



The Heavenly Herald

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

When I was a young boy I would sit down with my grandfather and we would do many things together. In the middle of coloring a picture or putting a small jigsaw puzzle together my grandfather would turn to me at this time of the year and ask, "So, what do you want for Christmas?" I would respond with a short list of items that I had my eye on. My grandfather would respond something like this, "Well, you know if you want Santa to bring them to you, you have to be very good."

I am not sure if such a dialog takes place in many homes anymore. I tend to believe that gifts are given not because they have been merited or deserved due to some outward behavior, but because, for many, it is simply expected that gifts will be exchanged and one gets what one desires. Somewhere along the line it seems to me, (and I could be way off), that our tradition concerning the giving and receiving of gifts has moved from anxious anticipation of a reward for "being good" to expectation based upon a sense of entitlement, the nuance that Christmas means "I get what I want."

In all of this I do not recall my grandfather talking much about church, or about Jesus, or about anything having to do with "the reason for the season." I would imagine that surrounded by the commercial nature of the holiday the same may be said concerning how the holiday is celebrated in our world today. And what strikes me is that the focus is upon the receiver. The question, "what do you want for Christmas?" focuses upon the "you" of the sentence. The season is all about you or all about me. Many try hard in their shopping to get "him" or "her" what it is that they want. Macys and so many other places depend upon this attitude. The holiday is a good

thing for the commercial world.

However, if you really think about the holiday it is one that truly is about us. It is the holiday that helps us to realize that for us Christ came into our world. Granted we did not put him on any Christmas list, but seeing our need to be redeemed and saved Jesus came to this world and took on our flesh. In that flesh, as our brother indeed, he fulfilled God's will and became obedient to God the Father. We all know the story; the passion, the cross and most importantly, the Resurrection; all for our redemption. And what

did we do to deserve all that? Not one thing. I am not sure that we even wanted it. But it was a gift. Christ's incarnation was a gift to our world that kept on unwrapping its many blessings from birth until resurrection and beyond. It is the number one gift all people need. God came to us and hand delivered our redemption in the human being Jesus.

Let us all, this Christmas, marvel at the nature of God's grace and realize how blessed we are. Let us all give thanks for such a God who looked past our deeds to the blessing of his love for us, Christ the Savior of all. Let us share that message with our families and those around us with the hope that many will realize Christ may not be the gift we have always wanted, nor the gift we by a sense of entitlement deserve, but the only gift we will ever need for today and forever.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Gustafson



Come Worship With Us

Sunday Worship Services:

8:00 am & 10:30 am
(Nursery Care Available - 10:30 am)

**Sunday School
&
Adult Bible Classes:**
9:10 am

Summer Worship Service:
9:00 am
(Fathers Day to Labor Day)



Advent and upcoming Christmas seasons may provide opportunities for you to reach out and touch someone else.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL

At the November 17th Voters meeting, we heard reports from Pastor Gustafson, our officers and our deacons of the many aspects and avenues of worship, ministry and mission that occur here at CLC. Our financial Mission Plan for 2015 was presented, discussed and adopted; members have received a copy of it with their 2015 stewardship packages. You may have heard our Stewardship Deacon, David Veleber, speak at a recent worship service about our 2015 Mission Plan and our progress toward our 2014 Mission Plan. I encourage all our members to prayerfully respond to finish our 2014 Mission Plan where we want to be – at 100%; I'm sure we'll respond in thanksgiving for God's gifts to us and with His guidance.

As I write this column over the Thanksgiving weekend, fresh from a family Thanksgiving gathering and having our three sons briefly 'back home' with us, I certainly am grateful for our family. I am also thankful for our extended family at CLC. Many of our paths cross on Sundays, 'catching up' with one another and, of course, with God through worship, prayer and study; many of our paths cross during the week through Bible studies, choirs, social fellowship, service and support. Some may remember a slogan that AT&T used some years ago: "Reach out and touch someone." While we do so here, week to week, with one another, this Advent and upcoming Christmas seasons may provide opportunities for you to reach out and touch someone else. Perhaps that person may be a friend, a neighbor, or a family member; reach out and tell him or her a bit about CLC and invite that someone to join us for a worship service, Bible study, or a future service or fellowship event. He or she will be welcomed into our CLC family!

As always, please reach out to any member of our Church Council if you have any suggestions or questions. Our next CLC Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 16th.

See you in church!

Bill

William C. Sherman
Parish President, CLC

The Heavenly Herald
is published for members and
friends of Cheshire Lutheran
Church.

Church Staff

Rev. Charles Gustafson-Pastor

Carol Santoro-Office Manager

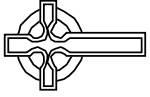
**Martha Medford-Organist &
Choir Director**

**Andrew Schaefer - Director of
Christian Education**

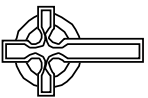
Bill Sherman-Parish President

Beth Soulier-Editor





GA Galigndar



December

December Servants

Senior High Youth Group (CrossRoads):

The weather has already started to get cold and the snow has begun to fall. Christmas is right around the corner and so is our opportunity to wrap gifts. It is our one fundraiser this month so please sign up for this on the bulletin board in the hallway. The other big event happening this month is a lock-in! You will find the sign-up for this lock-in on the bulletin board in the hallway as well. Please sign up for this as I need to have a solid number! See below for the important dates and times as well as more information.

Important Dates for the Senior High Youth:

December 7th: CrossRoads @ 7pm to 8:30pm

December 14th: Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping @ 3pm to 9pm. See below for more information!

December 19th: CrossRoads Lock-In @ 6pm to 7am (20th). See below for more information!

Junior High Youth Group (High Impact):

Christmas is right around the corner! Can you believe it?! I hope your wish list is full of cool stuff as I know mine is for sure. We will get together a couple times and then go out for a movie night just before Christmas. Keep this night in mind as it gets closer because we will need to decide upon a movie and a time! See below for more updates.

Important Dates for the Junior High Youth

December 3rd: High Impact @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm (PB&J event!)

December 17th: High Impact @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm

December 20th: Junior High Movie Night. See below for more information!

Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping

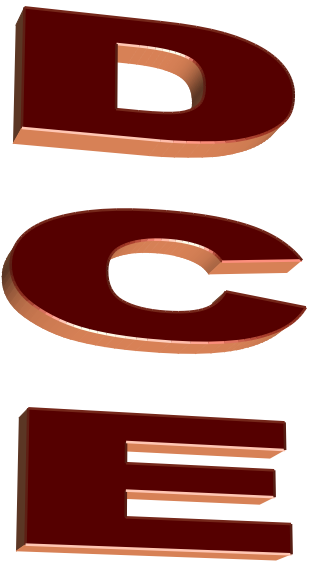
We will be going to Barnes and Noble in Waterbury (near the mall) from 3pm to 9pm. There are 2 shifts to choose from, 3pm to 6pm and 6pm to 9pm. We must have AT LEAST 2 people at the table at all times. If you are planning on attending the National Youth Gathering in 2016 it is EXPECTED of you to assist with ALL fundraising efforts and this is one of the opportunities. Sign up can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway.

CrossRoads Lock-In

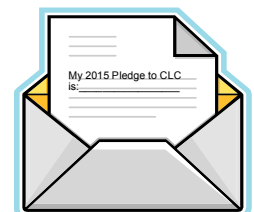
The lock-in will **begin at 6pm and will last until 7am** the next morning. There is a cost for this lock-in and it is **\$20**. It will go towards offsetting the costs for dinner at Wood'N Tap and then a trip to Sky Zone in Wallingford. The Sky Zone requires a permission slip and I will have copies for you to take or you may print one online through the Sky Zone website. I must have all permission slips by **December 14th** and that will also be the last day to sign up for this event. If you would like to join us after our trip to Sky Zone for the remainder of the lock-in you may do so, there will be no cost to you. If you plan to skip Sky Zone please arrive promptly by 10:30pm and also indicate this on the sign-up sheet located in the hallway on the bulletin board.

Junior High Movie Night

The junior high youth will get together on the **evening of the 20th** for a movie night at the **Southington movie theater**. The choices for movies will be **"Exodus: Gods and Kings" (PG-13)**, **"The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" (PG-13)**, and **"Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb" (PG)**. Times are still to be determined, however, if we can decide on a movie within the next couple of weeks we can pick a time as soon as they are available.

**PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2015...**

Pledge Packets for 2015 are here. Please assist CLC in planning and meeting our financial obligations by returning your pledge card to the church as soon as possible. Thank you!



CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
December 10 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 13—Saturday	10:00 AM	Dress Rehearsal	Sunday School
December 14 - Sunday <i>Christmas Pagaent 3rd Sunday in Advent</i>	9:30 AM	Gather, dress up	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Performance	Christmas Pagaent—Sunday School
December 17 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 21- Sunday <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i>	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Youth Choir
December 24 - Wednesday <i>Christmas Eve</i>	6:15 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:00 PM	Performance	Parish Choir
	9:40 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	10:30 PM	Performance	Bell & Parish Choirs
December 28- Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Youth Choir
December 31 - Wednesday	NO CHOIR REHEARSALS		
January 4 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir



REMEMBER OUR CHERISHED CONGREGANTS!...

There are members of our congregation who are unable to attend weekly worship. You can help them to know they are a part of our fellowship by stopping by, sending a card or making a phone call.

Edith Wnuck
c/o Highland Health Center
745 Highland Avenue
Cheshire, CT 06410

John Luchene
c/o Highland Health Center
745 Highland Avenue
Cheshire, CT 06410



FINANCIAL SECRETARY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU...

The Financial Secretary is always in need of volunteers to aid in counting church offerings after the 9:00 AM Sunday services. If you are available 4 - 6 times per year for approximately one hour, please contact Bill Soulier!

NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

As we enter this Advent season let us use the example of the first eye witnesses to Jesus birth in Bethlehem. After hearing the message from the angels announcing the birth of a Savior, the shepherds went to the manger to see for themselves Mary, Joseph, and their baby. St. Luke tells us that "when they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child and all who heard it were amazed." When you think about it, the shepherds were the very first evangelists. They had no formal training in theology and God chose these lowly shepherds to make one of the most important announcements in the history of the world. God did not use the powerful religious or political leaders of the time, but rather simple working men who were tending to their flocks at night. The shepherds couldn't wait to tell the story of what they had just witnessed. Although we are not eye witnesses to the birth of our Savior, we can still tell everyone the story about the baby who was born in a manger in Bethlehem. May we have the same enthusiasm as the shepherds did to tell others the miraculous Christmas story.

John Balash
Evangelism Deacon



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CLC MEMBERS...

If you would like to send a Christmas card to all of us here at CLC (instead of to each of us) you can do so by posting it on our bulletin board over the green felt Christmas tree.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS 2014...

Sunday November 16, 2014 we celebrated with the members of the First Communion Class:

Julianna Sara Ball
Conner Robert DeLaubell
Matthew Charles Emerick
Ned Scott McBain
Joshua Donald Neff
Julia Ann Plantier
Christopher Martin Shepard
Alexandra Victoria Tyler



We welcome you to the Lords Table. We thank God for you and rejoice in your being among us!

Our Sincere Appreciation

- ✠ Many thanks to the "Thursday Afternoon Ladies" for assembling the November Heavenly Herald! We can't do it without your support, you are the BEST!
- ✠ Very special thanks again to Joe Stark and the crew for displaying the Christmas Crèche on our front lawn. The Crèche will speak volumes to passerby's that need to be reminded of the TRUE Meaning of the Season!
- ✠ Big "Thank You" to all our people at CLC who donated such beautiful and useful gifts and toys for the Lutheran Home of Southbury "Shopping Spree". The Guild was very glad to get them! Great thanks to Rita Stark and Barb Manthy for their hard work and dedication as well.
- ✠ Many thanks to Martha Henderson for the LOVELY Cornucopia that adorned the Altar for our Thanksgiving Service. It is just beautiful!
- ✠ Thank you to the Drusts again for their generous donations of the 1st Communion Cake and all the fixings for the Apple Pie Workshop. Also thank you to all the volunteer Pie Makers. It was a great day of fun and fellowship.





SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED ...

A hearing assistance system (Williams Sound Corporation) and four receivers have been donated to CLC. A receiver (hearing aid) may be obtained from any usher. Please feel free to ask for one and make sure you return to an usher at the end of the service so it can be returned to its proper storage place for use at another time.

NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving. I would like to wish everyone a joyous and merry Christmas. But, not only is it Christmas time but it is also pledging time.

Many of you were present during my presentation during the two services on November 23rd and heard that there were really two parts – one about the shortfall for the current Mission Plan and the other about the desire to meet the goals of the 2015 Mission Plan. If you have not taken and/or returned your pledge packets, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you have not pledged in the past but would like to do so now, you can ask our Church Secretary, Carol Santoro, for a packet. I again thank all of you for your past generosity and look forward to a very successful 2015.

For those of you who were not present on the 23rd, the key points were:

1. There is a shortfall of approximately \$25,000 as we approach the end of the 2014 Mission Plan and we are asking everyone for help with trying to close that gap during the month of December so that we can try to meet our obligations.
2. For 2015, we are asking everyone to pray and give due consideration for the blessings we all receive and increase the amount of giving by 1% of annual family income or by, at least, 10-15% of current giving. There are materials in the pledge packet which clearly describe the joys and benefits of giving.
3. We are hoping that people who do not currently pledge consider committing to a pledge. It will help the Church to have a better idea of expected revenue and to be better able to manage expenditures. If you choose not to pledge, you can ask Carol Santoro for dedicated envelopes so that your donations can, at least, be attributed to you for tax purposes.
4. We are trying to get to a point where we meet all of our obligations in the Mission Plan. The 2015 Mission Plan is not much different than the 2014 Plan due to constraints. We would like to be able to try to grow the Plan so that we can start to set aside money for maintenance projects and to fully fund our objectives – both here at CLC as well as outside CLC. The more we can do, the more we can expand the Word of God.
5. Whether you pledge or not, please consider filling out and returning a Time and Talent survey. The Lord's blessings take many forms and we would love to have people participate in the Church community by doing things for which they have time and talent.

Finally, as a continued plug for both membership and fellowship, as a member of the Church please always think about inviting friends to join us here at CLC, especially for Christmas services. It is always fun and exciting to see new faces and to see the Church grow. Many people are looking for a spiritual home. Why not invite them to make CLC that home?

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

David Veleber
Stewardship Deacon



CLC CHOIR NEWS...

All Choirs rehearse on Wednesday evenings as follows:

6:30 PM – Youth Choir
 7:15 PM – Adult Bell Choir
 8:00 PM – Parish Choir

The Parish Choir sings on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays and the Youth Choir performs on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. Both Choirs usually sing at the 10:30 but sometimes are asked (mostly Parish) to sing at the 8:00 service as well.

The Bell Choir will perform on special occasions 5-7 times throughout the year.

Each choir is praying for new members. Please consider joining, you will be happy you did! No experience necessary!

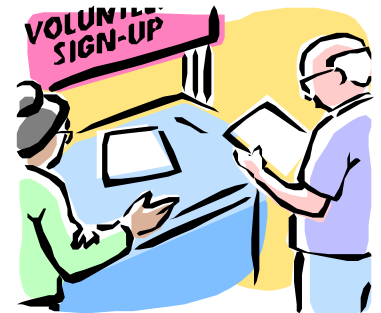


ON THE BULLETIN BOARD:

Remember to check the Bulletin Boards and/or hallway table for sign-up sheets and information about various events!

This month on the Bulletin Board:

- † CLC Little Blessings Nursery Needs Volunteers
- † Give Your Old Car A Good Home **Good News Garage** information
- † Cheshire Food Drive Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- † Hope Center 2014 volunteer sign-ups
- † 2014 Usher Schedule
- † Community Bereavement Support Group information
- † Open your home and become a **Host Family** information
- † MOPS information
- † Little Cherubs enrollment information
- † Bethesda Music Series information



Others looking for help!

- † **Helping Hands** - Contact Christine Smith if you would like to be a member of the helping hands committee.
- † **All Choirs** rehearse on Wednesday evenings as follows:
 6:30 PM – Youth Choir
 7:15 PM – Adult Bell Choir
 8:00 PM – Parish Choir

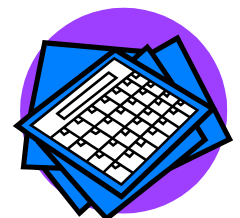


Each choir is praying for new members. Please consider joining, you will be happy you did!

- † **Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Fellowship:** Looking for members to help out with this wonderful fellowship. Contact the office!
- † **Sunday School Teachers Needed**—Prayerfully consider serving our congregations children by volunteering to Teach them a few Sunday mornings during the year. See Carlene Myers or Andy.

CLC CALENDARS FOR 2015...

2015 Calendars are here. The calendars are a gift to our congregation compliments of the Al-Anderson Ford Funeral Homes. You are welcome to pick up a copy from our hallway counter or narthex table.





THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...

A monthly glimpse of the history of your Cheshire Lutheran Church:

December

December 9, 1956	Inaugural service at Cheshire Grange Hall; Rev. Darrell Geitz giving the 1 st sermon
December 24, 1967	Bell first rung
December 9, 2006	New garden crosses imbedded
December 3, 2011	Lawn Crèche first displayed

CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN'S 13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE...

Bakers are invited to share their favorite Christmas cookies and recipes with the women of Cheshire Lutheran Church. Kindly bring 4 dozen homemade cookies to DePaolo's home on **Tuesday December 9th at 6:00 PM**. Please bring a pot luck hors d'oeuvre to share amongst the ladies. You may also bring your favorite wine to share. Punch, soft drinks, coffee and tea will also be available. We will get a chance to sample some cookies as well as bring home an assortment of delicious Christmas cookies and recipes.

In addition, we will be having a gift exchange. Those interested in participating, bring in a gift, limit to \$15.00.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for those planning to attend. If you have any questions, contact Vicki DePaolo for additional information 203-697-0810

DATE: December 9th

TIME: 6:00 PM

INGREDIENTS:

4 Dozen Cookies & cookie recipe

Pot Luck hors d'oeuvre and/or Bottle of wine

OPTIONAL:

Gift for gift exchange



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER TO THE LORD'S FAMILY...

We celebrate together as *Fumiko Inoue DiDomizio* and *Tomohiro Patrick DiDomizio (Tommy)* were baptized into the Lord's family on Friday November 7, 2014.

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.



WEATHER AND WORSHIP...

Who knows what kind of winter we will have this year! To find out when worship services have been cancelled due to weather conditions, check TV channels, WTNH channel 8 or MyTV 9, WFSB channel 3 and on the radio, WTIC 1080 AM. All these stations have websites that list weather closings too! A mass e-mail will also be sent. If you would like to be included on our mass e-mail please let the church office know.

Stay warm!

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2014...

December 7th: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant

December 14th: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant

December 21st: Faithful People Thank God For Jesus

Most adults understand the importance of saying “thank you.” Whether it’s in response to receiving their meal at a restaurant, in appreciation of someone holding the door, or as an affirmation of someone wishing them well, most adults say “thank you” with regularity. However, sometimes these words can come out on autopilot. While we express the thanks, we may not truly stop to think about why we’re thankful. Use this lesson to help adults pause and truly be thankful for Jesus.

Bible Point: We thank God for Jesus.

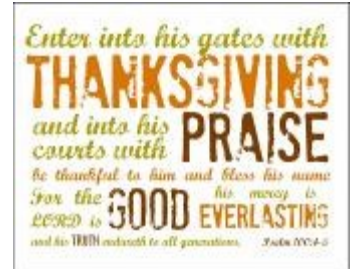
Key Verse: Psalm 100:4

December 28th: Wise Men Find Jesus

Adults gathered in worship represent the combined knowledge of Jesus’ power and presence in their lives. Worship of Jesus is the noblest activity that people are capable of and is a sign that people have confidence and trust in Jesus. Help adults see that true worship is pleasing to God. Help them acknowledge the difference between worship of the heart and worship in ceremony only. Also help them seek the deeper meaning of worship and avoid making worship merely a routine activity.

Bible Point: Jesus deserves our worship.

Key Verse: Psalm 100:5



NEED TO GET INFORMATION TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION?

Just slip your information or a note into one of the folders on the hallway table outside the church office. Folders have been created for each of the council members, Beth Soulier (the editor of this newsletter) and a few others and placed outside the office. We have found that this is a great way to distribute information within the congregation.



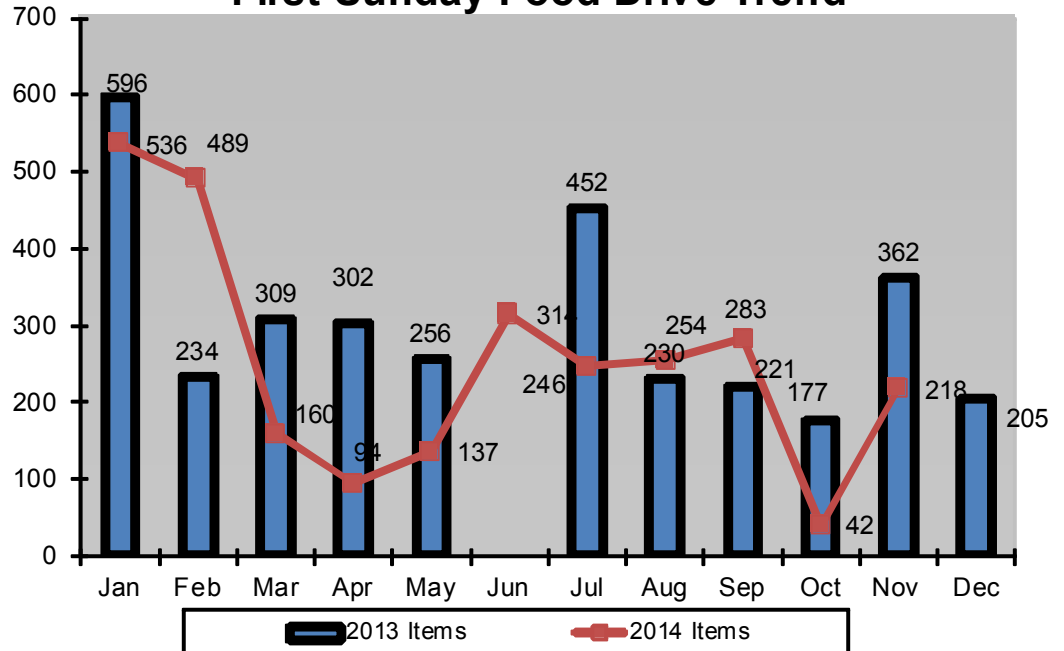


DONATE YOUR FREEBIES!

If you happen to spot an item at the grocery store selling at a special price "buy one-get one free", purchase it and donate the free item to First Sunday Food Drive



First Sunday Food Drive Trend



“Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’” John 21:15b

LET'S NOT FORGET THOSE LESS FORTUNATE...

Don't let our First Sunday Food Bank donations fall behind last year's totals. We are in need of volunteers for 2013. Please note that the Cheshire Community Food Pantry is open Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9:00 am until noon and Tues. & Thurs. from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Please check expiration dates. We want to insure the food we are sending is not out of date. Any and all contributions are gratefully accepted, including non-food items such as soap, tooth paste, shampoo, detergent, paper products etc.

TEACHERS NEEDED!...

In order for our CLC Sunday school to continue to operate in an effective manner, we are always looking for folks to step up and do their part. We **team-teach** at CLC which means that each person is only obligated to prepare **13 lessons** during the school year. Schedules are flexible among the members of each team. We have thorough teacher guides that take you through each lesson step-by-step. It is not necessary to have a child currently in Sunday school as demonstrated by several of our current teachers.

There are many blessings attached to being an active part of the Sunday school. You become a good Christian role-model to your children. You get to know the young people at CLC much better. And finally, it can be spiritually enriching for you personally as you revisit many of the Bible stories of your own youth.

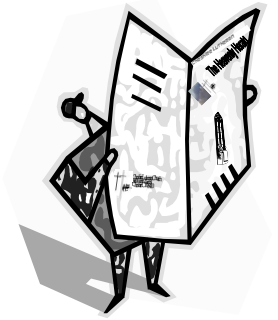
HELP! Please prayerfully consider volunteering some of your time for this important mission of Cheshire Lutheran Church. Talk to Andy Schaefer (dcc@cheshirelutheran.org) or Carlene Myers (CarlyBaby724@aol.com) if you would like to volunteer or if you'd like to learn more about the program. We could also use folks that are willing to be on a Substitute List.



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!! (January 2015 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (souliebeth@sbcglobal.net) by **Friday December 26th** or earlier! Place all non-electronic articles and information you would like printed into the HH in Beth's lateral file folder on the hallway table.

Thank You!



HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER...

Volunteers to deliver baby items to Hope Pregnancy Center, located next to the Library in Cheshire, are needed. If you would like to help once or twice a year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

We have re-directed the donated baby items which are collected in the bassinet outside the church office. For years we have been donating them to "Baskets of Love" where women of the Waterbury Church of Christ used them to make baskets which are distributed to new mothers in Waterbury Hospital, Bristol Hospital and New Beginnings in Waterbury. We would like to now donate these items to the **local** organization "Hope for Life", d.b.a. Hope Pregnancy Center. They are located at 110 Main Street, Cheshire in a facility provided by Christ Community Church. They will gratefully accept infant clothing and unused nursery equipment. For further information, see the poster hung above the bassinet.



ADVENT COIN BOXES...

"Save your coins! This year's Advent Coin boxes will be going towards the Cheshire Food Pantry. The Christmas season can be a rough time for hungry families. As many people come together during the Christmas season and massive amounts of food are consumed we can easily forget about those that struggle each and every day to eat a complete meal. This year Cheshire Lutheran's Sunday School program will be donating all of their spare coins to the Cheshire Food Pantry to help our neighbors have a 'Merry Christmas' along with the rest of the community. Remember, Christmas is the season of GIVING and let's help give to those around us!"



CLC HELPING HANDS...

If you are in need of help please call on our Helping Hands committee. Please call Christine Smith (203) 250-7323 and she will arrange for meals to be made and delivered to you by our committee. You can also email her at christinels@hotmail.com

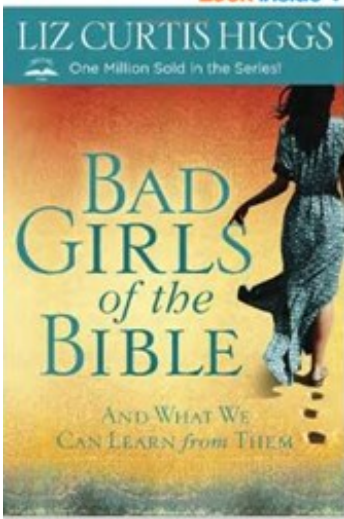
Whether this need is the result of a hospital stay, a new baby arrival, or a recent loss of a loved one, we want to support you during your critical time.

If you would like to volunteer as a member of the helping hands committee by making a meal for someone who is in need, please call Christine Smith so that we may call upon you when the need for your assistance arises.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. -- Galatians 6:10



CLC ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT 2015...



Please join the women of CLCW on Saturday May 23rd for our 8th Annual Women's Retreat. We are returning to the Guest House & Conference Center in Chester CT for a day of reflection, relaxation and socialization as we discuss "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Registration remains at \$34.00 per person including a gourmet lunch.

Ten of the Bible's best-known femme fatales parade across the pages of *Bad Girls of the Bible* with situations that sound oh-so-familiar.

Eve had food issues. **Potiphar's Wife** and **Delilah** had man trouble. **Lot's Wife** and **Michal** couldn't let go of the past, **Sapphira** couldn't let go of money, and **Jezebel** couldn't let go of anything. Yet the **Woman at the Well** had her thirst quenched at last, while **Rahab** and the **Sinful Woman** left their sordid histories behind.

Let these Bad Girls show you why studying the Bible has never been more fun!

Please save the date, details to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki DePaolo 203-697-0810.



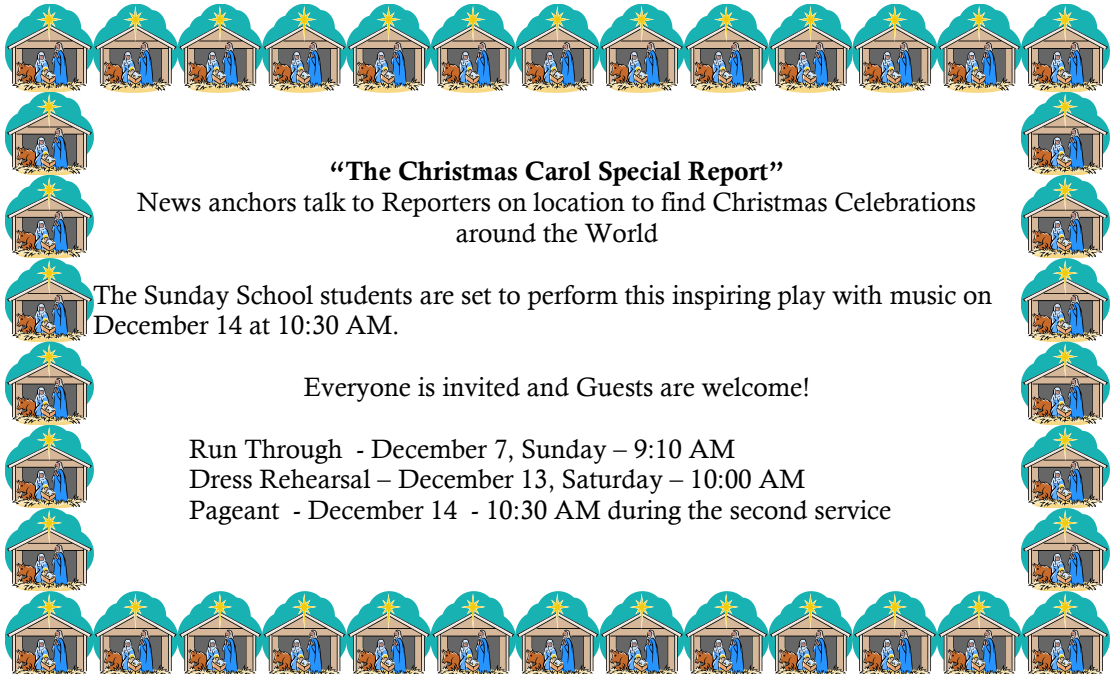
SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER...

Mark your calendars and make note of the following dates affecting you and your Children:

- December 13 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
- December 14 Bring Cookies to Church during Sunday School Hour, Coin boxes will be collected
- December 14 Sunday School Christmas Pageant. Children get ready during Sunday School hour, and the Pageant is DURING THE SERVICE.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!!!

**the
Best Christmas
Pageant Ever**



"The Christmas Carol Special Report"

News anchors talk to Reporters on location to find Christmas Celebrations around the World

The Sunday School students are set to perform this inspiring play with music on December 14 at 10:30 AM.

Everyone is invited and Guests are welcome!

Run Through - December 7, Sunday - 9:10 AM

Dress Rehearsal - December 13, Saturday - 10:00 AM

Pageant - December 14 - 10:30 AM during the second service

Bible Studies at CLC

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...

Please come to this wonderful study of Gods Word. Join us in the Library each Sunday morning at 9:10.



TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY...

Watch the Sunday Bulletin for information on the current study. Join us each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm. The current study will finish the Tuesday just before Christmas, (the 23rd) and will begin again in the New Year on the 6th.

CALLING ALL MEN...

Have you been searching for an opportunity to deepen your faith in God and strengthen your relationship with fellow Christians? Join us for an hour of Bible study, fellowship and prayer once a month. We meet at 7:30am and finish promptly at 8:30am the third Thursday of every month.



BIBLE SCHOLARS...

Our CLC Bible Scholars (so-called!) continue to meet every Thursday (except the 3rd Thursday) from 8:30AM to 9:30AM here in our CLC church library.

We're studying the New Testament Book of Revelation in November and December as follows:

Date	Lecture
December 4th	Lecture 8 - The Book of Revelation
December 11th	Lecture 9 - The Book of Revelation

All are welcome!

Pastor Nuechterlein



THURSDAY AFTERNOON LADIES...

Attention Ladies!

Come join the "Young at Heart Group" of women who get together the last Thursday of every month at CLC, except when a special need arises like assembling the HH Newsletter! We are a "no frills" group whose mission is fellowship and service to each other and the church.

Our gatherings are alive with timely discussion and happy reflections on the members' varied and interesting backgrounds. We also put together the newsletter and sponsor the on going greeting card fund raising project.

Refreshments served (provided by members), Lunch out occasionally!

COME, JOIN US, GET INVOLVED!



Apple Pie Workshop Memories



GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER!

(A project of the Thursday Ladies Group)

New cards continue to be added to the display case. All cards sell for \$1.00 and monies can be left in the yellow box attached to the rack.

Rita Stark and the Thursday Ladies presented a \$200 check(proceeds from card sales) to the Southbury Lutheran Home. The ladies thank the congregation for their generous support and hope to continue their record of giving to various church ministries.

We thank all for their support and especially thank those who leave large bills in the box.

Contact Persons; Rita Stark (272-3488) and Carolyn Bammann (272-7083).



CLC CHRISTMAS DECORATING...

On Friday December 19th @ 3:00 pm, we will be cutting down and setting up our Christmas tree. Please join us the following morning, Saturday December 20th @ 9:00am, when we will hold our annual tree, house and grounds "decorating party".

Volunteers are needed (and will be most appreciated!!) for both activities, want to make sure we have enough folks, esp. for the setup on Friday. All are welcome! Please contact the church office if you are able to help, or have any questions.



NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

Season's Greetings to All,

Little Cherubs had a wonderful November. The children loved making vests, head dresses, pilgrim hats, Turkey's and much, much more. We had the best Thanksgiving Feast in which the parents were invited and we had a concert with Pastor. The parents enjoyed themselves so much that they asked if we could get together weekly...LOL

I can not tell you how blessed I felt when the parents showed so much appreciation and love towards our school. December is going to be a busy month as well as we prepare for the Savior's Birth. There will be many pictures to follow.

Items needed for Little Cherubs are as follows: A Christmas Tree (Fake) and ornaments. Decorations to spruce up our school and entry way. A Nativity Scene for children to view. Trucks, Dolls, and Sand Toys. Odds and Ends to fill up our water table with which to explore. Bottles and Cans for our Fundraiser Drive.

In parting for now We Wish You A Blessed and Safe Holiday!

Little Cherubs,

Joann



PLEA FOR SHIFU ...

Dear Cheshire Lutheran Family,

After some deliberation and discussion with the Social Welfare Deacon, Pastor, and our Voters, I am following their advice and writing to ask for your help. I am asking on behalf of someone important in my life, but who is not a member of our church, not related to a church member, not Lutheran or even Christian, but is a good man and could use our help.



For the past 10 years I have been taking Tai Chi from a wonderful teacher who quickly earned my respect for his art and his talent for teaching his students something that very few people in the world knew. His name is Zhang Zhaoxun. He came to the US from mainland China about 11 years ago as a martial arts scholar to share his rare form of Tai Chi with those living here. He quickly earned the respect of the Tai Chi community in Connecticut and all the masters here immediately recognized his talent.

In May this year, despite being in exceptional physical and mental condition for someone in his early 60s, he had a stroke that severely affected his right side and hospitalized him for about two months. As is common with these events, his recovery has been slow, and full recovery will still take some time. His wife works in a factory in North Haven and was able to take off work to care for him for a couple of months, but she had to return to work recently so as not to lose her job. Since Shifu Zhang (shifu means teacher) has not been able to teach, several of his students dropped out, and his income from teaching has decreased significantly. Some of his students are determined to continue with the classes, in part to keep up the practice, but also to provide him with some income in these difficult times. Shifu Zhang has no family in the US. His students have stepped up to help him in these hard times when his wife has to be at work. They have assisted with simple everyday care, physical rehabilitation and with helping him re-learn to speak English.

I have known both Shifu and his wife to be people of simple means who live very modestly and are grateful for all they get. However, their medical bills have been piling up and winter is a scary thought when it comes to expenses. I have been praying for his recovery, but I felt that I would like to do something more. As a Christian, I would like to ask you to contribute as you see fit to help Shifu Zhang and his wife with some basic financial support for the coming winter months. I will place a specially marked box on the hallway counter and you can place your donation in the box. Please make your checks payable to Cheshire Lutheran Church and write "Zhang" in the memo line, so that we will be able to write Shifu Zhang a check to help him with his financial needs. If you have any questions or suggestions you can email me at chrisandemese@sbcglobal.net, or call 203-675-7522. If you are interested in learning more about Shifu Zhang and his art please visit <http://www.zhangtaichi.com/>

Thank you in advance for your help and for everything you do.

Emese Gall



What a Difference a Month Makes...

October 26, 2014



November 27, 2014

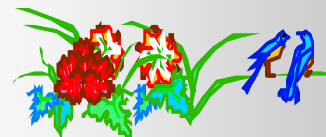


- 2nd Tim Baker
Joshua Neff
4th Judith DiDomizio
Ashley Spose
Emily Napp
Steve Feero
Jeff Hays
5th Carolyn Carrington
6th Sydney Taylor
8th Charles Caron, Jr.
10th Paul Fiedler
12th Martha Henderson
Ali Tyler
14th John Mulvaney
15th Bethany Hayes
16th David McBain
Christian Kjeldsen
17th Alwin Manke
21st Blair Donewald
Robert Myers
22nd Judith Juul
25th Curt Smith
27th Paul Smith
29th Samantha Nowak
30th Alan Santoro
David Blair
31st Alyssandre Mertz



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY December 2014

29th Joseph & Martha Jarosz 41 Years



Christmas Eve Service Reminder!

✝ Wednesday December 24 - Christmas Eve Services:
7:00 PM & 10:30 PM



GOD BLESS OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS...

Please say a special thank you to your children's Sunday School teachers. They serve in a very important mission of our church, our children! A simple and sincere "we appreciated your help to us and our children" will mean so much to them.

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy...Luke 2:10



Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St
Cheshire CT 06410

