

The Heavenly Herald

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

When I sat down to write my article for this edition of the Heavenly Herald I suddenly received word that one of our brothers in Christ had died. The news distracted me for a while because death is distracting. When we lose one from this world, especially one we love, we lose a part of us. When someone dies, the voice of that someone will no longer be heard, the appearance of that someone will no longer be seen, the touch of that someone will no longer be felt. Death is not only distracting, it is abusive and painful and for some, final. I do not think that we like the word final, at least not in the context of life. Therefore, we tend to deny death's reality and its harsh nature by dressing it up with things to be remembered about the loved one. For those who view death as final it is our way of keeping the person alive. Our present culture, which seems to me to be moving further away from belief in the Triune God, reflects this reality more and more each day. Oh there are some who say that they are not religious, but that they are spiritual, who hope that perhaps there is something beyond this realm that is eternal. They hope that perhaps there is a spiritual dimension where spiritual life goes on forever. It's a very vague belief anchored in nothing but emotion and a rejection of the negative side of death, the side of death locked in the word final.

Perhaps such was the feeling of the people 2000 years ago when Jesus hung upon the cross and cried out "It is finished! Into your hands I commend my Spirit." Perhaps people thought that Jesus was vacating the cross and going to realms spiritual where death could no longer touch him. Perhaps in time the people could tell stories about Jesus and remember who he was to keep him alive somehow in their hearts. I guess when one is looking at a corpse on a cross, death seems pretty final. It seems irreversible and the best one can do is try to celebrate a life that once

was by resurrecting the personal stories that have left an unfading mark upon one's life.

What I am describing is not what the Gospels are. It is not what was proclaimed by so many even before pen was laid to papyrus to record a truth that is truly "good news." No the truth is there was a bodily resurrection. People witnessed the result of that resurrection. Thomas was told to place his fingers in the prints of Jesus' hands left by the nails that pierced him. And that voice that is gone, the one we never hear again was heard by Mary and she knew it was not a ghost, not a phantom, no gardener she had met. It was the resurrected Lord conveying to her the truth that death is not final; telling her to tell the others, death is not the end. There is life, and the life has a body. The body appears and it can be touched. The body has a voice and it is familiar and filled with sweet tones of days gone by. It is the power of the resurrection. It is real. It is what we know to be true. It is the resurrection that puts the "happy" in Easter!



We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this month. We celebrate the truth that one day we shall experience the same. Christians around the world hold on to this truth and it brings comfort because it is not about a past that is over, but about a present and a future that is yet to come where life is a daily celebration anchored in the power of God's love. It is why the Church proclaims the wondrous slogan, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!! Remember to repeat that truth whenever deaths shadows darken your doorway. Christ is risen indeed!

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)



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

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL



Our Voters Assembly met on March 16th after a winter hiatus. We heard reports from Pastor, Andy and several of our officers and deacons of their activities. We conducted no official actions in the meeting, as we were a bit short of a having a quorum. As one would expect, the recent harsh weather put a damper on our winter Sunday attendance and, as a consequence, our financial officers report that our offerings are less than our expenses through February; the Council will monitor our progress on our Mission Plan over the next several weeks. The columbarium exploratory group reported they have developed a survey to determine the congregation's interest in this possible project of ministry, so please set aside a few moments to provide your thoughts to the group. The schedule of our upcoming meetings for conducting our affairs in the near term is as follows:

I hope everyone is planning on taking part in our Holy Week services and fellowship. This Easter season may present you with an opportunity to invite a friend, a neighbor or a stranger to a worship service, an education hour, or a fellowship event.

Council	Tuesday, April 21st at 7:00pm
Voters	Monday, May 11th at 7:00pm

This time of the year is often referred to as "tax season" in my occupation. With that, I sometimes ponder Jesus' reply when He was questioned about the taxes that the Roman Empire levied upon the Judean people - "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Luke 20:20). Many interpretations and Bible studies of this Word exist including (a) it being a principle of the separation of church and state, (b) it promoting respect for state authority and its taxing power to provide services for the common welfare, (c) that Jesus was encouraging tax compliance over the tax resistance that was prevalent in Judea at the time and (d) that everything we have is a gift from God. What is your view as you file, or filed, an income tax return and contemplate the stewardship of your finances?

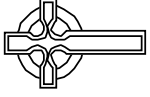
I hope everyone is planning on taking part in our Holy Week services and fellowship. This Easter season may present you with an opportunity to invite a friend, a neighbor or a stranger to a worship service, an education hour, or a fellowship event. I hope that the Susquehanna University Choir concert here at CLC on April 10th will be one of those occasions! Along with the Easter message, their "Fill My Life With Spring" program should be something else to lift us from any lingering winter doldrums in into a Resurrection Spring. Recall that Gospel message from several weeks ago - "Come and see."

See you in church!

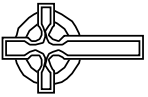
Bill

William C. Sherman
Parish President, CLC





GAO Galendarr



April

April Servants

Senior High Youth Group (CrossRoads):

With April comes fresh ideas. This month we will be trying some new things including one get together at the church. The rest of the month you will have chances to meet with me at Cheshire Coffee. These opportunities to meet at Cheshire Coffee will begin after Easter. There will be a letter sent out detailing this further but see below for your dates!

Important Dates for the Senior High Youth:

- April 12th:** CrossRoads @ 7pm to 8:30pm
- April 25th:** Family Hike at Sleeping Giant @ 2pm (weather permitting)
- Tuesday's & Thursday's:** After school coffee/ tea and conversation @ Cheshire Coffee
- Saturday's:** At 9am coffee/ tea and conversation with parents @ Cheshire Coffee

Junior High Youth Group (High Impact):

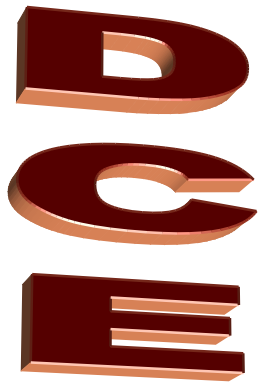
Happy Easter! Christ has risen and with it comes spring. We will go back to our regular Wednesday meeting times now that Lent has passed and get back to a semi regular routine.

Important Dates for the Junior High Youth

- April 8th:** High Impact @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm (PB&J event!)
- April 22nd:** High Impact @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm
- April 25th:** Family Hike at Sleeping Giant @ 2pm (weather permitting)

Family Hike @ Sleeping Giant

With April comes, optimistically, better weather! On April 25th at 2pm I would like to get the families of Cheshire Lutheran Church together to go for a hike up Sleeping Giant. This is, of course, weather permitting but it will be a great opportunity for us to go out into God's creation and get a little active. There will be a sign up located in the hall for those that are interested. We will meet at the church at 2pm and then head to Sleeping Giant together. A return time is still to be determined.



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!



EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST IS BACK...

To all members, friends and visitors: This Easter the church will hold a Continental Breakfast between the first and last service of Easter morning. We are hoping that many people will join us for breakfast and for the opportunity of fellowship the time offers. Some of the items that will be available are: Coffee, Tea, Juices, Bagels, Toast, Fruit and Cereals. We need your help with clean up as well.

If you would like to contribute a breakfast item it would be greatly appreciated. Some of the items you could bring that morning could include baked goods, fruit, fruit salad, quiches and egg casseroles. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the Bulletin Board for attendees and food items. Please let us know if you are coming and how many so we can plan. Please consider contributing one or more of these items to help make this breakfast fellowship a success.

Questions? Contact Karen Weiland



CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
April 1 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir, Instruments & Parish Choir
April 2 - Thursday Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir Women
	7:30 PM	Performance	Parish Choir Women
April 3 - Friday Good Friday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:30 PM	Performance	Parish Choir & Soloist
April 5 - Sunday Easter Sunday	7:20 AM	Rehearsal	Parish, Bell Choirs and Instruments
	8:00 AM	Performance	Parish, Bell Choirs and Instruments
	9:10 AM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir & Sunday School Children
	9:45 AM	Performance	Youth Choir & Sunday School Children
	11:00 AM	Performance	Parish, Bell Choirs and Instruments
April 8 - Wednesday	No Choir Rehearsals!!!		
April 12 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Youth Choir
April 15 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Performance	Parish Choir
April 19 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
April 22 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Performance	Parish Choir
April 26 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School & Youth Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Sunday School & Youth Choir
April 29 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Performance	Parish Choir
May 3 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir

Church Service Reminder!

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES!



All are invited to worship with us during Holy week and the Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday.

The schedule for the services of that week is:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Passion (Palm) Sunday | 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM |
| Maundy Thursday Eucharist | 7:30 PM |
| Good Friday Tenebrae | 7:30 PM |
| Easter - The Resurrection of Our Lord Eucharist | 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM |
| Easter Children's Service | 9:45 AM |

Parents please note that Sunday School will not be held on Easter Sunday!

Sunrise June 13, 1934 ~ Sunset March 21, 2015

Our beloved brother, Al Mitlehner, was called home to our Lord on March 21, 2015. A celebration of Al's life took place at 1pm on Saturday, March 28 at Cheshire Lutheran Church.

We thank God for Al's ministry and service among us and for the opportunity to share in a common witness to the faith. The time has come to offer words of hope and comfort as we remember the promises of our Lord and faithful God.

"We believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." (I Thessalonians 4:14)

May God's peace and consolation bring comfort to Mitlehner family.

Well done, good and faithful servant(s); enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21



NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

One of our members recently received a mailing from a local church which asked the question-"who has time for church?" This seems like a valid question and there are many different responses that we can give. The back of the card had a check list with sleep in, family time, and walk the dog checked as possible options. I am sure that there are many other answers for this question such as "I don't really need church" or "I don't get anything out of going to church". I think the question "who has time for church" brings up the bigger question "is church important or not?" We can respond by saying "of course church is important because I have gone all my life". We need to hear the message of hope and salvation which our Pastor gives us every Sunday. Each one of us must answer the question "is church important" for ourselves. No one can answer for us.

John Balash Evangelism Deacon



NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

It has been a year since I had the privilege of becoming the Stewardship Deacon. It has been a pleasure to work with the Congregation, the other Council members, Pastor Gustafson and Carol Santoro.

If you are reading this before March 31st, it is still not too late to make sure you have directed your Thrivent Choice Dollars to CLC but you need to act quickly.

Also, it is never too late to submit your 2015 pledge. If you are interested in pledging, please contact the Church Secretary, Carol Santoro.

David Veleber
Stewardship Deacon



NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

Yes April is here:

Proverbs 4:11-12 "I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk your steps will not be hampered; when you run you will not stumble."

As we see in Little Cherubs young children are **amazing** in their ability to absorb vast **spiritual concepts** without blinking an eye. We just did "Jesus Feeds 5000" Wow you had to see how these Little Cherubs were like sponges. They couldn't wait to tell Pastor all about it when he came in on Thursday to Go over Lesson and Sing with Them.... Pastor, Martha and I can see such growth with them when it comes to listening to the Parables we teach them.



There are 3 concepts that are so important when teaching children about the LORD:

LISTEN to them • **PRAY** with and for them • Let them see you **READ** from **THE BIBLE**. We do all 3 of these concepts... Perhaps this is why our Savior instructed us that the **Kingdom of Heaven** belongs to "such as these".

April will be filled with activities preparing the children for Easter:

Crafts such as an Egg with layers that explain what each color means in terms of the Jelly Bean in regards to Jesus... Same with the Jelly Bean Cross we are making. We will be going over what is, Palm Sunday, Last Super, Good Friday and Easter. We will play out how Jesus road on a Donkey into Jerusalem. That coats and Palms were laid down on the road. We will be making an edible craft to show how Jesus went into the tomb and then the tomb was empty because Jesus is Alive. Of course we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt...Martha with her Great ideas will keep us busy while the Children absorb like a sponge..

Just as a reminder we will also have a week off for April Vacation.

Supplies are needed for our Sand Box- Shovels, Buckets and fun stuff to hide in the sand. They love feeling as if they are on a treasure hunt. We also need diggers...If anyone has any ideas we need a better cover for our Sand Box. The tarps are not working...

If anyone has Children Basketball Stands with Hoops that would be greatly appreciated. Balls to play with are also needed. If anyone is getting rid of a new climber that would be wonderful. Our plastic one has cracks in it.

All at Cheshire Lutheran Church have a Wonderful Easter... Stay Safe and Remember what the Season is all about.

Love to ALL,

Joann and Martha



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

Sunday morning coffee hour volunteers needed! In an effort to keep this much anticipated fellowship going, we need volunteers. Can you help set up coffee a few Sunday's during the year? Purchase or make baked goods to be served? Baked goods may be brought in at any time and placed in the freezer so we have something to serve every Sunday. Kindly sign-up on the Bulletin board and if you have questions you can contact the office. Thank you!

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



Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday...

Let's celebrate our Mother's on Sunday May 10th and remember their warmth and kindness by dedicating blankets in their name to the Blankets+ Program. Your special gift of \$5 will enable the Church World Service organization to supply blankets to those who are facing hardship. To dedicate a blanket, please fill out the form that will appear in the Sunday bulletin beginning on Sunday April 12th. All checks should be made payable to "Cheshire Lutheran Church" and placed in the "Blanket Box" located on the counter outside the church office along with the dedication form. Dedications will be listed in the May 10th bulletin.

Vicki DePaolo, Social Welfare Deacon



WEATHER AND WORSHIP...

What a snowy, icy and frigid winter it has been so far! 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! You may also check our website for information. 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!



CANS AND BOTTLES—BOTTLES AND CANS...

Save your returnable Bottle and Cans. Money raised will benefit Little Cherubs. A collection box is located in the storage closet towards the back of the Fellowship Hall.





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.



COLUMBARIUM BEING PROPOSED AT CLC...

Columbarium Planning Committee Update- The idea of having a columbarium at CLC allows members of the congregation to have a remembrance of departed loved ones every week as they carry on their lives. This really completes “The Circle of Life” in the Church. We are born, baptized, confirmed, grow in faith, and eventually end our physical life and continue our eternal life.

The Committee investigating the feasibility of creating a self-sustaining columbarium here at CLC for the exclusive use of members and their families is hard at work. We have prepared a survey questionnaire for the purposes of hearing from as many CLC members on their thoughts regarding this important matter. This is an online survey that is located at:

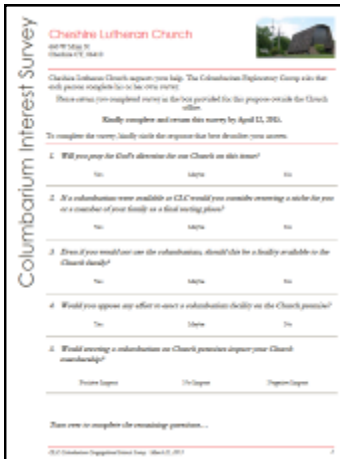
<http://www.cheshirelutheran.org/cb-survey>

We encourage all to access the survey via the above link. If you wish you can also fill out the survey manually via paper copy. The copies of the questionnaire available at Church on the counter outside the office near the Library. Next to the paper copies is a beautiful box you can use to deposit your completed surveys.

We have set a deadline for responses of April 12th to allow for sufficient time to hear from as many of you as possible. Once we receive these responses the results will be collated and summarized and reported to the Congregation.

Others on the Committee are investigating other important facets of the project that would be necessary to make it a success. These include evaluating types of columbarium's; methods of overseeing the operation; alternate locations on CLC grounds; costs of construction, maintenance, and the sale of niches and memorial plaques; permitting and legal issues; and most importantly on methods of keeping an open line on communication of these issues with all church members.

Please feel free to contact either Buzz Gancarz (gancarz@cox.net or 860-302-1643) or Pat DiDizidio (JDidomizio@aol.com or 203-882-8399) with any questions you have on this important project, or if you would like to help out on the Committee.



ARE YOU MISSING ANY SERVING DISHES?

Please take a look on the table outside the Kitchen for dishes that you may have left behind.

CLC CHOIR NEWS...

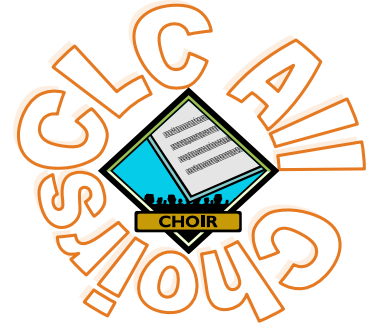
All Choirs rehearse on Wednesday evenings as follows:

- 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!

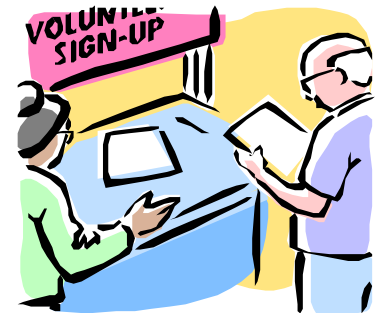


ON THE BULLETIN BOARD:

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** 2015 volunteer sign-ups
- † **2015 Usher Schedule**
- † **Little Cherubs** enrollment information
- † **Susquehanna Choir Members need housing** - See sign-ups. Need 22 families to house two students for 1 night
- † **Easter Breakfast sign-up**



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 are 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.



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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR APRIL 2015...

April 5: EASTER SUNDAY! NO SUNDAY SCHOOL!



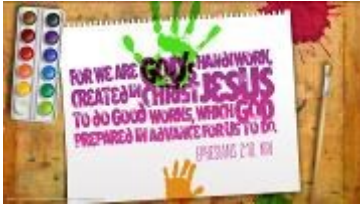
April 12: Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Many adults have worked hard to build their savings or climb the ladder of success through lots of hard work. Trusting things that they can't see can be difficult for them. Some might have verbally committed to trust God, but haven't actually been able to trust him in their daily lives.

Bible Point: Believe in Jesus.

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:1

April 19: Paul Teaches About Spiritual Gifts



Have you ever known Christians who envy the gifts God has given others or feel that they're the only ones who do the things that matter in the kingdom of God? These people miss the point of spiritual gifts. Our gifts are meant to be a blessing to others as we serve God. Not only that, everyone's gifts are necessary: The Bible says that God is very purposeful in planning who gets which gift.

Bible Point: God gives us gifts to serve him.

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:10

April 26: Peter Tells the Sanhedrin About Jesus



Adults have learned to mask their fears. Unless you know them intimately, you might never suspect the concerns they have about finances, marriages, children, or jobs. Courage is something that they know they're supposed to have but struggle to achieve. As you lead this lesson, encourage people to open up to God and trusted friends about their concerns. Find ways to help people develop relationships outside of church.

Bible Point: Trusting God makes us brave.

Key Verse: Joshua 1:9



COIN BOXES FOR LENT...

During Lent the Sunday School children are sent home with Lenten Coin Boxes. These boxes are there to help remind us of the season of Lent, as well as, raising funds for a charity. This year's Lenten Coin Boxes will be used to support the Susquehanna University Choir and SU Chamber Singers concert event here at CLC on April 10, 2015.

Join the Cheshire Lutheran Sunday School Ministry as we raise funds for the Susquehanna event. If you have further questions about the Choirs visit or event see page 16 of this Heavenly Herald edition.

Cheshire Lutheran Church
Presents

Susquehanna University Choir
And
SU Chamber Singers

A Free Concert Open to the Public
"Fill My Life With Spring"

Location – Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St.
Cheshire, CT

April 10, 2015
7:30 p.m.

For information Call 203-272-5106 or
203-481-6952

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

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net) by **Friday April 24th** 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.



THE DISCRETIONARY FUND...

This is a vehicle through which member can help those who are in need and by which member in need can find help. For assistance or to make a donation, please see Pastor G. All transactions are kept *confidential*.



THRIVENT CONGREGATIONAL ADVOCATE UPDATE...

The New Haven Chapter of Thrivent and Thrivent's **Care Abounds in Communities** program will be ending June 30, 2015. In 2014 alone, \$3,100 in supplemental funding was approved under this program for various activities held at CLC. Recipients of these funds included: The Cheshire Food pantry, Church World Services, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Home of Southbury, Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury and Immanuel Lutheran Church Comfort Dog Ministry. There is a limited amount of funding available for Care Abounds in Communities activities through May 31, 2015.

Thrivent has introduced the concept of **Action Teams** which gives members the ability to become personally involved in meeting a need in the community. Members lead a team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event. For further details on this new program, please contact either Mark Manning (203-241-0858) or Alan Spose (203-623-1650).



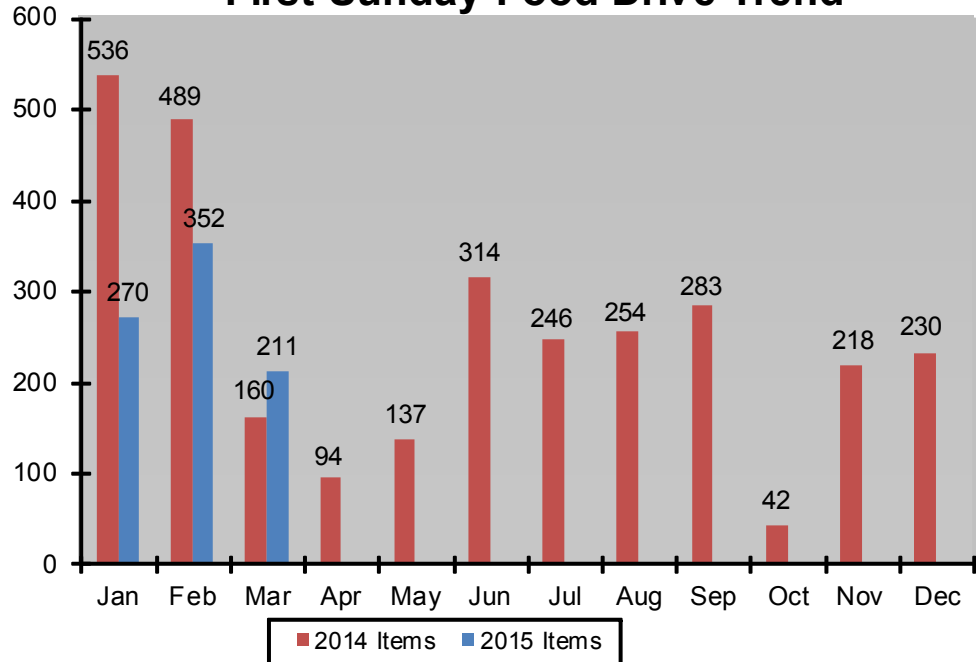
Once again, thank you to all Thrivent members who participate in these programs.



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 2015. 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 (dce@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.



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 \$500 check (proceeds from card sales) to Little Cherubs. 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 ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT 2015...

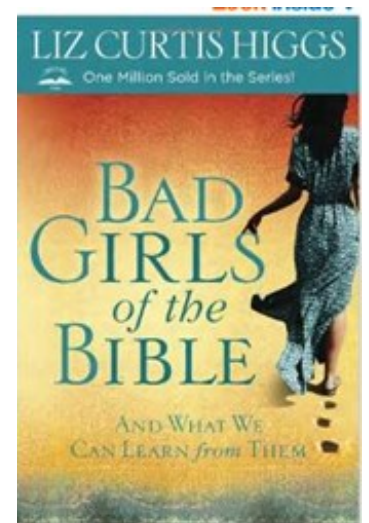
Please join the women of CLCW on Saturday May 23rd for our 8th Annual Women's Retreat. We are returning to the Guest House & Conference Center in Chester CT for a day of reflection, relaxation and socialization as we discuss "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. Registration remains at \$34.00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

For those planning to attend, please place your name on the signup sheet that will be posted on the bulletin board beginning April 12th. Kindly make your registration fee checks payable to CLCW and give them to either Joyce Blem or Vicki DePaolo. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki DePaolo 203-697-0810.



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



SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY CHOIR SINGERS NEED HOUSING...

Host families are needed for one night housing!

We are to house the Susquehanna's choir and chamber singers. Students will be assigned in groups of two. We need to have 12 families to host the girls and another 10 families to host the boys.

Cheshire Lutheran Church
Presents

Susquehanna University Choir And SU Chamber Singers

A Free Concert Open to the Public

"Fill My Life With Spring"

Location – Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St.
Cheshire, CT

April 10, 2015
7:30 p.m.

For information Call 203-272-5106 or
203-481-6952

Host families will need to do the following:

- 1) be able to pick up the students after the Friday night April 10th, 7:30pm performance
- 2) give them one night lodging in your home
- 3) allow them to shower and provide breakfast
- 4) bring them back to CLC Saturday morning. Time will be announced as soon as we know. Usually it is early (9:00am ish) since they need to continue to their next performance.

Please consider doing this. The students are grateful for all that we can do for them.

If you are willing to do so, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway at CLC or

contact Martha Medford at frank.vasi@comcast.net, Bill / Debbie Sherman at 203-272-3715 or debsherman51@hotmail.com.

Thank you!



Our Sincere Appreciation



- † Very special and loving thanks to the Thursday Afternoon Ladies for assembling the March Heavenly Herald. BIG HUGS!
- † Thanks to all who participated in the music ministry, both volunteer and professional during Lent.
- † Many thanks to those who participated in the sermon messages during the Wednesday evening Lenten Services.
- † Thank you to Andy for leading us in some very thought provoking Wednesday evening Bible study's and some great fun as well.
- † Very Special Thanks to all those who helped set-up, clean-up and of course sharing your wonderful soups on Wednesdays during Lent. What a delightful time of fellowship.

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 resume 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.

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!



CARE PACKAGES FOR THE TROOPS...



Michael and Carol Weinschel and Susan Spivack continue to support troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2005, they have touched close to 20,000 soldiers. Since the project began, they took on 101st CAB, the 82nd CAB, and now for the second time, they are supporting the 159th and the 82nd Cab's. We will be collecting the items to support this project at Church in May. You can chose any or all of the following items:



- † Band-Aids
- † Batteries
- † Beef Jerky
- † Chap-stick
- † Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
- † Cotton balls
- † Cough Drops
- † Crossword Puzzles
- † Dental Floss
- † Dried Fruit
- † Eye Drops
- † Eyeglass wipes
- † Frisbees (small size)
- † Greeting Cards (birthday, get well, anniversary)
- † Gum
- † Mechanical pencils
- † **Money for Postage**
- † Mouthwash
- † Pens (ball point)
- † Phone Cards (International)
- † Powdered drink mixes
- † Power Bars
- † Q-tips
- † Shampoo
- † Shaving Cream/Razors
- † Snacks (individual size pretzels, peanuts, chips, granola bars)
- † Soap/body powder/foot powder
- † Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- † Trail Mix
- † Wet Ones (individually-wrapped)
- † Word Searches

For additional information contact Holly Flugrath or Dorothy Dierolf.

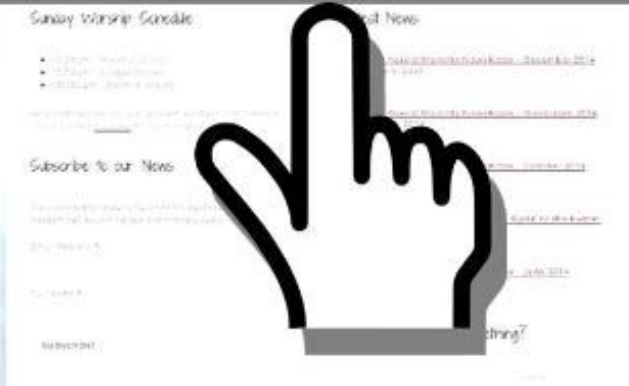


Welcome to Cheshire Lutheran Church!

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE...

When you get a chance, visit our new website. Thanks to Steve Ferro's hard work our new Website was launched last month. It has a sleeker look and much easier to find what you are looking for. You can find the latest news and information, see the great pictures our Church photographer takes regularly and even view the Heavenly Herald in full color.

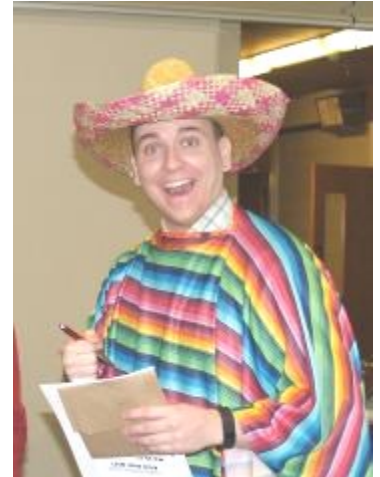
Check Out Our New Website
<http://www.cheshirelutheran.org/>



Chili Cook-Off Memories



Our Judges, Jim Schaff, Pastor and Bill Soulier...tough job!!!



Our Winners Lynn Balash, Judges Choice, Amy Kennelly, Peoples Choice with Andy. Congrats!



Our Chili makers, from left Guy Mason, Dave Veleber, Andy Clark, Vanessa Nowak, Lynn Balash, Diane Taylor, Richard Mead, Andy Schaefer , Amy Kennelly & Tim Weiland (not showing cause he took the picture. YUMO!!!!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 2015

13 th	Guy & Christine Mason	19 Years
14 th	Eric & Maria Johnson	8 Years
16 th	Peter & Cathie Nizich	23 Years
24 th	Louis & Gloria Nuechterlein	61 Years
28 th	Ralph & Georgianna Schupp	68 Years
30 th	Curt & Karen Smith	55 Years



COUNCIL MEETING REMINDER...

Mark your calendars, April *Council* meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

1st
2nd
4th
6th
11th
12th
18th
21st
22nd
24th
25th
26th
28th
29th
30th

- Robert Daly
- David Norton
- Fred Neuffer
- Andy Schaefer
- Dot Manke
- John Balash
- DeAnn Sinatra
- Kyong Mann
- Pat DiDomizio
- Hayley Fiedler
- Matthew Napp
- Helen Mayer
- Michael Collins
- Joyce Strollo
- Erich F. Strunk
- Peggy Tessler
- Donna Spose
- Peter Nizich
- Judy Giammarco
- C. J. Caron
- JoAnn Holstein
- Arta Dobbs
- William Sherman, Jr.
- James Schaff



Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St
Cheshire CT 06410