#### CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH



# The Heavenly Herald

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#### Pastor's Message

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth." Luke 2:4-6 (ESV)

Getting ready for the Christmas season this year caused several conversations about "time" at Cheshire Lutheran. We started talking about "time" during the November Council meeting, when the question was asked, "Would it be possible to have the Christmas Eve services at an earlier time this year?" The conversations grew when members of the Choir asked,

"What time will the service or services be on Christmas day?"
The talk about "time" became more complicated as the members of the congregation discussed it at the November Voters'

Meeting. They

continued as our Organist and the choir members were approached about what "time" they would be able to make work. By now, hopefully, all the discussions about time – at least with respect to the services for the 2022-2023 Christmas season – have come to an end.

In case you missed all the talk about "time", please let me share the important end result. The following are the times for the services this Christmas Season: Christmas Eve services will be at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM, with Holy Communion at both services and candlelight at the later service; Christmas Day (Sunday) will be just one service at 9:30 AM with Holy Communion and no Sunday School or Bible study; New Year's Day will be just one service at 9:30 AM with Lessons & Carols – no Communion and no Sunday School or Bible Study.

When we started talking at the November Council meeting about what time to have the services on Christmas Eve, there were many who thought the process would be quick and easy. As more and more people joined the conversation, those notions were quickly forgotten. Among the factors that increased the complexity were Christmas Eve dinners, holiday traditions, when people could be available, how late they were willing and able to drive, - just to name a few; the list of variables seemed to grow every time people spoke about the topic. Everyone wanted different times and for different reasons, and there seemed to be only one thing that they all had in common: whatever time each person wanted was the one they thought was the best choice.

Now let me be clear, there is absolutely nothing wrong with a person wanting the timing that is most convenient for them, or even thinking that

their preferred timing is the best choice. That is the way everyone functions after all; it's

way everyone functions after all; it's only human. I am sure that if they were given a choice, Mary and Joseph would have preferred a different time for the census that caused them to travel to Bethlehem, something more convenient when Mary was not "great with child". I can imagine that Joseph would have preferred the

timing of Mary's pregnancy had come after they were married. God's people for generations had hope the Messiah would come a lot sooner than He did, perhaps at a time closer to when Adam and Eve had their first son and Eve exclaimed "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord."

Yet God makes it abundantly clear through the pages of Holy Scripture that His timing is not our timing. He does not work out His plan of salvation based on what we want, what is easiest of us, or the most convenient

(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 and friends of Cheshire Lutheran Church.

#### Church Staff

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

Carol Santoro-Office Manager

Martha Medford-Organist & Choir Director

**Jeff Mann**-Parish President

Beth Soulier-Editor

#### NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings all,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Can't believe Christmas is just around the corner...



We will miss

Youth Deacon

are grateful for

their dedicated

service.

Worship Deacon Tim Weiland and Thank you all for your prayers and support throughout the year, and thank you to all the Voters for your commitment in attending all four meetings scheduled for 2022. Thanks to you, we were able to establish the required quorum needed to conduct the business portion of CLC. On behalf of the Council, we truly appreciate your patience and participation in our November meeting. This was the final meeting of the year for the Voters' Assembly, and we were able to successfully gain approval for both the 2023 Mission Plan and Slate of Officers and Deacons for the 2023 Council.

We were very fortunate to retain all current Officers for an additional term, as well as a large majority of the Deacons. We will miss Worship Deacon Tim Weiland and Youth Deacon Lisa Muller, but are grateful for their dedicated service. COVID brought on some additional challenges, especially for Tim because, for a period of time, guidelines seemed to change by the minute. Tim never flinched and always made sure we were able to Worship in a safe and compliant manner – Thank

The Council welcomes April Slauson as our new Worship Deacon and Andy Clark as our new Youth Deacon. April heard there was a need Lisa Muller, but and reached out to the Nominating Committee to offer her services. Likewise, when Andy was approached by a member of the Nominating Committee (that just happened to be his wife – Nice work Pam!!), he felt compelled to graciously accept. Andy got a jump start as he was appointed by the Council to immediately assume the role of Youth Deacon at our October Council meeting.

> Our 2023 slate of Officers and Deacons will be formally installed during a 10:30 Sunday Service in early January. It has been my honor to serve as Council President in 2022 and I look forward to continuing in that role for 2023.

Last Sunday, Stewardship Deacon Rob DeLaubell addressed each service to remind us of the importance of sharing our Time, Talents and Treasure for the success and sustainability of CLC, and the accomplishment of our mission plan both internally and externally. Rob will be leading the establishment of a Long-term Planning Committee focused on growing our membership long into the future. Please consider lending your talents to this important effort.

Please watch the bulletin board and listen for the announcements as we will soon be looking for volunteers to assist with setting up the Creche, as well as felling and decorating the Christmas tree and church. Many Hands Make Light Work. Stay well!

Yours in Christ,

Jeff Mann CLC Council President



# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	<u>:-</u>	Sat
				1 10:00 Bulletin Pick- Up	2	3
8:00 Worship 9:10 SS Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:00 Parish Choir 10:30 Worship 11:30 Advent Luncheon 7:00 Confirmation	S	6 7:00 Council Meet- ing	7 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	8 10:00 Bulletin Pick- Up	6	10 9:00 Youth Cookie Baking
8:00 Holy Communion Youth Christmas Cookie Sale 9:10 SS Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:10 Parish Choir 10:30 Holy Communion 7:00 Confirmation	12	13	14 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	15 10:00 Bulletin Pick- Up	16 3:00 Christmas Tree Harvesting	9:00 Christmas Decorating
18 8:00 Worship 9:10 SS Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:30 SS Christmas Program 7:00 Confirmation	19	20	21 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	22 10:00 Bulletin Pick- Up	23	3:20 Parish Choir 4:00 Christmas Eve Communion 8:20 Bell Choir 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Communion
MERRY CHRISTMAS 9:30 Holy Communion	26	27	28 Heavenly Herald art	29 10:00 Bulletin Pick- Up Heavenly Herald articles due to Beth Soulier	0	31
			חלמי לוווא וזכומוט מוני			



# DECEMBER SERVERS LIST

nth)										December 2022	Issue 21
Altar Guild (month)	April Slauson Ethel Daly									Attention Readers, Altar Servers and Acolytes— Reminder—You are responsible for getting a substitute if you are unable to serve on your assigned date. If you need a substitute list, please call the church office.	
Choir		Parish		Parish			Parish	Parish/Bell		Attention Rea and Acolytes Reminder – Y for getting a sunable to serv date. If you no please call the	
Ushers (month)	8:00 John Shepard Paul Smith	10:30 Alan Santoro	ı im wenand David Schrumm								
Acolytes											
Readers/Altar Assistants	$(I) = Individual\ Cups;\ (C) = Common\ Cup$ December 4 $8:00 - 1saiah\ 11:1-10 - Vanessa\ Falk$ - Romans 15:4-13 - Mario Bencivenga	10:30 - Isaiah 11:1-10 – Tim Weiland - Romans 15:4-13 – Blair Donewald	December 11 8:00 - Isaiah 35:1-10 ( <i>I</i> ) – Alan Spose - James 5:7-11 – Alan Spose	10:30 - Isaiah 35:1-10 ( <i>I</i> ) – David Veleber - James 5:7-11 – David Veleber	December 18 8:00 - Isaiah 7:10-17 – Marilyn Miller - Romans 1:1-7 – Steve Behnfeldt	10:30 - Sunday School Program	December 24 – Christmas Eve 4:00 PM - Isaiah 7:10-14 ( <i>I</i> ) – Karen Weiland - 1 John 4:7-16 – Karen Weiland	9:00 PM – Isaiah 7:10-14 ( <i>I</i> ) – Terri Daly - 1 John 4:7-16 – Terri Daly	December 25 9:30 - Isaiah 52:7-10 ( <i>I</i> ) – Andy Clark - Hebrews 1:1-6 – Andy Clark		Page ·
											rage

for you and me. No. God does things when the time is right, when it is called for in His divine plan that was set before the foundation of the world. Things happen when God desires them to happen to accomplish His plan to save you and me and all creation. That's why Saint Paul reminds us, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoptions as sons." (Galatians 4:4-5 ESV)

God's timing is not our timing and His plan is not always our plan, but that's a good thing. What God did for you and me in Christ Jesus is better than Mary and Joseph ever could have imagined, more than Adam and Eve had dreamed, and greater than we ever could have dared desire or request. When God's plan said that it was time to send Jesus the Messiah, he brought forgiveness for all of creation and reconciled us to Himself. In God's time and God's plan, He made all our wrongs right and gave eternal life to you and me. His plan and His time are not ours; they are better.

Does that mean that Christmas Eve services at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM are God's plan and time? By no means. They are the times that we have set to gather and hear again the good news of the birth of His Son in Bethlehem all those years ago, when His plan said it was His time.

Does that mean that Christmas Eve services at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM are the right time for CLC? I have no idea; only time will tell, but that's why the times for this year are just that – the times for **this** year. After the Christmas season has ended, we will look backs and see how the times worked; next year we will decide what times to have services next Christmas season.

Now that you know the time and the plan that CLC has for Christmas services this year, I look forward to seeing you on Christmas and New Year's, as we join to celebrate the time in God's plan when He sent His only-begotten Son into the world to rescue you and me from sin, death, and the devil. Remember the time, make a plan, and I will see you then.

In Christ Jesus, our Savior sent in the fullness of time,

Pastor David Rowold



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

During the month of December, we will gather in the Sanctuary at 9:10 on Dec. 4, 11 & 18 for rehearsal.

December 18 during the 10:30 a.m. service will be our Sunday School Christmas Program. The students will get to share with the congregation a little about what they have learned in their lessons from September to November. Students in grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in the program. Grades Pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> grade will have memorized parts that they should have already received by the time this newsletter comes out. 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to be readers and lend extra voices where needed. Rehearsals will begin during Sunday School on December 4, 2022.

There is no Sunday School December 25 and January 1. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

On January 8, we will return to our regular schedule of opening at 9:10 in the Fellowship Hall, followed by lessons in the classroom.

Please join us as we explore God's Word for all ages this school year.

Tricia Rowold Sunday School Superintendent







#### NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

#### Pledge Packets:

- Pledge packets were distributed on November 20th. Please review the 2023 work plan, and see me, or any council member, if you have any questions. This plan shows how CLC spends our money towards our mission. And I am pleased to note that the work plan that the Finance Committee put forth, and the Council and Voter's Assembly approved, includes 10% towards worldwide giving, to help others in our community and beyond.
- Responses are requested by Sunday, December 11th. What responses? Two things: the **Pledge Card**, and the **Time and Talent** card.
- Why is the Pledge Card important? Returning a financial pledge demonstrates your commitment to God, and CLC's mission. And pledged giving helps us best manage our finances.
- Why is the Time and Talent card important? It is an invitation to you to get involved! Please give thoughtful consideration as to where you may like to participate in the workings of our church family! Our mission doesn't happen without your engagement!

CLC is richly blessed with all that you do! **THANK YOU** for giving your time, talents and treasure in support of our mission.

#### A note regarding online giving:

CLC's website has the capability of accepting online contributions. It is a safe and convenient means of giving, especially when other options are not readily available. We are in the process of adding a capability whereby a contributor will be given the option of paying the associated fees, which are generally a few percentage points of the contribution. In the meantime, you can always "give for free" via plate, US mail and other options - let me know if you have any questions.

Rob DeLaubell Stewardship Deacon

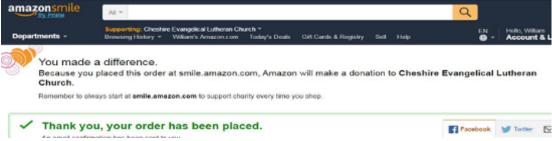
#### YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES...



You Shop. Amazon Gives

If you happen to be an Amazon<sup>TM</sup> 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 <a href="www.smile.amazon.com">www.smile.amazon.com</a>, 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:





#### PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2023...

Pledge Sunday for 2023 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!

#### 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.

CLOSINGS CLOSINGS

Stay warm!

#### GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS...

Our featured members for December 2022 are Jim and Cynthia Pryde Metz

As a young child, Cynthia and her family lived above her Grandparents in New Britain and attended St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

When she was 5 years old, the family moved to Newington where she grew up. Her Mom, Dad and brother Bob joined Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, now known as "Our Savior Lutheran", where Cynthia attended Sunday School, was Confirmed and sang in the Youth Choir.

When Cynthia was 8, her sister Susan was born; and 3 1/2 years later, their Dad took the summer off from work to take the family on a trip around the United States to see the National Parks and our great country we are so blessed to live in. It was a wonderful experience that Cynthia and her siblings will always remember.

Cynthia joined the Newington Ski Club in the early 1960's and met Erwin Pryde. After they married, they moved to Wallingford for 3 months and, in 1965, they bought their home in Cheshire and joined Cheshire Lutheran Church . Their four children - Kendra, Gretchen, Curtis and Deborah grew up there.

Erwin passed away in 2014. Two years later, on July 15th, 2016, Cynthia and Jim Metz, who was also widowed, were married

at Cheshire Lutheran Church with Pastor Beinke officiating.

Cynthia met Jim when she and Erwin purchased their Fort Myers, Florida, condominium many years ago. Jim and his wife lived in the same building as Erwin and Cynthia. As couples they played golf, dined out together, attended Spring Training Baseball games and enjoyed concerts. Two of Jim's Sister's were good friends of Cynthia's.

Jim is one of eight children. He has a big and wonderful family!



Cynthia is a talented quilter and her family has many of her quilts that were made specifically for each one with love. And I know from personal experience that Cynthia is an excellent cook and baker!!



Jim and Cynthia have season tickets to the Goodspeed Opera House and, while spending their Summers at the cottage on Bashan Lake in East Haddam, they enjoy the shows and are never disappointed. They also enjoy boating and spending time at the lake with family, including 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Jim and Cynthia both believe that God has blessed them and they "Give Thanks" for his Blessings.

Joyfully written and submitted by: Karen Bailey, Evangelism Committee Member



#### NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...

You are cordially invited to be a:

- ⊕ Reader
- t Usher
- 🕆 Greeter
- 🕆 Singer or Ringer
- 🕆 🛮 Altar Guilder
- 🕆 Live Stream Camera Operator

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).

If you haven't been able to help in any of these areas and now are willing to assist, or would like to start, please contact Tim!

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

p.s.



As I conclude my stint as your Worship Deacon and almost 30 years of attendance here, I'd like to reflect on my involvement at Cheshire Lutheran Church. I'll admit it was a little slow those first years. After mainly being associated with Methodist churches, using a kneeler was quite radical. I have gotten use to Communal wine versus grape juice, however. One could say I was a little intimidated. But I was asked to sub for an usher one Sunday; and it didn't hurt. I had a camera back then and occasionally I got a few suitable pictures used by the Church. After a few polite requests from Pastor Gustafson and subsequent 'no thanks' on my part, I realized perhaps, with a little pat/shove from an 'invisible hand', that I would have to step it up. So I said I would give the Fellowship Deaconship a shot for a year. Whoops! It was a 3-year position! But it didn't hurt. I even did another 3-year stay, and it didn't hurt. A year later, the Church was making a plea for anyone to fill the vacant Financial Secretary position. Contemplating at home I had an epiphany (invisible hand?) that hey, I am an 'anyone' with so-so qualifications. But with some mentoring, I served 6 consecutive 1-year stints. It didn't hurt. I even started reading Bible lessons at our services. I volunteered to be part of the Columbarium and Memorial Garden subcommittee, and then the Wellness and Safety sub-committee. Church historian/archivist and helping with the gardens I greatly enjoy. After seven years off the Council I was offered being Worship Deacon. Great mentoring eased any perceived pain there. This year with no associated background experience, I also became one of the live-streamers of our services. Allow me to jest...many years ago I did volunteer to be part of the Church Constitution and By-Law review committee...now that one hurt.

So as my successor, April Slauson, takes over Worship (note she volunteered without being asked), please serve where you can for your Church. Volunteer, or if asked, give it prayerful thought. It likely won't hurt.

Many of you know I can be verbose so I beg your indulgence to end with a short 8 liner:

So perhaps you are new to the Congregation, or think you are shy/low-key like me.

Doubting your talents or concerned what the time commitment be?

Consider being an usher; join one of the choirs; aide the Sunday school team.

Attend a Voters' meeting; fill that Council position; don't make it just a dream.

Read a Bible lesson; attend a Bible study group; or be a live-streamer await.

Consider these options a privilege, and fight the urge to hesitate.

There are those who can and will mentor you; and now here's an alert.

You don't always have to wait for the invisible hand - and perhaps it won't hurt.

#### 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 it's proper storage place for use at another time.



#### CONFIRMATION CLASSES NEWS...

Confirmation Class continues to meet on Sunday nights at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Students should arrive by class time with their books and their completed homework. Please note, there will **not** be class on Sunday, December 25 or January 1.



#### NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH DEACON...

Hi everyone, the Youth Group is already off and running with our first group activity this past November. After looking at the activity idea board in the Youth Room, I threw together an activity for some of our youth at Montana Nights in Southington. If you're not familiar with Montana Nights, it's axe throwing. Sounds dangerous, right? It's not, in fact it was a lot of fun, think of darts but with axes! I even have the pictures to prove it:

He-Man (Andy) would like to thank Sapphire Axe (Sarah), Hawkeye (Noah), Nothing (Grace M.), Ice Cream (Grace W.), and Bullseye (Pam) for a great time. Team Maple Syrup beat team Pancake 4-2, so I see a rematch in the future (and bigger teams next time).

For December, we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas cookie bake sale. The kids will meet at the church on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9 AM and we will be baking a lot of cookies that we will then be selling Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, between the services. Come support our youth and get some delicious freshly made cookies!

I will be working with the Youth to set up activities for next year. If anyone has ideas or would like to help out, please see me or feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:aclark@snet.net">aclark@snet.net</a>. I'm looking forward to working with our youth and setting up a schedule of activities that everyone will look forward to.

Andy Clark Youth Deacon





#### 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.





#### NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

The Evangelism Committee continues our goal to get to know our congregation, to congratulate our members with a card for birthdays, anniversary, and thinking of you for our shut-ins. We also take care of our shut-ins and young people.

#### Quilts of Valor

We had a sew in day on Saturday, Nov 12. We covered three veterans. One of our own members John Casberg and also Adam and Gus.

In celebration of Veterans Day, on Sunday November 13, we had a coffee hour to honor our veterans and also provided a list of veterans from our congregation, past and present.

If you are unable to give your time or talent we would appreciate donations to help defray the costs of these quilts.



Thank you!

#### Meet Our Members

We continue to interview our congregation members and submit articles for the Heavenly Herald each month. If you are called for an interview, please know that its voluntary. Our team enjoys these interviews immensely and we hope you do as well.

#### Cards for Members and Shut-Ins

We will be remembering our shut-ins for Thanksgiving and Christmas with cards and gifts.

#### Scholarships for High School Seniors

Letters were sent out to all members of the congregation regarding the scholarship fund. We hope you will respond positively as we are determined to provide these scholarships every year to our graduates. Thank you all on behalf of the committee

Thanks to all who serve on the Evangelism team. We would be unable to continue our important work without you. Thank You

Marilyn Miller Evangelism Deacon



#### OUR BEAUTIFUL THANKSGIVING CORNUCOPIA...

The beautiful Cornucopia that adorned our Altar the Sunday before and for the Thanksgiving Eve service was lovingly put together again by Arta Dobbs. 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.

#### THE RIPPEL REPORT—DECEMBER 2022...





#### CLC CHOIR NEWS...

We will continue to wear masks as long as this requirement continues on Sunday Services. Please note:

- Bell Choir will perform at the late service on Christmas Eve—Rehearsal and Service times TBD
- Parish Choir will perform at the 10:30 services on December 4 & 11 and at the 4:00 PM service on Christmas Eve.
- No Choirs rehearsal on December 28th -No Choirs on January 1, 2023

#### CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir		
November 30 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir		
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir		
December 4 - Sunday	10:00 AM Rehearsal		Parish Choir		
2nd Sunday in Advent	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir		
December 7 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir		
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir		
December 11 Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir		
3rd Sunday in Advent	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir		
December 14 Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir		
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir		
December 18 Sunday 4th Sunday in Advent	9:10 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School children		
Christmas Pageant	10:30 AM	Performance	Sunday School children		
December 21 Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir		
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir		
December 24 Saturday	3:20 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir		
Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	Performance	Parish Choir		
	8:20 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir		
	9:00 PM	Performance	Bell Choir		
December 25 - Sunday	9:00 AM	Rehearsal	Soloists and/ or Parish Choir Ensemble		
Christmas Day Lessons & Carols	9:30 AM	Performance	Soloists and/ or Parish Choir Ensemble		
December 28 Wednesday	NO CHOIR REHEARSALS				
January 1 - Sunday  New Years Day  Lessons & Carols	NO CHOIRS				



#### CLC CALENDARS FOR 2023...

**2023 Calendars** are here. The calendars are a gift to our congregation compliments of the Alderson/Ford Funeral Home. You are welcome to pick up a copy from our hallway counter or narthex table as soon as they arrive.

#### 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.



#### NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

This month, we have lots of winter/holiday themed crafts and learning in store! We will have a wrapping station on one side of the room so the children can continue to practice cutting and wrapping. On the other side of the room, we are transforming our doll house into a stable where baby Jesus was born. The children will be acting out the story of Baby Jesus with all the dress up clothes to go with it.

We will be learning about the upcoming winter season, hibernating animals, and discussing the story of Baby Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas! There will be fun and exciting science experiments sprinkled throughout the month, as well some of our days revolving around food and baking. Boy, do the children enjoy baking!

We will be learning the letters M through P and the numbers 12 through 15. We are going to be focusing on learning how to spell and write our names, continuing our shape hunts to reinforce what they have already learned, and refreshing their knowledge of colors!

We will be ending our learning this December with a pajama day on the 21st and 22nd. We are so looking forward to celebrating all the magic of this month with the children!

#### A few things to note

\$\Psi\$ Early Dismissal 12/22/2022 at Noon. Closed 12/23-01/02/2023 for Christmas break.

There is so much to be joyful about this time of year, and we are grateful to be able to share in all the blessings this season has in store.

God Bless and Merry Christmas, JoAnn, Michele, and Alex

#### 2023—2024 Registration

Little Cherubs is taking registration for the 2023—2024 school year. If you, or someone you know, have a child who is preschool eligible, please call the Church or Preschool office for more information. A registration packet may also be picked up from the counter outside the Church Office!





#### CHESHIRE FOOD PANTRY THANKSGIVING COLLECTION UPDATE...

THANK YOU ALL! This past November we again helped the Cheshire Community Food Pantry prepare Thanksgiving Baskets for people in need in our community. Even though we had very short notice this year, we were asked to collect 140 boxes of brownie mix and 140 pre-made graham cracker pie crusts. Thanks to your tremendous generosity and a Thrivent Action Team grant, donations were what we needed and more; 192 boxes of brownie mix and 190 pie crusts were delivered by the deadline, and more came in after. This was all in addition to the regular monthly donations, which were also very generous. Again, that you all so very much!







As we end the Thanksgiving season, I am reminded of the many blessings here at CLC: primarily, all those volunteers giving of their time and talents to come together and spread God's love. I thank all of you who so graciously show up for the many fellowship events, taking the time to make each gathering special through decorating, contributing delicious food, and most importantly, sharing a laugh or lending support for one another and strengthening our Christian bonds. Whether it's our weekly Coffee Hours or The Advent Lunch, there is always an offer to help and I am so grateful.

December will start off with our Advent Jubilee Lunch on the 4<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:30 service. Please join us in the fellowship hall for food and conversation. There is a signup sheet if you would like to attend. This helps us to know how many to cook and set up for. We will be setting up on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9AM. Members are asked to bring either a side dish or dessert. Cleanup is a breeze with many hands to pitch in. All of these items are included on the signup sheet.

Following the youth Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a reception with beverages and cookies. The pageant is during the 10:30 service. Please help support our younger members by joining us for the pageant and reception.

In January, I'd like to hold a Movie and Pizza night. Watch the bulletin board and look for an email for additional information.

Please contact me or any council member with ideas for winter fellowship.

Pam Clark Fellowship Deacon



#### NEWS FROM THE HOUSE & GROUNDS DEACON...

Seasons Greetings to our CLC Family! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and enjoyed the blessings that have been bestowed to us.

Casso & Casso has completed the painting of the front and rear of the church around the stained glass windows. They were a pleasure to work with, started and completed on schedule, and even did extra not on the original estimate.

The next order of business is our Cross Garden. One of the crosses has broken and fell due to rot just below the surface. The Council and Voters have approved a project to have Techno Metal Spike, a company here in Cheshire, install a long spike drilled into the ground with mounts to hold the crosses. This will eliminate any future rot issues and will allow easier replacement when our current crosses need to be replaced. In addition, a generous member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has made a special directed offering to pay for the work. We have such a great membership here at CLC who devote their time, their talent and their financial generosity to keep our House & Grounds up to date.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and a big thank you to all the members who help with our House & Grounds.

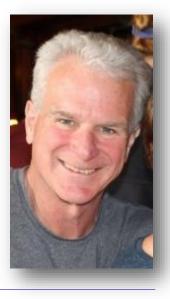
Todd Plantier House and Grounds Deacon

#### NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY...

#### Reminders from Your Friendly Neighborhood Financial Secretary:

- The state of the s
- 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.
- If you are mailing in your contribution, please make sure you address it to CLC's P. O. Box 157 rather than the street address. The post office box is the safer option.

Alan Santoro—Financial Secretary



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

The following has been recently added to our Website:

- **W**onderful aerial drone video put to music of our beautiful church grounds
- ♣ Live streaming and video recordings of Sunday Services
- **♦** Service video with enhanced music recordings
- Audio recordings of Anthems sung by Soloists and Special Ensembles
- **†** Current and Past Heavenly Heralds
- ♦ Video recordings from many past events
- ♣ Audio and Video recordings of Pastors Sermons and other events
- 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...



#### CLC CHRISTMAS DECORATING...

<u>CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING</u> – Many Hands Make Light Work! We will gather at CLC at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, to harvest and bring the tree into the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING – Once again, Many Hands Make Light Work, as we will gather at CLC at **9:00 AMish** on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to decorate the tree and adorn the Nave. This process is normally accomplished within 1-2 hours, depending on the number of helpers.

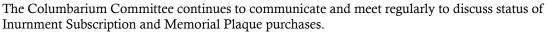
THANK YOU, AND A BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON TO ALL!

Bill Soulier CLC Vice President





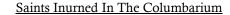
#### MEMORIAL GARDEN & COLUMBARIUM NEWS...



#### **Subscriptions**

- There are currently 37 inurnment subscriptions & 4 pending possibilities
- ♥ We have 19 memorial plaques purchased, 3 new and one pending possibility

The following congregants now rest in our hearts and whose remains are a reminder to remain steadfast in hope and faith that we will be reunited.







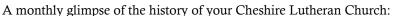


Consider this Beautiful spot for Memorial Plaque or to house your final remains.

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

John Mulvaney	Priscilla Mulvaney	Vicki DePaolo
Jim Mertz	Margie Mertz	Randy Raddatz
Pat DiDomizio	Bill Soulier	Beth Soulier
Barbara Carson	Tim Weiland	Ed Schweizer

#### THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...





#### 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



#### PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!! (January 2023 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (soulierbeth@sbcglobal.net) by *Friday December* 30<sup>th</sup> (Friday before New Years Eve) 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!



#### 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 baby 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.

Hope Pregnancy Center 110 Main St. Cheshire, CT 06410 203.271.2703 hopepregnancycenterct.org



#### Our Sincere Appreciation

- Many thanks to Arta Dobbs 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. Also for being our Video and Sound engineer using the new equipment. 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.
- \$\P\$ Special Thanks to Tim Weiland for continuing to keep our memories alive via his photographic talents.



#### 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.

Thank you to all who have offered and provided help. As I continue to update and keep the HH membership current, please sign up and include your name, phone number and email as well your ability to provide meals, transportation or visits.

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 Phone 203-710-0753



#### ON THE BULLETIN BOARD:

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



- T CLC **Usher** Sign Up & Schedule
- Pastor Gregory Wismar Presents: Scenic Switzerland by Train trip in 2024 information
- **♣** Information on our recent dearly departed congregants
- Information regarding **volunteers needed to run our Sound and Video equipment** and sign up sheet
- Thank You Cards and other correspondence
- ♣ Hope Pregnancy Center 2022 volunteer sign-ups
- The Hope Pregnancy Center expansion Announcement and HELP NEEDED Information
- The Cheshire Food Drive Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- ₽ 2022 Flower Chart Sign-up
- Coffee Hour Sign-up
- ₩ Monthly CLC Members Birthday and Anniversaries
- Piano for Sale information
- **♦** Birthright Needs Volunteers
  - 🕆 Fresh Christmas Trees at Evergreen Tree Farm in Prospect

#### Others looking for help!

- Fellowship Deacon needs volunteers to help make the events happen. Contact Pam Clark if you can help in any capacity.
- **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, Tricia Rowold or Craig Wilson.
- **Ushers are needed** to work both services. Contact April Slauson to volunteer

#### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE REMINDER...



We will be having our traditional Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM on Saturday, December 24. Both services will be in person and live streamed on YouTube (just like Sunday mornings).

On Christmas Sunday, December 25, there will be 1 service at 9:30 AM. If you are not able to join us for worship on Christmas Eve, please join us on Christmas Day to celebrate our Savior's birth.



#### OUR SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER LIST...

The Sunday Morning Prayer List was reset at the end of November. Starting with the first Sunday in December, the names on the list are only those that Pastor was asked to leave on there. If you have the name of a loved one that you would like returned or added to Prayer List, please contact Pastor to let him know.



#### 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 SOCIAL WELFARE DEACON...

#### Thanksgiving Baskets 2022:

We collected a total of 192 boxes of brownies and 190 graham cracker crusts per the Feed Northeast campaign collection at the Cheshire Community Food Pantry.

On another happy note, we were notified that Cheshire Community Food Pantry will be getting an additional \$500 for the Feed Northeast campaign that we participated in this Oct. being one of the first 100 Thrivent members to collect 500+ items by Oct. 31st!

Nancy Engelhardt Social Welfare Deacon





#### LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO RUN OUR VIDEO EQUIPMENT...

In December, we were able to fully utilize and enjoy the new audio/video equipment. Special care was utilized during the purchase process that the equipment be easy to use for volunteers, including those with no prior background in sound or video equipment. Do you take videos with your phone? Are you interested in learning more about audio/video and streaming technology?



Offer your time and increase your video talent and assist with running the new equipment for an 8 AM church service. You will be helping Pastor Rowold and our Service to go live on YouTube. Contact Tim Weiland or Bill Juul for details.

We will train volunteer staff on all of the equipment and help troubleshoot any problems that may arise as people master the system. Your efforts will give you new skills you can carry into other areas of their lives if you so choose.



#### 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.

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

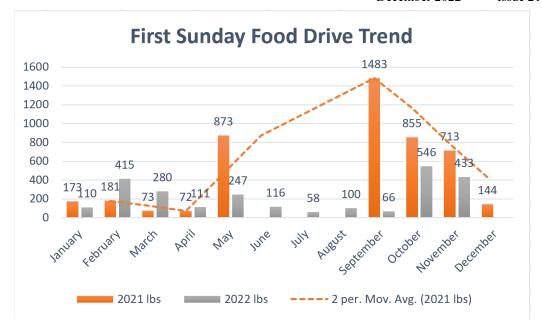
Contact Person: Paula Ongley





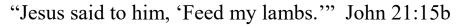
#### DONATE YOUR FREEBIES!

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

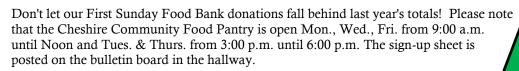


**ILP WANTE** 

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. <a href="mailto:quette@cheshirefoodpantry.org">quette@cheshirefoodpantry.org</a> or 203.699.9226.



#### LET'S NOT FORGET THOSE LESS FORTUNATE...



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. Tooth paste, shampoo, detergent, paper products etc.



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

#### CHRISTMAS SERVICES UPDATE...

With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday this year, the schedule for our services during the holiday will be a little different this season. Our traditional Christmas Eve services with Holy Communion will be at 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM on Saturday, December 24; both services will be in person and live streamed on YouTube. On Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, there will be just one service that morning at 9:30 AM; it will include Holy Communion. For New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, we will also have only one service at 9:30 AM and it will be Lessons & Carols. Please join us in person for services this year as we celebrate our Savior's birth.



#### DO YOU KNOW THE DATE OF YOUR BAPTISM?...

Well, do you? Do you know the date that you were Baptized? If you do, we'd like to know it in the Church office too. We already keep track of birthdays and wedding anniversaries, including them in the monthly newsletters and the Sunday morning prayers. We would like to add "Baptismal Birthdays" to that list too. Starting in December, there will be a packet on the counter outside the Church office for people to write down the date of their Baptism. We hope to have the information collected in time to start including the list of those special days (just the month and date, not the year) with the first *Heavenly Herald* of the new year.



### Council Meeting Reminder: Tuesday December 7th at 7:00 PM (In Person)

#### 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.





# November 2022 Memories









































## Bible Studies at CLC

#### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES...

Come and join us as we study God's Word together.

Sunday morning Bible study meets every Sunday morning between the services at 9:10 a.m. in the Church Library for everyone who is able to be with us in person. We are currently working our way through a study that started by looking at the Jewish origins of our Christian liturgy and is not taking a closer look at the way we worship and what God is doing during out services. Please note, there will <u>not</u> be Sunday Bible Study on December 25 or January 1.



Our Wednesday afternoon study meets every Wednesday at 1:30 PM in the Church Library for those interested in meeting in person and can also be available by Zoom if anyone want to join that way. We are taking a look at the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, and our time together is guided by a thirteen-lesson study that will give us a general overview of the book. Please note, there will **not** be Wednesday Bible Study on December 28.

You are welcome to join us any time.

# For Unto Us a Child is Born







# Oh Come Let Us Adore Him

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Baker
- Steve Feero
- 5<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Carrington
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sydney Taylor
- 10<sup>th</sup> Paul Fiedler
- 12<sup>th</sup> Ali Tyler
- 14<sup>th</sup> John Mulvaney
- 16<sup>th</sup> Christian Kjeldsen
- 17<sup>th</sup> Alwin Manke
- 21st Blair Donewald
- 21<sup>st</sup> Claire Bencivenga
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Judith Juul
- 25<sup>th</sup> Curt Smith
- 27th Paul Smith
- 29th Samantha Nowak
- 30th Alan Santoro David Blair

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

#### December 2022

12th Jeff and Kyong Mann 42 Years



Saturday December 24 - Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 PM & 9:00 PM

(Both services will be in person and live streamed on YouTube)

Christmas Sunday December 25—1 Service 9:30 AM





#### 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

