

October-November 2024

PASTOR'S HELPER

Salem Evangelical Reformed Church, Hellers

Pastor's Message

My Friends:

I will not have many more of this type of article to write to you. I don't know how many Pastor's Helper articles I have written over the years, but it has been a few! My prayer for you is that somehow, in some way, you have been inspired or nourished by something that appeared in this space. It may be a simple phrase, or an idea, or a reflection, but perhaps there was a word or two that helped at a tough time, or brought a smile when you needed it.

It is not my desire to spend time pouring out my heart about this decision to retire, at least, not in this article. That is something I can do in other ways over the next few months. What I do want you to see here is that, while I have not had the chance to see or speak to every one of you each Sunday, I have certainly had *this* opportunity, and it has always been my wish to show my love for you in what I have written. Admittedly, that's not always easy to do, or is it easy to discern as you read it. I'm not THAT good!

Seventeen years is the entirety of the life of a person up to adulthood. We go from helpless to hopeless! But it is indeed such a brief time that we have to make something of ourselves before we are buried in the work and play of everyday life. For the last seventeen years, our time as a congregation/pastor has been a bit like that, I think. You and I have grown up in the Spirit of the Lord together. We have come from a kind of spiritual childhood, to maturity, and now will be moving on to something new.

This church has an opportunity to be inventive and creative in how you make your leadership effective. Maybe you will need to do new things, things previously un-thought-of, or thought to be out of line, as it may be something you've 'never done before.' Don't let these things discourage

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LET
gratitude
 FOR THE PAST
 INSPIRE US
 WITH *trust* ↓
 FOR THE FUTURE.

—Francis F. Fenelon

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you as you follow the Spirit's leading. There is something wonderful ahead. Listen, and be obedient.

Finally, never forget the one thing that I have found to be my most sincere work here, one that should be yours as well; be faithful. Be faithful to what the Lord says, to his commands and laws. Be faithful to the Word of God in all its inspired truth and glory. Be faithful to what he calls you to do and be within his church. You may not be experienced at what he asks of you, but he will give you the qualifications you need in order to serve well. God's faithfulness to this church is being celebrated in our 300th anniversary next year. May there be 300 more years of faithfulness! Or, better yet, may the Lord come soon!

Thank you for all your support, your prayers, your insights, your patience, and mostly, your friendship. This is what it means to be people of Christ. May you all be blessed beyond belief!

Blessings,

Pastor Bruce



SALEM HELLERS

Evangelical Reformed Church

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

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Grace Notes

Hymn of the Month

Pastor Bruce often reminds us that worship is the most important thing we do. As part of our efforts to enrich and deepen our worship at Salem Hellers we made the switch to a new hymnal last year. *Hymns of Grace* includes many of the beloved hymns we've sung for years and adds a number of the more recently written hymns we had already begun to incorporate into our worship services during the last few years. This collection of great hymns of the faith and worthy modern hymns is a wonderful resource for our congregational singing.

As we've transitioned to *Hymns of Grace*, we have sung several songs for the first time. Learning great new hymns can be such a blessing, but it can also seem a bit daunting. We find such comfort and encouragement in the melodies and texts of the familiar hymns we've sung our whole lives. We know many of those words by heart and the tunes are part of the fabric of our worship experience. It takes a while for new texts to take on the full richness of their meaning and for new melodies to become "stuck" in our heads.

"So why can't we just stick with the familiar hymns?" Good question, but what exactly are the hymns "everyone knows"? Many of us have come to Salem Hellers from a wide assortment of denominational backgrounds – UCC, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Brethren, Mennonite, and others. Each denomination, congregation and hymnal includes songs that may be very familiar to some and completely unknown to others. At Salem Hellers, we have the opportunity to embrace our own set of hymns that are deeply loved and appreciated by our congregation for the encouragement, comfort and biblical truths they provide.

Whenever we come upon an unfamiliar hymn, we should keep in mind that every hymn we know well now was unfamiliar to us the first time we heard it. Pastor Bruce, Dave and I have identified several of the more recently composed hymns in our hymnal that we hope will become loved and familiar to the whole congregation. We are exploring ways to introduce these rich and wonderful songs – to help you learn them and become comfortable with them. Each month we will focus on a hymn in a "Hymn of the Month" series. Whenever possible we will share the "story behind the hymn" and the featured hymn will also be included several times throughout the month in our worship services. Our hope is that you will be blessed by the biblical truths set to engaging melodies as we worship corporately.

I look forward to joining with all of you in song as we raise our voices in praise to our Heavenly Father.

—Carolyn McLain, Music Director

Tithes & Gifts

AUGUST

Fund	Total
Cemetery Fund	\$395.00
Current	\$10,334.00
Energy Needs	\$350.00
Grave Opening	\$750.00
Improvement	\$1,300.00
Loose Plate Off.	\$591.00
Misc. Income	\$105.00
Missionaries	\$140.00
Missions	\$1,015.00
Missions Fund Raising	\$20.00
Pastor's Disc. Income	\$50.00
Pentecost	\$11.00
Perpetual Care	\$900.00
Rental Income	\$720.00
Sunday School	\$50.00
Total	\$16,731.00

SEPTEMBER

Fund	Total
Cemetery Fund	\$355.00
Cemetery Other	\$285.65
Cemetery Purchase	\$1,600.00
Current	\$24,285.00
Energy Needs	\$100.00
Given in memory	\$100.00
Grave Opening	\$325.00
Harvest Home	\$110.00
Improvement	\$1,536.00
Investment Interest	\$0.80
Loose Plate Off.	\$963.00
Misc. Inc. Current	\$500.00
Missionaries	\$190.00
Missions	\$1,680.00
Pastor's Discr. Income	\$2,500.00
Perpetual Care	\$1,700.00
Rental Income	\$600.00
Sunday School	\$40.00
Total	\$36,870.00

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

OCTOBER Birthdays

Tom Dell	October 1
Keira Hales	October 3
Mary Lichty	October 4
Antoni Wortel	October 4
Nan Teigland	October 5
Margaret Sensenig	October 18
Joan Bair	October 21
Nancy Rovers	October 21
Jerry Maurer	October 22
Lorraine Latschar	October 30

OCTOBER Anniversaries

Sharon & Jack Yoder	October 10	54 years
Harry & Nan Teigland	October 15	64 years



"Welcome aboard 'Anointed Airlines,' Pastors! What say we begin by testing your faith right away?! Please join us in celebrating our captain's birthday...She's 104 today!!"

NOVEMBER Birthdays

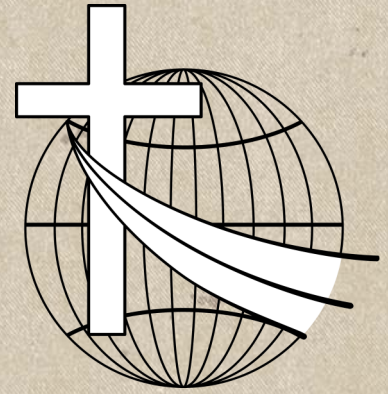
Rey Rovers	November 1
Merlin Hales	November 5
Janet Rodgers	November 6
Bev Berwind	November 7
Jim Buckwalter	November 10
Kim Kreider	November 11

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

Brett & Kim Kreider	November 8	44 years
Scott & Janet Gribble	November 12	30 years
Bruce & Lisa Tully	November 29	38 years
Tom & Ann Dell	November 30	11 years

Mission Close-Up: *Missions Fair Sunday*

You are invited to a Missions Fair on Sunday, October 13th! Hosted by our missions' committee, the fair – held in Cowan Hall after the morning service – will give you the opportunity to meet the following missionaries and representatives of ministries we support . . .



1. Paul & Christy Dubois, *servicing at the JAARS headquarters in Waxhaw, North Carolina*

JAARS is a worldwide, non-profit, mission aviation and support organization with a primary focus on Bible translation support operations. They also provide practical support in aviation, land and maritime transportation, information technology and media to missionaries in remote parts of our world.

2. Nate & Krystal, *servicing with Christar*

Nate and Krystal, who served faithfully for many years in Western Asia, are now preparing for service in a new country. Ask them about their recent fact-finding trip to the Balkan country they hope to move to next year!

3. Darlene Saunders, *representing TWR's Women of Hope*

Women of Hope is a ministry of TWR (Trans World Radio) which seeks to bring hope and healing in Jesus to women around the world and across generations.

4. Pastor Asif Masih, *servicing in Pakistan with the Independent Church of India (ICI)*

ICI and Pastor Asif share the love of Jesus among the poorest of the poor in India and Pakistan by providing food and clothing. In a visit to our church in 2021, Pastor Asif told of the difficulties ICI faced in helping people during the COVID-19 lock-downs. Is distribution easier now? Ask him!

5. Shane Burkholder, *Executive Director of Orphan Resources International (ORI)*

ORI's primary focus is providing food to orphanages in Guatemala. With limited budgets and no help from the government, these orphanages struggle to provide basic food staples and other necessities. ORI distributes over 150 tons of food and 28 tons of milk every year to 53 of the 130 active orphanages in Guatemala.

6. Carol Rabold, *representing Bible2School*

Bible2School's mission is teach the Bible to children attending public school and inspire hope, showing them their unique value in Christ. Presently, Bible2School release-time classes are available to children in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade in 10 public schools in Lancaster County.

7. Sue Orth, *representing SEEDS*

SEEDS is a relatively new ministry that focuses on three key areas: Health, Education, and Housing. They seek to build bridges and strong partnerships between SEEDS, the Conestoga Valley School District, the CV community, and other non-profit organizations who are already doing great work.

We hope you will attend the Missions Fair and help us welcome these special people who have given their lives to serve the Lord. Be prepared to ask questions and learn more about them and their unique ministries. *See you in Cowan Hall on October 13th!*

Announcements

We will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, October 20. Please bring non-perishable food items with you into the sanctuary. During the service, we will collect the food from the congregation and place it on the table up front, symbolic of “bringing in the harvest.” All food and money collected will go to support the CVCCS Food Bank. We will accept any cash or checks—made payable to CVCCS.



This year Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3rd. At 2:00 am clocks are turned back one hour to 1:00 am.



On Sunday, November 10, we will be remembering those of our congregation who died this past year. Please plan to join us for this special time of remembrance of our loved ones.



We will have our annual Informal Budget Meeting on Sunday, October 27 and our Formal Budget Meeting on Sunday, November 17, following the worship service. Please plan to attend both meetings.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We provide easy to make meal bundles for students in need in the CV School District to take home each weekend. **YOU can partner with us!**

1. Go to cvccs.org & designate your gift to **WEEKEND BLESSINGS** where you can choose from several options.

2. Food donations:
Individual cereal cups
Individual instant oatmeal
Pop top soup
Mac & Cheese cups
Applesauce cups/fruit cups
"Chef Boyardee" pastas



 Weekend Blessings

*Items can be dropped off Tuesday-Thursday 8:30-3:30. Or go to cvccs.org and click on the “Weekend Blessings” Amazon Wish list on our homepage to have items in need shipped directly to us.



Leola Area Veterans are invited to join a “thank you” pancake and sausage breakfast at 8:30 am on Monday, November 11 at the War Memorial Building, 54 W. Main St., Leola. Pastor Tully will provide the opening prayer. Please RSVP for breakfast: 717-656-6154 or ultwma@gmail.com



Pastors Appreciate Your Prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!



Hungry for Jesus

Many residents of first-world countries avoid true physical hunger, snacking at the slightest stomach rumble. Spiritually, the opposite is common. Many people run on empty, unaware of or rejecting Jesus' free gifts of grace, love and abundant life.

In her Magnificat, Mary proclaims, "He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53, NIV). To be filled with Jesus, first we must empty ourselves and hunger for him. But what does that look like?

At Bible.org, pastor Steven J. Cole writes, "Starving people aren't interested in new smart phones or computers, unless they can somehow sell them to buy food. Hungry people have one focus — where to find food. It consumes their whole existence. ... That's how we should hunger for God!"



Spiritual hunger leads to a feast of God's blessings. He generously gives us gifts that overflow into the lives of others. So let's share Jesus with people who are starving for him!

Veterans Day salute

After fighting in World War II, Luther Bergeland wasn't done serving his country — or his God. The Minnesota farm boy, who "came back to faith" during combat, later served for decades as a military chaplain. For his actions in the field in Korea, Bergeland was awarded the Bronze Star. Then during Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves in Colorado, tasked with informing family members about soldiers' deaths.

Despite the challenges, Bergeland embraced the special role he was able to play for four decades, sharing Jesus and his love with countless people. "That's what we did, preaching and reaching out to people," he told a reporter. "I always liked the military very much because it just did a lot for me, and I hope I did a lot for it."

On Veterans Day, we salute Bergeland and all the men and women who selflessly serve.



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00 pm Property Meeting	2	3	4	5
6 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	7	8 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting	9 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	10 6:30 pm Choir	11	12 12:00 pm Pickin' Chicken
13 9:25 am Worship Missions Fair 	14 10:00 am Worship Meeting 7:00 pm Anniversary Meeting	15	16 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	17 6:30 pm Choir	18	19 9:00 am Church Work Day
20 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School	21 6:30 pm Missions Meeting	22	23 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	24 6:30 pm Choir	25	26
27 9:25 am Worship <i>Informal Budget Meeting following worship</i> 10:45 am Sunday School	28	29	30 6:30 pm Evening Prayer	31 6:30 pm Choir		

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3 9:25 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School

4

5 ELECTION DAY 7:00 pm Property

6 6:30 pm Evening Prayer

7 6:30 pm Choir

8

9

10 9:25 am Worship <i>All Saints' Day Service</i> 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School
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11 ★ Veterans Day: ★ Thank You for Your Service!

12 7:00 pm Consistory Meeting

13 6:30 pm Evening Prayer

14 6:30 pm Choir

15 <i>Pastor's Helper Deadline</i>
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16 9:00 am Church Work Day 4:00 pm 300th Anniversary Kick-Off Banquet
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17 9:25 am Worship Formal Budget Meeting 10:45 am Sunday School

18 10:00 am Worship Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Missions Meeting

19

20 6:30 pm Evening Prayer

21 6:30 pm Choir

22

23 10:00 am—3:00 pm Cowan Hall reserved

24 9:25 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am Sunday School
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25

26 6:30 pm Choir

27 6:30 pm Evening Prayer

28 9:00 am—5:00 pm Cowan Hall

29

30
