other local ministers. All are welcome to attend.

Join us for a light breakfast starting at 8:15 on Easter morning followed by a triumphal celebration in the morning service. There will be no Sunday School.



GIVING AT A GLANCE

February 2021 Giving

Cemetery	\$1,735.00	Missions	\$1,453.00
Current	\$11,727.00	Perpetual Care	\$70.00
Improvement	\$480.00	Stained Glass Repair	\$45.00
Initial	\$30.00	Sunday School	\$46.00

Heavenly Humor

Terri asked her Sunday School Class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

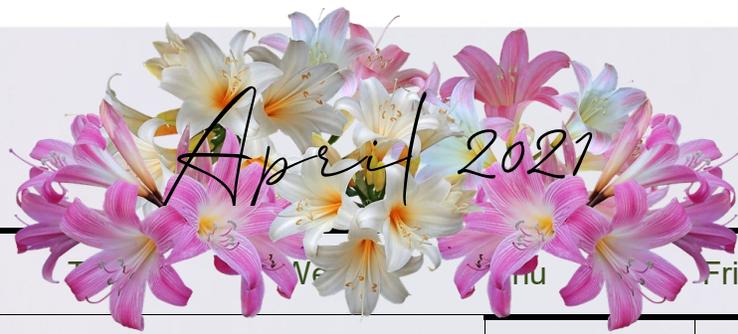
"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see...And that must be Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus," Miss Terri said. "But who is the fourth person?"

Kyle explained, "Oh, that's Pontius the Pilot!"



Cast the Nets by Inherit the Mirth



April 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

HE IS NOT HERE HE IS RISEN

Upper Room
Communion
5:30 & 6:00
p.m.

1
Community
Good Friday
Service at
Breakout
Ministries—
7:00 p.m.

2

4 <i>HE IS RISEN</i> 8:15 Breakfast 9:30 Worship	5 P A S T O R I S	6 7:00 pm— Property	7	8 6:30 p.m. — Choir	9 O N V A C A T I O N →	10
11 9:30 Worship 10:15 Sunday School →	12	13 7:00 pm — Consistory	14	15 <i>Pastor's Helper Deadline</i> 6:30 p.m. — Choir	16	17
18 9:30 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	19 6:30 p.m. — Missions	20	21	22 6:30 p.m. — Choir	23	24
25 9:30 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	26 7:00 pm— Worship	27 7:00 pm— Spiritual Council	28	29 6:30 p.m. — Choir	30	

