

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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PASTOR’S MESSAGE

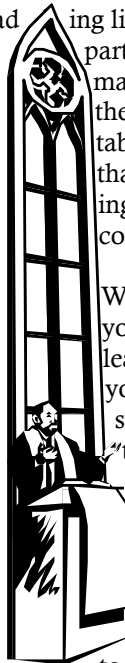
“After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where they child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:9-10 (ESV)

Long ago, the Wisemen followed the star. They left their homes and went on that journey, traveling without knowing exactly where they were going to end up. The light of that star eventually led them to Bethlehem, where they worshipped the Christ-Child and offered Him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The world had never seen anything like it before – people following a light without really knowing where they were going. Two thousand years later, that rare occurrence now happens countless times each and every day.

We now live in a society where just about everyone seems to be following the lead of one light or other. There’s the light from the television that freely intermingles entertainment, information, education, opinion, and persuasion so thoroughly that we can never really tell which goal it is trying to achieve at any given moment. Or the light from the computer, which has now become such an indispensable part of life at work, in the schools, and even around our homes, that things grind to a halt if the power should happen to go out. And the light from smartphones and tablets, which have made our society both the most connected and disconnected it has even been – and both at the same time; we are now connected to more information than ever before and we can access it more quickly, but we are disconnected from each other and seem to have no idea how to practice common courtesy or to be charitable in our speech. The list of lights could go on and on – the stores that beckon us to shop, the bars that call us to drink, the lotteries and casinos that entice us to gamble, the restaurants that offer you all you can eat, the fortune teller that prom-

ises us knowledge of the future, and all the other lights that space limitations on this page prevent me from mentioning.

Yes, it is true, there is now a multitude of lights in the world, and each one calls us to follow it. Study after study has come out showing just how much time we spend staring at these lights and following where they lead. In the 1980’s, the light that led people the most was the TV and there were complaints that children spent too much time watching it. 20 years later the primary leading light was the computer, as it became a part of everyday life and entered the vast majority of homes in America. Today it is the smartphone (or, in some cases, the tablet), with top tier models costing more than my first car and many people replacing them every year when a new model comes out.



With all these lights for people to follow, you might assume that each one would lead to a different destination, would take you to a different place. Such an assumption would be completely and totally wrong; in truth, all of these lights lead to exactly the same place, regardless of whether it is the store, or the bar, or the casino, or the restaurant, or the tv, or the computer, or the smartphone, or whatever it is. All of these worldly lights lead us right back to ourselves – to our own wants, desires, opinions, and proclivities. They give us whatever it is we are seeking after, reinforcing our pursuit of them, and they focus our attention more and more firmly on our own selves. By following these lights we become turned in on ourselves, self-focused, and self-centered. We are led further and further into the sins that already seek to ensnare us.

In order to rescue you and me from all these
(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



*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*

Steve Feero-Parish President

Beth Soulier-Editor

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings All,

At our November Voters Assembly and December Church Council meetings, the following officers and deacons were elected or previously elected and continue to serve on the Church Council beginning in 2020:

- ✠ President – Steven Feero
- ✠ Vice President – Vicki DePaolo
- ✠ Recording Secretary – Terri Daly
- ✠ Financial Secretary – Guy Mason
- ✠ Treasurer – Karen Smith
- ✠ House and Grounds Deacon – Andrew Clark
- ✠ Stewardship Deacon – Rob DeLaubell (new)
- ✠ Worship Deacon – Tim Weiland (new)
- ✠ Christian Growth Fund Deacon - Alan Santoro
- ✠ Evangelism Deacon - Alan Spose
- ✠ Fellowship Deacon - Karen Weiland
- ✠ Social Welfare Deacon - Dottie Dierolf
- ✠ Youth Deacon - Brad Shick



Currently our Education Committee Deacon remains open.

Please take the time to thank David Veleber and David Schrumm for their six years (two 3 year 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

Currently our Education Committee Deacon remains open. If God is calling you to this role and you're simply not sure what it entails, please reach out to one of our Nominating Committee members (Rob DeLaubell, Alan Santoro or Alan Spose) to learn more about this exciting opportunity to serve.

Please take the time to thank Judy DiDomizio for her term served and David Veleber and David Schrumm for their six years (two 3 year terms) of faithful service on our Church Council; 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 the other congregation members who have provided their ideas, concerns and encouragement to myself and others.

Looking forward in the near term for the governance of our church affairs, the upcoming regular sessions of our Voters Assembly meetings for 2020 are planned to be held on the following days after our second worship service to enable as many Voters as possible to attend:

- ✠ Sunday, February 9
- ✠ Sunday, May 3
- ✠ Sunday, September 13
- ✠ Sunday, November 8

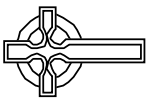
Look for the Council meeting dates in our upcoming annual report. In case you may be pondering "new year resolutions", I'd like to encourage you to be aware of opportunities to tell an acquaintance or neighbor about CLC and invite that person to join us for a worship service, Bible study, special event, or a tour of our Little Cherubs preschool.

If we have not formally met, please take a moment to introduce yourself. Have ideas or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of our Church Council on ways we can improve.

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

Steve Feero
Parish President, CLC
president@cheshirelutheran.org
m (203) 213-7753

GALEONDA



January

January Servants

(Continued from page 1)

misleading lights, God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Light of the World, the light that no darkness can overcome and the light that leads to salvation. The star that led the Wisemen prefigured His light; it foreshadowed how the Babe of Bethlehem would be the light of life that leads God's people to eternal life. Christ Jesus is the one true light, the only light that leads us away from our selves and our sins; He leads you to God, His love and His forgiveness.

Two Thousand years ago, a group of Wisemen were led by the light of a star to the Son of God who brought forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation into the world. Today there are countless lights that you can choose to follow, but only one of them leads out of this world and into the life of the world to come. Will you join me in following Jesus Christ, whose light is life?

In Christ,
Pastor R



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.



2020 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.



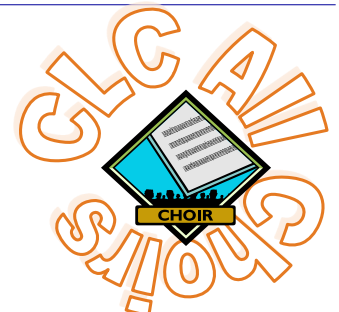
CLC CHOIR NEWS...

All Choirs continue to meet for Wednesday Evening Rehearsals as follows:

7:15 PM – Adult Bell Choir

8:00 PM – Parish Choir

Each choir is praying for new members. Please consider joining, you will be happy you did!



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.



CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
January 1 - Wednesday	Happy New Year—No Rehearsal		
January 5 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 8 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 12 - Sunday	9:10 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School—All Students
	10:30 AM	Performance	Sunday School—All Students
January 15 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 19 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 22 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 26 - Sunday	7:20 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
January 29 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
February 2 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir

CLCW JANUARY THAW PARTY...



Ladies, the CLCW January Thaw Party will take place on **Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00 pm**. Please bring an appetizer to share and a gift for a gift exchange, limit of \$20.

The gift exchange will be the **Switch, Steal, Unwrap Gift Exchange** that we have done the past two years. Those of you who attended will remember it was very different and fun. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the hallway after Christmas. We just wanted to give everyone a heads-up on the date. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki DePaolo at 203-697-0810 or e-mail me at vpd228@sbcglobal.net.

THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...

A monthly glimpse of the history of your Cheshire Lutheran Church:

January



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
January 7, 2018	Rev. David Patrick Rowold accepted our Call to fill pastoral vacancy of Pastor Charles Gustafson

NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

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

As I finish out my last term as Stewardship Deacon, I want to say a big “Thank You” to all who have pledged or requested envelopes for donations. We have had a good start, but we could always use more people to make sure they return their pledge packets as soon as possible. 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.

As I must regularly do, I would like to especially thank Carol Santoro for all of her hard work over the past couple months and over the past 5+ years of my deaconship. She has always been invaluable in assisting to get the pledge packets together. I would also like to thank Nancy Schweizer for her tremendous help filling in whenever Carol was away. Much thanks to both of you for making this a smooth process both this year and all the years in the past.

I again thank all of you for your generosity and consideration towards helping to keep CLC strong. Thank you again for the privilege of allowing me to be your Stewardship Deacon.

Sincerely,

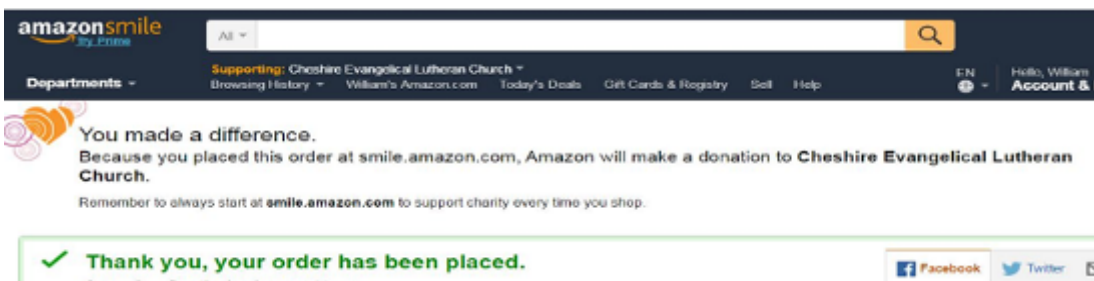
David Veleber
Stewardship Deacon



YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES...

If you happen to be an Amazon™ on-line shopper, Cheshire Lutheran Church is now a registered non-profit organization under the “Amazon Smile”™ program. So, whenever you shop on Amazon, instead go to www.smile.amazon.com, then log in, using your same username and password as you normally would on the traditional Amazon site. You will be asked to select a charity by browsing the list of registered organizations and selecting Cheshire Lutheran Church. Amazon Smile will donate .5% (that is .005) of the amount you purchase to CLC.

Here is a sample of the screen that you will see after completing a purchase:



You Shop. Amazon Gives

THANK YOU...

Thank you to all the members and friends of Cheshire Lutheran Church. I and my family are blessed to be among you, and I thank you for all of your kindness, your prayers, and your generosity. May God bless and keep you always.

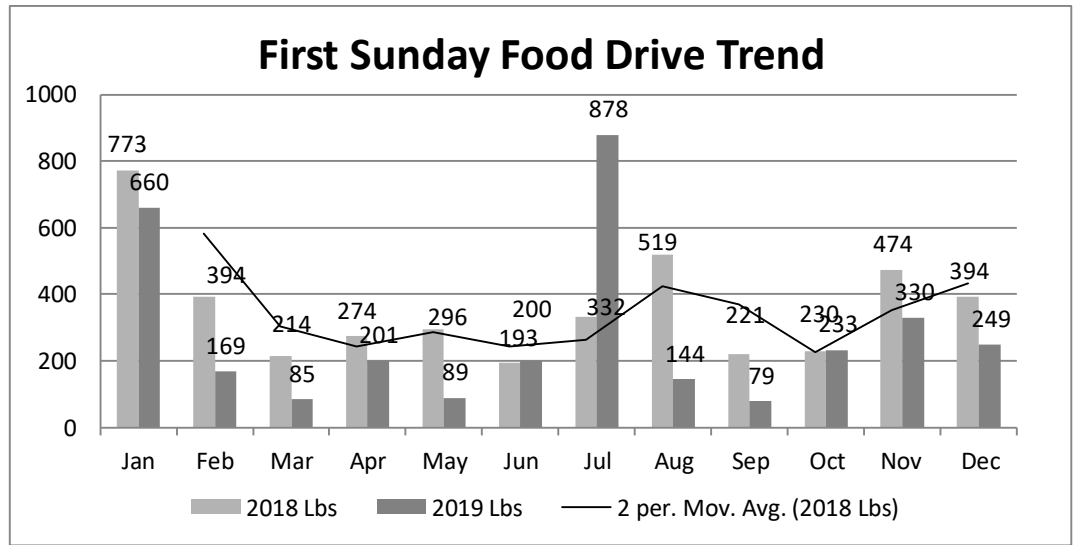
Pastor Rowold





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



HELP WANTED

The Cheshire Community Food Pantry, Inc. is seeking new volunteers to assist on Tuesday or Thursday evenings. Hours are 2:30-6 PM. Commitment includes a few weeks of training either night with current volunteers. Once training & orientation is completed, we could discuss the best evening and task you would like to be a part of. We are also seeking individuals willing to be on-call as needed. Jobs include shopping with clients, reception desk & administration, stocking shelves, sorting donations, and helping donors drop-off food. Ability to lift 30lbs or more is a plus, but not required. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Please contact April Duquette for more information. [adu-](#)



“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 a.m. until Noon and Tues. & Thurs. from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Please check expiration dates. We want to ensure the food we are sending is not out of date. Also, please remember that we cannot accept opened packages. Any and all contributions are gratefully accepted, including non-food items such as soap, tooth paste, shampoo,



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up Coffee Hour. Coffee Hour is held between services during Adult Bible Study. 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!

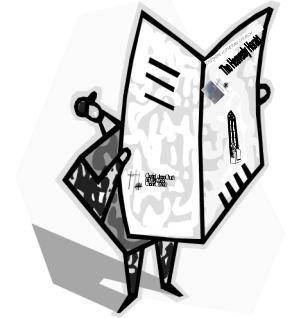
NEED TO GET INFORMATION TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION?

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.



PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!! (February 2020 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net) by Friday **January 24th** or earlier! Place all non-electronic articles and information you would like printed into the HH in Beth's lateral file folder on the hallway table. Thank You!



PASTOR'S PILGRIMS JOURNEYS TO THE BALKANS AND TRANSYLVANIA IN 2020...



You are invited to join the Pastor's Pilgrims travelers as Pastor Wismar hosts "The Treasurers of the Balkans and Transylvania" August 18-30 2020. Brochures are available on the counter near the library or by contacting Pastor W. at 203 405-1135. You may also speak to Vicki DePaolo about this trip.



NEWS FROM OUR SOCIAL WELFARE DEACON...

Welcome to 2020. I wish you health, peace and a blessed new year.

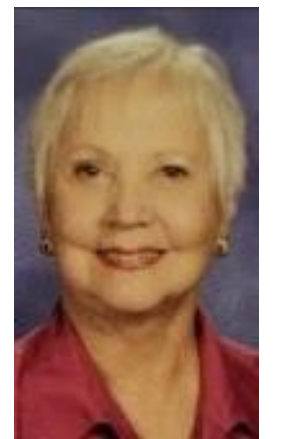
2019 showed our continued support of projects for sharing. Thank you all for your Christmas decorations. Acts 4 said " Thank you all so much for your generosity. The items you donated will go for our clients in need in New Haven and Waterbury. Have a blessed Christmas." We will continue our contributions to our 2019 organizations.

We start the New Year with the January food collection and then the Souper Bowl on Feb 2.

Please suggest any new ideas or that you have an Action Team to use.

Don't forget you can use your Thrivent Dollars for any organization that you want to support. March 31, 2020 is this year's deadline.

Social Welfare Deacon
Dotti Dierolf



GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER!

(A project of the Thursday Ladies Group)



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.

Thanks to all who continue to support this ongoing program. As a result of your purchases, \$100 was donated to replenish the kitchen supply of pitchers. 8 ceramic (cream/milk) and 4 large plastic (Juice/iced tea) pitcher were purchased and will be used for fellowship activities.

We appreciate your thoughtful participation in making this benevolence so successful.

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

ON THE BULLETIN BOARD:

Remember to check the Bulletin Boards and/or hallway table for sign-up sheets and information about various events!

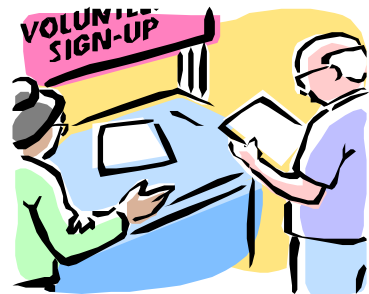
This month on the Bulletin Board:

- ✦ Give Your Old Car A Good Home **Good News Garage** information
- ✦ **Cheshire Food Drive** Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- ✦ **Hope Center** 2020 volunteer sign-ups
- ✦ **Little Cherubs** enrollment information
- ✦ **Helping Hands** Committee volunteer sign-up
- ✦ **Sunday Morning Greeters** Volunteer Sign-Ups
- ✦ **2020 Usher Schedule**
- ✦ **Help with Odd Jobs**—See Erik Galuska flyer on the Bulletin Board
- ✦ Thrivent Action Team Sign Up
- ✦ Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Sign Up
- ✦ Quilts of Valor Sign Up
- ✦ Volunteers Needed for Hospice & Palliative Care information
- ✦ Pastors Pilgrims Trip to Scotland information
- ✦ Pastors Pilgrims BALKANS AND TRANYSLVANIA IN 2020

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
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **All Choirs** rehearse on Wednesday evenings are as follows:
 - 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.



SCRAP BOOK & LIBRARY PROJECT NEWS...

A new committee is forming to review our many documents containing CLC History and to address enhancements to our Library. Contact Pat DiDomizio if you have questions and/or wish to join the committee.

NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY...

Reminders from Your Friendly Neighborhood Financial Secretary:

- ✚ If you have Pledge envelopes PLEASE use them, having to lookup members envelope numbers can lead to human error.
- ✚ Please remember to mark on the outside of your offering envelopes with the exact amount of money enclosed. This is a very important check and balance for us.
- ✚ If you've been absent for some time and want to bring your offerings up to date, kindly use ONE rather than MANY envelopes - since the fewer envelopes our financial assistants must handle, the lighter their workload.
- ✚ PLEASE do not post-date checks.
- ✚ PLEASE use black or blue ink for your checks. Our friendly bank tellers thank you.



The Financial Secretary is always in need of volunteers to aid in counting church offerings after Sunday services or Monday night, based on volunteer preference. If you are available 1 or 2 months per year for approximately one hour a week, please contact Guy Mason, our Financial Secretary.

The Financial Secretary has a new church e-mail address if you wish to volunteer or have a question email me at: finsec@cheshirelutheran.org

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!



PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2020...

Pledge Sunday for 2020 is here. Please assist CLC in planning and meeting our financial obligations by returning your pledge card to the church as soon as possible. Thank you!



QUILTS OF VALOR NEXT CLC SEW DAY...

Cheshire Lutheran will host the next Sew Day on Saturday, February 22, 2020. If you have questions, you can speak with Marilyn Miller.

Quilts of Valor is a totally volunteer organization and depends on donations from the public to make these quilts happen.

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

For more information please visit their website at <https://www.qovf.org/>



Our Sincere Appreciation

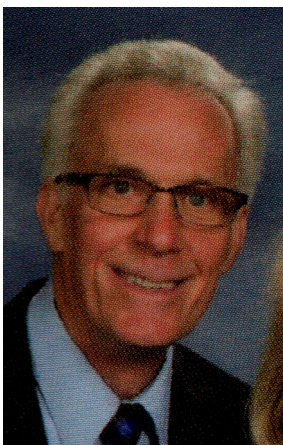


- † Many thanks to the special folk that assembled the December Heavenly Herald!
- † Many thanks to Stephen and Jonathan Manke for donating the lovely red Poinsettias that adorned our Altar on Christmas Eve. They were beautiful!
- † **Church Decorating – Thank You!**
Thanks to all the folks that helped out with setting up the Christmas tree, decorating it, and decorating the church. The tree you chose is perfect and beautiful!
Special Thank You—You may have noticed the Wreaths and Spays are adorned with beautiful NEW bows. Thank You to Marilyn Miller for them, they are 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!
- † Also VERY SPECIAL Thank You to Bill Juul for recording (audio & video) all our events at CLC. Bill also loads them onto our Website so we can enjoy them for many years to come. Thank You Bill.
- † 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.
- † Very special Thank You to Martha and Tricia Rowold for the lovely Christmas Pageant. Your hard work paid off, the Pageant was phenomenal again this year
- † CLC is blessed with many unnamed folk that continuously clean up our beautiful grounds. Thank you for your hard work and we want you to know that it is greatly appreciated. WE ARE BLESSED
- † Thank you to Karen Weiland, the Drust's and the Fellowship Committee for another WONDERFUL Advent dinner. The food and fellowship was outstanding. God Bless
- † Thank you to the folk that came out and set up our Beautiful Crèche. It is such an inspiration every time we drive by
- † Special thank you to Carol Santoro for your hard work running our Church Office. Additionally, we wish to thank Nancy Schweizer for filling in for Carol (when she is on a much needed break). Thanks to you both.



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 Guy Mason (203) 250-7708 and/or gmason94@gmail.com.



NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

As we enter 2020 with our newly formed resolutions, there are probably many of us who will find it difficult to keep them. Those pounds won't just fall off, getting to the gym will seem impossible to fit into our schedules and saving money will seem to be a lost cause as you stare at the "Buy Now" button on Amazon. BUT don't be discouraged or think of yourself as a failure or weak because your life hasn't been "renewed" by fulfilling your resolutions. Our lives have already been renewed through the life and death of Jesus Christ.

We all have been saved and we have constant support through His love. Let us all continue to celebrate that love and salvation as we take advantage of all the opportunities to gather with our CLC family at worship, fellowship and Bible study.

Alan Spose
Evangelism Deacon

NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...

You are cordially invited to be a:

- † **Reader**
- † **Usher**
- † **Greeter**
- † **Singer or Ringer**
- † **Altar Guild**

When: Sunday Mornings (for the most part)

Where: 660 West Main Street, Cheshire CT

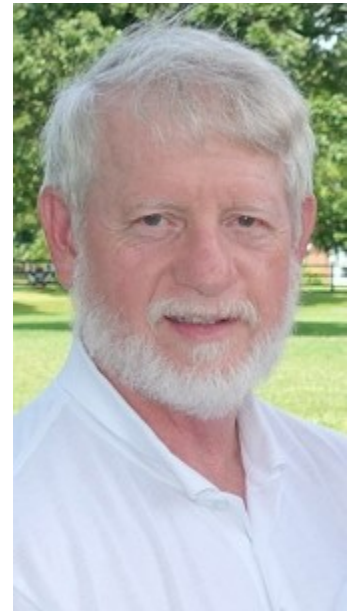
RSVP 272-5106

Our weekly services don't just happen. For a typical four Sunday month, there can be at least 70 "periods of service" when members usher, acolyte, read lessons, greet other members before service, and prepare the altar. (And this does not count the choir's musical offerings that make our worship special).

When you attend service, you witness these "periods of service" and you benefit from them. Will you assent the invitation to help in some way?

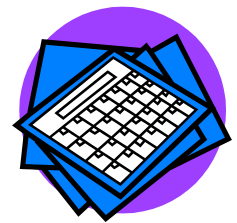
Will you answer like Isaiah?....."Here I am Lord. Send me."

Please contact the church office or Tim Wieland, Worship Deacon, for more information on how you can serve.



CLC CALENDARS FOR 2020...

2020 Calendars are here. The calendars are a gift to our congregation compliments of the Al-derson/Ford Funeral Home. You are welcome to pick up a copy from our hallway counter or narthex table.



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

The following has been recently added to our Website:

- † Audio recordings of Anthems sung by Soloists and Special Ensembles this Summer
- † Current and Past Heavenly Heralds
- † Video recordings from many past events
- † Pictures from special events over the Summer
- † Audio and Video recordings of Pastors Sermons and other events
- † Pictures, pictures, pictures from all our past events other miscellaneous photos taken in and around the Church by Tim Wieland
- † Much, much more...



ORNAMENTS SHARE THE STORY OF JESUS...AN ARTICLE FROM LIVING LUTHERAN BY WENDY HEALY

In the spirit of Christmas Opens in New Window , many congregations decorate evergreen trees for their sanctuaries. Often these trees are covered in white and gold ornaments in the shapes of religious symbols and ancient Greek letters, such as the *ichthus*, or fish, the symbol for Christianity. These handmade ornaments are called Chrismons, short for Christ monograms.



Chrismon trees are found around the country, but they're abundant in the Virginia Synod, with churches like St. Mark, Charlottesville; Trinity, Stephens City; Christ the King, Richmond; and many others decorating with these ornaments.

Virginia is the home of the Chrismon tree because the concept was developed by the late Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of Ascension Lutheran Church Opens in New Window in Danville, Va. In 1957, this daughter of a Lutheran pastor and missionary began making ornaments for Ascension's tree to replicate religious monograms and symbols. She called them Chrismons.

From those early beginnings, Spencer's tradition has spread. She even wrote five books on Chrismons, in-

cluding patterns for making them, which can be quite elaborate.

Spencer is said to have felt that garish ornaments had no place in church and that a tree should tell the story of Jesus' birth and life.

The Danville Museum's account of Spencer says: "Mrs. Spencer asked, 'How would Mary celebrate Jesus' birthday?' The answer from our culture and time period would be to have a cake with candles and his name on it. Mrs. Spencer then looked upon the traditional Christmas tree as a cake and placed on the tree the name Jesus and his title, Christ. Instead of using the name and title in English, however, she used Greek monograms. Thus the letters in Greek, '*Chi Rho*,' became one of the earliest Chrismons because they are the monogram for *Christos*, the Greek word for Christ."

Spencer's legacy lives on at Ascension. Kate Albright, a 22-year member of the congregation, chairs the Chrismon ministry, but she said it takes a village. Just getting a tree large enough to accommodate Ascension's hundreds of Chrismons takes a team. And decorating an 18- to 23-foot tree requires tall ladders and a cherry picker, and it takes more than a week to accomplish.

"I also see my role as being true to Frances Kipps Spencer's intentions," Albright said. "She had a vision to tell the story of Christ's love for us, and everything on the tree must say that. I have to stay true to that, especially because it's part of our history."

While the congregation has enough ornaments, it still holds Chrismon-crafting workshops to help people learn the art. "I learn new things every year when we make ornaments," said Albright, adding that she's often contacted by churches all over the country about Chrismon crafting.

Ascension's Chrismon tradition begins in January when the team starts looking for a donated tree. "We cruise the county's back roads and look for a special specimen and ask if we can cut it down," Albright said. "Most folks are generous; our Chrismon tree is fairly well-known." The tree standards are lofty. In addition to a certain height, it must be "cedar, thick trunk, single trunk, symmetrical," Albright said.

(Continued on page 15)

Eddie Turner is responsible for approving the tree selection, chopping it down and getting it into the church. The retired telephone lineman has no qualms climbing into the cherry picker. The lifelong Ascension member has been working with the Chrismon ministry since 1975 and knew Spencer.

“The ministry is more than a tradition,” Turner said. “It’s something that we give to the community each year.”

Ascension offers tours, and Turner estimates that as many as 2,000 people see the tree every year. This year, Ascension is on the local historical society’s holiday tour.

Turner remembers the year the Smithsonian Institution asked Ascension to put a Chrismon tree in its museum. “Once a display comes in, they own it,” he said, “so we made duplicates of our Chrismon ornaments.”

He also remembers when a big-box store sold Chrismon patterns as its own, causing Ascension to file a trademark. “I was there when we had to defend the trademark,” Turner said. “We didn’t want anyone to make a profit off of Chrismons. It’s religious and should be given freely.”

Continuing the ministry, which takes a lot of time and physical effort, is a big worry for Turner, who said the congregation is aging and might not have the stamina much longer. “I would like to see the ministry continue,” he said.

Albright agreed: “I pray about the Chrismon ministry all the time. The mission is to tell the story of Christ. If this ministry is to continue, God will do that. A way has been found every year. I have to have faith and hope in that. If the will and power of God want it, then it’ll happen.”

Wendy Healy is a freelance writer and member of Trinity Lutheran Church, N.Y. She served as communications director for Lutheran Disaster Response of New York following the 9/11 attacks. She is also the Daughter of CLC’s Joe and Rita Stark.

HOW TO REACH PASTOR IN AN EMERGENCY...

If there is no answer in the Church Office, Pastor Rowold may be reached on his cell phone at (203) 800-5495.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES CONTINUE...

Confirmation Class continues for the 8th and 9th Grade students. Class meets on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. during the school year and the Rite of Confirmation will take place during the 10:30 a.m. service on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.



Congregational Meeting Reminder:

Sunday January 12, 2020 following the worship services!

CLC December 2019



Advent Jubilee Dinner on December 8, 2019



Setting up the Crèche on December 7, 2019



Christmas Tree felling on December 20, 2019



Christmas Tree & Church decorating on December 22, 2019



Memories

Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Pageant on December 15, 2019



NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

We at Little Cherubs Christian Preschool send our wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Updates from our Four year old class:

- ✦ Letters worked on for the month ere M, N, O
- ✦ Numbers 1-10
- ✦ Bible – David and Goliath, Christmas Story
- ✦ The entire month, the children worked on Christmas Gifts to give to their parents on Christmas Morning. They also had a cooking project of making Gingerbread Men.
- ✦ The children learned about Poinsettia Day, Legend of the Candy Cane, Christmas in Holland, St. Nicholas Day (Wooden Shoes), had a Wreath Project, Christmas Mouse (given to us by Joe and Rita Stark).
- ✦ Our Christmas Party was fantastic. We had approximately 50 people there. We supplied some of the food while parents brought other food and supplies. We celebrated on December 13th. What a great day. The children sang songs.

Updates from the Three Year Old Class:

- ✦ Letters M, N, O and review 1-12.
- ✦ Bible Time – David & Goliath, The Angel Visits, The Christmas Story and Jesus is Born
- ✦ Art – Paint Special Gift for Parents, Angels, Candy Canes, Holy Wreaths, Christmas wrap, Baby Jesus Ornament.
- ✦ Story – “Franklins Christmas” “Curious George’s Christmas”, “Bob Saves Christmas”, “Llama Llama Holiday Drama”, “Holly Babes”, Wombat Divine”.
- ✦ Cooking Project – Made Cookies.
- ✦ Christmas Party – A great time celebrating together.

Happy New Year to All

JoAnn, Martha, and Cindy

Special Thanks to Al Manke for continuing to collect and return the Bottles and Cans whose proceeds go to Little Cherubs. In 2019 \$359.80 was collected. Keep those Bottles and Cans coming...



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 that 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.



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GREATER HARTFORD HANDEL'S MESSIAH COMMUNITY SING/CONCERT... (Christmas portion)

Both singers and audience are welcome to join together for this popular and festive annual event, held in the historic Center Church Meeting House with its large 4 manual pipe organ.

When: Sunday, January 5, 4:00 PM

Where: Center Church Meeting House, corner of Main and Gold Streets in downtown Hartford
The First Church of Christ in Harford "Center Church"
675 Main St – At 60 Gold Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Parking: Free downtown street parking and free parking in the Traveler's Garage one block east from Church on Prospect Street. (Next to Hartford Club)

This Messiah Community Sing brings together as many as 100 singers from the region to sing this timeless masterpiece with outstanding area soloists singing the arias and recitatives. We hope you will join us!

Please note: Singers arrive at 3:00pm and seated by 3:30pm.

Suggested Attire: Women: Holiday colors - Men: White Shirt, tie, dark pants, or "Come as you are"!

Scores: We encourage singers to bring their own score. Extra copies will be available to borrow.

Optional rehearsal: Saturday, January 5 at 9 AM in the Church House at 60 Gold Street.

Messiah singers encouraged to participate!

For more information go to: <https://centerchurchhartford.org/> you can also speak with Beth Soulier (860) 338-5970 or email at soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net





The Cheshire Community Food Pantry, Inc.

Caring about our neighbors

Now that we are in our new building at 175 Sandbank Road and we have lots of refrigeration. We can finally take non-expired perishable items as well as nonperishable goods. We also have a vestibule with a refrigerator so you can drop off donations when it is convenient for you.

Here is our “hot list” however we appreciate any and all non-perishable/non-expired food, cleaning supplies, paper goods and health and beauty items. Your generosity helps us keep our shelves filled and makes life a little easier for our clients:

Dairy:

Eggs, Milk, Cheese, Yogurt

Condiments:

Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Mustard

Cooking/Baking Products:

Salt, Pepper, Cooking Oil, Olive Oil, Spices, Baking Mixes (various)

Pantry:

Salad Dressing, Pickles, Juice Boxes/Bottles, Canned Chicken, Applesauce and Canned Fruit, Cereal boxes, Crackers/Cookies, Grape Jelly (and any other flavors!), Coffee (regular and decaf)

Cleaning Supplies and Paper Items:

Paper towels, Toilet Paper, Paper Napkins, Laundry Detergent (small sizes are encouraged), Dish Detergent, Sponges, Wipes

Personal Items:

Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Razor, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Lotion



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.

**Wishing You A Very Happy New Year
May God Bless You & Your Family**

Bible Studies at CLC

Come and join us for Bible study during the week.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...

Sunday morning Bible study continues in the Library at 9:10 a.m.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY...

On Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. we're walking through the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke; we'll be finishing chapter fifteen in the beginning of the month and moving on to sixteen.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON MEN'S AND LADIES' BIBLE STUDY GROUPS...

Our 1:30 p.m. Thursday Bible study alternates, with Ladies meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, and the men meeting 1st and 3rd.

You're welcome to join us any time, even if it's your first time, and even if it will be the only time. I look forward to seeing you.



Come on out and join us for Bible study during the week.!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Bravo & Congrats to the Sunday school students for a job well done on the Christmas Pageant.

A special "Thank You" to Tricia Rowold, Judy DiDominizio, & Martha Medford. Great Job and Well Done.

Looking ahead, the Sunday School children will be singing; "Good News, Great Joy" at the 10:30 service, January 12th. This is also the cutoff date for the return of the Advent Coin Boxes; the monies received will be given to the Cheshire Food Bank. The winners with the highest amount collected will be announced at a later date. It's not too late to participate in this good cause.

Finally, I am sure many of you received thoughtful material things for Christmas. That is all well and good; however, we should remember to keep Christ first place in our lives. We came into the world with nothing and we will leave in the same way. You cannot take money and things with you when you go. Do not worship money and things while you are here!!! Taken from 1 John 2:15

Carlene Myers, Judy DiDomizio & Martha Medford



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- 1st Catherine Barden
Todd Plantier
- 4th Emily Smith
- 5th Michael Carrington
- 10th Craig Wilson
- 13th Carolyn Schmollinger
- 14th Barbara Manthey
- 18th Scott Slauson
- 20th Rebecca Mayer
- 23rd Margie Mertz
- 24th Ned McBain
- 25th Carol Santoro
- 26th John Shepard
- 27th Don Dobbs
- 28th Eleanor Kenney
- 31st Matthew Lynch

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 2020

6th	Patrick & Kelley Collins-Pardee	8 Years
17th	John & Lynn Balash	45 Years



ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING REMINDER...

No Voters or Council meeting in January!!!
 The Annual corporate meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12th, after the services!

So, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HELP?...

Are you serving as an acolyte, an altar assistant, an usher, a reader, or a choir member? All of these folks help to make our services happen on Sunday morning; it's because of their involvement and participation that our services are as rich, and full, and well run as they are. If you are not serving in one of these ways, please do. We are currently looking for readers, ushers, and choir members (youth and adult and handbell).

If you can sing, please join the youth or adult choir. If you can't sing, then please be a reader. If you can't read in front of people, then be an usher. If you can't walk up and down the aisles to collect the offering, please join the bell choir. We have ways that just about every member of our family of faith can help – all we need is you. To join one of the choirs, speak to Martha Medford. To be a reader or an usher, speak to Tim Weiland.



Cheshire Lutheran Church
 660 West Main St
 Cheshire CT 06410