



The Heavenly Herald

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ... And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ... And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.'" Luke 2:8-10, 16, 20 (ESV)

On the first Christmas night, the shepherds were hard at work in the fields, just like any other night, taking care of the sheep and minding their own business. It was just an ordinary day for them out there with the flocks. Suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared and broke the monotony of their normal routine, filling their ordinary night with the extraordinary. God's promised Savior was born and the angel was telling them, not the king in his palace or the priests in the temple; God was reaching out to regular people like them and inviting them to come to him.

We all know what happened next because we hear it retold every Christmas – as soon as the angels left, the shepherds set out to find the Child. When they found the baby lying in the manger, they told His parents (Mary and Joseph) what had happened out in the fields and the news of the angels. Then the shepherds left the holy family and shared the Good News about Him with other people as they went. Finally, the shepherds returned to the fields and picked up right where they had left off, doing their ordinary job of taking care of the sheep – just like any other ordinary night. Their lives were still the same, but they were different; they knew their Savior and that changed everything.

The Christmas Gospel reaches out to you and me. The Good News of the Babe of Bethlehem calls each of us out of our ordinary lives and normal routines to meet the Christ Child. It's true that we don't drop everything and leave work or school immediately to go and meet Him like the shepherds did, but you have to admit that going to Church on a Thursday night is certainly not a normal activity for most of us, nor are the tree and decorations and lights. The message of the angels pulls us out of our regular routines and ways of living; it removes us from our ordinary patterns of life and leads us into the extra-ordinary.

There we see the baby of Bethlehem as He comes to us again, not lying in a manger, but here for you in His Word of Holy Scripture. We hear again the Good News of His birth in Bethlehem, receiving the forgiveness of sins that He came to bring. We welcome Him as He comes to us, not wrapped in swaddling clothes, but in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion, as He places the gift of Himself into your very hands – given and shed for you. With our own eyes we see Him and with our own hands we touch Him. We find Christ the Lord not in a manger in Bethlehem, but in our Church in Cheshire.

Then, like the shepherds, we leave – going back to our ordinary lives and normal routines. When the weekend ends and Monday morning comes, it will be just another regular Monday for many; there will be bills to be paid, jobs to be worked, and chores to be done. (Yes, I know, the kids will still have off from school, but that too is part of the regular routine of life.) People will still have to wear masks and stay six feet apart because of Covid and everything will be as

(Continued on page 3)

Come Worship With Us

Sunday Worship Services:

8:00 am & 10:30 am
(Nursery Care Available - 10:30 am)

Sunday School

&

Adult Bible Classes:

9:10 am

Summer Worship Service:

9:00 am
(Fathers Day to Labor Day)



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

Church Staff

Rev. 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,

As we approach year end and I contemplate thoughts for this article, our family just finished decorating our Christmas tree today for the wonderful season of Advent. Exciting events are ahead, such as safely spending time with family and friends, tree felling and Sanctuary decorating, singing of Silent Night on Christmas eve, and most importantly the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Reminders we all have so much to be thankful for!



Regarding church business, our Voters Meeting in November was held as scheduled and each council member provided productive updates. A few key highlights were that the 2021 Mission Plan was accepted, all nominated Council members were voted in, it was decided to replace the east facing roof with cedar shakes, and we continue to trend at 95% of our current mission plan allowing us the fortunate ability to deliver on our congregational commitments considering the global pandemic we are still knee deep in.

Please take the time to thank Dottie Dierolf, Alan Santoro, Karen Smith, Alan Spose and Karen Weiland for their years of service as Social Welfare Deacon, Christian Growth Fund Deacon, Treasurer, Evangelism Deacon, and Fellowship Deacon respectively. The Council welcomes Bill Soulier as Vice President, Bill Sherman as Treasurer, Marilyn Miller as Evangelist Deacon, David Schrumm as Christian Growth Fund Deacon, Pam Clark as Fellowship Deacon, Vicki DePaolo as Social Welfare Deacon, and Lisa Muller as Youth Deacon. I would like to also say a big thank you to Carol Santoro and Martha Medford for their hard work and dedication to CLC. They continue to be instrumental in making sure every detail of our weekly services are properly planned and coordinated in partnership with Pastor Rowold. A special thank you to Beth Soulier who works so hard to ensure that our Heavenly Herald is relevant, interesting, and ready for publication at the start of each month – THANK YOU!

Pledge packets were recently provided to all congregation members. They help the Church have a more consistent expectation of revenue over the course of the year to help maintain our Mission Plan aimed at local and global commitments. We encourage you to repledge if you have in the past or consider the importance of pledging if it's your first time.

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

As always, please contact me or any member of our Church Council if you have any suggestions or questions.

See you in church and God Bless!

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

(Continued from page 1)

“normal” as it can be during this pandemic. The world we live in will be the same as it was before Christmas.

Our lives will still be the same, but we will be different. You will have seen Your Savior, born for You. You will know again the love that He has for you, a love that moved Him to leave His throne of heaven and become a helpless infant. You will have the assurance that your sins are forgiven and the promise that eternal life in heaven is yours. You will experience the peace and joy and hope that passes all understanding because the Good News of great joy that the angels proclaimed that first Christmas is for you.

Your Savior, Christ the Lord, is born for you. I pray that you will join me and the shepherds as together we go and see Him.

In Christ Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem,



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES REMINDER...

We **WILL** be having our traditional Christmas Eve Services at 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM on Thursday, December 24. In addition to the usual two services, we will also be offering an additional service at 4:00 PM that afternoon. All three services will be in person and live streamed on YouTube (just like Sunday mornings) and we are asking people to contact the Church office ahead of time to sign up the same way they do for Sundays. Sign up for the Christmas Eve services will begin on Tuesday, December 22 and will be open until all three services are filled.

We expect to have the traditional candle light portion of our late service in spite of Covid-19. If all goes as planned, we will have a way for people to extinguish their candles without needing to blow them out.



OUR BEAUTIFUL THANKSGIVING CORNUPOPIA...

Even during these trying and unprecedented times, many of our wonderful traditions continue. The Beautiful Cornucopia that adorned our Altar for the service on Thanksgiving was again lovingly made by Martha Henderson this year. It not only served to celebrate Thanksgiving, but it also serves to remind us how blessed we are by the abundance our Lord has chosen to give us.

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



CLC CHOIR NEWS...



All Choirs have resumed rehearsals. While it will not be “business as usual”; we will return exercising the utmost caution, while still offering beautiful music during Sunday Services. Below are the safety measures and plan for rehearsals and Sunday performances:

Bell Choir:

- ♫ Only 6-7 Bell Choir members will rehearse and perform at a time. This will allow for proper social distancing during rehearsals and Sunday Performances.
- ♫ Opportunities for rotation of Bell Choir members will be discussed.
- ♫ Call Martha Medford to volunteer for Bell Choir rehearsals and Performances.

Parish Choir:

- ♫ All Parish Choir members will rehearse on Wednesdays, but only 6-7 will perform on Sundays.
- ♫ Parish Choir will perform on December 6th, 20th, 24th and January 3rd.
- ♫ Only 6—7 in Choir Loft at one time.
- ♫ Opportunities for rotation of Parish Choir members will be discussed.
- ♫ Call Martha Medford to volunteer for Parish Choir Performances.

Martha Medford

CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
December 2 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 6 - Sunday <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i>	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
December 9 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 13 - Sunday <i>3rd Sunday in Advent</i>	7:20 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
December 16 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 20 - Sunday <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i>	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
December 23 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 24th - Thursday <i>Christmas Eve - 3 Services</i>	4:00 PM	Service	Soloists
	6:15 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:00 PM	Performance	Parish Choir
	9:20 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	10:00 PM	Performance	Bell Choir & Soloists
December 25 - Christmas	Merry Christmas—No Services		
December 27 - Sunday	8:00 AM	Service	No Choirs
	10:30 PM	Service	No Choirs
December 30 - Wednesday	NO CHOIR REHEARSALS		
January 3 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir

Our Sincere Appreciation

- ✚ Gracious Thank You to Martha Medford for selecting the accompanying hymn, and Bill Juul overlaying it onto the wonderful Drone Video of our Church Grounds.
- ✚ Many thanks to Martha Henderson for the LOVELY Cornucopia that adorned the Altar for our Thanksgiving Service. It is just beautiful!
- ✚ Thank you to the dedicated folk for being such loving stewards of our Church grounds. We are so blessed for your service to our Church Family.
- ✚ Very special thanks again to the crew for displaying the Christmas Crèche on our front lawn. The Crèche will speak volumes to passerby's that need to be reminded of the TRUE Meaning of the Season!
- ✚ Blessed Thank You to the Drusts for ALL you do for us!
- ✚ Thank you to Bill Juul for continuing to update our Website with pictures, videos etc. Please check it out. Additionally, many thanks for enhancing some of our recorded Services with supplemental music recorded during the services. We are Blessed by your talents and dedication.
- ✚ Special Thanks to Tim Weiland for continuing to keep our memories alive via his photographic talents.



COVID -19 PRECAUTIONS REMINDER...

COVID-19 restrictions, as mandated by Governor Lamont's Executive Orders, remain in place at CLC. When you visit the Church for services or Bible study, please remember to maintain social distancing and to wear your mask from the time that you get out of your car until you get back into it. Hand sanitizer is located at various places in the building thanks to Don Drust and Andy Clark, so please be sure to use it as appropriate when you are in the building.



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 given to the CLCW recently.

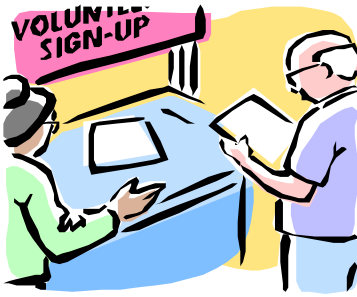
We appreciate your thoughtful participation in making this benevolence so successful.

Contact Person: Paula Ongley



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:

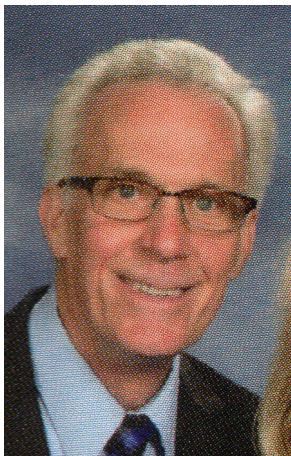
- ✦ **Cheshire Housing Authority information** regarding Section 8 Elderly Housing
- ✦ **Volunteers Needed for Hospice** information
- ✦ **Information from BREAD** publication regarding writing letters to Congress to help fight childhood malnutrition in Guatemala
- ✦ **Thank You** letter from President Timothy Yeadon
- ✦ **2020 Usher Schedule—NEED USHERS**
- ✦ **On With Life (OWL)** bereavement group information
- ✦ **Hope Pregnancy Center** 2020 volunteer sign-ups
- ✦ **Cheshire Food Drive** Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- ✦ **2020 Flower Chart** Sign-up
- ✦ **Memory Café** in Cheshire information
- ✦ Monthly CLC Members *Birthday* and *Anniversaries*



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 Pastor Rowold or Craig Wilson.
- ✦ Church Council is looking for a new **Sunday School Superintendent**. Please prayerfully consider need and ability to fill this critical position.
- ✦ **Ushers are needed** to work both services.

NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...



With joyful anticipation, we enter the season of Advent. We are reminded of the unending love of God and the coming of our savior. Normally, it is a hectic season clouded by shopping, decorating and traveling. This year is no exception and in fact much different and more difficult for many. However, in spite of all the challenges we face this Advent, we should all truly appreciate the beauty of the season and pray for the light of Christ to fill us with strength, faith, hope and love. For many, this season may be difficult due to illness, financial difficulties or the death of a loved one. If you know of such a person, reach out to him or her and provide words of comfort and support. While we cannot all be at church for Christmas Eve, we can attend remotely and still share in the celebration of the birth of Christ. Share this with those who are experiencing exceptional challenges – the light of Christ can fill the darkness he or she may be experiencing.

May the love, light and hope that is Christmas be with us this Advent season and throughout the New Year.

Alan Spose
Evangelism Deacon

NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

Little Cherubs is still open thanks to the Governor not closing schools or daycares yet. It is unbelievable how fast this school year is moving. We still have 9 children on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday, we have 3 children. We are noticing that some of our 4 years old's are now starting to stay for Lunch Bunch and parents are inquiring about letting their child go on Tuesday and Thursday as well. The hope and prayers are that more children will come after the Christmas break. On a great note, Parents of almost 3-year-olds are talking about enrolling them for our 3-year-old class in the Fall. That is very exciting!

Cherubs have been busy all month with voting. First, it was whether they liked saltines vs ritz. They picked ritz. Then it was voting on a color to paint them (make believe). They picked pink.

It is unfortunate that children cannot take part in making snacks. They used to love taking part in cooking projects. For the month of November, we made cornbread, and a cranberry dessert pudding. The children love trying the food that is cooked.

This month, we have been busy with rhymes. Humpty Dumpty was done. Miss Cindy did a science experiment with an egg, dropping it from a block wall to a cooking sheet. The children had to decide whether Humpty could be put back together again.

Veterans Day was celebrated by creating an American Flag Hat and a Veteran's Day Soldier.

Since it was Thanksgiving time, they learned all about the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock, the Native Americans, the Pilgrims and their first Thanksgiving together. A turkey hat was created as well. This group loves projects. They could sit at the table for an hour. LOL

We ended the month with what we are all thankful for, what might be included on our Thanksgiving table, as well as the first Thanksgivings table.

Bible time is an exciting time as well. All the children speak about the Bible and the parable we are learning about each week. It is sticking in their little brains. We covered "Manna in the Desert", "Joshua and the Wall", "Jonah and the Fish", and "David and Goliath".

We worked on letters I, J, K, L and shapes Square, Triangle, Rectangle and Oval. Numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8.

The pastor visited every Wednesday. What a blessing that Pastor takes the time out of his busy schedule to teach them from the BIBLE.

We wish and pray for all to stay safe, and stay healthy!

God Bless,

JoAnn, Martha and Cindy



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.



60th Anniversaries Celebration Memories



ADVENT

HOPE ✿ PEACE ✿ JOY ✿ LOVE



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON THE CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH THROUGH ITS JANUARY 1961 DEDICATION...

- 1) The dedication of the Cheshire Lutheran Church took place on January __, 1961.
A) 1 B) 8 C) 15 D) 22 E) 29
- 2) Pastor Louis Nuechterlein received a Master of Art degree (in Music Literature) in August of 1959 from the University of ____.
A) MO B) MN C) MI D) MD
- 3) Pastor Nuechterlein was installed as Pastor at CLC ____ week(s) after groundbreaking for the Church.
A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4 E) 6
- 4) Hilton Roth served as chairman of the building committee.
A) True B) False
- 5) The Dedication took place on Septuagesima Sunday, which is:
A) Sunday before Sexagesima
B) Ninth Sunday before Easter
C) Third Sunday before Lent
D) Only B and C
E) A, B, and C
- 6) The dimensions of the sanctuary are:
A) Approximately 25 cubits by 50 cubits by 25 cubits.
B) 36 feet by 72 feet by 36 feet
C) 12 yards by 24 yards by 12 yards
D) All the above E) Only B above
- 7) The cost to purchase the property in 1957 was:
A) \$7,500 B) \$15,000 C) \$30,00 D) \$60,000 E) \$120,000
- 8) At the dedication service, congregants entered the nave of the church singing "The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ Her Lord".
A) True B) False
- 9) How many acres of land were purchased in 1957 to build the church on?
A) 5 B) 6 C) 7 D) 8.5 E) 10
- 10) The blueprints for the church initially showed the roof to be covered with asphalt shingles versus its current cedar shakes.
A) True B) False

Quiz prepared by CLC Archivist R. Tim Weiland; note he again got 9 out of 10 correct! Answers can be found on Page 21

HELP WANTED – NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT NEEDED...



After a year of faithful service, Judy DiDomizio is stepping down as Interim Sunday School Superintendent and we are in need of a volunteer to take on the task. The Superintendent oversees the Sunday morning education program for the members aged Pre-school to Teen and coordinates with the Education Deacon and Pastor. If you are interested or have any questions about the position, please speak to Judy D, Pastor R, or Education Deacon Craig Wilson.

WE SUPPORT HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER...



Volunteers are needed to deliver baby items to Hope Pregnancy Center, located next to the Library in Cheshire. If you would like to help once or twice a year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

We 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.

THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...

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

December

December 9, 1956	Inaugural service at Cheshire Grange Hall; Rev. Darrell Geitz giving the 1st sermon
December 24, 1967	Bell first rung
December 9, 2006	New garden crosses imbedded
December 3, 2011	Lawn Crèche first displayed
December 17, 2017	Call extended to Rev. David Patrick Rowold to fill pastoral vacancy of Pastor Charles Gustafson



CANS AND BOTTLES—BOTTLES AND CANS...

Save your returnable Bottle and Cans. Money raised will benefit Little Cherubs. A collection can is located at the back of the Fellowship Hall by the storage closet.

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 (and appropriate to current COVID-19 physical distancing requirements) If you are available 1 or 2 months per year for approximately one hour a week, please contact Guy Mason, our Financial Secretary.

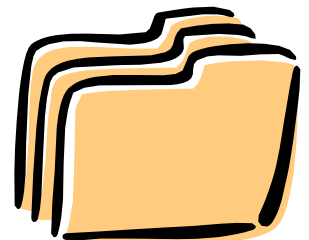
The Financial Secretary has a new church e-mail address if you wish to volunteer or have a question email me.

Guy Mason—Financial Secretary



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!! (January 2021 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net) by **Saturday, December 26th** 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!



NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

We kicked off the 2021 Stewardship campaign on Sunday, November 22nd, with Pledge Sunday. Each family has received, or will be receiving, a pledge packet. I have highlighted below three key components which are included in your pledge packet. The theme of these items all relate to our giving of our TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE, the core of what Stewardship is about.



1st of three items in your pledge packet: Mission Plan. Aka Work Plan:

- ✦ We do not call this our budget, although it represents our financials, since everything in it supports the work we do, our mission.
- ✦ This plan includes both Home Ministry, including Little Cherubs Christian Preschool, as well as World Wide Ministry, where we support the broader community around us.
- ✦ The Mission Plan was thoughtfully developed by the Finance Committee, and approved by our Voters Assembly and the Council. If you have any questions about the Mission Plan, please ask me or any Council member.
- ✦ We are richly blessed, in that year to date for 2020, we are in a healthy financial position. This is due to the generosity of you, our CLC members.

2nd of three items in your pledge packet: TIME AND TALENT Cards:

- ✦ We are asking you to give thoughtful consideration as to where you may aspire to get involved in at CLC.
- ✦ Again, we are richly blessed, in that so many of our CLC family give tirelessly of their TIME AND TALENT. It is due to the cumulative efforts and energies of everyone that makes “this place” run.

✦ That said, we always need “new blood”; new people to get involved and give their efforts and energy.

✦ As the expression goes “Many Hands Make Light Work”

✦ The Time and Talent card is the means in which you can indicate your interest in getting involved!

✦ This year, we refreshed the card to best align with current needs. For example, you will see a new section “TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTING MISSION”, so if you have any skills and/or interest in say video streaming YouTube for our Sunday services, here is your chance!

- ✦ Another update you will see on the Time and Talent card is we are making it easier to denote “current” involvement versus “interest” in getting involved, so we can clearly discern net new interest.

3rd of three items in your pledge packet: Pledge Card itself:

- ✦ Here is where you have an opportunity to make a financial pledge, which supports the Work Plan I mentioned above.
- ✦ More correctly, instead of using the word “opportunity”, I should say “responsibility”. Makes sense, since everything that we have belongs to God, and is entrusted to our care.
- ✦ A note to Givers who have not made a pledge in prior years – please consider doing so! Your pledge demonstrates your support of our Mission Plan, and it helps us best manage our financials.

So, what do I do next? Glad you asked! Your action is requested for the following items:

- ✦ Pick up your Pledge Packet at CLC, or call the church office to have it mailed to you
- ✦ Give thoughtful consideration to both the TIME and TALENT cards, and the Pledge Card
- ✦ Return both to CLC by December 13. You may put them in the offering plate, church office, or US Mail them to CLC's PO Box.

Let me know if any questions! For those that have already returned their cards, THANK YOU! Have a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

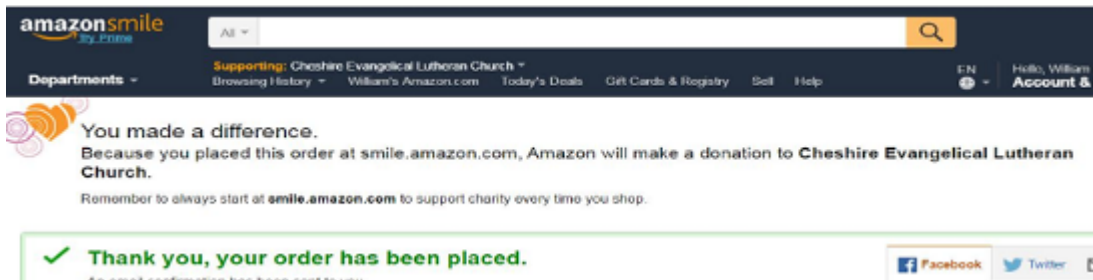
Rob DeLaubell
Stewardship Deacon



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

Council Meeting Reminder: Monday December 7th at 7:00 PM (Most Likely via Zoom)

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 listed in our church directory.



COLUMBARIUM & MEMORIAL GARDEN NEWS...

Upkeep of the area by committee members is ongoing.

The Columbarium Committee has been working to simplify the forms used to purchase a Subscription for an Inurement and other forms.

For more information, grab a pamphlet and/or contact any member of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium Committee.

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



For Unto Us a Child is Born



Oh Come Let Us Adore Him

Cheshire Lutheran Church



HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS...

HAVE A SAFE & BLESSED CHRISTMAS

Our CLC Wellness and Safety Committee has been meeting monthly using the following instructional guides: creating a safe church, being prepared and aware and providing emergency medical care. We offer the following tips to help make your Christmas safe and secure..

- ▲ If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry.
- ▲ A dried-out tree can catch fire faster than one that has been properly watered. Check the water level every other day to ensure proper hydration.
- ▲ If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it's labeled "fire resistant." Fire-resistant trees are less susceptible to catching fire.
- ▲ Replace any lights with frayed wires, broken sockets, and loose connections.
- ▲ Turn off all lights when you go to bed and before leaving the house to avoid a short that could start an electrical fire.
- ▲ Keep candles on a sturdy base to prevent tipping. Never leave a lit candle unattended.
- ▲ Keep potentially poisonous plants – poinsettias, mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children.
- ▲ Keep your driveway and walkways clear of ice and snow, especially if you're expecting guests. Roughly 16,500 Americans head to the hospital each year due to injuries that happen while shoveling or removing ice and snow. Wear proper boots with enough traction, point feet slightly outward to keep your center of balance under you, and take small, slow steps.
- ▲ Keep yourself and your family safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs (including their juices) away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.

Don't let the holiday madness take a toll on your mental and emotional health. Take some time off to relax and unwind. In addition, get adequate sleep.

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 2021...

Pledge Sunday for 2021 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!



CLC CHRISTMAS DECORATING...

CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING – We will gather at CLC around 3:00 p.m. on Friday 12/18/20 to harvest and bring the tree into the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING – Many Hands Make Light Work as we will gather at CLC at **9:00 AM ish** on Saturday 12/19/20 to decorate the tree and adorn the Nave. This process is normally accomplished within 1-2 hours, depending on the number of helpers.

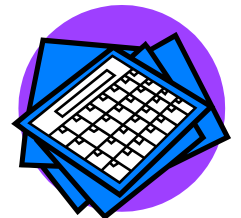
THANK YOU, AND A BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON TO ALL!

Vicki DePaolo
CLC Vice President



CLC CALENDARS FOR 2021...

2021 Calendars are coming. The calendars are a gift to our congregation compliments of the Alderson/Slater Funeral Home. You are welcome to pick up a copy from our hallway counter or narthex table as soon as they arrive. Watch for the notice when they get here.



CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR CLC MEMBERS...

If you would like to send a Christmas card to all of us here at CLC (instead of to each of us) you can do so by posting it on our bulletin board over the green felt Christmas tree.





CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE...

Confirmation class will begin for our 6th and 7th graders as soon as students pick up their materials (available on the table in the hallway, outside of the Fellowship Hall) and the time for class is finalized. Parents should be in touch with Pastor R, if they have not already, to verify if they are available at the proposed class day/time and if they need to make arrangements to pick up their child's books.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Sunday School classes for Kindergarten to Grade 8 have been meeting via Zoom at 9:15 AM on the second and fourth Sundays of the month since October. While most of our teachers are new to conducting class this way and have encountered a few minor hiccups along the way, they are getting better at it with each session and have had some great experiences interacting with our students. If your family has not received a Zoom invitation from their Sunday School teacher, please contact the Church office so we can get that straightened out.

We still have not heard from all of our High School Youth about their interest in Bible study; if you have not replied yet, please contact Pastor R.



After serving a year as Interim Sunday School Superintendent, Judy DiDomizio has stepped back to only teaching the Grades 6 to 8 students. Please thank Judy for her service as Education Deacon and Superintendent. We expect to appoint a new Superintendent at the December Council meeting. If you are interested in serving in that capacity, or would like to recommend someone else, please contact Pastor R right away.

Service Reminder!

We have resumed our 2 Service Sunday Schedule:

- ✦ **Sunday Worship Services** at:
 - ✦ 8:00 AM—This service is also Live Streamed via YouTube
 - ✦ 10:30 AM Service in the Sanctuary only—NOT normally Live Streamed unless there was a problem with 8:00 AM
- ✦ **Sunday School** will be held via Zoom - at 9:15 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.
- ✦ **Adult Sunday School/Bible Study** at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall *in person* with Social Distancing and via Zoom on 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.
- ✦ **All Services** still require us to make reservations by calling or stopping by on Thursday's between 10—12. This is so we can assure we have the space, because we are social distancing during the services.
- ✦ **After Communion Services**, those who are watching live-streamed, will have the opportunity to be communed outside between the hours of 9:30-10:00 and 12:00-12:30.



To find the Drone Video go on Your Computer (or Ipad or Smart phone) and click on our CLC website (Cheshirelutheran.org); then scroll down on the right hand side to "CLC Drone Video" to view a fascinating 3-minute view from the air (via a drone) of our CLC buildings and property - Thanks to Tim Weiland (and Tim's neighbor), Bill Juul, and our Parish Choir led by Martha Medford.

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

The following has been recently added to our Website:

- ✚ Wonderful aerial drone video put to music of our beautiful church grounds
- ✚ Live streaming and video recordings of Sunday Services during COVID-19 restrictions
- ✚ Service video with enhanced music recordings—YouTube sometimes does not broadcast the best sounding audio.
- ✚ Audio recordings of Anthems sung by Soloists and Special Ensembles this Summer
- ✚ Current and Past Heavenly Heralds
- ✚ Video recordings from many past events
- ✚ Audio and Video recordings of Pastors Sermons and other events
- ✚ Pictures, pictures, pictures and more pictures from all our past events other miscellaneous photos taken in and around the Church by Tim Weiland
- ✚ Much, much more...





COMING SOON !!!

60th Anniversary of the
Dedication
of

Cheshire Evangelical Lutheran Church

660 West Main Street
Cheshire, Connecticut

The Reverend
Louis Nuechterlein, *Pastor*

Septuagesima Sunday
January 29, 1961



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

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 the Food Pantry for more information.



"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, detergent, paper products etc.

CHESHIRE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS HELP...

The Cheshire Community Food Pantry needs our help more than ever. Covid-19 has decreased contributions, children are home and people out of work. There are no Sunday donations to the Pantry. We can directly drop off items at the Pantry or send a cash for them to purchase what they need most. **THEY NEED OUR HELP!**

The Cheshire Community Food Pantry is located at:

175 Sandbank Rd
Cheshire Ct 06410

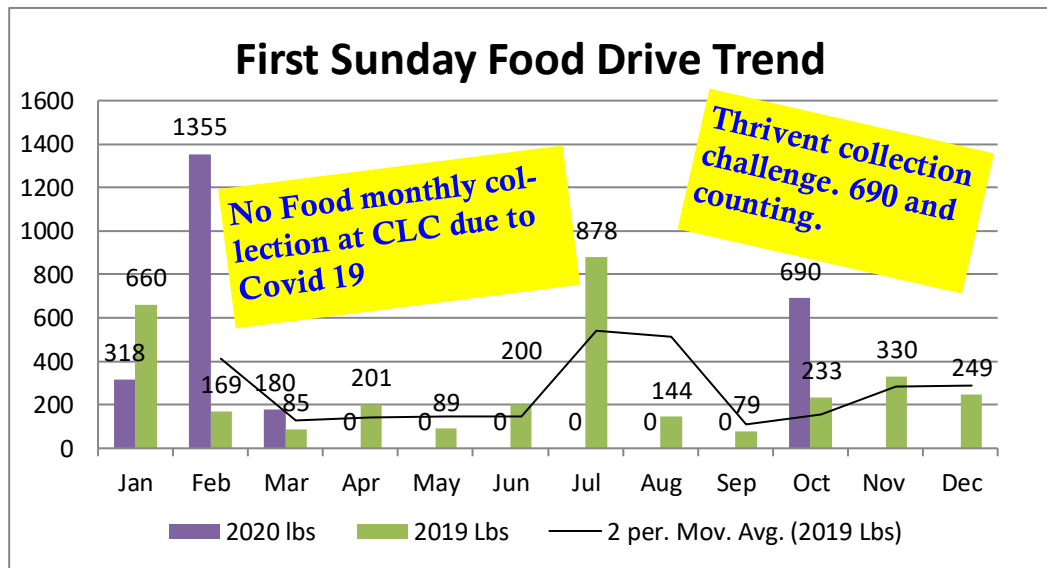
Send Checks to:

Cheshire Community Food Pantry PO BOX 457

or

you can donate \$\$ to them online at <https://www.cheshirefoodpantry.org/>

Call for drop off times: 203-699-9226





NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEACON...

One morning in early October, I received an email from Thrivent Financial, a Lutheran nonprofit organization. They were offering an Action Team challenge called FEEDNE2020. Groups were being encouraged to support the food pantries that are in dire need. We could get \$250 to use toward starting a drive to give food to a local food pantry. On top of that, if we were one of the first 100 to donate 500 items, the food pantry would receive a check for \$500. This was a no brainer-we could do that! The race was on! I got approval and presented the challenge to CLC. I received the Thrivent money and your contributions. October 14th, we reported that we delivered 604 items to Cheshire Community Food Pantry. It looked promising that we would be among the elite 100. There was a total of \$1238 given and a month for the drive. How do I spend that much in a month and deliver it all. A committee was formed DDD (DottiDianeDon). Diane Drust and I

shopped, taking advantage of sale and getting food that the pantry requested. They ordered cases and fresh produce through their ShopRite store. The Drust men delivered the majority of the food to the pantry-1360 ITEMS/1569 LBS. That is more than half of 2019 total donation to the CCFP. I had no doubt that we would come though and support our community in need.

The number of families using the pantry continues to increase due to the pandemic. We did get the additional \$500 from Thrivent but we need to continue to help supply the food pantry. You can drop off at their building on 175 Sandbank Road or send checks. WE are blessed, Bless the hungry and needy.

Saturday, November 14, was Cheshire's 15th annual "Lights of Hope". Cheshire Lutheran Church again participated as a sponsor on what was a beautiful lite night. The annual event benefits several Cheshire Youth and Social Services. Proceeds also go toward student scholarships and to The Petit Family Foundation

Dottie Dierolf
Social Welfare Deacon



NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...



You are cordially invited to be a:

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

Our weekly services don't just happen.

*******Additional ushers are needed at this time! Please contact Tim*******

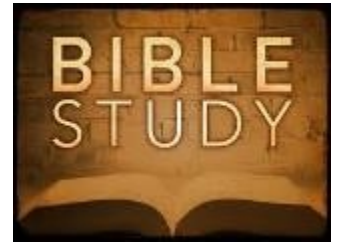
For a typical four Sunday month, there can be at least 70 "periods of service" when members usher, acolyte, read lessons, greet other members before service, and prepare the altar. (And this does not count the choir's musical offerings that make our worship special).

Thank you in advance!
R Tim Weiland, your CLC Worship Deacon

Bible Studies at CLC

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES...

Sunday morning Bible study meets on the Second and Fourth Sundays of the month at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall for everyone comfortable meeting in person (standard Covid precautions of 6 feet of distance and wearing masks apply), and is available via Zoom for folks not attending in person. The Zoom link is sent out via a mass email each week. We are currently working our way through a multi-part study that looks at the religion of Islam. Join us on the Second and Fourth Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom.



Our Wednesday afternoon study of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke meets Wednesdays at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for those interested in meeting in person (the usual Covid precautions will apply), and is also available by Zoom for those who desire. The Zoom link is sent out via a mass email each week. Join us Wednesdays at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall or on Zoom. (Please note, there will be NO Wednesday Bible Study on December 30.)

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.

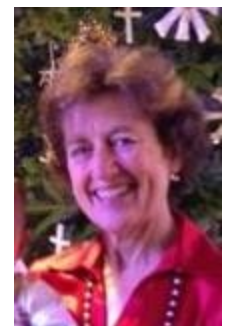
Assistance During COVID 19:

Please consider requesting assistance such as meals, transportation, occasional errands, minor household repairs, and visitors. Please know that Helping Hands may be able to help during this **Coronavirus** quarantine chapter in our lives. If you are in need of groceries or other essential items, or just want a daily or occasional phone call, please contact Sally at the number below.

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 to request assistance or for any concerns or questions. Please note that all information will be confidential.

Sally Schrumm, Chairman



Answers from Tim Weiland Quiz on Page 9:

1) E; 2) C; 3) A; 4) A; 5) E; 6) D; 7) B; 8) A; 9) B; 10) A

- 2nd Tim Baker
- 4th Judith DiDomizio
Emily Napp
Steve Feero
- 5th Carolyn Carrington
- 6th Sydney Taylor
- 10th Paul Fiedler
- 12th Martha Henderson
Ali Tyler
- 14th John Mulvaney
- 16th David McBain
Christian Kjeldsen
- 17th Alwin Manke
- 21st Blair Donewald
- 22nd Judith Juul
- 25th Curt Smith
- 27th Paul Smith
- 29th Samantha Nowak
- 30th Alan Santoro
David Blair

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 2020

12th Jeff and Kyong Mann 40 Years



Christmas Eve Service Reminder!

Thursday December 24 - Christmas Eve Services:
4:00 PM, 7:00 PM & 10:00 PM



GOD BLESS OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS...

Please say a special thank you to your children's Sunday School teachers. They serve in a very important mission of our church, our children! A simple and sincere "we appreciated your help to us and our children" will mean so much to them.

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy...Luke 2:10



Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St
Cheshire CT 06410

