

Pastor's helper

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SALEM EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH, HELLERS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Thank You

— *A Message from Pastor Bruce Tully*

My Friends:

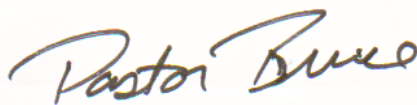
This will be brief and to the point, but I want to make sure you hear it!

Once again, Lisa and I are so deeply grateful for your generosity as a congregation. The gift you gave us at Christmas is wonderful and very much appreciated. Let me now briefly give you one reason why it will be so useful to us this year.

In September, we are planning on joining a group from BCM (Lisa's employer, Bible Centered Ministries) as we tour a good portion of Turkey. The trip is designed to visit and showcase many of the churches of Revelation. There will be other things to see as well, of course. And that includes Ephesus, where Paul preached and to whom he wrote a pretty good letter!

It is a ten-day trip with about 40 people; we will be together for the tour, and in that time we will also receive teaching and will worship as one. We are both looking forward to this journey of faith. And the gift we received from the church will go a long ways toward making this possible.

This trip will be so enriching to our spiritual development, and both Lisa and I thank you for making this trip a very real possibility. Many blessings on you all!



| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Announcements..... | 7 |
| Birthdays | 2 |
| Calendar..... | 8 |
| Consistory Minutes..... | 4 |
| Directory..... | 2 |
| Giving at a Glance..... | 6 |
| Heavenly Humor..... | 7 |
| Mission Close-Up..... | 3 |
| Pastor's Message..... | 1 |

There is no "Grace Notes" article for this month.

Salem Evangelical Reformed Church, Hellers

2555 Horseshoe Rd. | Lancaster PA 17601

717-656-9249

Bruce E. Tully, Pastor | 717-413-8417

Email: pastor@salemhellers.com

Carolyn McLain, Music Director

Email: musicdirector@salemhellers.com

Office Administrator

Email: info@salemhellers.com

George Cooper, Consistory President | 717-330-0148

Consistory: George Cooper, President;
Chuck Hanna, Vice President; Ron Nickel, Treasurer;
Margaret Sensenig, Secretary;
Merv Bare; Marie Peazzoni, Rey Rovers,
Harry Teigland; Bruce Tully

www.salemhellers.com; www.facebook.com/salemhellers

All I Have is Christ

**I once was lost in darkest night,
Yet thought I knew the way.
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will,
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still.**

**But as I ran my hell-bound race,
Indifferent to the cost.
You looked upon my helpless state,
And led me to the cross.
And I beheld God's love displayed;
You suffered in my place.
You bore the wrath reserved for me,
Now all I know is grace.**

**Chorus: Hallelujah! All I have is Christ!
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!**

**Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone,
And live so all might see.
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me,
O Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose,
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You.**

CCLI Song # 5174122; Jordan Kauflin
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights
reserved. www.ccli.com
CCLI License # 379558

January & February Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Jerome Maurer | 1/3 |
| Brian Roye | 1/8 |
| Helen Leaman | 1/14 |
| Gene Rodgers | 1/15 |
| Betty Snyder | 1/16 |
| Bill Portner | 1/20 |
| Marigold Maurer | 1/26 |
| Marie Peazzoni | 1/29 |
| Bob Bair | 2/2 |
| Jean Keen | 2/2 |
| Harry Teigland | 2/3 |
| Miranda Wagner | 2/5 |
| Rosene Burns | 2/6 |
| Ann Dell | 2/6 |
| Joann Brian | 2/8 |
| Patrick Tully | 2/28 |



MISSION UP- CLOSE CONESTOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES CVCCS

By Joann Cooper



How it Began: The story of CVCCS began on 2010 when a man struggling with homelessness sought refuge from the freezing Pennsylvania winter temperatures inside a Leola church. Realizing that homelessness and poverty were serious issues for many in our community, the church's pastor shared his experience with the Conestoga Valley Ministerium (a coalition of local church pastors, including our own pastor). Thus CVCCS was born! In the beginning, several food and clothing banks were set up at area churches. In 2014, however, seeing the need to consolidate services under one roof, CVCCS moved into the Lapp Electric Building on Gehman Lane in Lancaster.

The initial goal was to be a one-stop-shop for those in need of food, clothing, shelter, finances, and other social services. Today, CVCCS has expanded to offer a variety of programs such as children's ministries, client discipleship, and financial counseling. As times change, they continuously check the pulse of Lancaster County in order to meet the growing needs of the people.

How Do & Can WE help? Our church has supported CVCCS from its beginning. In addition, many of our members have helped with various programs like the Summer Lunch program and Weekend Blessings. By the way . . . CVCCS welcomes volunteers! According to their website, they could use help in the following areas:

- ⇒ **Shopping for food or clothing with clients**
- ⇒ **Sorting & stocking food shelves**
- ⇒ **Sorting & hanging donated clothing**
- ⇒ **Pick-ups & deliveries**
- ⇒ **Clerical work and MORE!**

Interested? Contact CVCCS at their website: cvccs.org/volunteer, or by phone at: 717-208-3711.

Souper-Bowl Sunday! Every winter CVCCS has a program called "Soup to Warm the Soul" in which they distribute cans of soup and boxes of crackers to families in need — an average of 100 cans of soup and 35 boxes of crackers per week! We've been part of this drive for several years with a twist. We ask our members to bring monetary donations and put them in the box of the team they think will win (*or they want to win!*) the Super Bowl.



Next Sunday, February 11th, is our annual **Souper-Bowl Sunday**. Don't forget to bring your donation and help your team win the Souper-Bowl! And, more importantly, help CVCCS purchase warming soup for families in need.

CONSISTORY MINUTES, JANUARY 9, 2024

Guiding Principles: Unity, Purity, Plurality, Humility

1. Prayer

2. **Devotional** Faith and Endurance from James 1:2-4

3. **Roll call:** Present: Rey Rovers, George Cooper, Harry Teigland, Merv Bare, Chuck Hanna, and Pastor Tully.

Absent: Ron Nickel, Marie Peazzoni and Margaret Sensenig

4. **President's Report:**

1. Welcome new member Rey Rovers.

2. Consistory officers for 2024: President: George Cooper, Vice President: Chuck Hanna, Secretary: Margaret Sensenig and Treasurer: Ron Nickel.

5. Devotions for 2024 - Will be from the book of James. Each member will lead.

6. Dates for Annual Meetings

* Annual Meeting on Feb. 25 after church in Cowan Hall.

* Budgets to Ron, by September 29.

* Informal Budget Meeting on October 27 after church in Cowan Hall.

* Formal Budget Meeting on Nov. 17 after church in the Sanctuary.

* Next year's Consistory Dinner on December 10.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

Ron sent a note asking about an expenditure of over \$3,200 for cleaning. This is for a "deep" cleaning of the building.

6. **Pastor's Report: Announcement: Evangelical Association meeting, January 17, 6:30 p.m.**

Nov. 15: Began the day with pastor's breakfast at 7:30

-At 9:15, I attended the prayer meeting of BCM, where I presented a lengthy devotion on 'Thanksgiving.'

-Prayer meeting in the evening

Nov. 16: Met with Artz family re: funeral for Judy. Choir rehearsal in evening.

Nov. 17: Helped set up, serve, and clean up after the community meal at Zion. This was our final meal to be served there, as the ongoing group heading up this ministry has a vision that is in conflict with what ours was.

Nov. 18: Work day

Nov. 21: Choir rehearsal moved to Tuesday this week due to conflict with Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 22: Prayer meeting

Nov. 24: Artz Funeral

Nov 26: Missed worship due to Covid illness

Nov 28: Elders' meeting

Nov 29: Prayer meeting

Dec. 2: Choir rehearsal at noon, followed by decorating the church

Dec. 3: Annual Advent Program

Dec. 5: CVM Christmas luncheon

Dec. 8: Family Game Night

Dec. 11: Met with Music Director

Dec. 12: Consistory Christmas Dinner

Dec. 14: BCM prayer meeting and luncheon

Dec. 18: Worship Committee meeting and in evening Missions meeting

Dec. 18: CVM Bible study

Dec. 22: Movie night

Dec. 24: Worship services at 9:25 and 7:30 PM

Dec. 26 through Jan 1: vacation

Jan. 6: undecorated church

CONSISTORY MINUTES *Continued on p. 5*

7. Reports of Ministries

A. Worship Team

The committee reviewed the Advent Celebration held on December 3rd. The event was well attended (approximately 80 participants) and feedback has been positive. Brief discussion of preliminary plans for Advent 2024. The committee expressed its thankfulness for the participation of Nancy Rovers this past year as a substitute choir director and worship service pianist. Carolyn will develop a list of additional substitute musicians who are available to fill in for either Carolyn or Dave if needed.

The Children's Choir had a solid start in 2023 with 12 participants in the summer and 9 during Advent. Various rehearsal and schedule options for 2024 were considered. This ministry remains a priority as we seek to engage and involve families with young children.

2024 promises to be a busy year for the Music Ministry with choir participation most weeks in worship services and additional opportunities during Holy Week and the Advent/Christmas season. Possible additional music events and preliminary plans for the 300th Anniversary Celebration were also considered.

Continued discussion of the need for workspace for Carolyn and secure storage options for the Music Ministry (instruments, music library and other resources). Currently these items are stored in 4 different areas of the building, none of which are optimal for working on music ministry tasks.

8. Committee Reports

A. Property (No formal minutes given.)

Discussion on: Burglar alarm system needs a control at the front door. Pest control, lighting upstairs, some work completed at Peazzonis', mowing, cemetery, stained glass painting, regulations for cemetery, and keys need to be returned.

B. Missions Committee

Lasagna Dinner to be served in Cowan Hall on February 24.

9. Old Business

1. Picture of Jesus with hands tied has been removed. Will be replaced with something more honoring to God.
2. Affidavit on sound recording via the security system will be given to Dave Andrews for completion.
3. Removal of the security monitor from the sanctuary. No action.

10. New Business

1. Possible changes to ASC contract will be revised by Consistory Executive Committee to be reviewed by Consistory in February.

11. Closing Prayer

Submitted by George Cooper, Secretary Margaret Sensenig was absent

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

The Property Committee has determined that with all the systems and responsibilities involved with the upkeep and successful running of our church properties, a division of areas of responsibilities among a number of people rather than just one person will be the best way to coordinate the whole. The idea is that if something you feel needs attention or if you have a suggestion for our property, you should mention it to each respective category leader.

CATEGORIES

EXTERIOR: Harry Teigland, Mervin Bare, and Nevin Huber

— Roofing, gutters, downspouts, brick, siding, major painting, exterior doors and windows, insurance, and trash hauling

INTERIOR: Caryn Hales

— Interior painting, flooring, ceilings, walls, furnishings, janitorial, pest control, emergency cleanup

MECHANICAL: Butch Yoder — Electrical, appliances, elevator

Patrick Tully — HVAC, plumbing, appliances, water softener, elevator

ELECTRONICS: Dave Andrews

— Security system, closed circuit surveillance system, audio/visual system, carillon system, and digital sign

OUTDOOR/LANDSCAPING: Caryn Hales and Scott Dearolf

—Mowing, snow removal, trees and flowers

CEMETERY: Levi King and Scott Dearolf

—Coordinating deeds with Gail, locating burial plots for excavation, general cemetery upkeep



JANUARY 2024 GIVING

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Current | \$11,462.00 |
| Missions | \$735.00 |
| Improvement | \$1,125.00 |
| Initial | \$48.00 |
| Cemetery | \$212.00 |

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Sunday School | \$30.00 |
| Loose Plate | \$1,475.00 |
| Rent | \$2,720.00 |
| Perpetual Care | \$1,600.00 |
| Investment | \$240.88 |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 11 is our Souper Bowl Sunday, and we'll collect cash for the team that you're rooting for. The money collected will go to the CVCCS food bank. Thanks for your support.



Help our missionaries by supporting our Dine-In or Take-Out Lasagna Dinner on Saturday, February 24, from 4:00—6:00 PM. Pans must be pre-ordered by February 11. Call Deb Burns, 717-951-9717, to preorder. There are three types you may order: Hamburger, Sausage & Hamburger, or Vegetable & Sauce. Dinners include a piece of lasagna, salad with dressing, garlic bread, and dessert. The cost of pans is \$30.00, and dinners are \$18.00 for adults, \$9.00 for kids aged 5-10, and kids under 5 are free. Handouts and flyers are available at the Information Desk. Please invite your friends & family to enjoy this “taste of Italy” dinner.

Choir Rehearsals begin on Thursday, February 15, at 5:45 Fellowship Meal, followed by rehearsal at 6:45 p.m.



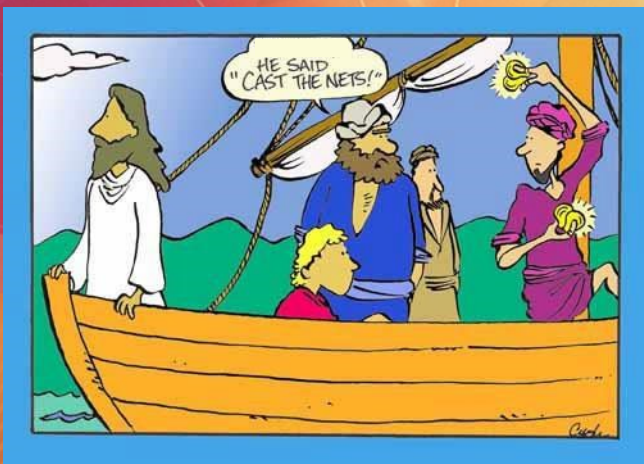
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the worship service on Sunday, February 25.



Our Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14.



Heavenly Humor



A little girl asked her mother, "Where did people come from?"

Her mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and that's how all mankind was made."

A couple of days later she asked her father the same question.

The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys, which the human race evolved from."

The confused little girl returned to her mother and said, "Mommy, how is it possible that you told me that we were created by God, and Daddy said we came from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his."

FEBRUARY 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|--|-----|---|
| <p>“...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...” Titus 2:13</p> | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| <p>4 9:25 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School</p> | 5 | <p>6 7:00 pm Property</p> | <p>7 6:30 pm Evening Prayer</p> | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| <p>11 9:25 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School Souper Bowl Sunday</p> | 12 | <p>13 7:00 pm Consistory</p> | <p>14 6:30 pm Evening Prayer 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service</p> | <p>15 5:45 pm Choir Fellowship Dinner 6:45 Choir</p> | 16 | <p>17 9:00 am— Noon Church Work Day</p> |
| <p>18 9:25 am Worship; 10:45 am Sunday School</p> | <p>19 6:30 pm Missions’ Meeting</p> | 20 | <p>21 6:30 pm Evening Prayer</p> | <p>22 6:30 pm Choir</p> | 23 | <p>24 Lasagna Dinner 4-6 PM</p> |
| <p>25 9:25 am Worship; Annual Meeting after Church</p> | <p>26 10:00 am Worship Mtg. 7:00 pm Anniversary Meeting</p> | 27 | <p>28 6:30 pm Evening Prayer</p> | <p>29 6:30 pm Choir</p> | 30 | |