

GOD IS WATCHING OVER YOU AND ME

—A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully

My Friends:

Just as I sat down to write something for this month's newsletter, our ever-vigilant watchdog exploded in a fit of barking upstairs. Well, it had to be something imminently dangerous, didn't it? Not like the time we took him outside and he valiantly barked for five minutes at a tree branch that had fallen in the yard, or the treacherous upended trashcan along our walking route. No, it must be serious...this time.

It turned out that our neighbors had returned home and closed their car doors. That was it. The sound of a car door. Samson will alert us to ANY sound or unusual sight that might cause harm to his dear owners. That is both reassuring and annoying. Should we ever need to be alerted to danger, we can be sure he will do so.

What God will not do, however, is falsely point us in wrong directions. His concern is for real danger. The love of Christ, lived out through the Holy Spirit within each believer, leads, guides, and directs each one in ways that lead to the Lord's righteousness. Should we falter, He will warn us. When we are busy with things not of the Spirit, He reminds us that we are still in the crosshairs of His scope. When we live in His will, under the leadership of the Spirit, He rewards us. It's all good stuff!

I pray that these lessons from Romans are a regular part of your spiritual learning. Include your time listening and meditating on the weekly sermon, alongside regular reading of Scripture, and persistent prayer, and you'll have a good idea how the Spirit is watching over you.

Announcements.....	6
Birthdays	2
Calendar.....	7
Consistory Minutes.....	4
Directory.....	2
Giving at a Glance.....	5
Heavenly Humor.....	6
Music Director's Message.....	3
Pastor's Message.....	1



He is Watching Continued on p. 2

Listen to any signs that warn you of danger or drifting. But also be assured that the Lord is pleased with you when you are obedient and sincere in your practice of worship and the life you live "in Christ."

One day you will need to account for the good will the Lord has shown you. Will you have used it to promote the Kingdom and the Gospel? You have every part of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit, working in you to give you a wonderful earthly life, loving and serving Him. In addition, receive the promise that once this life is over, He will welcome you joyfully and warmly, having kept you for that great day!

Be safe, and be blessed!

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*EVEN BEFORE
HE MADE
THE WORLD,*

*God loved us and chose us in
Christ to be holy and without
fault in his eyes.*

EPHESIANS 1:4

Fair Ayers March 4
Ron Nickel March 4
Brett Kreider March 5
George CooperMarch 20
Candy KreiderMarch 24

Music Director's Message



Welcome back, Choir!

Two weeks ago the choir resumed rehearsals after several weeks of winter break, and last Sunday more than a dozen musicians lifted their voices in song during the morning worship service. It is a joy to work with these dedicated members as we seek to lead the

congregation in praising the Lord in song.

Salem Hellers is blessed to have a choir full of faithful, experienced singers — especially at a time when many church choir ministries are disappearing. Sadly, the loss of a church choir often leads to fewer opportunities for members of the congregation to participate and use the gifts God has given them. Church choirs enrich worship services and bless those who come to worship, but they often serve as a wonderful ministry to members of the group as well. Weekly rehearsals foster a sense of community within the church and provide for regular times of fellowship. We are strengthened as a group as we work together to combine our voices and prepare music each week. In many ways, a choir is like a team.

The choir at Salem Hellers sings anthems in a variety of musical styles. Whether joyful and exuberant or more solemn and reflective, our songs are God-honoring, reverent and full of thanksgiving to the Lord. Anthems are often based on Scripture verses or familiar hymn texts; they can be joyful expressions of praise, or even heartfelt “sung prayers.” The words for our choir anthems will often be printed on the back of the bulletin to make it easier for you to follow along and grasp the full meaning of the text.

The choir will sing most weeks during Lent, for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter, and then through the Spring and into early June. It's not too late — new singers are welcome any time! And instrumentalists — I'd love to find ways to involve you as well!



Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

Psalm 98

Blessings,

Carolyn

CONSISTORY MINUTES, FEBRUARY 14, 2023

1. **Prayer**
2. **Devotional** Harry Teigland - Love your Brothers and Sisters from 2 John 1:5-6.
3. **Attendance:** Present: George Cooper, Marie Peazzoni, Margaret Sensenig, Harry Teigland and Pastor Tully.
Absent: Ron Nickel, Ragen Burns and Merv Bare
4. **President's Report:** Our meeting guideline is 1 Corinthians 14:40, "But all things should be done decently and in order."
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Hold until March; Okayed \$100 to Ministerium for CVCCS Scholarship
6. **Pastor's Report:**

Our prayer group has grown this past year. We now often number 8 to 10 on Wednesday evenings. It has become an important and powerful time for us who look forward to this time of unity in prayer for the things of the kingdom and for this church and our community.

Jan 13: We undecorated the church's Christmas theme. There was a good showing of people willing to help, so it only took around an hour to complete.

Jan 14: Calling hours and memorial service for June Steller.

Jan 16: Met with Dave and Carolyn to explore options for our common passion for worship. I am starting to get a picture of Carolyn's mission for worship as it relates to her past work with Dave. We appear to be aligned in this goal. I then met with Carolyn to work out some of our Good Friday worship service plans.

Jan 17: Ministerium Bible Study

Jan 20: Helped serve the community meal at Zion Lutheran

Jan 23: Worship committee meeting.

Jan 24: Monthly Pastors' Breakfast; Spiritual Council: We made some changes for this group. We will move to a semi-annual regular meeting. Also available to meet on an "as-needed" basis throughout the year. We will change the name from Spiritual Council to "Elders" to more accurately reflect the nature of the group. Our commitment is to the spiritual growth and unity of our members, and to the policies and constitutional makeup of the body of believers.

Jan 30: Met with George at 9 am; with Carolyn at 10; and had a lunch meeting with another member at 11:30.

Feb. 2: Per Carolyn's request, I met with George and Mark as we formed a male trio for upcoming "musical offering" in a couple of weeks.

Feb 6: Met with the Groff family to plan Irene's memorial service. It will be at Hellers on March 4. Calling hours will be held from 10:15 to 11, with the service at 11. Committal to follow, then a gathering for a luncheon.

Feb 7: Ministerium meeting at Carpenter Community church. We heard from two speakers regarding the housing situation in Lancaster county. There is a desperate need for housing, and in particular, affordable housing. There is precious little of both.

Feb 9: Men's trio rehearsal Planning is moving ahead for the Lenten study, the Ash Wed Service, and all Holy Week activities.
7. **Reports of Ministries:**
 - A. **Worship Team**
 1. Good Friday Service: Pastor is working on putting together the speakers. Carolyn is working on the music. Both areas will include participation from other churches. It will be a Tenebrae service with candles.
 2. We were alerted to dates Carolyn will not be here due to prior commitments.
 3. Nancy Rovers has agreed to serve as pianist when Dave will be absent.
 4. Gail Huber has agreed to serve with us on the Worship Team.
 5. Worship Team proposed the purchase of a new hymnal that has the hymns we use regularly but also includes many newer hymns that we want to use. Consistory approved moving ahead, so we are seeking funding for the project.

Minutes Continued

B. Personnel: Waiting for signed contracts.

C. Lay Life/Fellowship: Margaret will be asking people to commit to serve on an occasional basis.

8. Committee Reports

A. Property: Finished Projects: 1. All flooring and stairs are installed in the foyer, stage, and hallway. 2. Stained-glass – All windows are installed except the round rose window. Plan to finish in February. 3. Yarnell (Choice Security Services) completed the fire alarm inspection and Testing. 4. Ressler & Mateer performed the regular furnace/boiler maintenance on Jan. 10. 5. Paid the semi-annual maintenance contract for Metro Elevator Co. (\$106.27) 6. Apex Elevator successfully completed the pressure test. 7. Annual UL Township storm-water fees paid - \$244.80 church building and \$72.00 rental property. 8. Consistory increased the credit limit on our credit card and addressed other card concerns. New Business 1. R & B Line Opening Services to repair the sewer line on the north side of the church - pending. 2. We are changing security companies from Yarnell to Esco (Meadow Valley Electric). 3. Considering T & M to replace R & M for our heating & cooling contractor. 4. Considering Genesis 1,2,3 for pest control.

B. Missions Committee: Souper Bowl donation to CVCS amounted to \$206. Thanks for your support.

C. Membership Care: Lorraine Latscher is now heading up the Prayer Chain.

D. Fellowship with All Saints (Discussion and prayer)

1. Proposal was made and approved to help accommodate the All Saints children. Details will follow as they are worked out.
2. Prayed for their ministry to grow and for our relationship with them to become more loving.

9. Old Items

1. Audit completed.
2. Mail box problem in Cowan Hall. Property will look into a solution.???
3. Credit card for Lay Life received. Waiting on receiving a higher credit limit to secure one for Property.

10. New Items

1. An exception was granted for a wedding in July that is not performed by our Pastor.
2. Use of alcoholic beverages, other than for Communion, in the building was discussed. No decision. Will pray and bring it up in March.

11. Closing Prayer - Margaret

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by George Cooper



January 2023 Giving

Current	\$14,592.00	Cemetery	\$135.00
Missions	\$1,500.00	Sunday School	\$41.00
Improvement	\$2,895.00	Loose Plate	\$1,295.00
Initial	\$71.00	Rent	\$3,440.00
Memorial	\$82.00	Investment Interest	\$122.16
Christmas Envelope	\$10.00	Perpetual Car	\$235.00
Mission Trip	\$250.00	Building Repairs	\$8,591.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

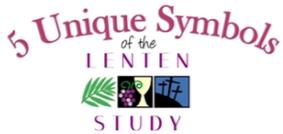


Children's Bible Story Time

—Lisa Tully

We are currently offering Bible Story Time for children ages 3 to 2nd grade. The story time is meeting the first and third Sunday of each month. We are looking for interested people to help with this story time. We need people who are willing to lead lessons or be an assistant. All people who work with children must complete a volunteer criminal background check, which we can help you complete. We will also provide a training class for anyone interested in helping. If you feel the Lord leading you in this direction, please contact Lisa Tully.

Heavenly Humor



You may join a Lenten Study group led by Pastor Tully on Wednesdays from March 1- 29 at either 10:00 AM or 7 PM. Sign up is at the Information Desk.

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.



Easter flower orders are due on Sunday, March 12. Please put your order slip and payment in Gail's box in the office. Thank you.

Please sign up at the Information Desk to help with our Community Meal on Friday, March 17.



There will be a Church Work Day on Saturday, March 18, starting at 9:00 AM. Please plan to come and help. For questions, please see Skip or Ragen.

Holy Week 2023

Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday Worship Service at 9:25 a.m.

Thursday, April 6: Upper Room Communion from 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 7: Community Good Friday Service—7:00 p.m. at Salem Hellers Church

Sunday, April 9: Resurrection Sunday Worship Service at 9:25 a.m.



MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."</i> 2 Timothy 1:7</p>			<p>1 10 AM & 7 PM— Lenten Study 6:15 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>2 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	3	<p>4 11:00 AM Irene Groff's Funeral</p>
<p>5 9:25 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School</p>	6	<p>7 7:00 PM Property</p>	<p>8 10 AM & 7 PM— Lenten Study 6:15 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>9 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	10	11
<p>12 9:25 AM Worship 10:45 SS Flower Order Due Daylight Savings Time</p>	13	<p>14 7:00 PM Consistory</p>	<p>15 10 AM & 7 PM— Lenten Study 6:15 PM Evening Prayer <i>PH</i> Due</p>	<p>16 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 Community Meal—Zion Lutheran</p> 	<p>18 9:00 AM Church Work Day</p>
<p>19 9:25 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>20 6:30 PM Missions</p>	21	<p>22 10 AM & 7 PM— Lenten Study 6:15 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>23 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	24	25
<p>26 9:25 AM Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>27 10:00 AM Worship Mtg.</p>	28	<p>29 10 AM & 7 PM— Lenten Study 6:15 PM Evening Prayer</p>	<p>30 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	31	