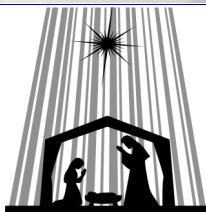


# The Heavenly Herald

660 West Main Street P.O. Box 157 Cheshire, CT 06410

( 203 ) 272-5106 Fax ( 203 ) 272-3523

On the Web at <http://www.cheshirelutheran.org>Email us at: [office@cheshirelutheran.org](mailto:office@cheshirelutheran.org)

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I was reading over some older resources for the season of Christmas. I came upon a statement in one source that said, "The danger for many Christians and congregations is to lock the Christmas cycle in the past tense." I wondered about this statement to see if what was said a number of years ago still held true for people and churches today. My opinion is that many Christians walk the path that leads to the past when it comes to a religious or spiritual understanding of Christmas. Most people tend to focus upon the happening in Bethlehem of Judea enhanced by biblical costumes and nostalgic songs. But here is the danger. People get stuck there. It is a yesterday event.

The theme of the Christmas cycle is one that is not simply about the past, but it is also about the present and the future. It is about the present because the coming of Jesus is also about his coming into our lives through the sacrament of baptism. It is about the present because the babe born in Bethlehem is the Christ who lives in us and whose life is expressed through us. Perhaps this expression of Christ's life in us is given vitality at the time of celebrating the birth of Jesus, for it may seem that people air a different spirit when thinking about the day of Christmas. Perhaps the life of Christ in us becomes exposed as we are forced to deal with the regular forces of the day, but "it's Christmas" and so we deal differently with them because the past has meaning for our present lives. For those of us who try to live the "Christmas spirit" maybe what we are truly trying to do is live the Christ who rules our hearts and minds through faith. People who view the holiday only as a past event to be remembered once a year may not find themselves engaged in the Spirit of the day. They are caught in the past that has little bearing on the present. Yet, the reason for the birth was

to bring light to our world of darkness, which indeed Jesus did from his birth forward. Now as followers and believers in him we continue to manifest his light in the present which manifestation confirms the truth that the theme of Christmas is a present reality.

Ah, the Christmas cycle is not only one that engages the believer in the past and the present, but also embraces the future. It reminds us that there is more than the present wrapped up in the birth of Christ, there is a future. The future is found in the fact that Jesus Christ is to return to this world. The one who died upon the cross and who rose from death and the grave will come to rescue us from this "veil of tears." We are not only looking backward as Christian people, but forward with hope. Advent is overflowing with images of Christ's coming again and in that part of the cycle we look to Christ to come remembering, as bearers of his life in the present, there is nothing to fear. There is for the believing community, everything in which to hope.

As the birth of Christ was an expectation hoped for, the second coming of Christ is the finale to the plan of God's salvation for all people. The prayer of God's people as each day passes is always, "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

So my friends in Christ, as we gather for the holiday of Christmas let us remember that there is a yesterday, today and tomorrow all rolled up into the cycle. Let us move forward knowing that Christians can celebrate Christ in their lives today and depend upon his promise to return, because they can rely on Scriptures accounts of Jesus' nativity.

(Continued on page 2)

## **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**



We had a very good attendance at our November 16<sup>th</sup> Voters Assembly meeting where we heard reports from Pastor Gustafson, our officers and our deacons of the various avenues of worship, ministry and mission that occur here at CLC. Our financial Mission Plan for 2016 was presented, discussed and adopted by the Voters Assembly; members have received a copy of it with their 2016 stewardship packages. You may have heard our Stewardship Deacon, David Veleber, speak at a recent worship service about our 2016 Mission Plan. Please also see his article in this issue of the Heavenly Herald. As is noted on the 2016 Mission Plan, our offerings for 2016 are planned to be \$302,000; that equates to about a four percent (4%) increase over the offerings our Finance Committee projects that we, as a congregation, will have given in 2015.

I again want to encourage all our members to prayerfully respond in thanksgiving for His blessings to finish our 2015 Mission Plan as best we can.

As we approach the end of this year, the Finance Committee will monitor our progress toward our 2015 Mission Plan. To the extent that we fall short of our 2015 offerings goal of \$300,000 – possibly in the range of \$12,000 to \$15,000 – our plan to support various worthy outreach ministries typically suffers. So, with that in mind, I again want to encourage all our members to prayerfully respond in thanksgiving for His blessings to finish our 2015 Mission Plan as best we can.

The Voters Assembly also approved to move the Columbarium project forward to the next planning steps, including final design work and cost estimates, before any actual construction is authorized. Bylaws governing the operation of the Columbarium have been drafted and reviewed, and the Columbarium Committee has a bit more editing to do on them.

This Advent and upcoming Christmas seasons may provide opportunities for you to tell a friend or a neighbor a bit about CLC and invite that person to join you for a worship service or Bible study.

As always, please contact any member of our Church Council if you have any suggestions or questions. Our next CLC Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see you in church!

*Bill*

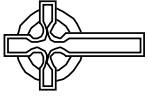
William C. Sherman  
Parish President, CLC

*(Continued from page 1)*

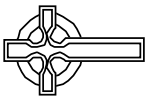
The account of Christ's birth is the focus of Christmas Day. Our church will recall that time in worship on the Eve of Christmas. I hope that you will make every effort to be in the company of those who gather for worship in the Eve. Our services are scheduled for December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM and 10:30PM. May the joy of the Lord be yours as we prepare for his birth and his life with us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Gustafson



# GA Galigndar



December

# December

## December 2015

### Senior High Youth Group (CrossRoads):

It's December! Everyone should be gearing up for Christmas and that wonderful break from school. It's getting cold outside but that won't stop us from getting together and having some fun. This month will be light due to the holidays but will still have some good opportunities to get together. Also, there will be some NYG events listed below so be sure to mark those down on your calendar!

Important Dates for the Senior High Youth:

- ✦ **December 5th:** Gift Wrapping at Barnes & Noble in Waterbury @ 5pm to 9pm
- ✦ **December 6th:** PB&J Service Event @ 1:30pm to 3pm
- ✦ **December 6th:** CrossRoads @ 7pm to 8:30pm
- ✦ **December 13th:** NYG Payment due (\$100)
- ✦ **December 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>:** Senior High Lock-In 7pm to 6am (19<sup>th</sup>)

### 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 this month before we enjoy Christmas and time with our families.

Important Dates for the Junior High Youth

- ✦ **December 2nd:** High Impact @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm
- ✦ **December 6th:** PB&J Service Event @ 1:30pm to 3pm
- ✦ **December 13th:** NYG Payment due (\$100)
- ✦ **December 16th:** High Impact @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm

### PB&J Service Events

Each month we will have the opportunity to come together to make a difference in someone else's life. We will do this by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every month on a Sunday afternoon after the late service. Each of these dates will be marked out in your monthly mailers and in the Heavenly Herald. If you have a peanut allergy please inform Andy so that he can help you get involved in other ways! All youth are welcome to join in the service event and if parents want to help as well please let Andy know as volunteers are always welcome.

This month's PB&J service event will take place on...

**December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm**

DEC



## 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!
- ✦ 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 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.



## 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.







## NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

I am looking for help in the Evangelism program at our congregation. We need to have our church grow and prosper and new members are the key. At one point all of us were new members at Cheshire Lutheran. Maybe one way to start this process is to think back to why we joined this church. We may have different reasons and those reasons are the key to why others might consider becoming a part of our community. I think one approach might be to ask people what are they looking for in a church and then listen to their response. I will be announcing a meeting in January and I look forward to having as many people as possible attend and share their ideas and suggestions.

John Balash Evangelism Deacon

## CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN'S 14TH 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 Judy Norton's home on **Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup> 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 wrapped 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 Karen Weiland for additional information.



**DATE: December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**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**

## 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

## 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!



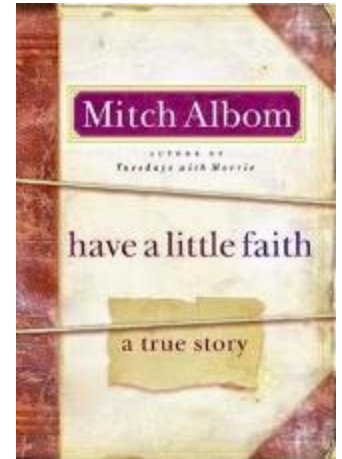
## CLC ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT 2016...

Our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CLCW Retreat will be held on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Guest House and Conference Center in Chester, CT. The book we will be reading this year is *Have a Little Faith*, by Mitch Albom.

What if our beliefs were not what divided us, but what pulled us together. In *Have a Little Faith*, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds--two men, two faiths, two communities--that will inspire readers everywhere.

Please plan on joining us in April for an inspiring day with the women of CLC.

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



Assembling  
Our Crèche



**Note:** While setting up the Crèche the guys noticed the hardware used for assembly was missing. The team is asking for the return of the nuts and bolts used for Crèche assembly. Whoever borrowed or moved the hardware, kindly return to the shed. Thanks!

## CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
December 9 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 12—Saturday	10:00 AM	Dress Rehearsal	Sunday School
December 13 - Sunday <i>Christmas Pageant 3rd Sunday in Advent</i>	9:30 AM	Gather, dress up	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Performance	Christmas Pageant—Sunday School
December 16 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 20- Sunday <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i>	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
December 23- Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 24 - Thursday <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 27- Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Youth Choir
December 30 - Wednesday	<b>NO CHOIR REHEARSALS</b>		
January 3 - Sunday	8:00 AM	Performance	Soloist
	10:30 AM	Performance	Soloist

## CLC HELPING HANDS...

The Helping Hands committee is looking for a new Chairperson and others to help coordinate. Kindly consider this wonderful opportunity. Contact the church office if you are interested.

If you are in need of help please call on our Helping Hands committee. Please call the church office and arrangements will be made for meals to be made and delivered to you by our committee.

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.

*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*





## 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:***

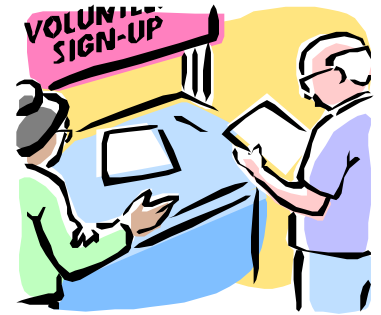
- † CLC Little Blessings Nursery Needs Volunteers
- † Give Your Old Car A Good Home **Good News Garage** information
- † **Cheshire Food Drive** Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- † **Hope Center** 2016 volunteer sign-ups
- † **Little Cherubs** enrollment information

### ***Others looking for help!***

- † **Fellowship Deacon needs volunteers** to help make the events happen. Contact Karen Weiland if you can help in any capacity. 203-250-1574 or email kweiland3@sbcglobal.net
- † **Helping Hands** - Needs Chairperson and volunteers. Contact the Church Office if you can help.
- † **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

Now is the time to sign up to join the Parish Choir for Adults or the Youth Choir for Children. Previous singing in Choirs is not required, only a love of music and a desire to contribute to our worship on Sundays. Speak to Martha Medford or any current member of the choirs for Questions.

- † **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.



## 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 <sup>st</sup> sermon
December 24, 1967	Bell first rung
December 9, 2006	New garden crosses imbedded
December 3, 2011	Lawn Crèche first displayed



## 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.



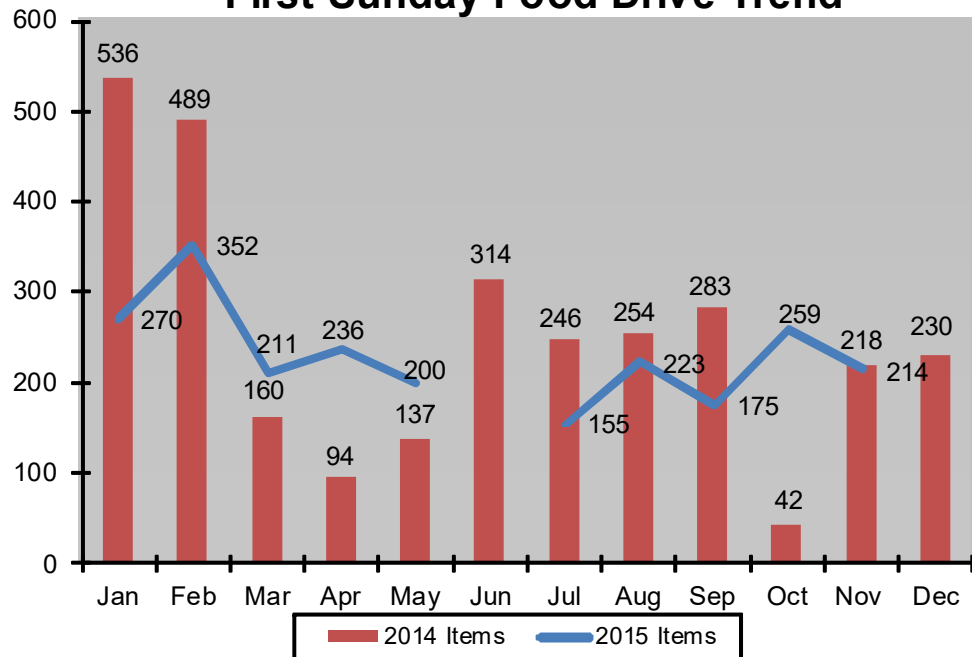


### DONATE YOUR FREEBIES!

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.

## 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.

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.

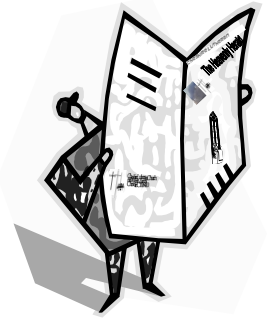
Contact Persons; Rita Stark (272-3488) and Carolyn Bammann (272-7083).



## PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!! (January 2016 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (souliebeth@sbcglobal.net) by **December 26<sup>th</sup>** 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.

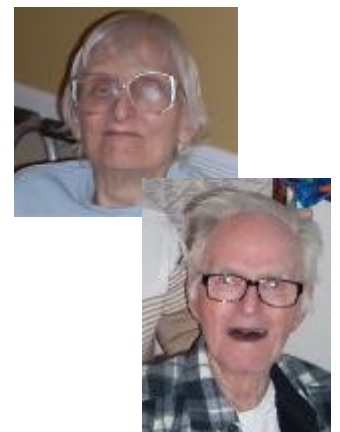


## REMEMBER OUR CHERISHED CONGREGANTS!...

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 Cheshire Regional Rehab Center  
745 Highland Avenue  
Cheshire, CT 06410

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



## 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 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!!!

**the  
Best Christmas  
Pageant Ever**



**“Follow The Star”**

The Wise men from the East have come looking for The King. They join the shepherds and angels in praising Jesus, the new Born King.

- ✦ Speaking Parts available for Sunday School Students Grades 6, 7, and 8
- ✦ Singing Carols for all Sunday School Students
- ✦ Practices will take place on Sunday Mornings

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

Run Through – December 6, Sunday – 9:10 AM  
Dress Rehearsal – December 12, Saturday – 10:00 AM  
**Pageant – December 13 – 10:30 AM**

- ✦ 9:30 AM - Pageant Players Gather in Hall to warm up and Dress
- ✦ 10:30 AM - Pageant Performance

**Sign Up Now!!!!**

*Sign up using form that will be in the Sunday Bulletins and on the Sunday School Bulletin Board.*

- ✦ **Parents of SS are asked to bring a snack for the refreshment table for after the Service**

## MEET OUR MISSIONARIES...

### Prayers:

Please pray for James and Brittany as they serve the Lord in the Latin America region. Please pray for their family as they transition, learning a new language and culture. Pray that God uses them daily to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Pray that God opens the doors for an effective and life-changing ministry with the individuals they care for and daily interact with in the communities in which they live and serve. Let us give thanks to God that the Baumgartners are serving His children in Latin America.

**Home District:** Northwest

### Learn More:

Learn more about the work being done in [the Latin America region](http://www.lcms.org/latin-america).



Rev. James, Brittany and  
Nora Baumgartner

- **Pray daily for James and Brittany** — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit [lcms.org/baumgartner](http://lcms.org/baumgartner)
- **Learn about LCMS international work** at [lcms.org/international](http://lcms.org/international)
- **Support and adopt an international worker.** Call 888-930-4438.

**LEARN • PRAY • GIVE • TELL • SEND • GO • CELEBRATE**





# Bible Studies at CLC

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...

Will continue each Sunday Morning during the Sunday School hour, 9:10 to 10:10 each week.



## TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY...

Join us each week on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM.

## 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.



## THURSDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP...

Join us Thursday mornings (except the third Thursday) each week for a wonderful study of Gods word.



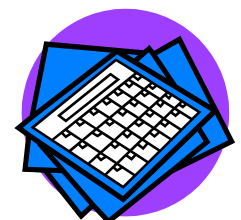
## FINANCIAL SECRETARY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU...

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!



## CLC CALENDARS FOR 2016...

**2016 Calendars** are here. The calendars are a gift to our congregation compliments of the Al-derson Ford Funeral Homes. You are welcome to pick up a copy from our hallway counter or narthex table.



# Apple Pie Workshop Memories





## CLC CHRISTMAS DECORATING...

CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING – A Big Thank You to Vicki & Don DePaolo for donating another beautiful Christmas Tree to adorn CLC throughout the Christmas season!!

Many Hands Make Light Work! We will gather at CLC around 3:30pm on Friday 12/18/15 and caravan over to the DePaolo residence to cut/retrieve the tree. Ed Schweizer and Larry Fiedler will provide the expertise and truck/trailer.

We can use all the help available, as the tree is quite large and heavy. If you are not able to make it to the DePaolo's, the tree should arrive at the church around 4:30 – 5:00pm and that's when the heavy lifting will really begin.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING – Once again, Many Hands Make Light Work as we will gather at CLC at 9:00am on Saturday 12/19/15 to decorate the tree and adorn the nave. This process is normally accomplished within 1-2 hours, depending on the number of helpers.

I will be away on vacation and unable to help with this important project, but greatly appreciate Ed and Larry volunteering to lead the charge!!

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Jeff Mann  
CLC Vice President



## NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

December is here with much to do.

Little Cherubs will be very busy as always...We will be celebrating Advent and Lucia Day. The children love when they have the Advent Calendars to open each and every day. The Christmas Story from the Bible will be the main focus of this month. On December 6th we will have St. Nicholas Day and learn a song that goes with the day. December 12th will be Poinsettias Day. An Art Project will go along with this theme.

The children in the past have loved making treats for the Birds so once again we will be making Crisco pine cones with bird seed and we will hang them on the pine trees so that we can observe the birds eating them. We will make a gift that the children will give to their Mom and Dad for Christmas. And right before Christmas we plan on making a Birthday Cake with Candles on it to celebrate the Birth of Jesus...

Martha and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Be safe and enjoy your time with friends and family...

Love to All,  
Joann and Martha

### Supplies Needed:

- ☺ Sandbox Toys for the Sand Box..
- ☺ The Boys could use more Trucks to play with.
- ☺ We are looking for a Fireman Dress Up Costume for Dress Up.
- ☺ We can always use Alum, Flour and a Salt to make Play Doh and clean out your closets for extra Cookie Cutters to use with Play Doh.
- ☺ The Children Love Putting Puzzles together. If you have any to donate we would be so Thankful.



## NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving. I would like to wish everyone a joyous and Merry Christmas.



Many of you were present during my presentation during the two services on November 22nd 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 2016 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 2016.

For those of you who were not present on the 22nd, the key points were:

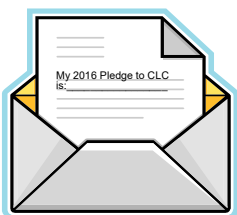
1. There is a shortfall of approximately \$25,000 as we approach the end of the 2015 Mission Plan and we are asking everyone for help with trying to close that gap during the month of December so that we can try to meet our obligations.
2. For 2016, we are asking everyone to pray and give due consideration for the blessings we all receive and increase the amount of 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 2016 Mission Plan is not much different than the 2015 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 – including the objectives of our Worldwide ministry.
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, the three charges I laid out at the end of the presentation were to: 1) take and review the pledge packet; 2) think of any fundraisers that we may be able to do to also help bring in new people; and 3) invite friends or families that you may know. I would like to see a growth in the Church – more kids in Sunday School and more members of the Congregation. Christmas time may be a good time to do this but there may be other events that we can organize that might also help provide a good way to inspire people. Many people are looking for a spiritual home. Why not invite them to make CLC that home?

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

David Veleber  
Stewardship Deacon



## PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2016...

Pledge Packets for 2016 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!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER...

### December 6<sup>th</sup>: Zechariah Prophecies About Jesus

A lot of adults like to be in control. Men are stereotypically reluctant to ask for directions, and adults of both genders can often have a hard time admitting they need help in life. The whole world needs Jesus, and he can help them with their day-to-day issues. Most importantly, he can save us—something none of us can do on our own.

**Bible Point:** The world needs Jesus.

**Key Verse:** John 3:17



### December 13<sup>th</sup>: Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant

### December 20<sup>th</sup>: The Son of God Is Born!

Adults will celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Bible Point:** Celebrate Jesus' birth.

**Key Verse:** Isaiah 9:6



### December 27<sup>th</sup>: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



# THANK YOU



I just want to thank you  
For the time you gave,  
The sharing of your talents  
In the beautiful gifts you made  
For you have blessed so many  
And blessed the Lord above  
For using your gifts to bless another  
Reflects the Father's love.

*To all the volunteers who helped with the church fellowship functions this year, I thank for the time you took to make this church a friendly place to be. I look forward to another year.*

*Karen Weiland*

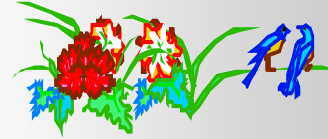
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Baker  
Joshua Neff
- 4<sup>th</sup> Judith DiDomizio  
Emily Napp  
Steve Feero  
Jeff Hays
- 5<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Carrington
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sydney Taylor
- 8<sup>th</sup> Charles Caron, Jr.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Paul Fiedler
- 12<sup>th</sup> Martha Henderson  
Ali Tyler
- 14<sup>th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

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY December 2015

29th

Joseph & Martha Jarosz

42 Years



## Christmas Eve Service Reminder!

† Thursday 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

