



The Heavenly Herald

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' ... ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:1-2, 11 (ESV)

January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany; it is the day that the Christian Church remembers the visit of the *Magi* – those "wise men from the East" – who came to worship the Christ-child. We see them in just about every nativity scene and Sunday school Christmas program. They appear on Christmas cards and in beloved Christmas carols. Still, we hear the Scripture passage about their visit rarely (usually only when Epiphany falls on a Sunday) and we actually know very little about them.

We sing about those folks coming from the East as kings, but they were really *Magi*, "wise men" or royal advisors with knowledge about a wide variety of topics – not kings. We don't know exactly from where they came. We know there was more than one because the word *Magi* is a plural form, but we don't know that there were exactly three. (We assume three, most likely, because of the three gifts.) We don't know their names and whether it was a group of just men, or a group of men and women. We presume the gifts were prophetic, pointing to the fact that the Babe of Bethlehem would be our prophet (symbolized by the myrrh), our priest (represented by the frankincense), and our king (symbolized by the gold), but those are all just guesses.

There are only two things that we know for certain about these *Magi*; the first is that they

made it a point to worship the baby Jesus, altering their lives and going quite a bit out of their way to do so. Matthew's Gospel recounts how they "saw his star when it rose", which would have been when Jesus was born, and that's when they set out on their journey to find him. It was not a quick or an easy trip, and it would have caused a major disruption to their lives and incurred quite a cost. In fact, it may have taken as many as two years from when they set out to when they finally arrived in Bethlehem. We know this because Matthew refers to Jesus as a "child", which is a different word from the word used for "baby" or "infant" in the Scriptures, and the holy family is living in a house when the *Magi* arrive, not a stable. (There's also the fact that Herod's slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem is directed at children two and under.)

The second thing that we know for certain about these *Magi* is that their worship of the baby Jesus included taking from the treasures that they possessed and giving them to Him. The gifts that they gave, gold and frankincense and myrrh, were not inexpensive or easy to acquire. No, they were costly and time consuming to manufacture. Gold had to be mined and then refined, while frankincense and myrrh were both derived from plant resins, requiring time for their respective plants to grow and mature; then the laborious work of harvesting the resins and refining them had to be performed. These *Magi* spared no expense in the gifts that they gave to the Christ-child.

As we start this new year, it's my prayer that we make a concerted effort to follow the example of the *Magi* and seek to emulate the two things that we know for sure about them. First, let's make worship an important part of our lives. I'm not asking you to travel long distances, disrupt your entire life, or incur

(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 ring in the new year please welcome the Church Council ready to serve beginning in 2021:

- ✠ President – Steven Feero
- ✠ Vice President – Bill Soulier (new)
- ✠ Recording Secretary – Terri Daly
- ✠ Financial Secretary – Guy Mason
- ✠ Treasurer – Bill Sherman (new)
- ✠ House and Grounds Deacon – Andrew Clark
- ✠ Stewardship Deacon – Rob DeLaubell
- ✠ Worship Deacon – Tim Weiland
- ✠ Evangelism Deacon – Marilyn Miller (new)
- ✠ Christian Growth Fund Deacon – David Schrumm (new)
- ✠ Fellowship Deacon – Pam Clark (new)
- ✠ Social Welfare Deacon – Vicki DePaolo (new)
- ✠ Youth Deacon – Lisa Muller (new)



A special thank you to: 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, for their 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.

Regarding church business, our December Council meeting was held as scheduled and each council member provided productive updates. A few key highlights were that Tricia Rowold was voted in unanimously as the new Sunday School Superintendent. Our cleaning team Hector Cardona and his wife Jeanette are retiring, and we decided to offer them a \$500 gift for their 21 years of faithful service and going above and beyond the call. It will be hard to find a replacement who matches up to their high standards and generous spirit. If you know anyone, please pass their contact info on to Andy Clark. Our Mission Plan was trending at just under 93% at the beginning of December, and with expenses overall down, we continue to feel fortunate to deliver on our 2020 commitments.

Here are the upcoming meeting dates for 2021, and we will publish the rest after our first Council meeting.

- ✠ Council: Monday, February 8 – 7 p.m. via Zoom
- ✠ Voters: Sunday, February 14 – 1 p.m. via Zoom

As you ponder 'new year resolutions', I encourage you to be aware of opportunities to tell a friend or acquaintance 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, socially distanced of course.

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

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

(Continued from page 1)

massive costs, but I am encouraging you to come to Church. If you and your household are well and have no underlying health concerns, consider coming to Church in person. We're following health guidelines during the pandemic and employing the best practices available to keep people safe as we worship, so come out in person if you are able. If you aren't able to come to Church in person, then make it a point to participate in worship via the live stream – and try to do it when the stream is actually live, not later in the day or later in the week. I know that life can be hectic and schedules challenging, but let's make coming together in worship a priority, not just something we do when it is convenient.



Second, let's remember to open up our treasures and give to God in a spirit of thankfulness. I'm not asking you to spend vast sums of money and donate precious metals or rare resins, but I am encouraging you to look at all the blessings that God has given to you and to give back to Him as an expression of thanksgiving. The *Magi* gave gifts from the treasures that the Lord had entrusted to them, and let's do the same. They had things like gold and frankincense and myrrh; ours are a bit different, but we all have treasures to offer: some sing or ring; others plant or prune; still others teach or lead; and then there are those blessed to be able to give financially. Our congregation has been blessed with so many people who do so much, even this past year during the pandemic. Together, let's continue to open up the treasures the Lord has given us and use them in His service.

Won't you join me in following the example of the *Magi* this year? Come into the Lord's house and worship Him, making it a priority and not an afterthought. Offer to Him gifts from your time, your talents, and your treasures as you are able. See again the Good News of the King born for you and hold fast to the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that He brings.

In Christ,
Pastor R

THANK YOU...

Thank you to all the members and friends of Cheshire Lutheran Church for your generosity, your kindness, and your prayers. My family and I are truly blessed that you called me three years ago to serve as your Pastor. May God bless and keep you always.

Pastor Rowold



TRICIA ROWOLD ELECTED SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT...

At its December meeting, the Church Council appointed Tricia Rowold to serve as the new Superintendent for our Sunday School Program. She takes over for Judy DiDomizio, who served as Interim Superintendent after having finished her term as Education Deacon. We thank Judy for all she has done, and Tricia for stepping into this role. May God bless them both and all of the Education programs here at CLC.





CLC CHOIR NEWS...

All Choirs have resumed rehearsals. While it will not be “business as usual”; we will practice & perform 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.
- ♫ 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
January 3 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 6 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 10 - Sunday	No Performances		
January 13 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 17 - Sunday	7:30AM	Rehearsal	Soloist
	8:00 AM	Performance	Soloist
	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 20 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 24 - Sunday	7:15 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
January 27 - Wednesday	7:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 31 - Sunday	7:30AM	Rehearsal	Soloist
	8:00 AM	Performance	Soloist
	10:30 AM	Performance	Soloist

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!
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ 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 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 during these very difficult and unprecedented times. We acknowledge you constantly have to “think out of the box” with regards to organizing our Services and making sure everyone is informed. Thank You
- ✚ Another special Thank You to all those who contributed to our worship services throughout the 2020 year. Pastor, Martha, Carol, Steve Feero, Bill Juul and many others—Thank you from the bottom of our hearts
- ✚ Many thanks to Al Manke for continuing to take care of the bottles and cans that we collect and make sure the money collected from recycling is given to the Little Cherubs



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.



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 on December 20th.

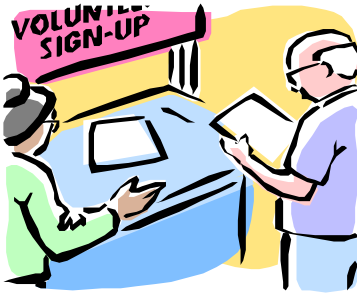
We appreciate your thoughtful participation in making this benevolence so successful.

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
- ✦ **On With Life (OWL)** bereavement group information
- ✦ **Hope Pregnancy Center** 2021 volunteer sign-ups
- ✦ **Cheshire Food Drive** Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- ✦ **2021 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.
- ✦ **Ushers are needed** to work both services.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Sunday School continued to meet by Zoom during the month of December. We had our normal classes on December 13 and all the classes were invited to come together for a large group Zoom for a modified Christmas program on December 20. The families that were able to join us for the program sang and prayed together, and we had two of our High School students, Matthew and Sarah, volunteer to read the Christmas story from the Gospels.

In January, Sunday School classes will meet by Zoom on the 10th and the 24th. We're also planning to have a meeting of the teacher using Zoom to discuss new materials for Sunday school. Until we're able to meet in person for classes, Sunday School will continue to meet by Zoom on the second and fourth Sunday's of every month.



Thank you to the parents who are diligently making sure that their children join us remotely for Sunday School and to all the teachers for your continued hard work and faithfulness during these challenging times.

Tricia Rowold—Sunday School Program Superintendent

NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

We had a great December getting ready for Jesus' Birthday! The children have been very excited decorating a white bag with Christmas Stickers. All the presents they made for their families went inside. We'll share with you some of the gifts that they made for that special decorated bag: paper plate angels, coffee filter angels, gingerbread men, reindeer project, Christmas star project, a Nativity Door Hanger, paint Santa Claus and put a picture of themselves in his belly area.

The children practiced cutting to make a wreath and each child's wreath went on the wall of Little Cherubs to create a Christmas Tree. The children created a homemade candle to put on their dining room table as a center piece.

Miss Martha sent the children home with their homemade Candy Cane and the Legend of the Candy Cane. For a little history, they learned how Christmas was celebrated in Holland – St Nicholas Day and how Christmas was celebrated in Sweden – St Lucia Day.

Today, as I write this article, the children are using stencils, coloring, and cutting out the stencil shape they created – a cross, church, dove, fish etc.

Each Wednesday at 10:45 we meet with Pastor in the Fellowship Hall for Bible Story. The children look so forward to that time with him.

The Letters they practiced were L, M, N and the Numbers 1-10 review, #11, and #12. Bible consisted of David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lions Den, and the Christmas Story. December 23, 2020 the children were able to re-enact the Christmas Story, dressing up and, as a treat, we brought in ice cream cups.

Martha, Cindy and I hope you all had a safe, happy and healthy Christmas. We so look forward to being with our families, not having to wear masks all day and to have life back to normal.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL,
Miss Martha, Miss Cindy and Miss JoAnn



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.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANCE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED ...

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



CLC December 2020



Setting up the Crèche on
December 6, 2020



Cutting Down Trees at the Parsonage
December 12, 2020



Christmas Tree felling on December 15, 2020



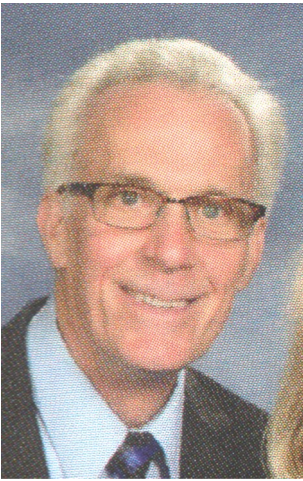
Memories

Christmas Tree & Church decorating
on December 19, 2020



Advent Service





NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

The year 2020 has been challenging for all of us. However, we should find strength in the fact that we have come through a very challenging year by working cooperatively with each other, maintaining respect for each other and letting our faith lead us forward. The presence of God, through the Holy Spirit within us has provided us with the strength to move forward with confidence. Let's face it ... with God on our side, what do we have to fear? We all should be grateful for God being on our side. Let us all thank Him for His presence in our lives and never take Him for granted.

The us not look back in regret, nor forward with fear but around us with awareness. Therefore, with confidence we all will welcome 2021!

Alan Spose
Evangelism Deacon

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:

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



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!

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.

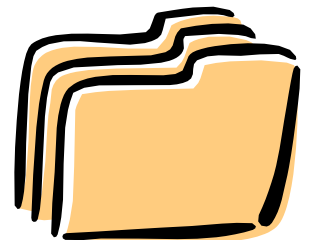
The Financial Secretary has a new church e-mail address if you wish to volunteer or have a question email me.

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!!

(February 2021 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net) by **Friday, January 22nd** or earlier! Place all non-electronic articles and information you would like printed into the HH in Beth's lateral file folder on the hallway table.

Thank You!



NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

THANK YOU for your responses to date for the 2021 Pledge Campaign. I would like to share where we are as of December 23rd.



For 2021 Pledge Cards:

- ✦ 58 – number of pledges received for 2021
- ✦ 5 – new pledgers (pledged in 2021 who did not pledge in 2020)
- ✦ \$193,514 – total pledged for 2021
- ✦ 67% - of our 2021 Work Plan Offerings has been pledged

As points of reference:

- ✦ Last year, for 2020, we received 67 total pledges
- ✦ Last year, for 2020, we received \$210,133 in pledges
- ✦ Last year, for 2020, 72% of our Work Plan Offerings had been pledged

We are off to a solid start, but we still have an opportunity to improve! If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so. If you misplaced yours and need another, please let Carol Santoro (our Office Manager) or I know. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of supporting CLC's mission.

In addition, I am pleased that we received a great response to the TIME and TALENT cards. Recall that this year's cards were modified to allow you to indicate areas where you are currently involved, and areas where you would like to get involved, so that we could more easily discern net new interest. There were 44 expressions of interest to get involved in a new area! The appropriate leaders have been informed of your interest, and should be reaching out to you. If you expressed an interest and no one has reached out, please let me know and I will help make the connection.

Thank you,
Rob DeLaubell
Stewardship Deacon



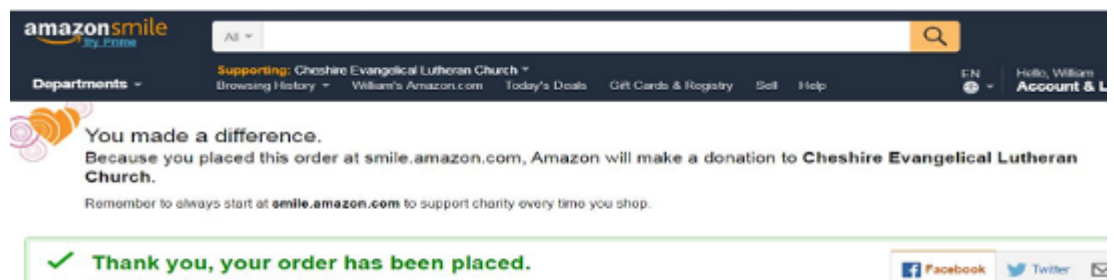
YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES...

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



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...



Congregational Meeting Reminder:

Sunday January 10th during the 8:00 AM Service

(Via Youtube stream and in the Sanctuary)

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...

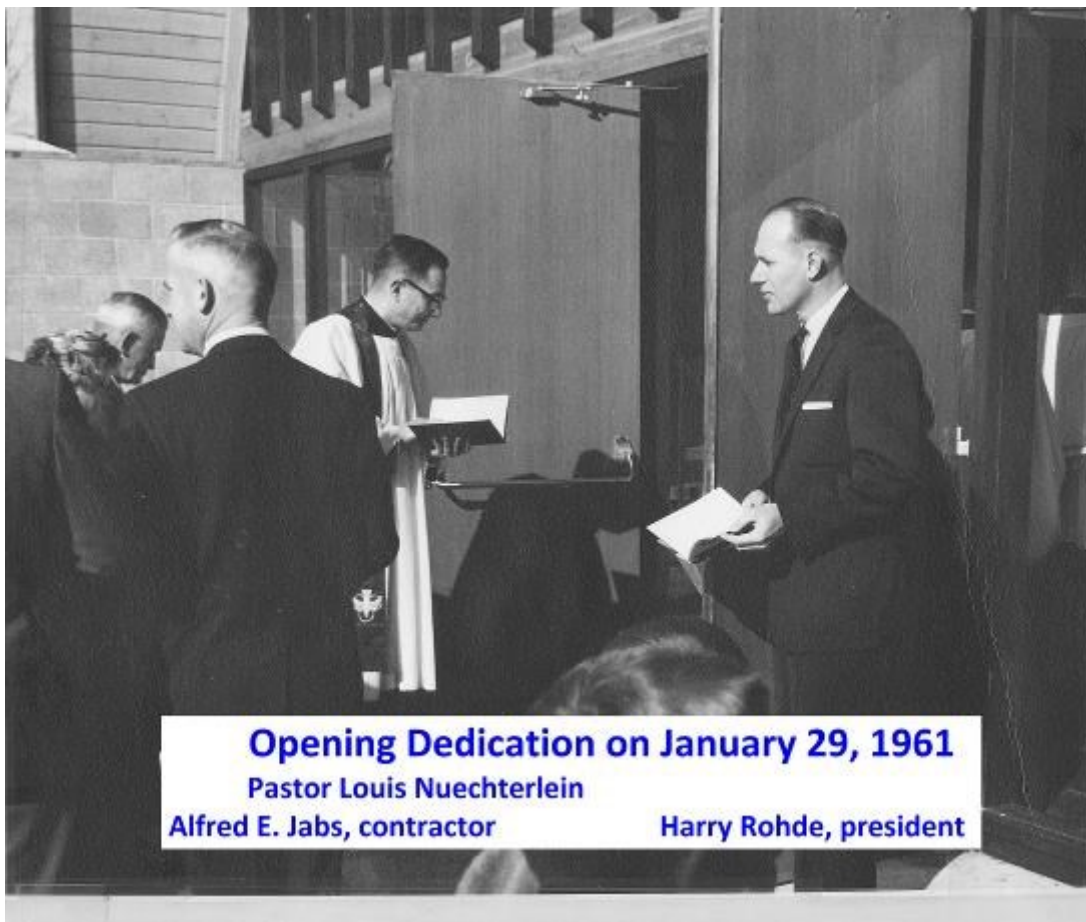
Upkeep of the area by committee members is ongoing.

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





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!



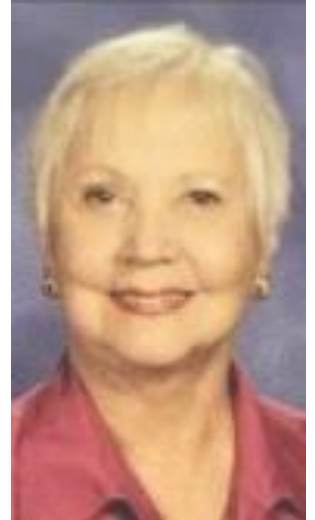
NEWS FROM OUR SOCIAL WELFARE DEACON...

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

I hope you had a chance to be at church on Christmas-in person or virtually. The technology is wonderful. It has been an unusual year but has not dampened our faith and caring. We were able to have several chances to show our support of others as a congregation. Our last "normal" event was the Souper Bowl. Then everything was shut down! But we were able to do Blanket Sunday and the hygiene kits, Thanksgiving food drive and FeedNE 2020. We also met our mission plan.

Thank you for your commitment this year and my time on Council. I hope that some time in 2021 we will see near normal days. Until then, please continue to do what you can through CLC and on your own. Stay safe, well and get your vaccinations.

Social Welfare Deacon
Dotti Dierolf



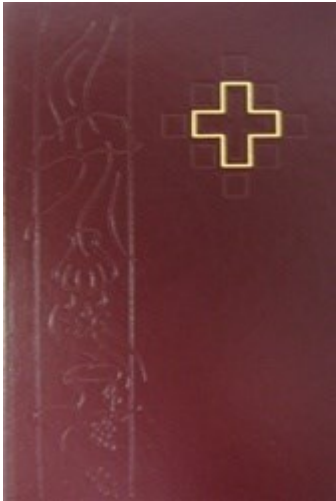
SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY AT CLC...

On Sunday, February 7th millions of Americans will tune into the Super Bowl football game. This year especially, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop a monetary donation and/or a soup donation as you leave worship on February 7th or on Thursday February 4th between 10:00 AM and Noon during open office hours. CLC's donations will go to Cheshire Community Food Pantry.



Thank you,
Vicki DePaolo, Social Welfare Deacon—Elect





THE HYMNALS HAVE RETURNED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES...

On the last Sunday in December, we resumed the routine use of our hymnals during our worship services. For those who choose to use them, the hymnals are available from a media cart in the Narthex. You'll pick one up from the top shelf on the way into the service (being careful to touch only the hymnal you will be using) and then return it to the bottom shelf of the cart at the end of the service. There are separate carts for the 8 and 10:30 services and the hymnals sit untouched until the following Sunday. (By letting our hymnals sit for a week, that should provide more than sufficient time for any germs or virus that could possibly be on them to die and to remove the risk of touch-transmission.)

Printed copies of the service are still available for people to pick up during open office hours on Thursdays and they will continue to be an option on Sunday mornings for those who decide not to use the hymnals for any reason. If you are worshipping from home for the foreseeable future and would like to borrow a copy of the hymnal from the Church or would like information on how to obtain your own personal copy, please contact Pastor Rowold at the Church office.





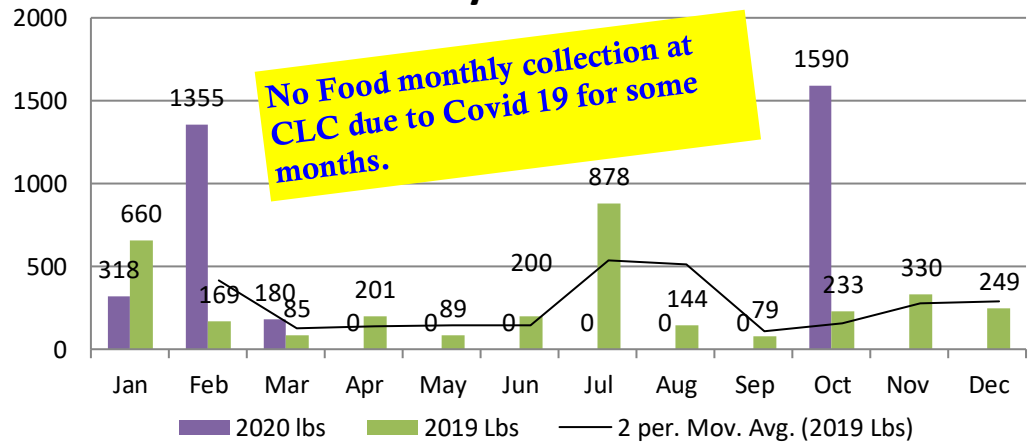
DONATE YOUR FREEBIES!

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.

First Sunday Food Drive Trend



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

LET'S NOT FORGET THOSE LESS FORTUNATE...

Don't let our First Sunday Food Bank donations fall behind last year's totals! Please note that the Cheshire Community Food Pantry is open Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9:00 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

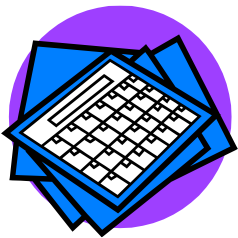
**A BIG THANK YOU AND FAREWELL FROM
THE FELLOWSHIP DEACON**

To all the volunteers who helped with the church fellowship functions, I thank you for the time you took to make this church a joyful place to be. I have reached the end of my six year commitment and am passing on the fellowship torch to Pam Clarke.

It was an exceptionally busy time (up until this past year) and I pray that we will soon be able to get together and celebrate as we have in the past. So thank you to all of the setter-uppers and cleaner-uppers, cooks, grillers, bakers and lemonade and coffee makers. As always, I look forward to another year, but this time as a volunteer.

*I thank you for the time you spared
and the helping hand you gave.
It meant so much and I thank the Lord
For the effort that you made.*

Karen Weiland



CLC CALENDARS FOR 2021...

2021 Calendars are here. 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.



NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...

You are cordially invited to be a:

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

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).

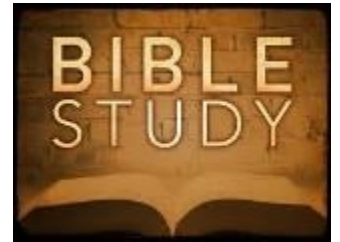
Thank you in advance!

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 anyone 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.

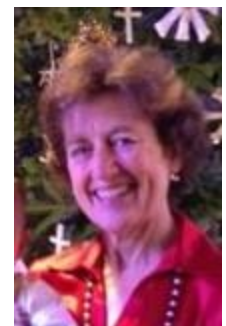
Assistance During COVID 19:

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



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

Catherine Barden
Todd Plantier
Emily Smith
Michael Carrington
Craig Wilson
Carolyn Schmollinger
Barbara Manthey
Scott Slauson
Rebecca Mayer
Margie Mertz
Ned McBain
Carol Santoro
John Shepard
Don Dobbs
Eleanor Kenney
Matthew Lynch

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 2021

6th	Patrick & Kelley Collins-Pardee	9 Years
17th	John & Lynn Balash	46 Years



ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING REMINDER...

No Voters or Council meeting in January!!!
 The Annual corporate meeting will be held on
 Sunday, January 10th, Live Streamed on YouTube
 during the 8:00 AM service!

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