



# The Heavenly Herald

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"Greet now the swiftly changing year,  
With joy and penitence sincere.  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace  
Another year of grace."

These are the wonderful words from the opening verse of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Old Czech Lutheran hymn. I bring them to you this month of January hoping that you will ponder them. In doing so I would encourage you to consider the New Year in the light of God's grace toward us and the whole world.

It is, after all, by the grace of a wonderful creator that we are here and that we exist. It is by that same grace that we go about our daily lives doing things that are proper and right, and also doing things not so proper and wrong. We are by definition as Christians both saint and sinner at the very same time. In this life one does not exist without the other. As saints of God we can look at this New Year upon us and approach it with joy, joy that we can be the instruments of God's love as we encounter the world around us. As sinners, we approach yet another year realizing that we need to acknowledge the wrong we fall into or willfully commit so that we can recant and embrace the wonder of God's grace that promises to renew our contrite hearts with his peace and love. There is a daily death and resurrection for each of us.

It is because we realize that there is a new life for each of us in every day of a calendar year that we can move forward throughout the year. We can put the past behind and know the future is before us to express the wonder of our faith, the blessing of our relationship to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus has saved us from the penalty of sin and promises to be with us even though we fall short of his glory. Jesus, whose birth we just remembered and celebrated, came to be our champion against the evil one who tempts us to follow the direction of a fallen nature. Throughout the year we shall remember how Jesus fought for us so that we might share in the victory he has won. It is the victory of life which we are able to be a part of because of God's grace. So, yes, throughout the year we sin, but every day of the year the word of grace rings true, "Your sins are forgiven you." And we can go in peace for there is yet another day to serve the Lord. Thank God there is another day and another opportunity to be his child and to reflect that life born in us at baptism.

"For Jesus came to wage sin's war  
This Name of names for us he bore.  
Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace,  
Another year of grace."

It is a new year for all of us. It is new, not because the date changes, but new because our lives begin renewed as God resurrects them each day. For the sake of Jesus sin is forgiven and we are free to be the children God would have us to be. It is the hope of life God would have us to embrace. So, as you start out on this year 2016, Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace, another year of grace!

Happy New Year to you all!!  
Pastor Gustafson

**MANY MANY THANKS** to all the members of our CLC family for the very generous gift given to me and my family. We appreciate your sincere kindness and feel truly blessed.  
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**



At our November Voters Assembly and December Church Council meetings, the following officers and new deacon were elected to serve on the Church Council beginning in 2016:

President – Jeff Mann  
Vice President – William Sherman  
Recording Secretary – Terri Daly  
Financial Secretary – William Soulier  
Treasurer – Karen Smith  
House and Grounds deacon – Andrew Clark

Three years have quickly passed since I began serving as President of our congregation. So at this point, I'd like to extend my "Thank You"s to Emese Gall and Todd Plantier who have just completed terms of faithful service on our Church Council; and to the many Council and Voters Assembly members who have given their time to carry out their areas of ministry and regularly attend our governing body meetings; and to other congregation members who have provided their ideas, concerns and encouragement to me during my three terms.

"Thank You"s to Emese Gall and Todd Plantier who have just completed terms of faithful service on our Church Council; and to the many Council and Voters Assembly members who have given their time to carry out their areas of ministry and regularly attend our governing body meetings

Looking forward in the near term, for the governance of our "affairs of church", the upcoming regular sessions of our Voters Assembly meetings for 2016 are planned to be held on the days that follow; look for the full schedule, including Council meetings in our annual report.

Sunday	February 7	11:45 AM
Monday	April 18	7:00 PM
Monday	September 12	7:00 PM
Monday	November 14	7:00 PM

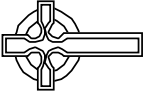
The February meeting is planned to include the presentation of amendments to our Bylaws to incorporate the proposed Columbarium; so formal notices of this meeting will be issued prior to that meeting. Please note that this Sunday meeting will follow our second worship service to enable as many Voters as possible to attend.

In case you may be pondering 'new year resolutions', I'd like to encourage you once again to be aware of opportunities to tell an acquaintance or neighbor about CLC and invite that person to join us for a worship service, Bible study, or a tour of our Little Cherubs pre-school.

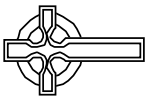
Happy New Year; I hope to see you in church!

*Bill*

William C. Sherman  
Parish President, CLC



# GA Galigndar



January

# January

## NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you to all who have pledged or requested envelopes for donations. As of December 22, we have received 57 pledges. Although a good start, it is actually down a few from this time last year. If you have not picked up your pledge packet (or you have but have just not had a chance to return it yet), please think about returning your pledge card at your earliest convenience. It is never too late to submit your pledge. If you make regular contributions but do not pledge, if you have not already done so, please make sure to see Carol Santoro, our Church Secretary, to obtain a box of envelopes so that your contributions can be noted. This will be helpful to you for personal tax filings.

I would like to take a minute to thank Carol Santoro for all of her hard work over the past couple months. She has been invaluable in assisting to get the pledge packets together and out.

I again thank all of you for your generosity and consideration towards helping to keep CLC strong. I also thank all of you who returned a Time and Talent survey. We had good response and we would like to utilize those responses to help get more members involved in various aspects of the workings of the Church.

Sincerely,

David Veleber  
Stewardship Deacon



## 2016 FLOWER CHART...

If you would like to place flowers on the altar on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the Flower Chart which is hanging on the Bulletin Board.



## Our Sincere Appreciation

- ✚ Many thanks to the "Thursday Afternoon Ladies" for assembling the huge December Heavenly Herald! HUGS!
- ✚ Many thanks to Jonathan Manke for donating the lovely red Poinsettias that adorned our Altar on Christmas Eve. They were beautiful!
- ✚ **Church Decorating – Thank You!**  
Thanks to all the folks that helped out with setting up the Christmas tree, decorating it, and decorating the church. The chosen tree is just beautiful!
- ✚ VERY SPECIAL Thank you to Tim Weiland for ALWAYS being there to take pictures of all of our events! Tim, your hard work and dedication is GREATLY APPRECIATED!
- ✚ Gracious thanks to Curt and Karen Smith for donating the beautiful wreaths that adorn the Church!
- ✚ Special Thanks to Bill and Debbie Sherman for donating the lovely white Poinsettia plants that are placed beneath the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary.
- ✚ Of course Thank You to Don and Vicki DePaolo for choosing and donating the beautiful tree!
- ✚ Very special Thank You to Martha and her crew for the lovely Christmas Pageant. Your hard work paid off, the Pageant was phenomenal.





## NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

I would like to invite everyone to an Evangelism meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 14. The purpose of this meeting is to get more people involved in spreading the message of our church into our community. Your ideas and suggestions will help to promote the various programs of Cheshire Lutheran. I am convinced that the more people we get involved in Evangelism, the better it will be for the growth of our congregation. I believe that we can accomplish more together in spreading the Gospel message of hope and salvation that the world needs to hear in these troubled times.

John Balash  
Evangelism Deacon



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH VP...

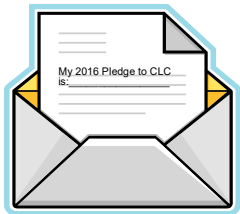
Thanks again to Vicki & Don DePaolo for donating this year's beautiful Christmas Tree!!

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped cut, transport and setup the tree, and to all those that helped with decorating the tree and church. Everything looked festive and beautiful!!

The CLC crèche looked amazing as always and really garners positive attention from the route 10 travelers. Thanks to all that assisted with setup!

THANKS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Jeff Mann  
CLC Vice President



## PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2016...

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 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!



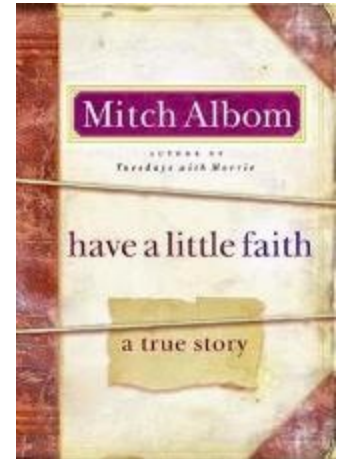
## CLC ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT 2016...

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.



## 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.



## 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*.



## OUR BEAUTIFUL THANKSGIVING CORNUPOPIA...

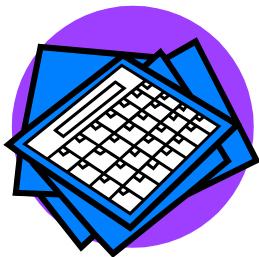
The Beautiful Cornucopia that adorned our Altar for three services around Thanksgiving was made by Martha Henderson. It not only served to celebrate Thanksgiving it also serves to remind us how blessed we are by the abundance our Lord has chosen to give us.

During this time of Thanks and into the Christmas Season, let us all remember those gifts and blessings and give to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. There are many ways to give, we ALL have time, talent and financial gifts to choose from. May Our Lord continue to bless you and your family this Christmas Season.



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

Date	Time	Event	Choir
January 6 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 10 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Youth Choir
January 13 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 17 - Sunday	7:30 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 20 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:30 PM	Performance	Bell & Parish Choir
January 24- Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Sunday School Choir
January 27 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:30 PM	Performance	Bell & Parish Choir
January 31 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir



## CLC CALENDARS FOR 2016...

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

## 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:***

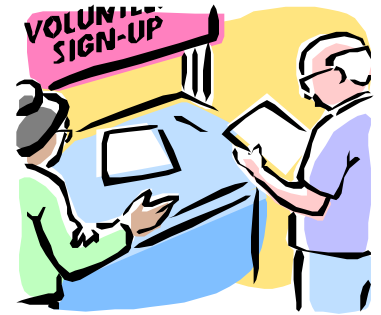
- † CLC Little Blessings Nursery Needs Volunteers
- † Give Your Old Car A Good Home **Good News Garage** information
- † **Cheshire Food Drive** Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- † **Hope Center** 2016 volunteer sign-ups
- † **Little Cherubs** enrollment information

### ***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:

January 3, 1521	Martin Luther excommunicated from Catholic Church by Pope Leo X
January 1958	First congregational officers elected, parish constitution adopted, and congregation officially named Cheshire Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 29, 1961	Opening dedication ceremony of Cheshire Evangelical Lutheran Church



## SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED ...

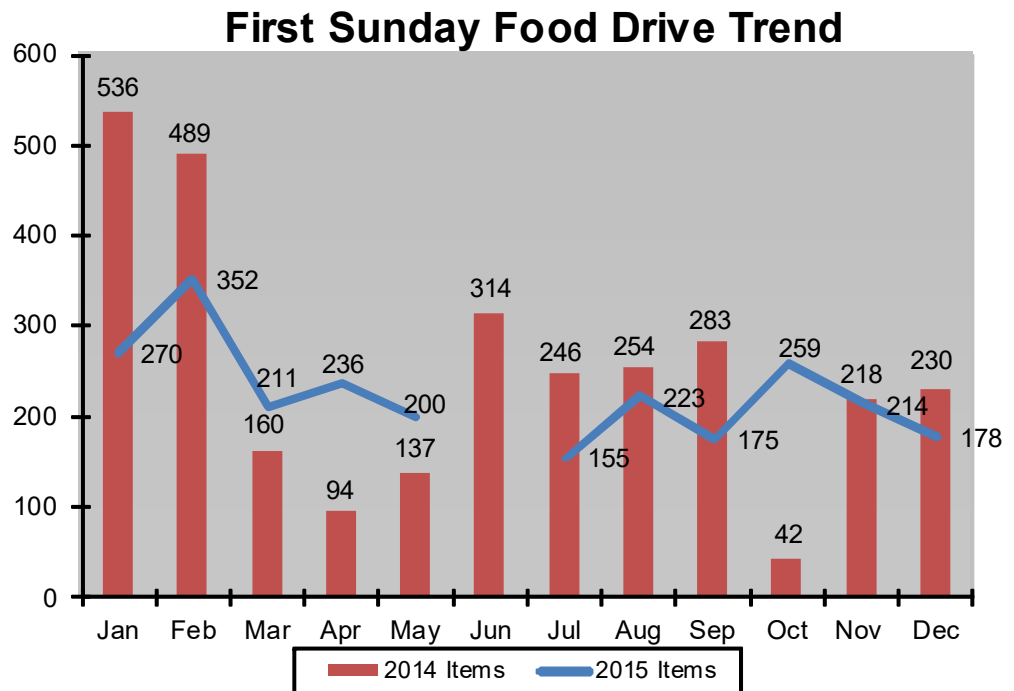
A hearing assistance system (Williams Sound Corporation) and four receivers have been donated to CLC. A receiver (hearing aid) may be obtained from any usher. Please feel free to ask for one and make sure you return to an usher at the end of the service so it can be returned to its proper storage place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



“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.

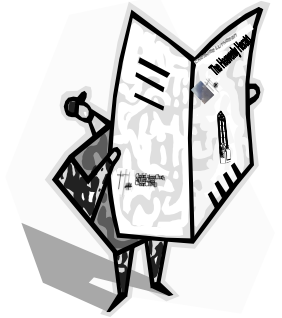
Contact Persons; Rita Stark (272-3488) and Carolyn Bammann (272-7083).



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

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (souliebeth@sbcglobal.net) by **Friday January 22<sup>nd</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.

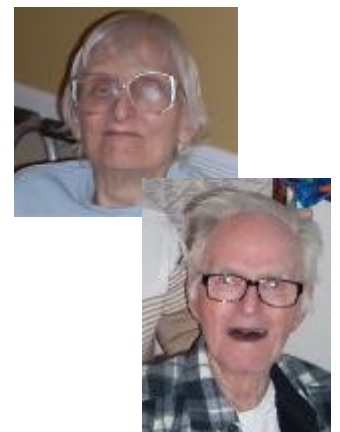


## REMEMBER OUR CHERISHED CONGREGANTS!...

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.





## 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.



## MEET OUR MISSIONARIES...



Rev. James, Brittany and  
Nora Baumgartner

### 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/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!





# December 2015

Christmas Tree and Church Decorating, December 19, 2015



Advent Jubilee Dinner December 6, 2015





# Memories

Christmas Pageant December 13, 2015



Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2015



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

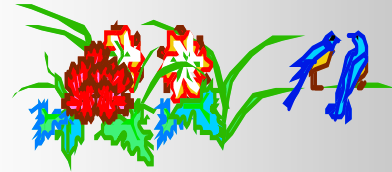
January 2016

1st Catherine Donewald  
Todd Plantier  
4th Emily Smith  
5th Allen Blem  
Robin Harding  
Michael Carrington  
8th Karen Neff  
10th Craig Wilson  
13th Jean O'Hara  
Carolyn Schmollinger  
14th Barbara Manthey  
20th Rebecca Mayer  
23rd Margie Mertz  
24th Ned McBain  
25th Carol Santoro  
26th John Shepard  
27th Don Dobbs  
28th Eleanor Kenney  
29th Mikayla Pryde  
30th Todd Peters  
Emese Gall

6th  
17th

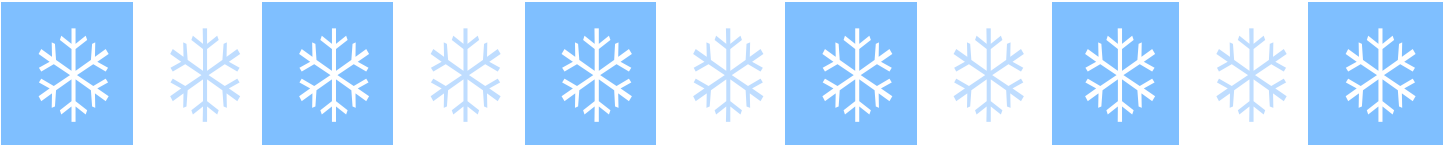
Patrick & Kelley Collins-Pardee  
John & Lynn Balash

4 Years  
41 Years

COUNCIL AND VOTERS MEETING  
REMINDER...

No Voters meeting in January!!!

The Annual corporate meeting will be held on January 10th after BOTH services!



**Cheshire Lutheran Church**  
660 West Main St  
Cheshire CT 06410