



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



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good friday

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here." Mark 16:6 (ESV). These were the words that greeted Mary, Mary, and Salome when they arrived at the tomb early in the morning that first Easter. They were spoken by a young man in a white robe (an angel) who was sitting inside of the tomb.

"Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!" These are the words that will greet you and your family when you arrive early in the morning this Easter. They will be spoken by a man in a white robe who is waiting inside. It is a tale of two Easters; they are similar to each other, but they are also so very different.

For starters, I will be standing when I greet you, and I am certainly no angel – a fact to which I believe my mother will emphatically attest. I am also not nearly as young as I was when I began in the ministry, though I am not nearly as old as my daughter believes. Though our first service may start earlier than it has for some time (services at 8:00 and 10:30, with Breakfast in between), it is not nearly as early as the sunrise time of the women. And, of course, we gather in a Church, not in a tomb – despite the somber looks on people's faces when we lament the folks who don't come to Church as often, or the busy schedules of our teens and young adults, or whatever other concern may present itself.

Still, in spite of the fact that it is over two thousand years later, on a different continent, and with all those other differences, the message of this Easter is the same as it was for Mary, Mary, and Salome – **HE HAS RISEN!** The tomb that was empty that first Easter morn still stands empty today, and Jesus Christ is still risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true! (See the Explanation of the

Second Article of the Creed in the Small Catechism for that attempt at humor.)

Sin, death, and the devil were conquered by Christ Jesus on the tree of the cross. Now we live in the knowledge that our sins are forgiven, we are made right with God, and everlasting life is ours – and that Good News changes us. You see, the Gospel is not a neutral thing. It does not just change hearts and minds; it changes lives too. If you keep reading chapter 16 of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the angel says to the women "But go, tell His disciples and Peter..." (Mark 16:7). The Gospel prompted action on the part of the women, and it prompts action from you and from me too.



The Gospel calls us into Church week after week, throughout our lives, because it is there where our Lord feeds and nourishes us by Word and Sacrament. In His house He gives us the forgiveness, healing, restoration, and strength that we need so much. The Gospel also sends us out to go and tell – to go out into the world, to our school or work, our grocery store or mall, and to tell people about our Lord and Savior through what we say and what we do. It is not always going to be overt acts of evangelism, but will often be sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus in simple, ordinary looking ways. The Good News also prompts us to bring others, to invite them to come with us into the Lord's house, so that they too can hear His Word and receive His forgiveness.

Unfortunately, all too often we respond like the women – fear and astonishment seized them and they said nothing, because they were afraid (Mark 16:8). We keep that Good

(Continued on page 5)

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



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

Church Staff

*Rev. Dr. David P. Rowold, PhD-
Pastor*

Carol Santoro-Office Manager

*Martha Medford-Organist &
Choir Director*

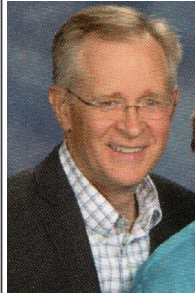
Bill Sherman-Parish President

Beth Soulier-Editor

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Our March 6th Church Council meeting was highlighted with Pastor Rowold's report of his first busy week here. He indicated his expectation to meet with all of our Deacons and Officers in the following weeks. Judy DiDomizio, Education Deacon, reported on the progress of the first Communion class and the Confirmation class, activities of our Little Cherubs Christian Preschool and our challenge with participation in youth Sunday School classes. Andy Clark, House & Grounds Deacon, spoke about upcoming projects in and around our church, including possible Eagle Scout projects. Brad Shick, Youth Deacon, reminded us of the National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2019 with some related FUNdraising activities for the congregation to look forward to.



The Council also deliberated the subject of our worship services schedule. Last spring, we adopted a 'one service' schedule, following Pastor Gustafson's retirement, so we would be able to consistently schedule visiting pastors to lead us in worship each Sunday. Great Blessings of that plan were (1) the several pastors who led us in worship each and every Sunday over the span of nine months and (2) the "coming together" of the congregation at one time over that period! An important factor in the Council's discussion was our need to rejuvenate our Sunday School attendance. After airing numerous "pros and cons" we have heard of the current one-service schedule and our previous two-services schedule, the Council decided the following worship schedule for the next several months:

April 1st (Easter Sunday): two services – 8:00am and 10:30am with Easter Brunch between services

April 8th – June 10th: two services – 8:00am and 10:30am with Education hour between services

June 17th (Father's Day) – Sept 2nd (Labor Day): one service – 9:00am

An important factor in the Council's discussion was our need to rejuvenate our Sunday School attendance.

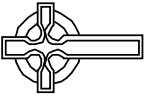
A couple of Saturdays ago, on March 10th, Pastor Rowold, Steve Feero, David Veleber and Pat DiDomizio attended a New England District Ministry Conference – a gathering of pastors and lay leaders from across New England. The intent of the conference, including various break-out sessions, was for participants to receive coaching, encouragement and equipping the church for Word and Sacrament ministry. The Council is looking forward to their impressions, feedback and ideas from the conference for our ministries here.

Voters: Our next Voters meeting will be held, following the second service, on April 8th at 11:30am in our fellowship hall.

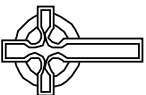
I hope to see you in church! In Christ's service,

Bill

William C. Sherman
CLC Council President



GE Galigndar



April

April Servants

(Pastors Message - Continued from page 1)

News to ourselves, afraid to share it with anyone outside of our family at home or our family of faith, for fear that they might treat us differently. But that too is forgiven by the empty tomb of Easter morn, and His resurrection strengthens us so that we can and we do "go and tell."

This Easter come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Come for service and stay for breakfast, or come for breakfast and stay for service. It doesn't matter which it is, just come. And then together we can all go and tell.

In Christ,
Pastor R



HOLY WEEK

Event	Date	Notes
Passion (Palm) Sunday	Sunday, March 25, 2018	Service at 9:00 AM
Holy/Maundy Thursday Eucharist	Thursday, March 29, 2018	Service at 7:30 PM
Good Friday Tenebrae	Friday, March 30, 2018	Service at 7:30 PM
Easter Sunday— Eucharist	Sunday, April 1, 2018	Services at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST...

This Easter the church will again hold its Easter Continental Breakfast on Sunday, April 1st. Please join us for breakfast and the opportunity for fellowship the time offers. Some of the items that will be available are: Coffee, Tea, Juices, Bagels, Toast, Fruit and Cereals.

Please contribute a breakfast item to share. Some of the items you could bring include baked goods, fruit, fruit salad, cooked quiches and cooked egg casseroles. Check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Help setting up and cleaning up is also needed.

Should you have any questions, please call Karen Weiland at 203-250-1574



A MESSAGE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE: RECORD KEEPING AND DELIVERANCE OF A PASTOR ...



The Cheshire Lutheran Church Call Committee:

Left to Right:

- ✚ Steve Feero
- ✚ Craig Wilson - Alternate
- ✚ Ethel Daly- Alternate
- ✚ Ed Schweizer - Alternate
- ✚ Pat DiDomizio - Chair
- ✚ Beth Soulier
- ✚ Don Drust
- ✚ Carol Santoro - *missing*

I hope you had an opportunity to read the message submitted in the March Issue of the HH. This message will focus on advising you of our attempt to prepare and provide a record file of steps taken by the 2017 Call Committee and church leaders, similar to the record left by the 1994 Call Committee, and to reflect on the Rowold family's journey to Cheshire and CLC.

The record file will include instructions for CALLING A PASTOR as outlined in our CLC Constitution and Bylaws. The New England District of Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod provides a step by step process to follow during the search. That document will be included in the record file. In addition, the record file will include the step by step process our committee followed from being chosen to serve on the committee to the called pastor's formal installation service. There will be a Hard Copy (paper) file as well Electronic Files that will be kept in the Church Computer.

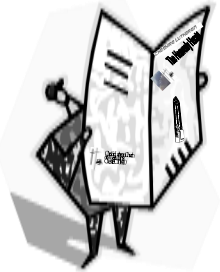
Former President Harry S. Truman, remember him, is quoted as saying: "You would be surprised what can be accomplished in our lifetime if it did not matter who gets the credit." I want to thank the countless number of people in our congregation who answered the call in ensuring "delivery" of the Reverend Doctor David P. Rowold and his family to CLC.

Pat DiDomizio
Call Committee Chair



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.

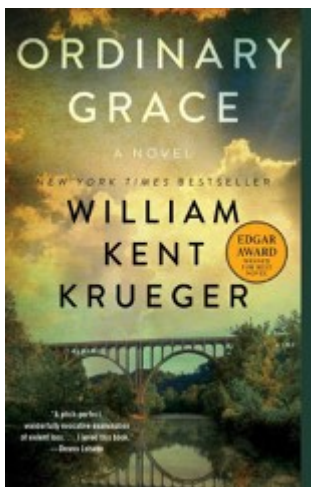


PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!!

(May 2018 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net) by Friday **April 20th** 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

Thank You



CLC ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT 2018...

Our 11th Annual CLCW Retreat will be held on Saturday, May 5th at the Guest House and Conference Center in Chester, CT. The book we will be reading this year is *Ordinary Grace*, by William Kent Krueger. This title is stated deep in the story, when the bereaved mother snarls at her man-of-God husband over the dinner table: "Can't you, just this once, offer an ordinary grace?" By that time, the reader has already witnessed numerous acts of grace among characters strained by tragedy. Please plan on joining us in May for an inspiring day with the women of CLC. The registration fee including lunch is \$42.

Please call me if you have any questions. Vicki DePaolo - 203-697-0810

NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

As we approach the end of the first quarter of the year, we have a lot to be thankful for as we look forward to the balance of the year with a new pastor. The quarterly statements for the first quarter will be going out shortly (if not out already by the time you read this). Your generosity has been helpful in allowing us to do more with our worldwide ministry and outreach.

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

I am so thankful to be part of such a wonderful and caring congregation. I thank all of you for all you contribute in time and talent as well as treasure. The amount of involvement by members of the congregation in all aspects of the ministry has been amazing and it shows the importance of teamwork and community.

“Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give.” — [Steve Goodier](#)

David Veleber
Stewardship Deacon



NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

Greetings to all,

It has been a short month due to the weather. We continued to work on our letters and numbers. We made lions and lambs – March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. Not sure how it is going to wind up this year. LOL. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and made green eggs and ham. We planted raw peanuts and grass seed in our leprechaun planters. On our bulletin board by the office we painted all the children's hands to make our beautiful rainbow. Oh we cannot forget Wacky Wednesday in which the children dressed up with crazy clothes. Nutrition is our theme as well. What is good to eat and what is not. They had a make believe refrigerator in which they placed the pictures in the correct food group. Cindy is demonstrating for the children how to make homemade syrup. We had apple pie for Pi day March 14, 2018. March 16, 2018 children were to wear green for St. Patrick's Day. And to end the month we had our Easter egg hunt with both classes, colored Easter eggs and had a little party.

In the Bible – we focused on Zacchaeus, Mary and Martha, the Good Samaritan, Palm Sunday.

Have a very happy and safe Easter weekend.

Miss Martha, Miss Cindy and Miss Joann



SUNDAY HIGH SCHOOL DEVOTIONS...

Students in grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to attend High School Devotions during the education hour on Sundays from 10:10 to 11:10 a.m. Meet in the Youth Room with other teens in your faith community, discuss basic Bible themes, and how they can be applied to your daily life as a Christian. Share ideas and everyday challenges. Grow in faith together and participate in activities to serve God, your church and community.



[LCMS Youth Gathering](#)

The National Youth Gathering will be held in July of 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Start getting ready to join thousands of Lutheran teens from throughout the country in worship, fellowship, and service projects!



CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
March 28 - Wednesday	No Youth Choir Rehearsal		
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
March 29 - Thursday Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:30 PM	Performance	Bell Choir
March 30 - Friday Good Friday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:30 PM	Performance	Parish Choir & Sax
April 1 - Sunday <i>Easter Sunday</i>	7:05 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:30 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Parish, Bell Choirs and Sax
	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School Children
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish, Bell Choirs and Sax and Sunday School
April 4 - Wednesday	No Choir Rehearsals!!!		
April 8 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Ensemble Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Ensemble Choir
April 11 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
April 15 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
April 18 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
April 22 - Sunday	10:10 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Performance	Sunday School
April 25 - Wednesday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Youth Choir
	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
April 29 - Sunday	7:15 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Bell Choir

Our Sincere Appreciation



- † Thank you to Martha Medford—for the leading us with her music and hard work during Lent. We are truly blessed.
- † Thanks to Pastor N for leading our Bible Studies while we awaited our new Shepard to lead us.
- † 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 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 and Bill Juul for doing such a great job with keeping our Website up to date
- † Special thanks to all those that provided meals to make the Rowolds move a tad less stressful. I know they appreciated it very much. Sally Schrumm—Helping Hands Chairman

NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH DEACON...

Dear Parents of Teenagers,

Thank You for all you do to invest in the life of your teenager(s). You probably feel like an uber driver (ready to pick them up/drop them off when they call), coach (helping them perfect their sport), tutor (helping with them on homework), guidance Counselor (preparing them for the future) and, sometimes, a jockey (pushing them to cross the finish line...without a whip of course!)...all wrapped up in one! That's why, with all the insane busyness of parenting a teen, it's easy to let youth group attendance slide off the grid. It's tempting to think, "My kid's just too busy for a night of hanging out with other teenagers, playing some goofy games and hearing another Bible lesson."

Believe me when I say, I understand the temptation. As a parent of a wonderful daughter (who has tons of homework, takes Karate and is not yet old enough to drive) my fiancé and I are constantly under pressure to measure every event through the lenses of what matters most. We have decided that her continued Christian education outside of the weekly sermon is most important. Although we view ourselves as the primary spiritual influence of our daughter, we also believe that a strong youth ministry plays a vital role in her overall spiritual development.

With this as a backdrop here are 5 short, yet powerful, reasons you should encourage (make?) your teenager(s) go to youth group:

1. Teenagers need models and mentors.

"O God, You have taught me from my youth, And I still declare Your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come. " Psalm 71:17,18

Of course you as a parent are called to be the primary spiritual mentor of your own children but he/she also needs other Godly adults! It's important for your son or daughter to see that this whole "Christianity thing" is more than just mom's and dad's belief system. They need to have models and mentors that reinforce all of the spiritual truth they are learning from you.

2. Teenagers need community.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. " Hebrews 10:24,25

In an age of bullying, gossip, slander and hatefulness (which can destroy a teenager's self-identity), young people need other young people who can lift them up, encourage them and challenge them in all the right ways. Youth group is also a place where teenagers can discover their spiritual gifting and begin to use it to serve others. This will help them have a heart to selflessly serve others for the rest of their lives!

3. Teenagers need a mission.

When Jesus challenged his most-likely teenaged disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations", he was tapping into the activist wiring of these young men. In the same way your teenager needs to be challenged with the mission to reach their peers with the good news of Jesus in a loving and contagious way.

Youth group is a place where your teenager can invite their unbelieving friends to hear the gospel. But it's also a place where they can be equipped to share the good news of Jesus with their own peers (which will help them grow in their faith!) As your youth leaders continue to build a Gospel Promoting ministry the message of Jesus will advance in them and through them. These activities will accelerate the discipleship process in the life of your teen in ways you could never imagine!



(Continued on page 11)

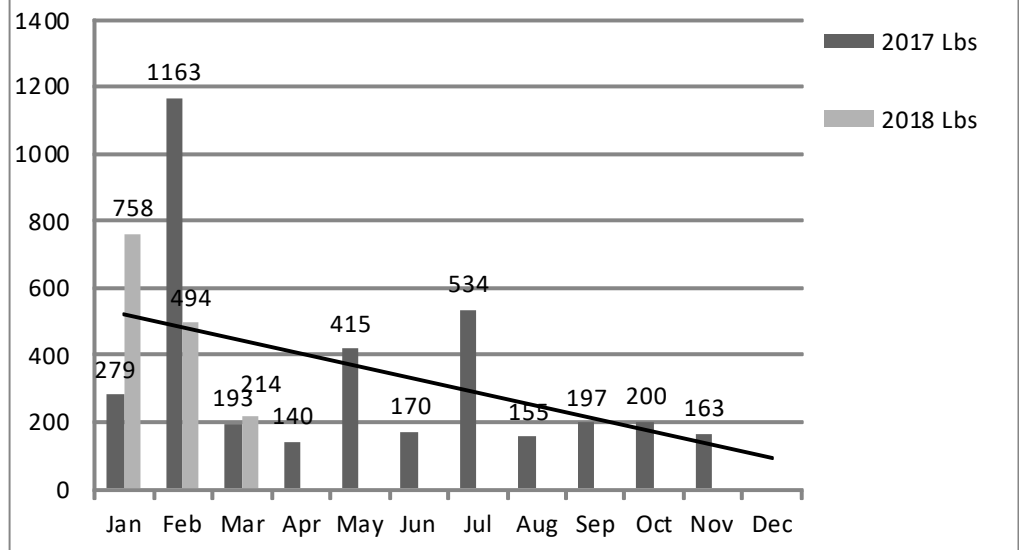


DONATE YOUR FREEBIES!

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. 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 variety of greeting cards with Christian messages are for sale at \$1 each. These high quality cards are displayed in a rack on the counter outside the office. We will continuously update the selection which includes Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You, seasonal and miscellaneous choices.

After making your selection, please leave your money or check in the box attached to the display.

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).

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4. Teenagers need theology.

"Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church." Ephesians 4:14,15

Youth group is a place where teenagers can wrestle through the theology you've been teaching them (you've been teaching them right?) and have it reinforced in a powerful and personal way under the guidance of a youth leader who knows how to ask great questions and point teens to sound truth.

This should result in your teenagers knowing and owning their faith on a deeper level. Youth groups and small groups should be a place where teenagers can ask tough questions and even share doubts and struggles with their beliefs without fear of rebuke. Skilled youth leaders can take questioning teens back to God's Word as the source of authority and help them process through all of the Biblical truth you are praying they grasp, Believe and live out.

Great youth groups build on the foundation that Godly moms and dads have laid. And, for those teenagers who don't have believing parents, an effective youth ministry helps lay a solid foundation of Biblical truth for the rest of a teenager's life.



5. Teenagers need a safe place to confess and confide.

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16

Often teenagers who struggle with sin and temptation have nowhere to confess and confide. They feel trapped by their sins. But a healthy youth ministry can create a safe space for teenagers to open up and talk honestly about their struggles. Of course this doesn't mean they should confess every sin to everyone. But it does mean that they should have a handful of others who know their struggles and can pray for and encourage them to walk in victory over those sins.

I often overhear my daughter confiding in adults she trusts outside the household. As we as parents often enforce rules and guidelines upon our children, it can be hard for our children to confide in us as they fear there will be consequences. For the parents reading this, I challenge you to look back at your youth and think of a time where you were scared to confide in your own parents.

An effective youth ministry can help teenagers deal with these challenges now and prepare them to be victorious both now and later.

Food for Thought?

Yes, I know that teen life is busy. But it would be a shame if our teenagers graduated from high school and were catapulted into "the real world" without every opportunity to know, live, share and own their faith in Jesus Christ.

At the end of the day, our teenagers embracing and embodying the Christian faith is more important than sports and more important than academics. Getting them involved in a healthy, vibrant youth ministry is worth fitting into a crazy, busy schedule. And if it's not quite as healthy as you think it should be then why don't you volunteer and make it better?

There's too much at stake for us to get this wrong. So let's get it right!

To Reach a Generation,
Bradley Shick
CLC Youth Deacon

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR, TRICIA, AND SARAH ROWOLD...



As we continue to unpack the boxes from our move (a task I fear will take longer than I can currently guess, and which brings new surprises as we discover what is in each poorly labeled and interestingly packed box), one of the things we have not yet found are our “Thank You” cards. While those will be going out, we just could not wait any longer to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the people who were part of bringing us here and helping us to make Cheshire Lutheran our home. Thank you for all that you have done.

Thank you especially to:

- The Call Committee members, for your time and involvement during the sometimes-daunting task of seeking the next shepherd for this flock.
- The Church Council members and officers, current and previous, for your leadership and constancy that helped to strengthen CLC during the Pastoral Vacancy.
- Our District President, Vice-President, and Circuit Visitor, for their support, encouragement, and guidance during the Call Process.
- Each of the Pastors who preached, led services, administered the Sacraments, or led Bible studies while the congregation did not have a regularly Called minister – and the folks who arranged for them –, for making sure that the Gospel was proclaimed and the members knew that the Lord is always with His people.
- Everyone who work on the parsonage renovations, for the countless hours and all the endless labor that went into making the parsonage the amazing place that it is. As we make our home there, we will treat it with all the love and the care that your hard work so greatly deserves.
- Anyone who was officially or unofficially part of the “Pastor Rowold Planning Committee” (as I think I heard it called by someone) and their spouses, for your efforts in preparing for our arrival, arranging the service, coordinating volunteers, providing food, hands, help, advice, guidance, moral support, encouragement, and everything else that you have done.
- All the people who provided food and made meals for us, and then so graciously delayed, held, and/or postponed those meals and that food when our move became the “unique” experience that it was. Everything was delicious, and it made that one aspect of our move that was actually stress free.
- The amazing people who got in their vehicles or rented a truck and drove down to New Jersey to help us get the last of our belongings after the moving company was out of the picture, and then had them unloaded into the parsonage even before we were finally able to turn over the keys and get back to Cheshire. And who then left even more food waiting for us. We are truly amazed and there are no words to express our gratitude.
- Everyone who helped make the Installation Service and Reception happen so wonderfully, whether by sharing your beautiful voices or musical talent, by preparing food and making sure that it was ready when people left the service, by planning or serving during the service, or by being present with us for the service to make that day so memorable for us.
- Each of you and every one of you, the members of Cheshire Lutheran Church for blessing us by Calling me to be your Pastor, for the warm and loving welcome that you have extended to us as we make our home here, for your willingness to wear name tags the first few weeks to help me learn names faster (and on which I am still working), and for all of your support and encouragement as I come to know you and the family of faith that is Cheshire Lutheran Church.



I know that there are more people to thank, whose actions of which I am not aware or whom I have accidentally omitted. Please pardon me if your efforts have not been fully acknowledged here. Each and every day I continue to learn more about the congregation that I am blessed to serve, and about the many and various ways that each and every one of you works to serve the Lord and care for this amazing parish and her members. Thank you all for everything that you have done and that you continue to do. Thank you for being the people that you are and for serving the Lord who called you in Holy Baptism. We look forward to getting to know you all better and, of course, to seeing you in Church.

God bless and keep you all, and thank you.

Pastor, Tricia, and Sarah Rowold

THRIVENT CONGREGATIONAL ADVOCATE UPDATE...

Over the past few years, there have been many discussions about the Thrivent Action Team program. This program enables you to make a difference within our congregation as well as the community. With this in mind, it is worthwhile to provide an "in depth" explanation on how the program works in order to take advantage of the many opportunities it offers. The accompanying diagram outlines the program procedures as well.

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.

A simple on line report is completed at the end of the project. 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.

The Action Team program is an excellent resource for enhancing outreach of our congregation, meeting a specific congregational need or providing funds for community or individual needs. Action Teams can also support neighborhood projects, club projects, school projects, co-workers needs, teen projects, educational sessions, etc.

I ask that you think about areas you can impact through this program. You may also want to consider asking one of our Church Council members if there is a specific need within their area. Shortly, there will be a "Wish List" posted on the bulletin board with specific projects that Thrivent members may sign up to sponsor. In the meantime, I am available to help in any way possible.

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).

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THRIVENT FINANCIAL
Connecting faith & finances for good.™

WHY

It's easy to take action on a cause you care about to help strengthen your community as you guide others to be wise with money and live generously.

HOW

1. Identify an urgent need.
2. Apply online for resources to launch your project.
3. If approved, you'll bring together friends and friends to make an impact where you live, work and worship.

APPLY

Learn more or apply at Thrivent.com/actionteam. Within two business days, you'll learn if your project is approved. If it is, you'll receive resources—including Thrivents and seed money—to help you get started.

WHAT

Thrivent Action Teams are member-led projects—fundraising, one-time service activities or educational events—that can be completed within 90 days.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Sample project ideas

Education: Host a budgeting or youth safety event.

Fundraiser: Organize a food drive or benefit for someone in need.

Service activity: Clean up a local park or build a wheelchair-accessible picnic table.

For more ideas, go to Thrivent.com/actionteam and read our "Member Stories."

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201817P 05/14

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR PALM SUNDAY & APRIL 2018...



Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Palm Sunday starts Easter week! Our Sunday School children will be marching into church singing Hosanna to our Lord!

This year our Sunday school Lenten coin box offerings will be donated to the Cheshire Food Bank & Lutheran World Relief! The Sunday School Lenten boxes will be collected Palm Sunday, March 25th, Easter Sunday April 1st & April 8th. This will give the children plenty of time to gather their offerings and reflect on those less fortunate.

As the warmer weather approaches (I PRAY) & sports activities begin once again on Sunday mornings; I request all sports involved families to keep in mind their options and remember the importance of learning to trust our Lord and knowing the strength that the name of Jesus carries! This I truly believe will help our children in this ever changing world more than any game!

"Be Strong & courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your GOD is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you" Deuteronomy 31:6

Thank You!!!
Carlene Myers

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR EASTER SUNDAY...



This year there will be two **Easter** services at CLC on April 1, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. with Easter Brunch enjoyed between the services.

The Sunday school children will sing at the 10:30 Easter service. Martha Medford requests that the children come to the sanctuary at 10:10 a.m. to practice their song before service. Children will sit with families during the service. There is no Sunday school on Easter Sunday.



Attention!

After Easter, **beginning on April 8**, CLC will be returning to our traditional two service schedule until the summer months.

- ✠ 8:00 AM—Divine Service
- ✠ 9:10 AM – 10:10 AM—Education Hour for children, teens and adults
- ✠ 10:30:AM—Divine Service



VBS AT CLC IS ALMOST HERE...

- When:** June 25 to June 29
Who: 4 years old to grade 5 (Helpers, grade 6 to adult!)
What: Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through.
How: We learn through Bible Stories, Crafts, Experiments, Games, Lively Songs, Kid Cinema, and Treats!

Invite your friends!

VBS at CLC is free!

Register in the CLC office!



Birthright International

Birthright is a non-profit charitable organization that has been providing love and support for over 45 years to women facing unplanned pregnancies. We have chapters across Canada, the United States, and Africa, as well as a 24/7 North American toll-free Helpline. Birthright is supported by devoted volunteers and private donations.

Love and Affection

Many Birthright volunteers and clients feel a special affection for Louise Summerhill- an ordinary woman who did something extraordinary to help others. Events in her own life helped her understand the feelings pregnant girls might experience, including feelings of loneliness, fear of criticism, tension with parents, and even the shock of finding oneself unexpectedly pregnant.

Humble Beginning

Birthright began very humbly in 1968, with a one-room office and only \$300 in the bank. But Louise's steady leadership and powerful vision ensured that the new pregnancy service survived. In later years, Louise was glad the organization did not begin with a lot of money because it caused Birthright to rely on the "good hearts and hard work of volunteers". Over forty-five years later, Birthright International remains true to Louise's original vision of personal, one-on-one contact in helping relationships. Louise's Birthright means "approachability and informality" for clients and volunteers, instead of bureaucracy and meetings in highly structured, business-like environments.

A Different, more Universal Approach

Birthright takes a non-moralistic, non-judgmental approach toward helping women through their pregnancy dilemmas. Louise regretted the fact that some young unmarried mothers were belittled or ostracized by their relatives: "I can never see anything wrong with any of them." At Birthright, Louise recreated the supportive homelike environment they deserved. Moreover, Louise helped formulate a Charter, followed by all Birthright chapters worldwide, to define Birthright's services, to ensure that pregnant women receive the same considerate treatment at every Birthright chapter, and to help volunteers preserve Birthright's good reputation in the future.

Louise Summerhill's Legacy

On her death, three of Louise's daughters assumed the Co-presidency of Birthright International. Mary Berney, Stephenie Fox and Louise R. Summerhill served as CoPresidents until 2017, when Mary retired from Birthright after over 30 years of dedicated service. Stephenie and Louise remain as CoPresidents of Birthright International, Stephenie Fox, a CPA, oversees financial matters, while Louise R. Summerhill, a practicing lawyer, who provides legal support as needed. Stephenie and Louise are committed to their mother's vision of Birthright and to ensuring that her legacy lives on as long as Birthright is needed. Louise Sr.'s legacy has also taken hold in her family's next generation: her granddaughter, Victoria Summerhill Fox, works in the Birthright International head office. This multi-generational legacy plays itself out in Birthright chapters all over the world!

Birthright operates nearly 300 chapters across Canada, the United States and in Africa. We also have a 24/7 toll-free Helpline, so help is always nearby. Birthright is interdenominational, non-political and supported by volunteers and private donations. To contact your local Birthright, click on the Locations tab and enter your city and country. For additional help or information, email us at contact@birthright.org or call our toll-free Helpline 1-800-550-4900.





Mother's Day is Blanket Sunday...

Let's celebrate our Mother's on Sunday, May 13th and remember their warmth and kindness by dedicating blankets in their name to the Blankets+ Program. Your special gift of \$5 will enable the Church World Service organization to supply blankets to those who are facing hardship. To dedicate a blanket, please fill out the form that will appear in the Sunday bulletin beginning on Sunday, April 15th. 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 13th bulletin.

Dottie Dierolf, Social Welfare Deacon



CLC HELPING HANDS...

"Helping Hands" of CLC is designed to match members talents and time availability with those in need within our church family. In the past, this has formally included meal preparation and transportation needs and occasional visitation. Informally, there is a lot of helping "behind the scenes" from women and men in the congregation who see a need and respond to it. It is likely there are others who have needs and those who would be inclined to help but are unaware of the needs. Helping Hands is organized to meet the needs of both groups, men and women, singles and families.

Please consider requesting assistance such as meals, transportation, occasional errands, minor household repairs, and visitors.

Those able to offer occasional time and your talents, please sign up on the bulletin board, indicating your "offering".

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Please contact the church office (203-272-5106) or me (203-710-0753) to request assistance or for any concerns or questions. Please note that all information will be confidential.

Sally Schrumm, Chairman



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 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.

SHOP AT PATRICK BAKER & SONS...CLC GETS 10%...

Patrick Baker & Son's, 1650 West Street, Southington, has initiated a program that can earn cash rebates for CLC. 10% of purchases will be deposited in the church's account. Simply give them Cheshire Lutheran's name when shopping in the store. If purchasing through the web, visit www.Churchgoods.com; when checking out, select CLC as your church and place the provided church ID# in the church code box.



FINANCIAL SECRETARY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU...

The Financial Secretary is always in need of volunteers to aid in counting church offerings after the 10:30 AM Sunday services. If you are available 4 - 6 times per year for approximately one hour, please contact Bill Soulier!



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.



NEW ON OUR WEBSITE...WWW.CHESHIRELUTHERAN.ORG

The following has been recently added to our Website:

- ✦ Audio recordings of Anthems sung by our Choirs last month
- ✦ Current and Past Heavenly Heralds
- ✦ Video recordings from many past events
- ✦ Pictures and video of Pastor Rowolds Installation
- ✦ Youth Group News
- ✦ Look for the VERY SPECIAL "Trust In The Lord" sung by Pastors Rowold and Nuechterli at the Installation.



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:

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 2018 volunteer sign-ups
- † Birthright looking for Volunteers—Call 800-550-4900
- † Little Cherubs enrollment information
- † Helping Hands Committee volunteer sign-up
- † Sunday Coffee Hour volunteer Sign-Ups
- † Sunday Morning Greeters Volunteer Sign-Ups
- † 2018 Usher Schedule
- † Easter Sunday Continental Breakfast attendance Sign-Ups

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

- † 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 Judy DiDomizio.



CLC MUSICAL OFFERING...

Music performed during Sunday morning services is sometimes recorded and then emailed to a number of people. Most computers will recognize the mp3 music file and play it back. It is especially appreciated by those who are not able to be with us on a given Sunday.

If you are interested in receiving an occasional musical offering, please send an email to: juul@cox.net with "CLC Music" in the subject line. Recipient addresses will not appear in the music email.

We would be happy to include you.

Judy & Bill Juul



2018 CLC SPIRIT SOFTBALL SEASON OPENS...

The 2018 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 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.

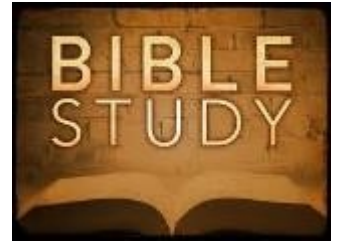
If you are 15 years or older and interested or need more information contact CLC Team Captain Dave Veleber (203) 271-3111 or dveleber@cox.net.



Bible Studies at CLC

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...

Pastor Rowold is leading our congregation's weekly adult Bible Study. Sessions are each Sunday morning after the 9:00 AM Church Service (approx. 10:10 to allow you time for a quick fellowship coffee/snack). After Easter they will be during the 9:10 Sunday School hour again as we return to two Sunday Services. *We will finish the current study "Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation" in early April. Pastor has asked if anyone has any preferences for Study after that. Please contact Pastor if you have any bible studies in mind.*



All our adult members, and your guests, are cordially invited to be with us.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM CARE PACKAGES FOR THE TROOPS...

Dotti Dierolf received the following Message from Carol Weinshel-recently:

From Carol, "Once your parishioners read them, they will know why I continue to do what I do and why they are so appreciated. My heartfelt thanks to the Cheshire Lutheran Church. Eventually you will receive an official thank you but know that you are all just terrific. My best wishes for a happy and HEALTHY 2018."



THANKS from our Troops regarding the receipt of the Care Packages:

Thank you for taking your time to think about and prepare these wonderful gifts for the Soldiers of 2-17 Cavalry Regiment. All gifts were received well and greatly appreciated. It really means a lot to our Soldiers Flying and maintaining both Apache helicopters as well as Shadow UAVs to know that great folks are thinking about them during this Christmas season. The families of our Soldiers certainly appreciate you all taking the time and energy to help their loved ones during the holiday season.



First of all, we greatly appreciate all of the effort put forth arranging these care packages for our deployed Soldiers. It is great Americans such as yourselves which makes this sacrifice all the more special. We will be sure to send some pictures Christmas Day to show our gratitude.

We are truly overwhelmed at your generosity! We received 22 boxes today and are setting them aside to be distributed as Holiday gifts. As requested, attached is a list of all of the boxes by number that arrived. I will send a follow-up email(s) as the remainder of the boxes arrive. We will certainly share pictures of our Soldiers when they open them in a few short weeks, thank you for adopting our unit.

Thank you again for your amazing support of our Soldiers. We were overwhelmed on mail day yesterday by your love and affirmation.

Thank you for the time and care you are putting into these packages. Mail here gets delivered twice a week (Monday, Friday) and I love to see the faces of the Soldiers when they receive a box. Chaplain is doing a great job of ensuring the Soldiers who are not receiving mail frequently share in the great gifts you are sending. Thank you again for your dedication to the Soldiers of TF Marauder.

Thanks so much for everything you've done -- most specifically for the push of Christmas packages, but for everything you do all year long.

We opened the packages, and they really brightened SOAT-North's day! Each Soldier was taken care of. We truly appreciate it!

We truly appreciate your tremendous effort and forethought in sending individual gift bags with well-wishes for the very best in 2018. We're doing pretty good here with your love and support. To all those who helped make this possible, please pass along our warm wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas in Fairfield, CT!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 2018

13 th	Guy & Christine Mason	22 Years
14 th	Eric & Maria Johnson	11 Years
24 th	Louis & Gloria Nuechterlein	64 Years
28 th	Ralph & Georgianna Schupp	71 Years
30 th	Curt & Karen Smith	58 Years



VOTERS MEETING REMINDER...

Mark your calendars, April *Voters* meeting will be held following the second service, on *April 8th at 11:30am in our fellowship hall*



CHRIST IS RISEN!
Christ Is Risen Indeed!



Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St
Cheshire CT 06410