

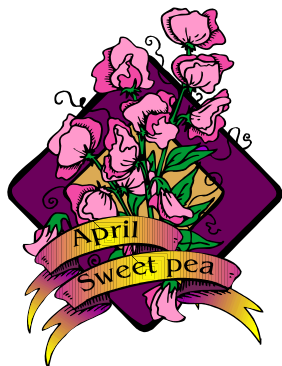
The Heavenly Herald

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A Concern About Fellowship

I have a concern. It is a concern shared by others I am sure. **The concern is about fellowship. It is about life together as a community called by God.** I believe I have mentioned this concern before. I believe that if I have I did so because it was important then and it is important now. We need to be together.

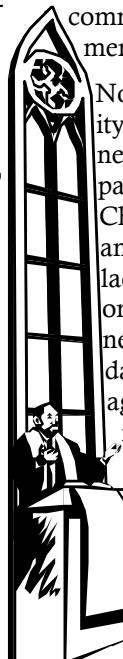
The other night, Maundy Thursday evening, there were about 85 of us from the full membership of Cheshire Lutheran Church. What struck me that evening were words from the second reading for the day from the Letter to the Hebrews. The words were; *“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some.”*

The purpose of our life together is to worship the God who wondrously made us and all things, who also saved us from the destructive nature of our sin, and who can resurrect in us a life that can register good deeds and the love of God for the world.

My friends, it is a mistake not to meet together. The writer to the Hebrews, inspired of God, understood this truth in his time, and the writer of this column believes the same truth in our time. We should move mountains so that we come together.

I find it so very interesting that there are some who are worrying about a Muslim invasion. They are worrying about a caricature of a segment of a faith that is different and foreign to ours. What Christians should be worrying about is something internal that is more destructive than living alongside those of other faiths. What Christians should be worrying about is the lack of support to be found among Christians themselves when it comes to maintaining the faith and witnessing to the faith bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit. Christians ought not to take for granted the freedom given to worship our God as we please when and where we want. Christians should embrace that freedom and opportunity because what is true

for us in this nation is not necessarily true for others in nations around our world. Perhaps the writer to the Hebrews was aware of a similar reality when he penned the words of that second lesson. Remember, the church was being formed in the middle of cultures and mindsets, governments and family units quite foreign to itself. What made the church important and strong, what made it blossom and grow was not the help by any state, at least not in its early formation, but its tenacity and strong desire to share in community and to bear a witness to the confession of that community through acts of compassion, mercy and love.



Now I realize there is a breed of Christianity that may espouse the notion that one need not go to church or keep in the company of fellow believers in order to be Christian. Personally I believe such to be an excuse that supports poor habits and lack of commitment to what it was once confirmed. However, all Christians need support especially in our time and day. All Christians need to be encouraged by other Christians. This fellowship is needed by believers of all ages, races, and genders. From children to teen, to young adult, to middle age, to the very aged all of us need to share life together as God's people. It will be the sharing of this life that will be the most important of all especially as the world and the culture around us changes.

Our coming together regularly is a blessing. It should be accomplished freely and joyfully. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: *“It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.”*

(Continued on page 6)

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*

Jeffrey Mann-Parish President

Beth Soulier-Editor

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings All,

After receiving Beth's reminder email that Heavenly Herald articles were due, I began to ponder what I should write about. Seems like just yesterday when I was sitting at my computer composing my March article, then came Holy Week and I was inspired and reminded of some of the many reasons I love this church and our amazing congregation.

As I sat in the pew waiting for the start of our Good Friday service, I must have turned to Kyong at least three times commenting on how full the church was getting and how nice it was that so many people were able to attend. Pastor gave his opening remarks, announced the opening hymn, and then it happened! When this church is full and our congregation sings, who wouldn't want to be here!

I have attended many churches where about the only one you hear singing is the Cantor. In fact, I jokingly remarked that they must have been having a contest to see who can sing the loudest without being heard...never the case at CLC!

Our Maundy Thursday service was well attended and set the tone as we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. I found the Good Friday service to be very moving, emotional and intense. The combination of the many members that so convincingly recited their soliloquies, powerful hymn singing by our congregation, beautiful music of the choir and musicians and masterful orchestration of the service by our Pastor provided a powerful reminder of why we were here.

By the time you read this article, I'm sure we will all have fond memories of a beautiful Easter service and the wonderful fellowship enjoyed with fellow congregants, family and friends at the between service breakfast.

Thank you to all the volunteers that participated in our annual spring cleaning of the church interior, and to all that helped prepare the Easter breakfast- Great Job! A special thank you to Pastor, Martha, the choirs and everyone that pitched in to make Holy Week such a special time!!

Our next Voters meeting will be Monday, April 18th at 7:00pm in the CLC library.

Yours in Christ,
Jeff

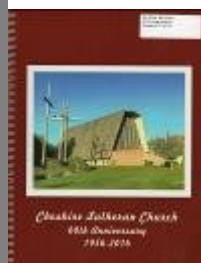
Jeffrey A. Mann
Parish President, CLC

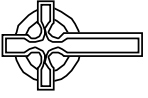


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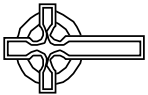
CLC 2016—60TH ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL REMINDER...

The long awaited pictorial directory has arrived. If you chose to participate by having your picture included, a directory with your name on it is available for you on the hallway counter. If you did not participate but would like a directory, please stop by the office during the week to obtain one.



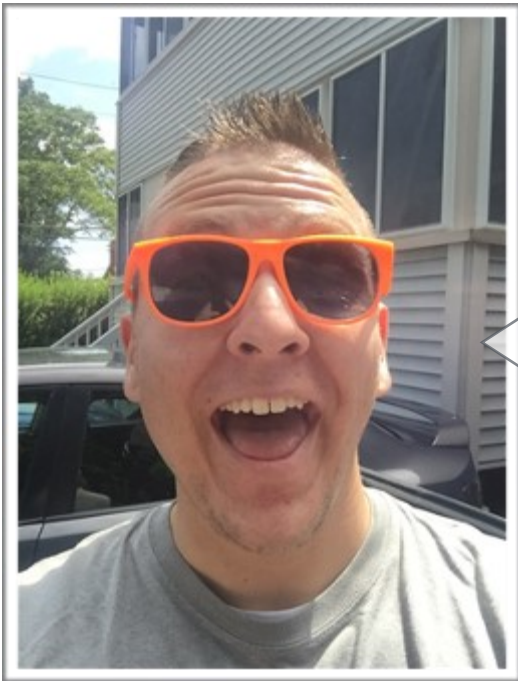


GALE GALILEAN



April

April Servants



Come to youth group! Listed below are all of the important youth group dates from now until the summer time. Mark these down on your calendar so you won't forget and if you ever have questions feel free to ask!

Peanut Butter and Jelly Service Projects

(always the first Sunday of the month after the late service!)

- April 3rd**
- May 1st**
- June 5th**



**D
C
E**

CrossRoads (Senior High)

- April: 10th @ 7pm to 8:30pm
- 24th @ 7pm to 8:30pm
- May: 21st @ 1pm to 4pm (Hike at Sleeping Giant)
Meet at CLC at 1pm, back by 4pm
- 22nd @ 12pm to 1:30pm
- June: 18th @ 4pm to 6pm (BBQ/ Potluck)
Please bring a side dish for this event as burgers and hot dogs will be provided.

High Impact (Junior High)

- April: 13th @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm
- 27th @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm
- May: 11th @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm
- 21st @ 1pm to 4pm (Hike at Sleeping Giant)
Meet at CLC at 1pm, back by 4pm
- 25th @ 7:10pm to 8:30pm
- June: 18th @ 4pm to 6pm (BBQ/ Potluck)
Please bring a side dish for this event as burgers and hot dogs will be provided.

Dates and times are subject to change. Additional dates may also be added.

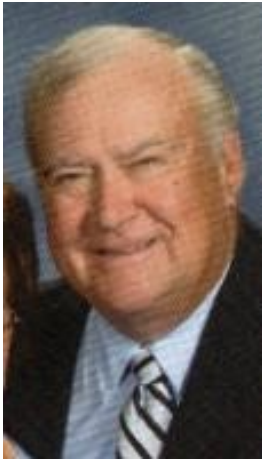
(Continued from page 1)



My hope, now that the Easter celebration is over, is that we will strive to come together as often as possible. It is my hope that our Sunday school will be thriving with young people looking to know about the Lord. It is my hope that parents will join their children in the education offered weekly which is anchored in the word of God. It is my expectation that our thirst for the sacrament will grow and that our desire to see fellow Christians will increase so that Sunday morning fellowship is sought after by many more people. The faith we share as brothers and sisters to Christ is indeed a blessing. The gift is strengthened through community. Let us never neglect the opportunity to meet together but encourage one another to participate in the greater life of God's holy community.

Peace of the Lord be with you.

Pastor Gustafson



NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

I hope everyone had a joyous Easter holiday. The next major event on the Christian calendar is Pentecost. It is amazing how God spread the Gospel message to the world through this miraculous method. St. Paul and his followers were speaking and everyone understood them in their own language. The reaction of some of the people was that they were drunk. It is interesting that the explanation of a miracle could be so wrong. We can say that those people at the time were living two thousand years ago and if that happened today how would people react? I am sure that the people of today would be just at skeptical. We cannot understand how God can make things happen that have no way of being understood in human terms. The main point of Pentecost is that God needs us to spread his message of hope and salvation to the world.

John Balash Evangelism Deacon



CLC CHOIR NEWS...

All our choirs are planning their last performances before they take a break for the Summer. They are also planning their year end All Choirs Picnic. This year the Picnic will be held at Church on Wednesday June 1st at 6:30. All Choir members are invited to bring their families and also a food item to share. See Martha for Sign-Up sheets in the coming weeks.

Look forward to seeing you there.



NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

We have made it through the first quarter of the year. The quarterly statements for the first quarter will be going out shortly. The good news is that, of the people who pledged, I am happy to say that the vast majority of them are basically at or above their pledged amount. Unfortunately, the total pledge amounts are down a bit from last year and the total contributions from non-pledge sources (those who use envelopes but do not pledge and those who just contribute without any envelope) are down from last year. I am sure we can work to make that up in the second quarter.

I would like to thank all of you who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to CLC. Those funds are very helpful and they are basically free money for the church.

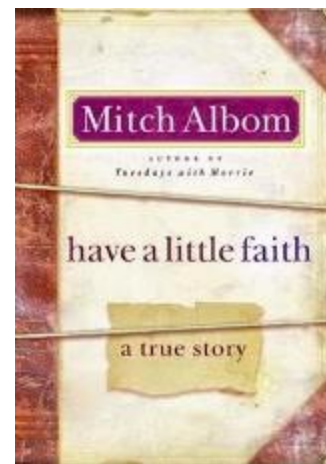
Also, it is never too late to submit your 2016 pledge. If you are interested in pledging, please contact the Church Secretary, Carol Santoro.

David Veleber
Stewardship Deacon

Our 9th Annual CLCW Retreat will be held on Saturday April 30th 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. A sign -up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. The registration fee including lunch is \$37, payable to CLCW and can be placed in the silver box on the counter in the hallway. Registration fees are due by April 10th.

A copy of the book can be found on the counter near the church office. You will find an index card enclosed in the book. If you want to borrow it, kindly put your name on the card and place it in my blue folder which is located outside the church office window. Please call me if you have any questions. Vicki DePaolo - 203-697-0810

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*.



Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday...

Let's celebrate our Mother's on Sunday May 8th and remember their warmth and kindness by dedicating blankets in their name to the Tools of Hope 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 10th. 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 8th bulletin.

Vicki DePaolo, Social Welfare Deacon



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.



CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
April 3 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
April 6 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
April 10 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Youth Choir
April 13 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
April 17 - Sunday	7:30 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
April 20 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
April 24 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Performance	Sunday School
April 27 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
May 1 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir



2016 CLC SPIRIT SOFTBALL SEASON OPENS...

The 2016 Softball season is upon us, consider joining the team or help cheer on CLC's own "Spirit" at the 6 pm Sunday afternoon games. We will play on at various fields in Cheshire and Hamden during the end of April thru June (except Mother's Day and Memorial Day).

The schedule has yet to be determined, look for more information on the bulletin board later in April.

If you are 15 years or older and interested or need more information contact CLC Team Captain Dave Veleber (203) 271-3111 or dveleber@cox.net.



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.

ON THE BULLETIN BOARD:

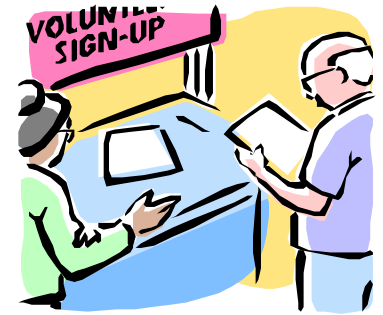
April 2016

Issue 152

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
- † Israel Trip 2016
- † Indoor Cleanup Signups
- † Cheshire Food Drive Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- † Sunday Morning Readers signup
- † Hope Center 2016 volunteer sign-up
- † Sunday Morning Coffee Hour signup



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.



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!



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



COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN MOVE FORWARD...



The Columbarium Committee is happy to report that the Columbarium ministry of Cheshire Lutheran Church is very close to being fully implemented. The Bylaws were approved by the Voters, and the application forms were approved by the Council. The Council also appointed the members of the Columbarium Committee and named Don Drust as its chair. Building the columbarium wall requires a permit from the Town of Cheshire, and that application has been filed and is slated for review in April.

Committee members have been approached throughout the columbarium planning and design process by parishioners who are interested in reserving a niche, purchasing a memorial plaque, or making a donation to beautify and maintain the Columbarium and Memorial Garden. Now is the time to speak to any member of the Columbarium Committee to confirm your interest in supporting and participating in this ministry. The Committee is now accepting applications for niches and memorial plaques. Monetary donations will be thankfully accepted toward landscaping and “hardscaping” the Memorial Garden.

The Columbarium and Memorial Garden will be a place to memorialize and to lay to rest the ashes of our loved ones. It will also be a beautiful, peaceful space for quiet reflection and remembrance. The garden will be landscaped with greenery and flowers, benches will be installed, and an attractive walkway will guide visitors to the Columbarium wall.

Please feel free to contact any Committee member below to request more information or to obtain an application. The Committee thanks the members and leaders of Cheshire Lutheran Church for their vision and support of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden. It is time to move forward to the next phase!

Don Drust, Chair	Buzz Gancarz	Priscilla Mulvaney
Vicki DePaolo	Linda Gancarz	Randy Raddatz
Judy DiDomizio	Margie Mertz	Beth Soulier
Pat DiDomizio	John Mulvaney	Tim Weiland

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).



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
- ✦ Many thanks to all who came to help clean the inside of the Church in March just in time to make our Easter Services EXTRA Special
- ✦ Special thanks to the Fellowship Committee for organizing the Easter Breakfast. We also thank Don and Diane Drust for all they contribute so that the food never runs out and the décor enhances the Easter atmosphere. The Fellowship was wonderful and the volunteers are greatly appreciated. Also thanks to everyone who baked, set up, cleaned up, decorated. It was a joyous Easter Morning!
- ✦ Many thanks to Jon Manke for his very generous contribution of the beautiful Easter Lillies that adorned our Altar and the flowers that were given to the Sunday School children on Easter Morning!
- ✦ Thanks to all who participated in the music ministry, both volunteer and professional during Easter services.
- ✦ Thank you as always to Tim Weiland for his beautiful photography that chronicle all the activities that take place at CLC
- ✦ An additional thanks to Steve Feero for doing such a great job with keeping our Website up to date



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.

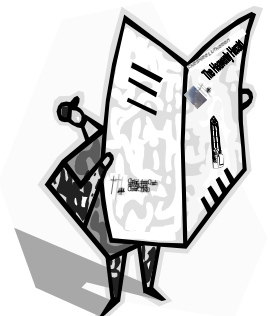
We have re-directed the donated baby items which are collected in the bassinet outside the church office. For years we have been donating them to "Baskets of Love" where women of the Waterbury Church of Christ used them to make baskets which are distributed to new mothers in Waterbury Hospital, Bristol 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.



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!!

(May 2016 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net) by **Friday April 22nd** 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!



THANK YOU FROM: CARE PACKAGES FOR THE TROOPS...

March 2016



Soldier Support Packages

Dear Friends,

Whoever would have thought that when we began this project in October of 2005 we would still be adopting and caring for deployed soldiers? I can assure you that we had no idea where the project would take us; our packages have travelled to both Iraq and Afghanistan. While we, ourselves, have never been, based on the notes and pictures we have received, I feel as if I am getting familiar with the terrain and the weather. After all, when filling the bags, we need to know how hot it is so simple treats such as chocolate won't melt or that home-made breads and cakes won't turn moldy in transit...I learned through experience!

2015 was a banner year for "Soldier Support Packages". Pediatric offices, a manufacturing company, non-profit service groups, a few schools, a gym, boat club auxiliary, local large nationwide businesses and dental equipment suppliers, small, independently owned establishments, a church whose members I do not even know, and friends and family have reached out to us, offering help. It does my heart good when I have to spend so much time sorting toiletries and snacks. The Stratford Post Office made it easy to mail for the holidays by opening its doors to me at 6:30 AM. It took a full week but the big mailing for the holidays was completed seamlessly. There I was, behind the counter handing off our boxes and loading the postal wagons! What a timesaver that was ... and service with a smile, at that.



Also, for the first time, new friends offered to help with the packing and surprised as you may be, I said "yes". We filled quart-sized food bags to the brim with messages on the side wishing our soldiers well and thanking them for their service. You can be sure that they received creative, delicious and useful packages from us.

Once the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) re-deployed, we adopted the 101st CAB for the 4th time, a special operations unit and its headquarters, all in Afghanistan. The 101st has returned home, replaced by the 4 ID CAVN BDE from Fort Carson. With the 1st Infantry headquarters re-deploying, we adopted the 82nd Airborne Division stationed in Iraq; as of this writing, it has been replaced by Headquarters 101st Airborne Division. Through each of these deployments we find ourselves seeing the same people and taking pride in their promotions and accomplishments. As our adopted family expands, it gets smaller at the same time and it is true.

In the words of some of the soldiers: "I wanted to thank you for the care package that you sent just before Christmas. It had all kinds of goodies which I really appreciated and enjoyed, especially the coffee! You guys have done a great job sending packages to all of us here and the time and effort you have gone to in putting them together and mailing is something I'm thankful for."

"Thanks for thinking about our female soldiers on Valentine's Day! It was a special touch to the care package".

"We appreciate your thoughts, prayers, and care packages. We definitely felt the LOVE and support".

People have asked how long we plan on doing this and my answer is always the same -- I will continue as long as there is need and I am able. I would, and could, never think of letting down our soldiers, never want them to think they are away in distant and dangerous places, forgotten. The highlight for me is an e-mail or note saying "thank-you, it helps us to complete our mission knowing people at home care".

So, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your financial support, your outreach, your extra two hands and your caring for our soldiers. Please, as you remember them, think about their families who are the unsung heroes of any deployment. What they do is truly beyond anyone's wildest dreams and they, too, need our thanks.

I look forward to re-connecting during the year. You can be sure you will hear from me. With deepest gratitude,

Carol S. Weinschel



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.



CALLING ALL THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS...

As a Thrivent member, you have access to a unique program that will enable you to make a difference within our congregation or your community. Thrivent Financial has a program called "Action Teams." Here's a brief explanation of the program:

You first identify a need, decide on a plan of action to help meet that need and pull together a group of volunteers to help (they do not have to be Thrivent members). You then apply on line to lead your team in a one time fund raiser, service activity or educational event. Once your activity is approved, you will receive your Thrivent Action Kit which will include:

- A Banner to publicize the event;
- Invitations and Thank you cards;
- Thrivent Action Team T Shirts
- A \$250 Community Impact Card

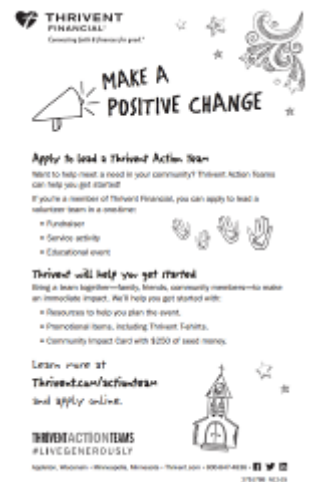
The \$250 is to be used as seed money to start the activity - the aim is to use the funds for supplies, tools, food, equipment or seed money for a fund raiser. The funds are not to be treated as a grant. If you are a Thrivent Benefit Member, you qualify to lead 2 Action Teams per calendar year, each valued at \$250. If you are a Thrivent Associate Member, you qualify to lead 1 Action Team per year with a maximum of 3.

When the project is completed a simple on line report is completed and you can move on to your next Action Team. You must complete one Action Team activity before you can apply for another. Also, only one approval and Community Impact Card is given per project.

This is an excellent resource for enhancing outreach for the congregation, meeting specific congregational needs and providing funds for community or an individual's needs. Action Teams can also support neighborhood projects, club projects, school projects, co-workers needs, teen projects, educational sessions, etc. All you need is a team of volunteers to use the funds in a meaningful way.

So I am sure you are asking yourself "Hmm, how can I use my funds here at Cheshire Lutheran Church?" To start, our Social Welfare Ministry has many programs which can benefit from the \$250 seed money including the LWR School Kits (to help with the purchase backpacks and postage), Support the Troops or the Cheshire Food Pantry. If you are willing to commit to one of these activities, please contact our Social Welfare Deacon, Vicki DePaolo. You may also want to consider asking any of our other Church Council members if there is a specific need within their area.

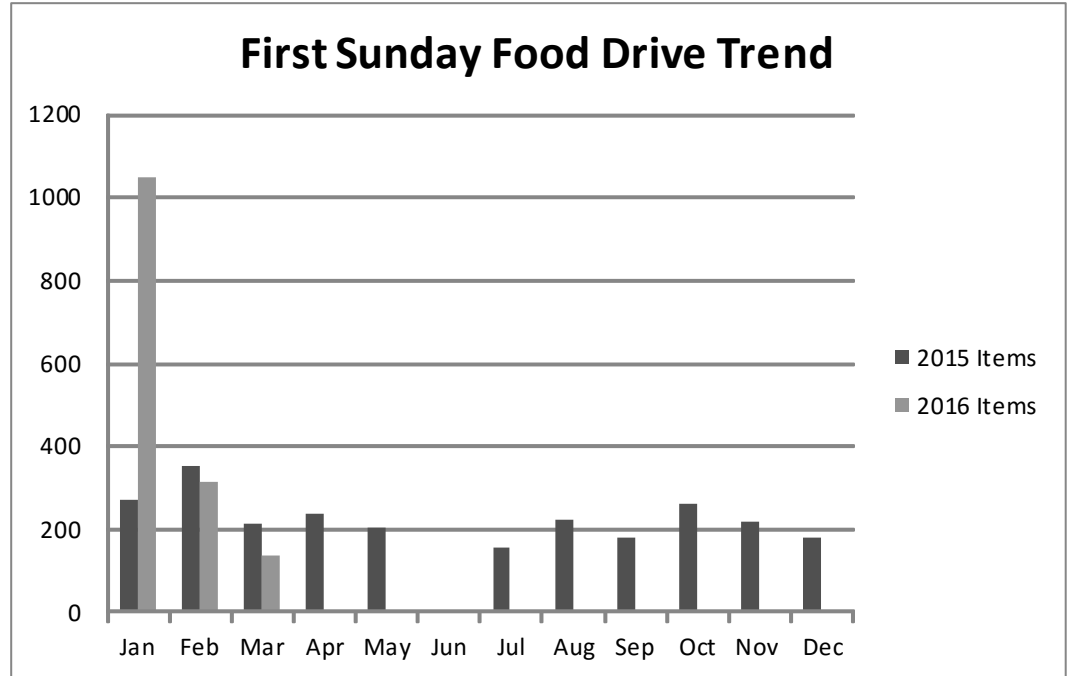
If you have any questions about Action Teams, or Thrivent Financial, please contact either Congregational Advocate Alan Spose (203-623-1650) or our Thrivent Financial Representative Mark Manning (203-241-0858).





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

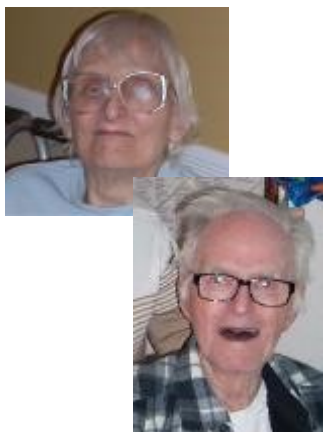


“Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’” John 21:15b

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.



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

Palm Sunday and Easter Memories





Fantastic Tet visits at Hanoi University of Science and Technology, and then at the Peoples Aid Coordinating Committee.



Great Tet visits in My Xa, Nam Dinh



J.P. and Aimee Cima and their children Serving the Lord in Vietnam

MEET OUR MISSIONARIES...

J.P. and Aimee serve in northern Vietnam, where the LCMS has carried out human care and education projects for over 20 years. J.P. and Aimee work with local partners in developing and implementing community development projects in rural areas. They have also established a social enterprise to reach out to young families in the city. Moreover, J.P. and Aimee facilitate and oversee GEO personnel who teach EFL in universities in and around Hanoi, as well as short-term service teams from the United States and Asia.

J.P. was born and raised in Richmond, Va., received his undergraduate degree in theology from Lenoir-Rhyne College in North Carolina and received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., after serving in Vietnam for two years as a vicar. Aimee (Crawford) was born in Tulsa, Okla., and raised in Richmond, Va. She has both a bachelor's and a master's degree in dietetics from James Madison University in Virginia. J.P. and Aimee have two daughters — Celeste, born in March 2007, and Isabella, born in August 2009.

Prayers

J.P. and Aimee ask for prayers that their family would humbly follow God as He develops them in their roles and uses them to be a blessing to the people of Vietnam. The Cimas ask, "Pray for the Vietnamese people — that they would be well served by the various humanitarian assistance and English education projects carried out by the LCMS in Vietnam. Pray that they ask why we do this for them — we would love to tell them!"

Learn more

Visit the Cima family's [website](#).

Read more about the work the LCMS is doing in Vietnam on [LCMS Vietnam's Facebook page](#).

Learn more about the work being done in [Vietnam](#) and in [the Asia Pacific region](#).

Special Dates

J.P. Birthday - April 1

Aimee Birthday - Oct. 14

Celeste Birthday - March 8

Isabella Birthday - Aug. 26

Wedding Anniversary - May 29

Home District:

Southeastern



Urban development in Vietnam.

- Pray daily for J.P. and Aimee — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit lcms.org/cima
- Learn about LCMS international work at 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...

The Tuesday evening Bible Study has started up again. Join us each week on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM again after Easter.

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 normally meet at 7:30am and finish promptly at 8:30am the third Thursday of every month. **This month we will meet 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 16.** Plan on joining us!



THURSDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP...

OUR CLC ADULT STUDY GROUP continues meeting every Thursday from 8:30AM to 9:30AM here in our church library (except the third Thursday). We'll be continuing our study of Christian Church history, from the Time of the Apostles to the Time of the Reformation. . If your schedule permits and you're still interested in learning, you're cordially invited to join us. **This month we will also meet the 3rd Thursday, April 21.**



Thank you.
Pastor Nuechterlein

FINANCIAL SECRETARY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU...

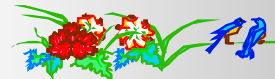
The Financial Secretary is always in need of volunteers to aid in counting church offerings after the 9:00 AM Sunday services. If you are available 4 - 6 times per year for approximately one hour, please contact Bill Soulier!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 2016

13 th	Guy & Christine Mason	20 Years
14 th	Eric & Maria Johnson	9 Years
24 th	Louis & Gloria Nuechterlein	62 Years
28 th	Ralph & Georgianna Schupp	69 Years
30 th	Curt & Karen Smith	56 Years



VOTERS MEETING REMINDER...

Mark your calendars, April *Voters* meeting will be held Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

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

- Robert Daly
- David Norton
- Fred Neuffer
- Andy Schaefer
- Dot Manke
- John Balash 11th Kyong Mann
- Pat DiDomizio
- Hayley Fiedler
- Matthew Napp
- Helen Mayer
- Michael Collins
- Erich F. Strunk
- Peggy Tessler
- Donna Spose
- Judy Giammarco
- C. J. Caron
- JoAnn Holstein
- Arta Dobbs
- William Sherman, Jr.
- James Schaff



Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St
Cheshire CT 06410