



# The Heavenly Herald

660 West Main Street P.O. Box 157 Cheshire, CT 06410

(203) 272-5106 Fax (203) 272-3523

On the Web at <http://www.cheshirelutheran.org>

Email us at: [office@cheshirelutheran.org](mailto:office@cheshirelutheran.org)

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:1-5 (ESV)

Light is one thing that can be hard to come by this time of year. As the days pass by and we draw closer to the start of winter, the hours of daylight get shorter and shorter. By the time of the winter solstice on December 21, there will only be about 9 hours from the late sunrise to the early sunset on that shortest day of the year. The rest of the time, there will be darkness.

Just as the days are darker, so too people's moods and their outlooks seem to be a bit darker as well. Energy levels are lower, tempers are shorter, and it is just that much harder to get things done. When the end of the workday arrives and folks head home in the dark, the drive to accomplish more than merely eating dinner and calling it a day is weakened.

In the midst of the darkness that can mark this season, light shines forth. Each day more and more houses are adorned with strings of lights that pierce the night. The radiant colors and gleaming whites of Christmas lights begin to illuminate our neighborhoods and drive back the dark. Within our homes, Christmas trees are being set up and adorned with even more lights that further brighten our lives.

2000 years ago, our world was dark, but it wasn't just because the winter solstice was near. Sin cast its shadow across all creation, while

death and the devil reigned within human hearts and lives. Through that darkness and gloom a light shined forth, but it wasn't the illumination of lamps or lanterns or torches. The light that came into the world was Christ Jesus, the only-begotten Son of God.

At His birth in Bethlehem, the Christ-Child brought the light of God's love to the dark and dreary places of our lives and, along with it, the hope of a brighter future. Yet His birth alone did not conquer the darkness; in fact, years later, it even seemed for a time that the darkness had actually won, when the sun's light was blotted out on Good Friday and Christ died on the cross. That darkness was soon vanquished as our Lord rose victorious on Easter morn, forever conquering sin, death, and the devil, and bringing the light of eternal life to all creation by His victory.

Even after the winter solstice has passed and the hours of daylight slowly begin to get longer, the darkness will not suddenly be banished. Yet even in the dark of the night, we have hope and joy because of the light. Some of that light comes from the strings of white and colored bulbs that brighten our homes and our Christmas trees this holiday season, but the light that illuminates our hearts and lives – which no darkness can ever conquer – is the Babe of Bethlehem, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Come and join us at CLC this Advent and Christmas season, and let the light of Christ shine in your life.

In Jesus Christ, the Light of the World,

Pastor Rowold



# For Unto Us a Child is Born

## ***Come Worship With Us***

**Sunday Worship Services:**  
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday School  
&  
Adult Bible Classes:**  
9:10 a.m.

**Summer Worship Service:**  
9:00 a.m.  
(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*

*Brenna Steczkowski—Office  
Manager*

*Martha Medford—Organist & Choir  
Director*

*Bill Soulier—Parish President*

*Beth Soulier—Editor*



## **NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

Greetings Everyone

Dear Friends,

We hope you had a joyful Thanksgiving surrounded by loved ones. Beth and I were especially blessed to spend the day with our newly extended family—a beautiful reminder of God's goodness and grace.

With Thanksgiving behind us, we now enter the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and reflection as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. This past Sunday marked the beginning of Advent, and Christmas will be here before we know it!

### **Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events:**

- ✝ **Sunday School Christmas Pageant** – The children are busy rehearsing for their annual Christmas Pageant, which will be presented during the **10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 14.**
- ✝ **Advent Luncheon** – Join us for a festive lunch following the **10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 7.**
- ✝ **Creche Display** – Our beautiful Nativity scene will soon grace the front lawn, reminding passersby of the true meaning of the season.
- ✝ **Christmas Tree Setup & Decorating** – We'll gather on **Friday, December 19** to harvest and bring in the Christmas tree, followed by decorating the tree and Sanctuary on **Saturday, December 20.**

**Many hands make light work!** If you're available to lend a hand for any of these joyful preparations, your help would be warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated.

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On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Council presented the 2026 Mission Plan to the Voters and was unanimously approved. The Voters also elected the proposed slate of Officers and Deacons. The Officers and Deacons are as follows:







- ✝ President - Bill Soulier
- ✝ Vice President - Randy Raddatz
- ✝ Secretary - Eva Schrumm
- ✝ Financial Secretary - Nancy Schweizer
- ✝ Treasurer - Bill Sherman
- ✝ Christian Education - Kelly Collins-Pardee
- ✝ Christian Growth Fund - David Schrumm
- ✝ Evangelism - Erica Bencivenga
- ✝ Fellowship - Thom Zeppieri
- ✝ House and Grounds - Jonathan Schrumm
- ✝ Social Welfare - Terri Daly
- ✝ Stewardship - Kurt Lenz
- ✝ Worship - Steven Behnfeldt
- ✝ Youth Vanessa Falk.

The Voters were also presented with the details of the work that was recently completed at our Parsonage. The work was spearheaded by Jon Schrumm and Randy Raddatz. That work consisted of replacing the deck and patio and a new walkway along with landscaping and some tree removal. Thank you to all involved.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# **WEDNESDAY**

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7:00 Council Meeting	1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir		6:30 Advent Luncheon Set-Up	10:00 Mertz Calling Hours 11:00 Mertz Funeral
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Bible Study 10:30 Holy Communion 11:30 Advent Luncheon			1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:00 Worship 9:10 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Bible Study 10:30 Christmas Pageant			1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir		3:00 Christmas tree harvesting 	9:00 a.m. Christmas Tree and Building Decorating
21		23	24 Christmas Eve 6:15 Parish Choir 9:15 Bell Choir 7:00 & 10:00 Christmas Eve Communion	25  Merry Christmas	26	27
8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 Holy Communion						
28	29 	30	31 NO CHOIR	Heavenly Herald articles due to Beth Soulier		
8:00 Lessons and Carols 9:10 Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour 10:30 Lessons and Carols						



(Continued from page 2)

Our final Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and our Annual Corporate meeting will take place on the second Sunday in January (11) after both services. Please plan on attending and I will try to be as brief as possible.

Yours in Christ,  
Bill Soulier  
Parish & Council President



## CHRISTMAS EVE & DECEMBER SERVICE REMINDER...

### Christmas Eve Services:

- ✝ Our traditional Christmas Eve services with Holy Communion will be at 7:00 and 10:00 PM on December 24; both services will be available in person and live streamed on YouTube.
- ✝ Please note that only the 10:00 PM service will have the candlelight liturgy.

### December 28 Sunday Services:

- ✝ Services on the Sunday after Christmas (December 28), will be at the normal 8:00 and 10:30 AM times and they will be Lessons & Carols.

### Communion Celebrations in December:

- ✝ Communion in the month of December will be celebrated during the services on December 7, 21, and 24.

**Please join us in person for services this year as we celebrate our Savior's birth.**



## REMINDER: TO CONNECT AND GREET ONE ANOTHER...

We kindly remind you to take a moment after the service to greet those around you. Whether they are guests or fellow members, if you spot someone you don't know, please introduce yourself. Encourage visitors to introduce themselves to Pastor and sign the guest book so we can stay in touch. Don't forget to thank them for joining us and let them know we hope to see them again.

Your friendly gesture can truly brighten someone's day and help build a welcoming, connected church community. Thank you for fostering a spirit of warmth and hospitality!



## 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.





## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

### Please join us for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant:

This year's Pageant is on December 14, 2025, during the 10:30 a.m. service.



### Rehearsal Plan:

We will have 2 more rehearsals, Sunday, **December 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.**, and a final dress rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. Sunday December 14, 2025.

Please come straight to the hallway by the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on both days; we will have a snack at the end of rehearsal.

### Performance Plan:

On **December 14**, we will have a break after rehearsal for snack, bathroom, wiggles, and then regather to line up at 10:25 a.m. to process into Church.

### Join Us for a Reception Following The Performance:

We will have a cookie reception following the pageant on December 14, 2025.

Thank you to all the teachers, students and parents for all of your support leading up to the Sunday School Christmas Program.

We will have a regular lesson on December 21, 2025, and we will be off for December 28, 2025, for Christmas and New Year's.

A calendar for the full Sunday School Year was handed out at Rally Day, September 7, 2025, if you did not receive one or need a new one, please see Tricia Rowold.

*Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



### VBS 2026:

As we head for winter, it is time to start thinking of warm tropical places and sharing God's Word with lots of children and volunteers. We will have a meeting January 11, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) in the Church Library. This will be a meeting to get organized and choose our materials. Anyone interested in being part of this decision is welcome to attend. I will ask Pastor to setup a zoom link so, if the weather disagrees, we can meet that way. If you would like links for the 2 possibilities we are considering, please reach out to Tricia Rowold with your email.

Tricia Rowold  
Sunday School Superintendent



## CLC STRENGTHENING OUR DIGITAL PRESENCE ON FACEBOOK...

In today's fast-paced digital age, it's crucial for our Church to remain connected and engaged with our congregation and the broader community. As part of our ongoing efforts to adapt and thrive in this digital landscape, we are committed to improving our digital footprint on Facebook.

Improving our digital footprint on Facebook is a step forward in our mission to share God's love and connect with our congregation and the wider community. It's an opportunity to reach more people, build stronger bonds of fellowship, and inspire positivity in an increasingly digital world. We look forward to this journey of growth and connection, and we invite you to join us on Facebook as we continue to spread the message of faith, hope, and love. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in the digital realm and beyond.

## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO ANDY & PAM CLARK...

On Sunday, November 23, our Congregation gathered to bid a heartfelt farewell to **Andy and Pam Clark**, as they prepare for a new chapter in their lives away from Cheshire. Their faithful service and joyful presence have blessed our church family in countless ways, and they will be deeply missed.

Andy has served our congregation in many capacities over the years—including as **House and Grounds Deacon, Youth Deacon, Sunday School teacher, usher, reader**, and in many other roles that strengthened our ministry and community. Pam likewise offered her gifts generously, serving as **Fellowship Deacon, Sunday School teacher, usher, reader**, and in numerous other ways that brought warmth and connection to our fellowship.

During the service, Pastor prayed over Andy and Pam, commending them to God's care and blessing as they move forward. Following worship, we celebrated their ministry and friendship with a reception featuring a beautiful cake and refreshments, a fitting tribute to their years of dedication and love.

Though Andy and Pam are moving away, we look forward to seeing them from time to time and will always hold them in our prayers. **Godspeed, Andy and Pam—thank you for all you have given to our congregation.**



## 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.



## 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 are now going to add "Baptismal Birthdays" to that list too. Please contact the Church office to share the date of their Baptism. As we get more information we will add it to the list of those special days included in the *Heavenly Herald*.



## WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR BAPTISM:

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✠ December 3—John Balash Jr | ✠ December 12—Grace Muller       |
| ✠ December 4—Sarah Rowold   | ✠ December 14—Alex Muller        |
| ✠ December 8—Joanne Casberg | ✠ December 23—Christina Plantier |

Contact the church office to add your "Baptismal Birthday" to the list.



## NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

Greeting from the Cherubs family!

We are having so much fun here at Cherubs!

This month, we learned about all things related to Thanksgiving: turkeys, pilgrims, Native Americans, pumpkin pie. And will begin to discuss Christmas themes at the end of the month.

We practiced the letters Ii, Jj, Kk, Ll and continue number recognition. Using scissors, tracing, sorting, lacing and patterning are some of the fine motor skills we are working on.

Our Bible time focused on Moses and the Ten Commandments. The children have learned about Moses' obedience to the Lord and the ten rules God gave his people. Pastor continues to come into the classroom once a week for a Bible time review.

The children brought home their coloring pages and artwork that went along with the monthly themes. The M,W,F, class have letter worksheets each week. The children continued to practice their names daily with tracing printable.

I wanted to also share with you that the children did go to Marbridge on costume day. What a great time we had. They sent them home with cookies. The children received treats from the those who were able to participate in sharing the treats. The children sang songs as well. They are all so cordial to us.

The children had picture day with Rick Ciaburri. The pictures turned out great. We have invited Rick to Cherubs for many years now.

Once again we ask that you share with those you meet that have children 3 & 4 about Little Cherubs. They can call 203-272-1150

God Bless to all,  
Director of Little Cherubs Preschool  
Joann Adinolfi Holstein



## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...

*You are cordially invited to be a:*

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

### A Call to Serve with Joyful Hearts

Our Sunday worship services are a sacred time to gather, reflect, and grow in faith together. To make these moments truly meaningful, we need helping hands and willing hearts. We are prayerfully seeking **USERS** and **LESSON READERS** to serve during worship.

If God has placed it on your heart to participate, whether by guiding our congregation through the service or sharing His Word aloud, your presence would be a blessing. No experience is necessary, just a spirit of love and a willingness to serve.

Please reach out to April Slauson to learn more or to say “yes” to this beautiful opportunity..





## NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEACON...



Our congregation has been very generous throughout the month of November. We collected more than the 170 stuffing donations requested by the Cheshire Food Pantry. They were delivered along with our monthly donation to the Pantry.

Additionally, some members of the congregation made monetary and gift card donations to the Pantry through CLC.

As part of our Mission Plan checks have been written to **Orphan Grain Train**, the **Cheshire Food Pantry** and the **Hope Pregnancy Center**.

### October Food Delivery Update:

Thank you to Steve Behnfeldt for delivering food items to the Cheshire Community Food Pantry this month. Our contributions totaled 145 pounds. Steve also relayed a message from David DeFeo, the Food Pantry Director. Steve said he *"thanks our congregation from the bottom of his heart. Our collection bolstered a strong month at the pantry, just in time for Thanksgiving. The demand at the pantry is unquestionably high right now and so every contribution, no matter how small, helps to feed the community and keeps critical items stocked on their shelves"*.

### Cheshire Food Pantry—Adopt a Shelf—Wish List Items:

Your generosity makes a significant impact on those in need.

- **Adopt a Shelf - Liquid Dish Soap:** We're continuing our "Adopt a Shelf" program, focusing on **liquid dish soap**.
- **Wish List Items:** The current wish list includes: sugar (small packets), vegetable oil, mayonnaise, cannellini beans and canned meats.
- **Delivery Sign-Up:** When signing up to deliver items to the food pantry, please aim for the **third week of the month**. This helps us accurately record our food totals for the **Heavenly Herald**.

### Ongoing Collection for Cheshire Food Pantry

Our continuous collection for the Cheshire Community Food Pantry remains active with bins located under the counter near the church office doors. Please consider signing up to deliver the items to the food pantry. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Terri Daly  
Social Welfare Deacon



The **Cheshire**  
**Community Food**  
**Pantry, Inc.**

**FEED OUR FUTURE**

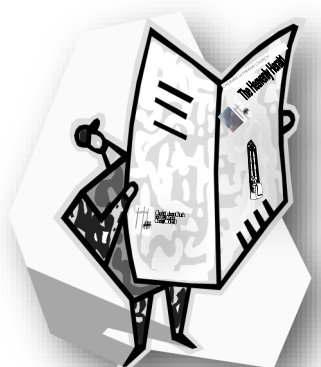
## PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!!

(January 2026 Articles are Due!)

**REMINDER:** The next issue of the Heavenly Herald will be the *January 2026* edition.

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier by Friday **December 26<sup>th</sup> (the day AFTER Christmas)** or earlier! Use email listed in our PRINTED directory. 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!





## CLC CHOIR NEWS...

All Choirs will resume rehearsals in December. Please note:

- ♪ Parish Choir will perform on December 7<sup>th</sup> · 21<sup>st</sup> & both services on Christmas Eve
- ♪ Bell Choir will perform on Christmas Eve 10 PM service
- ♪ No Choirs on December 28 and no rehearsals on New Years Eve

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

Date	Time	Event	Choir
December 7 - Sunday <i>2nd Sunday in Advent</i>	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
December 10 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 14 - Sunday <i>3rd Sunday in Advent Christmas Pageant</i>	9:00 AM	Rehearsal	Sunday School children
	10:30 AM	Performance	Sunday School children
December 17 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
December 21 - Sunday <i>4th Sunday in Advent</i>	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
December 24 - Wednesday <i>Christmas Eve Services</i>	6:15 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:00 PM	Performance	Parish Choir
	9:15 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	10:00 PM	Performance	Bell Choir & Parish Choir
December 28- Sunday <i>Lessons &amp; Carols</i>	...NO CHOIRS...		
December 31 - Wednesday <i>New Years Eve</i>	...NO CHOIR REHEARSALS...		
January 4 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir



## OUR BEAUTIFUL THANKSGIVING CORNUCOPIA...

The beautiful cornucopia that adorned our Altar during the Thanksgiving Eve Service was once again skillfully and lovingly recreated by **Arta Dobbs**. Her artistry reminds us of the abundance our Lord provides and sets the tone for this season of gratitude and joy.



As we move from Thanksgiving into the anticipation of Christmas, may we remain mindful of the many gifts and blessings surrounding us. Amidst the celebrations, let us pause to reflect on God's goodness and remember those who may be in need of comfort or support.

May the blessings of our Lord continue to enrich your lives and bring peace to your families throughout this Advent and Christmas season.

We hope you got a good look at the Cornucopia this year as Arta added a few new adorable woodland creatures. Thank You Arta....

## MEMORIAL GARDEN & COLUMBARIUM NEWS...

### Committed Continues to Meet Regularly:

The Columbarium Committee continues to meet faithfully to review our current status, care for the grounds, and refine our process to ensure each inurnment service is conducted with reverence and ease. Our most recent meeting was held on November 16.

We encourage all congregants to revisit the **Beautiful Tribute: The MG&C Video**, available on our church website, as it beautifully reflects the spirit of this ministry. Looking ahead, the Committee is excited to begin working closely with Rick Arisco as we prepare for **Phase Two construction**, tentatively scheduled to begin in Spring 2026.

If you have questions about the Columbarium or would like to learn more about reserving a niche, please reach out to the church office or speak with a committee member.

Pat DiDomizio	Vicki DePaolo	Margie Mertz
Randy Raddatz	Bill Soulier	Beth Soulier
Ed Schweizer		Tim Weiland

Out of care for our sacred space and in accordance with CLC By-Laws, we kindly ask families to refrain from leaving items (flowers, trinkets, etc.) at or around the Columbarium. While we deeply understand the sentiment, our staff is unable to remove these items promptly. If you have questions, please speak with a committee member. Thank you for your understanding.

### Columbarium Status:

Category	Count	Notes
Saints Inurned	21	
Subscriptions (Pre-Need)	32	Not including inurnments
Niches in Use or Subscribed	53	60% of total niches
Open Niches	35	40% available
Memorial Plaques (Purchased/Installed)	29	Includes both installed and ordered



## READING TOGETHER IN FAITH & FRIENDSHIP...

Eva Schrumm and Erica Bencivenga are starting a ladies book club starting in 2026.

See your email or talk to Eva or Erica to contribute book selections and best days of the week to meet if you are interested in joining.

Join them for fellowship, friendship and faith while meeting your reading goals for 2026!



## OUR SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER LIST...

The Sunday Morning Prayer List was reset in early November. If you have the name of a loved one on the Prayer List that you would like added or returned to the list, please contact Pastor.

Also, if you have submitted a name to the Prayer list, please remember to give Pastor periodic updates on the people we are praying for, especially if circumstances have improved and they should be removed from the list.

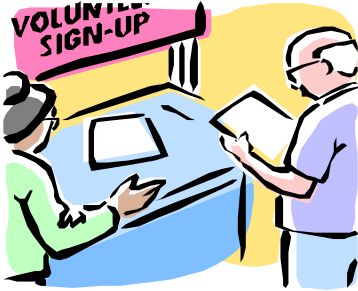
We take great joy when we can take a name off the list for good reasons.





## 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:***

- † 2025 Flower Chart Sign-up
- † CLC Usher Schedule
- † Live Stream Camera & Operator sign-up
- † Information on CLC family members called home to be with Jesus
- † Lutheran Church Extension Fund information
- † The Magic of the Italian Lakes trip information
- † Sunday School Schedule information
- † Sunday Coffee Hour sign-up
- † Names of our fellow congregants serving us on Church Council/Deacons
- † Thank You Cards and other correspondence
- † Cheshire Food Drive Volunteer info. and sign-ups
- † News and Updates regarding some of our members
- † Advent Jubilee Sign-Up
- † Pick up the Advent Devotional on the counter outside the Church Office



### ***Others looking for help!***

- † Ushers are needed to work both services. Contact April Slauson to volunteer.
- † Altar Guild is looking for new members. Contact April Slauson to volunteer.
- † Helping Hands is has expanded its mission and ministry. Contact Sally Schrumm to learn more and volunteer.



## CLC CHRISTMAS TREE PREPARATION...

### ***“Many Hands Make Light Work!”***

As we prepare our Sanctuary for the celebration of Christ’s birth, we invite you to join us for two festive opportunities to serve:

#### **Tree Cutting**

We’ll gather at CLC around 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19th, to harvest and bring the Christmas tree into the Sanctuary. Your helping hands will make this joyful task light and lively!

#### **Tree Decorating**

The following morning—Saturday, December 20th—we’ll meet at 9:00 a.m.-ish to decorate the tree and adorn the Nave. With enough helpers, this festive tradition is usually completed within 1–2 hours.

Thank you all for your cheerful service and fellowship. Wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

With gratitude,  
**Randy Raddatz**  
 CLC Vice President

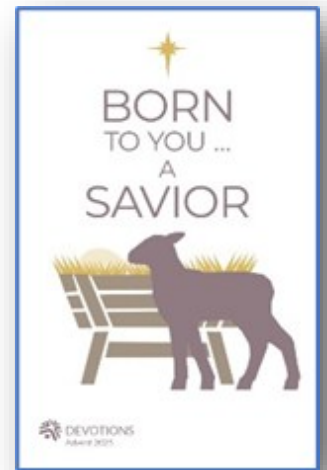




## ADVENT DEVOTIONS...

Advent Devotions from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* are available on the counter outside the Church office. These daily devotions bring us from the first Sunday in Advent (November 30, 2025) all the way to the Epiphany (January 6, 2026). The title of this year's devotion is "*Born to You...a Savior*" and copies are on the counter outside the Church office.

The Christ-Child in a manger is a familiar sight at Christmas. But the meaning of this quiet scene often gets lost in the flurry of the holiday. God has come to us – to you and me – as a human, with the divine purpose of rescuing us from our sins. In *Born to You...a Savior*, we treasure the Father's beloved Gift of love to each of us.



## 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.



## THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...

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

### December

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





We hope you are enjoying these issues of “Pass It On” -- a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the **Lutheran Women Missionary League-New England District (LWML-NED)** \* and nationally. For more news and information, visit [www.lwml-ned.org](http://www.lwml-ned.org)

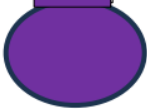
**PASS IT ON**  
**NOVEMBER 2025**

**LWML-NED Mission Goal  
for 2024-2026 is \$85,000**



## 2024-2026 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS

\$85,000	
\$80,000	Mission Goal \$85,000 allocated as follows:
\$75,000	\$55,250 for LWML-NED Mission Projects.
\$70,000	\$21,250 for national LWML Mission Projects; and
\$60,000	8,500 for Lutheran Women's Missionary League-New England
\$50,000	District Administration
\$40,000	
\$30,000	Total <b>Mite</b> money through <b>October 31, 2025</b> , is <b>\$57,690.66</b>
\$20,000	and is <b>68%</b> of Goal.
\$10,000	



**God bless  
you as you  
serve Him  
with  
gladness!**

Please **save and remit** your **Mite** donations payable to **LWML-NED**

Our Mission Grants enable us to share the love of Christ locally, nationally, and internationally.

**SEND MITES TO:** Barbara Lis, Treasurer  
LWML-New England District  
P.O. Box 932, Niantic, CT 06357

This is the Grant we are currently working on:

8a	<b>Lutheran Books for Southeast Asia Lutheran Heritage Foundation</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
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**PLEASE KEEP OUR MITE RECIPIENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS YOU FEED YOUR MITE BOX.**

NOTE: TO PRINT PIO WITHOUT COLOR, SELECT “GREYSSCALE” WHEN YOU PRINT.

## CLC SAYS GOODBYE TO CHERISHED FRIENDS...

### Lawrence M. Logan

**Sunrise** January 1, 1950 ~ **Sunset** October 26, 2025

On October 26, 2025, our beloved brother in Christ “Larry Logan” was called home to be with those that have gone before us and has been reunited with Our Lord.

At Cheshire Lutheran, Larry was a staple of our Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon Bible studies, offering words of insight and opinion from his regular chair in front of the library bookcase. In Fall of 2024, Larry accepted the nomination to serve as CLC’s Financial Secretary, a position he began even before officially taking office back in January. He was also involved in working with the Evangelism Committee on our Church’s website and he had a constant concern for how we can connect with visitors to our Church and the wider community

A Funeral service for Larry was held at Cheshire Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 11:30 AM.



### James L. Mertz

**Sunrise** February 16, 1940 ~ **Sunset** November 6, 2025

Our brother in Christ, Jim Mertz, was called to his eternal home with our Lord Jesus Christ in the afternoon on November 6, 2025.

Jim’s sudden passing came as a shock to all of us. We saw Jim’s faith lived out as he sang in the Choir, rang the bells, tended the Memorial Garden with Margie, sat with us in Bible study, and in all the other things he did as part of our Church family that are too numerous to even track. Because Jim trusted in Jesus, we have hope even in the midst of our sadness.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at Cheshire Lutheran Church at 11:00 am followed by an inurnment service where Jim’s remains were lovingly placed in our Columbarium.



### Jon Tessler

**Sunrise** June 2, 1953 ~ **Sunset** November 22, 2025

Our brother in Christ, Jon Tessler, was called to his eternal home with our Lord Jesus Christ on Saturday evening, November 22, 2025.

For those who may not know Jon well because his health has prevented him from worshipping with us for some time, Jon was one of our many members who quietly helped out wherever it was needed; the most visible way he served the Lord and our church family was as one of our Late Service ushers. He shared his love of baseball with our congregation through his active involvement on our former softball team, **CLC Spirit**.

A Memorial Service with Inurnment for Jon will be held at a future date.



We join the Logan, Mertz and Tessler families in grieving the loss of these devoted children of God and we cling to our Savior Jesus as we look forward to the day when we will be reunited with them and all the faithful around the throne in heaven.

*None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. (Rom. 14:7-8)*

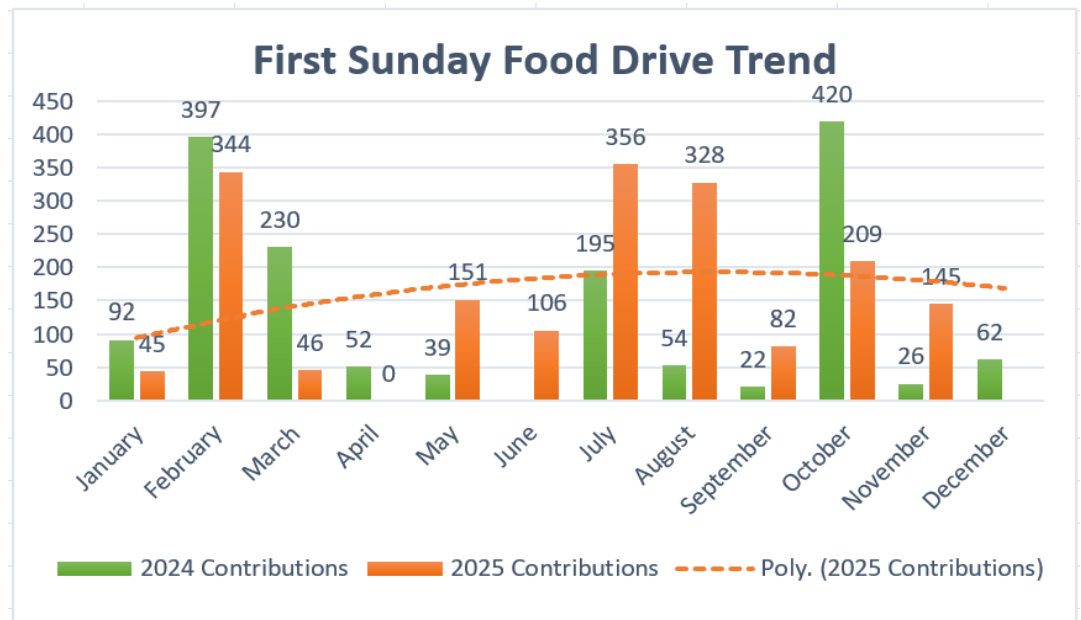
“Well done, good and faithful servant; .... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

**Matthew 25:21**



## DONATE YOUR FREEBIES!

If you happen to spot an item at the grocery store selling at a special price “buy one-get one free”, purchase it and donate the free item



## HELP WANTED

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

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

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

Don't let our First Sunday Food Bank donations fall behind last year's totals! Please note that the Cheshire Community Food Pantry is open Mon., Wed., Fri. from 9:00 a.m. until Noon and Tues. & Thurs. from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

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

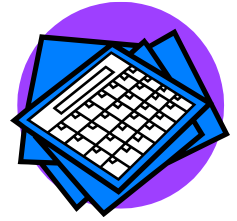
Send Checks to:  
Cheshire Community Food Pantry PO BOX 457  
or  
you can donate \$\$ to them online at <https://www.cheshirefoodpantry.org/>

Call for drop off times: 203-699-9226



## CLC CALENDARS FOR 2026...

**2026 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.



## NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

Holiday greetings!

As we enter the Advent season, we are reminded that this is a time of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus on Christmas morning. I wanted to share a few of the traditions in our home that help us keep our focus on Christ during this meaningful season.

Each Sunday night, we gather around our Advent wreath at home to light the candles and share a devotional—sometimes one from our bulletin, sometimes one we choose together. We often mark these Sundays with a special meal in the dining room rather than at our kitchen table, making the evening feel set apart.

We also read from a children's book about the liturgical calendar called *Ordering Our Days in His Peace: An Introduction to the Christian Church Year* by H. R. Curtis. We talk about the start of the new church year in Advent and what this season means for us. We also leave our decorations up through Epiphany. Every year we choose a hymn to study—last year it was *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, and this year it will be *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.

We also choose not to do *Elf on the Shelf*, which is often used as a nightly reminder about Santa's "naughty or nice" list. This is a very popular toy that is moved around the house each night to get children to behave so they are on the nice list on Christmas morning, since the elf spies on them for Santa. For us, it shifts the focus away from watching and waiting for Jesus.

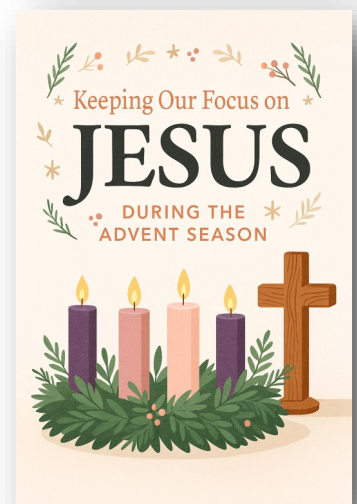
The central part of our celebration is attending church on Christmas Eve. We want the heart of the season to stay centered on Jesus, not gifts or Santa. We no longer do the Santa tradition with our children; while we exchange a few gifts on Christmas morning, our main family gift is usually a vacation together. We are not really waiting for Santa on Christmas morning, we are waiting for Jesus. The gifts we receive on Christmas symbolize the gift God gave to us in the form of his Son, Jesus Christ on Christmas morning.

There is still magic, merriment and Christmas wonder in our home. We decorate, listen to music, watch Christmas movies, and have a house full of twinkling lights. There are still gifts under our tree and excitement on Christmas morning. I make a huge elaborate Christmas breakfast. You can still have that, yet also keep the focus on Jesus' birth. May this encourage you to keep Jesus at the heart of what you do during December- and always.

I look forward to seeing you in church on Christmas Eve—because truly, **He is the reason for the season**

Many blessings,  
Erica

Erica Bencivenga  
Evangelism Deacon



# Our Sincere Appreciation



- ✝ Many thanks to Arta Dobbs for the LOVELY Cornucopia that adorned the Altar for our Thanksgiving Service. It was beautiful as usual this year.
- ✝ 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, Tim Weiland and others for continuing to update our Website with pictures, videos etc. Additionally, many thanks for enhancing some of our recorded Services with supplemental music recorded during the services. We are Blessed by your talents and dedication.
- ✝ Special Thanks to Tim Weiland for continuing to keep our memories alive via his photographic talents.

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT IS UPON US...



### Meaning of Advent:

- ✝ **Advent** comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” It marks the beginning of the church year and focuses on the **coming of Jesus Christ**—past, present, and future.
- ✝ It is a **four-week season** leading up to Christmas, rooted in **Old Testament prophecies** about the Messiah’s birth. Congregations use this time to reflect on Christ’s incarnation, His presence in our lives today, and His promised return.
- ✝ The tone of Advent is both **penitential and hopeful**, encouraging believers to prepare their hearts through prayer, repentance, and worship.

### Meaning of the Advent Wreath:

- ✝ The **Advent Wreath** is a circular arrangement of evergreen branches, symbolizing **eternity and the unending love of God**.
- ✝ It traditionally holds **four candles**, one for each Sunday of Advent. In LCMS churches, the candles are often:
  - ✝ **Three blue candles** – representing **hope, faith, and peace**
  - ✝ **One pink candle** – lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday), symbolizing **joy**
  - ✝ **A fifth white candle**, the **Christ Candle**, may be placed in the center and lit on **Christmas Eve or Christmas Day**, representing the arrival of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Lighting each candle weekly is often accompanied by **Scripture readings, hymns, and prayers**, helping congregants mark the spiritual journey toward Christmas.

### Symbolism and Worship

- ✝ The Advent Wreath serves as a **visual and devotional tool**, reminding worshippers of the **light of Christ breaking into the darkness of the world**.
- ✝ Its use emphasizes **Christ-centered hope and preparation**.





Looking for a Christ-centered start to your child's learning journey?

# LITTLE CHERUBS

## CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL



A ministry of Cheshire Lutheran Church where faith and learning grow hand in hand.

**VOTED CHESHIRE'S BEST  
Preschool in 2023!**

- ✓ A state licensed and aligned with Connecticut Early Learning Benchmarks
- 🎓 Focused on kindergarten readiness
- 👩🏫 Designed with a low student-to-teacher ratio for personalized attention
- 🎨 Enriched with engaging programs that support every child's unique gifts



At Little Cherubs, children thrive through a curriculum that nurtures their spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, and emotional development—all within a loving, faith-filled community.

Whether you're a member of CLC or a neighbor seeking a meaningful preschool experience, we encourage you to prayerfully consider Little Cherubs for your child.

Learn more and take a virtual peek at our program by visiting:  
[www.cheshirelutheran.org/Little-Cherubs-Christian-Preschool](http://www.cheshirelutheran.org/Little-Cherubs-Christian-Preschool)



## 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!

## GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER!



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

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

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

## A GENTLE CALL TO SERVE: JOIN THE ALTAR GUILD...

Dear Members of Cheshire Lutheran Church,

Behind every Holy Communion Sunday is a quiet act of devotion, faithful hands preparing the altar, setting the table, and ensuring that our worship space reflects the reverence of the moment. This sacred work is carried out by our Altar Guild, a team of volunteers who serve with grace and humility.



We are currently seeking **three new members** to join this meaningful ministry. Three of our dedicated volunteers are stepping down, and we hope to fill their shoes with hearts ready to serve.

### What's involved?

- ✝ A commitment of just **three months** out of the year
- ✝ Scheduled **twice per month**
- ✝ You'll be **paired with a partner** for support

**Training and guidance** will be provided every step of the way

Whether you're new to this ministry or have served before, your presence will be a blessing. It's a beautiful way to deepen your connection to our worship life and contribute to the spiritual rhythm of our congregation.

Please prayerfully consider joining the Altar Guild. Your service will not go unnoticed—and it will be deeply appreciated.

**Interested or have questions?** - Reach out to **April Slauson**, who is coordinating on behalf of **Ethel Daly**.

Together, let's continue to honor the sacred traditions of our church with care and community.



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

We have been enjoying the new audio/video equipment for over a year now. 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.



## LWML MITE BOX COLLECTION: SMALL COINS, MIGHTY IMPACT...

Ladies of CLC, if you've been faithfully collecting mites for the **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**, now is the time to bring them in! Please place your donations in the **mite collection box** located on the counter outside the church office.

All contributions will be gathered and consolidated into a single gift, which will be forwarded to our **local LWML treasurer** to support mission grants and ministry efforts near and far.

Your mites—those humble coins and offerings—help fund life-changing projects that share Christ's love across the globe. Every cent counts, and every heart behind it matters.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to **Karen Weiland**, who continues to steward this effort with care and dedication.



## 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.





## POST-CHRISTMAS COFFEE HOUR: SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY TREATS...

For our coffee hour on the Sunday after Christmas, we have a delightful suggestion. Let's help each other clear those counters overflowing with Christmas goodies. On December 29th, why not bring some of your festive treats to share with your fellow congregants? We'll gladly set them out for everyone to enjoy.



## PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2026...

Pledge Sunday for 2026 is here. For those that have returned your Pledge Card and Time & Talent Card for 2026, THANK YOU! For those that have not, a friendly reminder to do so.

Thank you in advance!



## WE NEED YOU...

That's right, we need YOU! We need you to help make our service on Sunday morning happen.

We need acolytes, ushers, readers, greeters, and communion assistants to join in serving. The people who currently give their time to help in these way are wonderful, and we greatly appreciate them, but we need YOU to join their ranks.

For more information on how you can help please speak to April Slauson, our Worship Deacon, or call Pastor at the Church office.

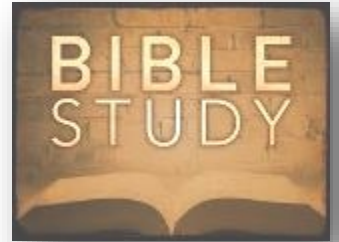
We look forward to serving the Lord together.



# Bible Studies at CLC

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES...

Sunday morning Bible Study between the services starts at approximately 9:15 a.m. every Sunday. Our current topic is "The Lord's Supper" from *The Lutheran Difference* Bible study series. "Real Presence. Weekly Lord's Supper. Symbolism. Infant Communion. So many options. What do you believe? As Lutherans interact with other Christians, they often struggle to explain their beliefs and practices. ... Based on God's Word as faithfully reflected in the Lutheran Confessions, this study will help you to state clearly what you believe. ... *The Lutheran Difference* Bible study series identifies how Lutherans differ from other Christians and shows from the Bible why Lutherans differ.



In addition to Sunday morning Bible, our midweek Bible study meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. At the start of the school year, we began looking at a new book of the Bible, Romans. We are now working our way through St. Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome.

Our Adult Bible studies are meeting in the Church Library on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you cannot be with us in person, watch for emails each week to participate by Zoom.

Come out and join us any time, even if you haven't been with us before. You are always welcome.

## 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.



## NEW ON OUR WEBSITE...[WWW.CHESHIRELUTHERAN.ORG](http://WWW.CHESHIRELUTHERAN.ORG)

The following has been recently added to our Website:

- ✚ Wonderful **NEW** 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, pictures and more pictures from all our past events other miscellaneous photos taken in and around the Church by Tim Weiland
- ✚ Much, much more...



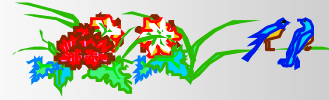
## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 2025

12th

Jeff and Kyong Mann

45 Years



## Christmas Services Reminder!

**Wednesday December 24 - Christmas Eve Services:**

7:00 PM &amp; 10:00 PM—with Holy Communion

(All services will also be live streamed on YouTube)

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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Baker  
 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
 16<sup>th</sup> Christian Kjeldsen  
 17<sup>th</sup> Alwin Manke  
 21<sup>st</sup> Blair Donewald  
     Claire Bencivenga  
     Randy Raddatz  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Judith Juul  
 25<sup>th</sup> Curt Smith  
 27<sup>th</sup> Paul Smith  
 29<sup>th</sup> Samantha Nowak  
 30<sup>th</sup> Alan Santoro  
     David Blair

**Attention Congregants:**

Notify the Church  
 Office (Brenna) if yours  
 or a loved ones Birthday  
 or Anniversary is  
 missing from the  
 monthly lists.

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

