

# The Heavenly Herald

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A few days after submitting my article for the January Heavenly Herald, I realized that I had completely forgotten something very important – 2026 is a very special year for Cheshire Lutheran. As of January 29, our Sanctuary and church building have stood in this place for 65 years. In addition, December 9 will mark 70 years since a handful of people met at the Cheshire Grange Hall for the first worship service of Cheshire Lutheran Church. This is a year to remember and give thanks for the people and all the other blessings that Almighty God has so graciously bestowed on the body of Christ gathered here at CLC.

It was Lutherans living in the area who first canvassed Cheshire in the Spring of 1956 looking to start a congregation, and that Summer the Rev. Darrel W. Geitz arrived to serve as their first Pastor. Less than a month after their first public worship service on December 9, the fledgling congregation had its first Baptism, as Karen Ann Clark was welcomed into the Lord's family by water and the Word on January 6. It was during Pastor Geitz's ministry that CLC purchased our property on West Main, the Ladies' Guild and Parish Choirs were formed, and the congregation marked its first Confirmations, a wedding, and a funeral.

In the Spring of 1960, Pastor Geitz received a Call to Evansville, Indiana, where he served the congregations of Our Savior and Messiah Lutheran Churches. Faced with a Pastoral vacancy, the people of Cheshire Lutheran issued their own Call to the Rev. Louis G. Nuechterlein who was one of the Pastors serving at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Pastor N accepted the Call and arrived with his family just in time for the formal groundbreaking for CLC's building on June 19 of 1960. One week later, on June 26, Pastor N was officially installed as CLC's second Pastor. Pastor Nuechterlein's time at Cheshire Lutheran

was a period of immense growth. The 1960's saw the dedication of our building and then the Schlicker Pipe Organ, CLC's first Vacation Bible School, the start of the Children's choir, and the dedication of our Bell Tower. During the 1970's, the CLC Women made our first Chrismons for the church Christmas tree, members began ringing bells in our new Handbell Choir under the direction of Jean (Kovach) O'Hara, the Church building was expanded to include the Parish Hall and Classrooms, and the Rev. George Heider came to CLC as our Assistant Pastor while studying at Yale.

Over the 1980's and into the '90's, Cheshire Lutheran continued to grow and flourish. The congregation began financially supporting missionaries in Korea and also a congregation in New Hampshire, Pastor Heider left Cheshire to serve at Concordia University in Nebraska, roofing projects were undertaking across the Church building, and the hard work of the members who tended CLC's gardens was recognized by the *Cheshire Garden Club* when it named CLC "Beauty Spot of the Month" (Summer 1987). It was in August of 1994, however, that Pastor Nuechterlein's ministry at Cheshire Lutheran ended as he, his wife Gloria (our Organist and Youth Choir Director), and Jean O'Hara retired on the 21st of that month.

To lead our music ministry, the congregation hired Gwynne Hopko, who began serving on November 1 of 1994. The following year, the members of Cheshire Lutheran voted to Call the Rev. Charles Gustafson as the parish's third Pastor; he was installed on September 10 of 1995. Pastor Gustafson's ministry at CLC lasted for twenty-two years until his retirement in May of 2017. It was during Pastor G's time at CLC that the congregation started financially supporting a Lutheran

(Continued on page 5)



## 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,



Once again, I am honored to begin my second year as Council president. The past year was an exciting and challenging one. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, I gave my first Corporate report and I would like to thank everyone who stayed after service to hear the summary of what went on with our Congregation last year. Also, I would like to give a huge thank you to Brenna for putting the report together

Also on January 11th, we installed the 2026 Council. We are blessed to have such a dedicated and talented group of individuals to serve on Church Council. I am excited to work with them in 2026.

While we have talented people in our Council, they cannot do it alone. There are several committees that can use a helping hand. Whether it be the Youth, Fellowship, Evangelism, House and Grounds and the list goes on. The Time and Talent card in your Pledge pack has all the ways you can help out. If you did not turn in your Pledge pack, it's not to late.

**Ephesians 2 :10**

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

As I write this article, we are preparing for a significant snowstorm and are unsure whether Sunday worship and other church activities will need to be cancelled. If a cancellation did occur, it was made with everyone's safety in mind, we want to be sure we can all gather together again at the next opportunity. By the time you read this, we will also have held our first Council meeting of 2026, weather permitting.

Our next Voters' Meeting is scheduled for February 22nd, following the late service. If you are a voting member, please make every effort to attend so we can reach a quorum and conduct the business of the congregation. If you are not yet a voter, you are still welcome to attend, though you will not be able to vote. We encourage you to consider becoming a voter and taking part in the decision-making life of our congregation. We look forward to seeing you there.

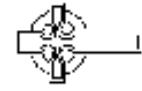
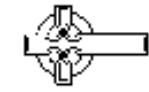
Yours in Christ

Bill Soulier  
Parish President, Cheshire Lutheran Church

## PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!! (March 2026 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (by Friday, **February 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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!





# CCG Calendar

## February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Holy Communion	2 3 4 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	5 6 7 Quilts of Valor	8 9 10 11 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	12 13 14 15 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	16 17 18 19 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 Parish Choir 7:30 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 5:00 - 7:00 Mother/Son Lego Game Night!
15 TRANSFIGURATION 8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Holy Communion	16 PRESIDENT'S DAY	17	18	19	20	21
22 8:00 Worship 9:10 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Voters' Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28

# Left Blank for Servant Schedule

founded Little Cherubs Christian Preschool, and the Columbarium and Memorial Garden was established. The period also saw the expansion of our Church building, including the construction of our Preschool wing. The parish was blessed during this time to have Martha Medford join CLC as our organist & Music Director; the church was also served by a number of men who were Called as "Director of Christian Education."

Our gracious Heavenly Father has continued to pour His blessing out upon our congregation, most especially His gift of our wonderful building and all the talented people who give of themselves to serve this congregation. Thanks to God's grace and their hard work and devotion, the Preschool program at Cheshire Lutheran has continued to grow and has a strong enrollment, our Sunday School is healthy with 25 children Elementary school-age and younger, and our Vacation Bible School routinely has 75 students sign up for the program. All of this is taking place under the roof of this building that Cheshire Lutheran is so blessed to call home.

Here, countless souls have been added to the family of faith by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. Here, young men and women have confessed their faith and made their Confirmation. Here, Christ Jesus feeds us His very body and blood to forgive our sins and strengthen our faith in Holy Communion. Here, couples have started new lives as husband and wife before the Lord and His people. Here, God's people have gathered for worship and fellowship, serving our Lord and one another, and putting to use all the gifts God has given each of us. Here we have rejoiced and been consoled as members of the Body of Christ have joined the Saints Triumphant and entered the life of the world to come.

For all these – and all the reasons that are too numerous and lengthy for me to mention here – we are so very blessed, and we give to Almighty God our heartfelt thanks and praise. This year, as we celebrate 70 years as a congregation and 65 years in this place, let us follow the example of all those who have gone before us and led the way in the faith. Remember them with joy, give thanks to God for His people who are Cheshire Lutheran Church, and join me in serving the Lord with our whole hearts.

In Christ,  
Pastor Rowold

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Our Sunday school lessons are all from The Old Testament this School year. So far we have had lessons from Genisis, Exodus, Numbers and Joshua. In February, our lessons will be from Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel. Join us this month as we learn about Deborah, Samson, Ruth, and Saul becoming King. Join us at 9:00 a.m. for fellowship and snacks, Opening is at 9:20 a.m. followed by age-appropriate study and activities to reinforce the lesson for the day; we will wrap up by 10:20 a.m. This month, we will have three regular Sundays and one fun Sunday.

Our fun Sunday will be February 15; that Sunday will focus on the story of Ruth and we will have an Opening, a craft, a game of Follow the Leader, and an opportunity for the kids to give an item to the Food Pantry collection.

### VBS Planning Update:

Thank you to all who met and gave their input about the dates and theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. The theme will be Group Publishing's "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God."

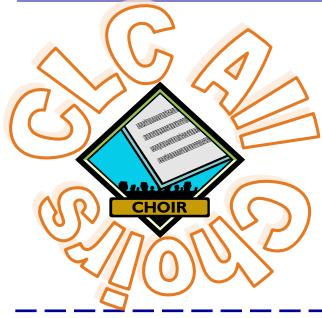
**The dates for VBS will be June 22-26, 2026.**

We need many volunteers to make this happen, so please prayerfully consider how you can help.

***Our next planning meeting will be February 8, 2026*** at 11:30 a.m. We will explore our starter kit and finalize our past participant letter and our flyers. A sign-up sheet for helpers and station leaders is on the bulletin board. Can't wait to see you at Rainforest Falls this Summer!

Tricia Rowold  
Sunday School Superintendent





## CLC CHOIR NEWS...

Please note:

- No Choir performances on Sunday, February 8, 2026
- Ash Wednesday is February 18—Parish Choir performs at the 7:30 Service
- Bell Choir will perform on February 22, 2026
- Choir Rehearsals after each Wednesday Service during Lent
- Bell Choir Rehearsals on Thursdays during Lent

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

Date	Time	Event	Choir
February 1 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
February 4 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
February 8 - Sunday		<b>No Choirs</b>	
February 11 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
February 15 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
February 18 - Wednesday <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	7:30 PM	Performance	Parish Choir
	After Service	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
February 22 - Sunday <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	7:20 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
February 25 - Wednesday <i>1st Wednesday in Lent</i>	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Soloist
	After Service	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
February 26 - Thursday	6:30 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
March 1 - Sunday <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir

## Our Sincere Appreciation

† Special thanks to everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations and Tree this year. Many hands do make light work!

† Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to Tim Weiland for serving as our CLC photographer and over all Church Historian. Tim can always be seen with camera in hand either during events or even during the week when he is taking pictures at and around our beautiful grounds. We are BLESSED!

† Sincere thanks to the crew that disassembled our beautiful (Stark) Crèche. You always work so hard to treat it with such loving care. Thank you



## PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2026...

Pledge Sunday for 2025 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!

## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...



You are cordially invited to be a:

- † Reader
- † Usher
- † Greeter
- † Singer or Ringer
- † Altar Gilder
- † Live Stream Camera Operator



In a typical four Sunday month, there can be at least 70 “periods of service” where members usher, acolyte, read lessons, greet other members and guests before service, glorify God through musical offerings, prepare the altar, and operate CLC’s live stream broadcast.

Our services are a sacred time to gather, reflect, and grow together in faith as a worship community. It is truly a blessing to serve God and our worship community. No experience is necessary, just a spirit of love and a willingness to serve.

Please reach out to me to learn more or to affirm your willingness to serve. Thank you and the Lord bless you!

Steve Behnfeldt  
Worship Deacon

## 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.



## 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.



## LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 18...

Mark your calendars! Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday and the service that evening will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Starting on February 25, we'll have our traditional Midweek Soup & Salad Supper followed by a Bible study, and then the Wednesday night worship service. Wednesday evening services all start at 7:30 PM and the Soup & Salad Suppers (February 25 through March 25) begin at 6:00 PM.



## Test Your Knowledge on the History of CLC as we celebrate anniversaries of the Church, the Sanctuary and the Schlicker Pipe Organ in 2026.

How many laminated arches hold up the roof of the sanctuary/narthex?  
 6   B) 7   C) 8   D) 9   E) 12

Pastor and Gloria Nuechterlein arrived in Cheshire on Thursday June 9, 1960. Groundbreaking for CLC took place how many weeks later?  
 <1   B) 1   C) 2   D) 3   E) 4

Pastor Nuechterlein was installed as Pastor at CLC \_\_\_\_ week(s) after groundbreaking for the Church?  
 1   B) 2   C) 3   D) 4   E) 6

Preliminary plans for the Church showed its orientation facing east/west versus the north/south orientation as built.

False   B) True

The area just outside of the north facing wall of the church (altar/cross end) was to be:

- A stairway to heaven
- A grove of olive trees
- A peace garden
- An outdoor chapel

The dimensions of the sanctuary are:

- Approximately 25 cubits by 50 cubits by 25 cubits.
- 36 feet by 72 feet by 36 feet
- 12 yards by 24 yards by 12 yards
- All of the above   E) Only B above

The total cost to build the church was approximately:

- \$30,000   B) \$60,000   C) \$120,000   D) \$240,000   E)  
 \$360,000

Soon after being installed at CLC, Pastor Nuechterlein helped the congregation:

- Sell commemorative CLC bricks
- Pick up rocks around the property
- Plant red maple trees
- Locate a bell

How many acres of land were purchased in 1957 to build the church on?

- 5   B) 6   C) 7   D) 8.5   E) 10

Rev. Dr. David P. Rowold, Ph.D. was installed as Pastor at CLC in:  
 2017   B) 2018   C) 2019   D) 2020

The CLC Memorial Bell is dedicated in the memory of CLC's Pvt. Gary Richards who died in which country?  
 A) Korea   B) Japan   C) Vietnam   D) Thailand

The Bell is said to weigh:  
 158.8 kg   B) 350 lbs.   C.) 0.175 tons   D) A & B & C

The Bell originally hung in a steeple at Saint Bridget's Catholic Church that now resides Cheshire Pizza.

- A) True   B) False

The Bell dedication took place on:

- Dec. 24, 1967   B) Jan. 4, 1968   C) Feb. 4, 1968   D)  
 Dec. 4, 1968

The architect of both the modest CLC Bell Tower and adjacent Sanctuary was from:

- A) Geitz, Nuechterlein and Gustafson
- B) Schrumm, Schweizer and Clark
- C) Schrumm, Soulier and Mertz
- D) Russell, Gibson and von Dohlen

Pastor Nuechterlein retired in 1994. Pastor Charles Gustafson served CLC from 1995 to 2017.

- False   B) True

The dedication and blessing of the CLC Columbarium wall took place on July 24, \_\_\_\_.

- 2014   B) 2015   C) 2016   D) 2017   E) 2018

The basin of the Memorial Garden adjacent to the Columbarium wall continues to serve as a temporary receptacle for parking lot rain runoff.

- False   B) True

A niche is one of the multiple spaces in the Columbarium wall for one urn in which cremains are placed. There are \_\_\_\_ niches in the current wall.

- 22   B) 44   C) 66   D) 88

The organist at the Dedication Service and Recital for the Schlicker Pipe Organ was:

- Gloria Nuechterlein   B) Rev. Louis Nuechterlein, Pastor   C)  
 Herman Schlicker   D) Rev. Billy Graham

The dedication service of the Schlicker Pipe Organ took place on November 5 of what year?

- 1956   B) 1960   C) 1961   D) 1962

The Cheshire Lutheran Church's organ has \_\_\_\_ pipes.

- 178   B) 378   C) 578   D) 778   E) 978



## Cheshire Lutheran Church 2026 OFFICERS AND DEACONS

Please reach out and say Thank You to our newly elected Church Council and Deacons who will be installed on Sunday January 11th at the 10:30 Service

<i>Parish President</i>	Bill Soulier
<i>Vice President</i>	Randy Raddatz
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Eva Schrumm
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	New—Nancy Schweitzer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bill Sherman
<i>Christian Education</i>	Kelley Collins-Pardee
<i>Christian Growth Fund</i>	David Schrumm

<i>Evangelism</i>	Erica Bencivenga
<i>Fellowship</i>	New—Thom Zeppieri
<i>House and Grounds</i>	John Schrumm
<i>Social Welfare</i>	Terri Daly
<i>Stewardship</i>	New—Kurt Lenz
<i>Worship</i>	New—Steven Behnfeldt
<i>Youth</i>	New—Vanassa Falk

We give heartfelt thanks to **April Slauson** and **Rob DeLaubell** for their faithful and dedicated service on our Church Council. We are also deeply grateful to **Alan and Carol Santoro** and **Nancy Schweitzer** for stepping in to assist with the Financial Secretary duties following the passing of **Larry Logan**.

We extend our appreciation as well to **Pam and Andy Clark**, who recently moved from Cheshire. Their years of devoted service—Pam as Fellowship Deacon and Andy as Youth Deacon—were a true blessing to our congregation.

To each of you, we echo the words of our Savior: **“Well done, good and faithful servants.”** Your commitment has strengthened the ministry of CLC and continues to bear fruit in Christ’s name.





Wednesday  
Evening  
Bible  
Study

## LENT WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY...

Every Wednesday from **February 25** through **March 25**, we will have a short Bible study following the Soup & Salad Supper. Our Bible study this Lent takes a look at those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ. Study and discussion questions, prayers and reflections help to develop a closer relationship with Christ. Come out for dinner at 6 PM and take part in the Bible study after, then join us in the sanctuary for worship at 7:30 PM.



## 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, you can check the local TV stations—WTNH Channel 8, MyTV 9, and WFSB Channel 3—or listen to WTIC 1080 AM on the radio. All of these stations also post weather closings on their websites.

In addition to these outlets, we will share weather-related updates through **mass email, our church social media accounts, and text alerts**. If you would like to be added to our email list, text notification list, or want to be sure you're following the correct social channels, please contact the church office and we'll be happy to include you.

Stay warm!



## 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.



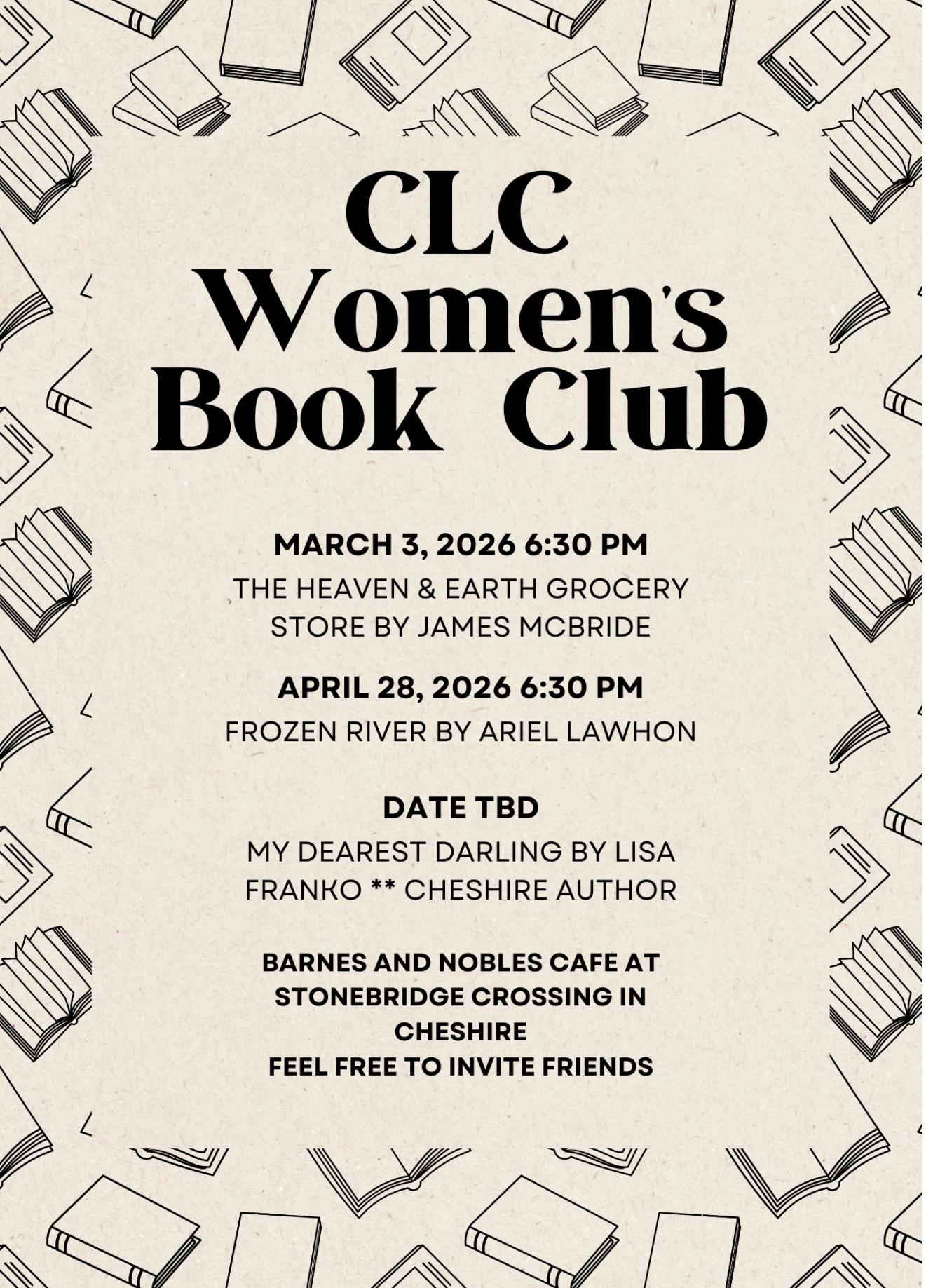
## DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS PRESCHOOL AGE?...

If so, please suggest to their parents that they look into our Little Cherubs Christian Preschool program. Little Cherubs was the recipient of the 2023 Cheshire award for **BEST PRESCHOOL**. We are: a state licensed facility, our curriculum supports State of CT Benchmarks, focus is on kindergarten readiness, there is a low student to teacher ratio and we have enrichment programs available!

Little Cherubs Preschool offers a sound Christian curriculum and quality learning opportunities that nurture a child's spiritual, intellectual, social, physical & emotional growth and development.

For detailed information about our Little Cherubs program please visit our church's website: [www.cheshirelutheran.org/little-cherubs-christian-preschool/](http://www.cheshirelutheran.org/little-cherubs-christian-preschool/)

Kelley Collins-Pardee  
Christian Education Deacon



# CLC Women's Book Club

**MARCH 3, 2026 6:30 PM**

THE HEAVEN & EARTH GROCERY  
STORE BY JAMES MCBRIDE

**APRIL 28, 2026 6:30 PM**

FROZEN RIVER BY ARIEL LAWHON

**DATE TBD**

MY DEAREST DARLING BY LISA  
FRANKO \*\* CHESHIRE AUTHOR

**BARNES AND NOBLES CAFE AT  
STONEBRIDGE CROSSING IN  
CHESHIRE  
FEEL FREE TO INVITE FRIENDS**

## NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

I have lots of wonderful things planned for this calendar year - please join us as helpers or participants! Book club, concerts, egg hunt, mommy/son game night, etc.!

### Book Club Update:

The Lord truly brought together a wonderful group of women for our very first gathering at the new Barns & Nobles café at Stonebridge Crossing in Cheshire.

Our first book, *Pope Joan*, sparked a lively and thoughtful discussion. God even opened a door for a bit of unexpected evangelism when two women approached our table, curious about what we were doing. We joyfully welcomed them; my mom, Eva gathered their information and, **praise Jesus**, they may join us next time!

Come be part of this uplifting, Spirit-filled time together as we read, reflect, and encourage one another in the love of Christ. See the flyer on the previous page for more information.

### Celtic Concert—with Mandolin & Guitar Duo Handler & Levesque:

Enjoy lively Irish dance tunes, beautiful Celtic melodies, and singalongs of Irish-American favorites. The program features music by Turlough O'Carolan, Irish-inspired American pieces, and engaging stories behind the songs. For more information see Flyer in this Heavenly Herald.



### Annual Easter Egg Hunt Planning:

Planning continues for our *third* Easter Egg Hunt at Church. It was a huge success in previous years. For more information, see the Flyer in this Heavenly Herald.

### Mom & Son Lego Game Night—February 28 at 5:00 PM:

We are planning a fun night for Moms and Sons. For more information, see the flyer in this Heavenly Herald.



### Discipleship:

I listened to a great episode on discipleship this week from the Lutheran *On the Line* Podcast. It really made me pause and think about what discipleship looks like in our home and where we can grow.

With our girls, faith is part of our everyday life. We pray before meals and at bedtime. Church is a priority on Sundays. We are working through *Concordia's Bible History*, which connects Bible stories with hymns, prayers, and the Small Catechism. Some nights, we do a short Bible study after dinner. Mario and I are also doing a year-long Bible study together.

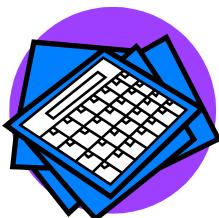
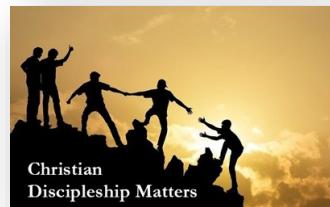
The word disciple means student, and that's how I think about our faith - always learning, always growing. As Lutherans, we believe salvation is God's gift by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Discipleship isn't about being perfect, it's about staying rooted in God's Word and glorifying Him in all we do.



What does discipleship look like in your home? What's one small thing you could do - pray more, open the Bible, make church a priority?

Many blessings,

Erica Bencivenga  
Evangelism Deacon



## CLC CALENDARS FOR 2026...

**2026 Calendars** are here. The calendars are a gift to our congregation compliments of the Alder-son/Ford Funeral Home. You are welcome to pick up a copy from our hallway counter or narthex table as soon as they arrive.

Intentionally left blank for you to post or share this flyer!

# CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH

invites you to an

# Easter EGG HUNT

SAT. MARCH 28TH

Egg hunt starts at 10:00 AM



660 West Main Street  
Cheshire, CT 06410





# Cheshire Lutheran Church

660 West Main St.

Present

## Celtic Celebration

*with*

**Mandolin & Guitar Duo Handler & Levesque**



**Saturday, March 14, 2026  
2:00 – 3:00 PM**

**No admission charge**

Enjoy lively Irish dance tunes, beautiful Celtic melodies, and singalongs of Irish-American favorites. The program features music by Turlough O'Carolan, Irish-inspired American pieces, and engaging stories behind the songs.

The acclaimed duo **Handler & Levesque**, with over 2,500 performances across the U.S. and Europe, are known for their seamless blend of guitar and mandolin and their warm, audience-friendly style. A joyful Celtic celebration for all!

*We welcome the community to come and enjoy this concert.  
Light refreshments following the performance.*



Intentionally left blank for you to post or share this flyer!



CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

# MOM & SON LEGO GAME NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A FUN LEGO GAME  
NIGHT!

**Saturday, February 28 from 5:00-  
7:00 PM**

**Cheshire Lutheran Church  
660 West Main St, Cheshire  
TICKETS ARE \$8 PER MOM/SON COUPLE  
AND \$5 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SON**



**Cheshire Lutheran  
CHURCH**



# LENTEN CALENDAR

Event	Date	Notes
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in Lent</b>	Wednesday, February 18, 2026	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> —Join us for Service at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed via YouTube.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in Lent</b>	Wednesday, February 25, 2026	Join us for Soup, Salad and Bible Study at 6:00 PM <i>then</i> Join us for Service at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed via YouTube.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in Lent</b>	Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Join us for Soup, Salad and Bible Study at 6:00 PM <i>then</i> Join us for Service at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed via YouTube.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday In Lent</b>	Wednesday, March 11, 2026	Join us for Soup, Salad and Bible Study at 6:00 PM <i>then</i> Join us for Service at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed via YouTube.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday In Lent</b>	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Join us for Soup, Salad and Bible Study at 6:00 PM <i>then</i> Join us for Service at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed via YouTube.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday In Lent</b>	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	Join us for Soup, Salad and Bible Study at 6:00 PM <i>then</i> Join us for Service at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary and Live Streamed via YouTube

## NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP DEACON...

### Mid-Week Lenten Services—Soup, Salad and Bible Study:

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on **February 18**, when we gather for our traditional 7:30 PM **Ash Wednesday Service**.

Our weekly Soup, Salad & Bible Study gatherings begin the following week, on Wednesday, February 25, and continue each Wednesday throughout Lent.

Each Wednesday starting February 25:

- † 6:00 PM – Light Soup & Salad Supper
- † 6:30 PM – Lenten Bible Study
- † 7:30 PM – Midweek Lenten Service

To help us prepare, **please sign up if you plan to attend**. There is also a **sign-up sheet for anyone willing to prepare a pot of soup** to serve about 10 people. If you can assist with set-up or clean-up, your help is a blessing, many hands truly lighten the load.

Let us walk together through this sacred season, sharing fellowship, studying God's Word, and preparing our hearts for Easter.



Thom Zeppieri  
Fellowship Deacon

## NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

I'd like to thank Rob DeLaubell for his guidance and mentorship as I transition into the role of Stewardship Chair. Rob, and Pat DiDomizio before him, have set a firm foundation for continued progress. Their example and encouragement inspired me to serve and has led many others to volunteer on one or more of the many committees that furthers our CLC mission.

Financial giving is healthy and we hope to build on that momentum in the new year. I would ask that you prayerfully consider pledging so the Financial Secretary can better meet the budget needs of the church. Our tithes and offerings support God's ministry and teaching. I remember my Dad telling me many times over the years that what we give to others is always blessed by the Lord. Sharing our gifts is sharing God's love.

Kurt Lenz  
Stewardship Deacon



## THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...

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

### February

February 18, 1546	Martin Luther dies at the age of 66
February 2, 1958	First Holy Communion Service celebrated under parish sponsorship
February 16, 1967	Congregant Pfc Gary Richards dies in Vietnam (town of Cheshire's first casualty)
February 4, 1968	Dedication of Bell Tower, in memory of CLC member Pfc Gary Richards, the first Cheshire soldier to be killed in the Vietnam War
February 25, 2018	Rev. Rowold's installation service at CLC
February 28, 2018	Rev. Rowold's conducted first Lenten Wednesday evening Bible Study and Service.



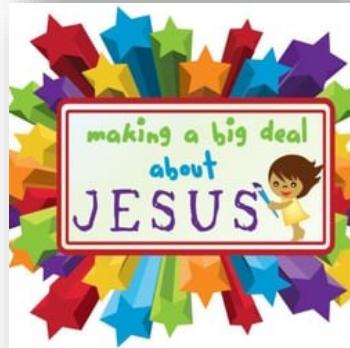


## NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

December and January have been very busy at Little Cherubs Christian Preschool.

Our Bible time has been about Jesus' birth and now His ministry. The children are learning that Jesus is God and asking questions about that. They will learn about the miracles of Jesus in the coming weeks. Please pray that the children keep these truths with them throughout their lives.

We made many crafts. Several Christmas crafts and some were ornaments for their families. The children enjoy doing art projects. The children in the four-year-old class are really good at cutting things out now! The children in the three-year-old class are working hard on their cutting skills.



Academics preschool - style is always on-going at Cherubs. Letter & number recognition continued throughout the preschool year. The four-year-old class is getting better at writing letters and learning the sounds, while the three-year-old class is focused on recognition at this point. We are getting really good at finding our names and learning to hold a pencil for writing time.

Ms. Fiona, Ms. Carrie, Ms. Bobbi-Jo and I work as a team on Tuesday and Thursday with 20 students. While the Monday - Wednesday - Friday class has 12 students that Ms. Carrie and I work with. We have been able to call on our substitute teachers as needed. God has provided; we are thankful!

JoAnn had been working from home, getting office work done. There is always administrative paperwork when it comes to directing a preschool. Please continue to pray for JoAnn's health journey as she is in the hospital as I write this. I help out with the office work as needed; thankfully, I have some experience as a preschool director. God directs our paths as needed, He is so good!



Tracy Lennon (Teacher)

\*There is a desire to connect the congregation with the preschool children. If you have a talent that you'd like to share, or you'd like to read a book to the children, please reach out and let us know. Maybe you'd like to volunteer in the classroom; we would welcome that. Examples might be: if you play a musical instrument, juggle, or make crafts that you might want to share.

If this interests you, please reach out to me— Tracy Lennon by contacting the Church Office.

## 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

## CLC HELPING HANDS...

### PLEASE READ AND RESPOND! My hands need help!

Many thanks to those who have helped reach out to our homebound parishioners with baked goods and visits this fall! Everyone has been most appreciative and grateful! Anyone interested in making an occasional visit or phone call to these people, please let me know!

We continue to provide rides for Gloria to the late service at church on Sundays. Thank you to those who have consistently driven! We will continue to drive her so anyone who would like to participate please contact me! She and her family are most thankful!

Contact Sally Schrumm ( phone and email in directory)

To reach me, you will need to check my prior emails or our new directory! The Heavenly Herald does not include this info to diminish the chance of spam use!

Thank you in advance!

#### Other Volunteer Opportunities:

- † Meals
- † Visitation—Especially around Holidays
- † Mailing cards - holiday and thinking of you
- † Seasonal gifts.. apple pies at thanksgiving, cookies at Christmas, palms and Lenten devotional, Easter flowers



Thank you!  
Sally Schrumm  
Helping Hands Committee

*Please reach out the Church Office or CLC Directory for my contact information.*



## 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.



## NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY...

I am proud to have been chosen to serve as CLC's Financial Secretary. As I begin my duties, I would like to acknowledge the work done by our previous Financial Secretary, Larry Logan, who passed away in October, 2025. I had the privilege of working with Larry as he began his tenure, as he worked to understand the distinct and yet supportive functions of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer.

During his brief tenure as Financial Secretary, Larry developed a new reporting system to record our weekly offerings and facilitate the reporting requirements of the Financial Secretary. In addition, Larry prepared a comprehensive document that explains in great detail the recording and reporting functions. After Larry's untimely passing, Alan Santoro, Interim Financial Secretary, and I began to use the new reporting system and the documentation. The new reporting system and accompanying documentation will provide our congregation with many benefits for years to come, and I am fortunate to have these tools as I begin my duties.

Finally, I would like to thank Alan Santoro for his guidance and allowing me to "shadow" him during his tenure as Interim Financial Secretary.

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*  
Mark 10:45

Nancy Schweizer  
Financial Secretary



## ON THE BULLETIN BOARD:

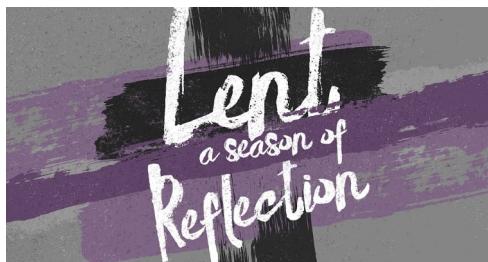
*Remember to check the Bulletin Boards and/or hallway table for sign-up sheets and information about various events!*

### **This month on the Bulletin Board:**

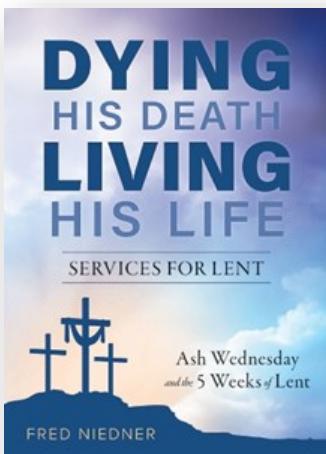
- † 2026 Flower Chart Sign-up
- † CLC Usher Schedule
- † Live Stream Camera & Operator sign-up Names of those serving on our CLC Council and Deacons
- † Information on CLC family members called **home** to be with Jesus
- † Lutheran Church Extension Fund information
- † The Magic of the Italian Lakes trip information
- † Sunday School Schedule information
- † Sunday Coffee Hour sign-up
- † Christmas Cards from our Church Family
- † 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

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

- † Ushers are needed to work both services. Contact Steven Behnfeldt 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.



## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES *DYING HIS DEATH, LIVING HIS LIFE*



During the season of Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In word and song, our services lead us to contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

Join us for our Wednesday night Lenten series *Dying His Death, Living His Life* at **7:30 PM each Wednesday** from Ash Wednesday, **February 18**, through **March 25**, the Wednesday before Holy Week. If you can't be with us in person, then please join us by our YouTube live stream. Watch your email for service link and information.

Adult devotions, connected to the series and also titled *Dying His Death, Living His Life*, will be available on the counter outside the Church office before Lent starts.

## 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.



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

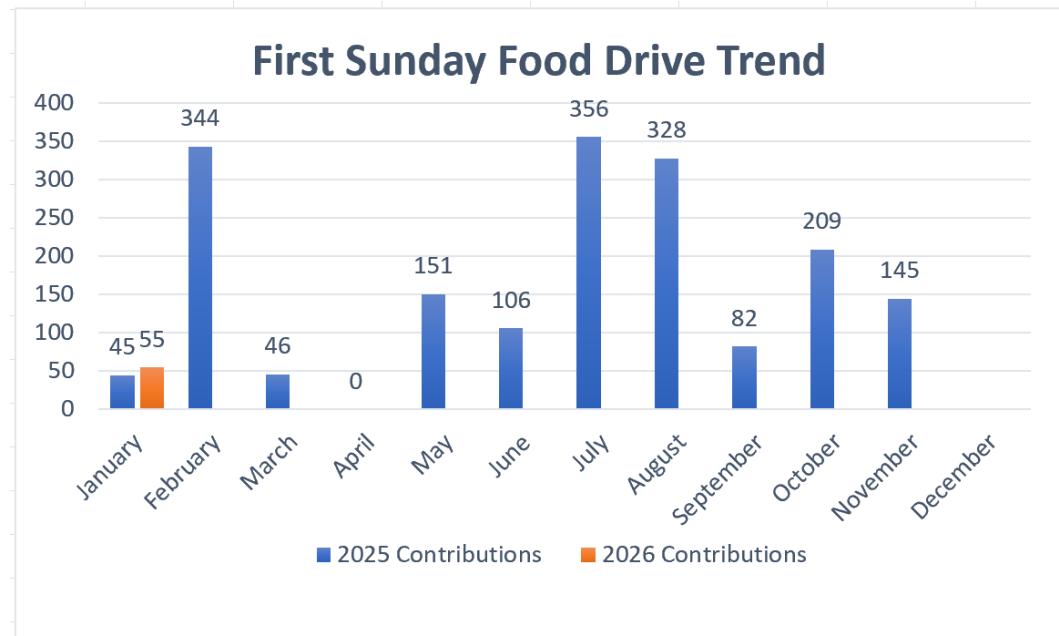
The following has been recently added to our Website:

- † Wonderful aerial drone video put to music of our beautiful church grounds
- † Live streaming and video recordings of Sunday Services during
- † Service video with enhanced music recordings—YouTube sometimes does not broadcast the best sounding audio.
- † Audio recordings of Anthems sung by Soloists and Special Ensembles this Summer
- † Current and Past Heavenly Heralds.
- † Video recordings from many past events.
- † Audio and Video recordings of Pastor's 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...



## 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.

## CHESTER 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

## MEMORIAL GARDEN & COLUMBIARIUM 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.

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

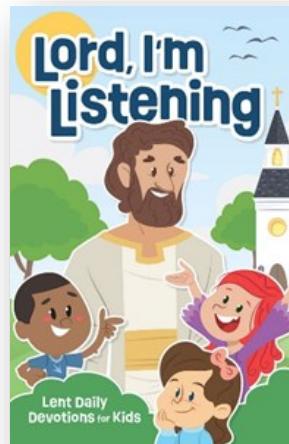
Out of care for our sacred space and in accordance with CLC By-Laws, we kindly ask families to refrain from leaving items (flowers, trinkets, etc.) at or around the Columbarium. While we deeply understand the sentiment, our staff is unable to remove these items promptly. If you have questions, please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

### Columbarium Status:

Category	Count	Notes
Saints Inurned	22	2 Pending
Subscriptions (Pre-Need)	32	1 Pending
Niches in Use or Subscribed	53	60% of total niches
Open Niches	35	40% available
Memorial Plaques (Purchased/Installed)	30	1 Pending

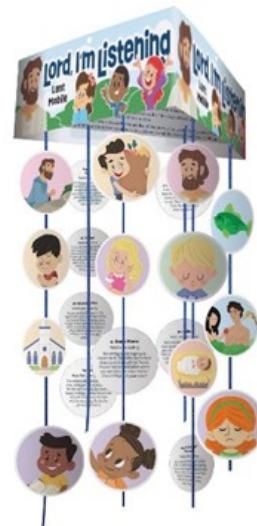


## KIDS' LENTEN DEVOTION AND MOBILE...



Is that a snake I hear up in that tree? Oh, don't listen to that!" So begins this sound-filled Lenten journey. In these Lent daily devotions for kids, readers are invited to open their ears and listen to Jesus' saving words and the many Biblical sounds that accompanied Jesus' to the cross and beyond to the opening of his tomb! Ages 6-12.

Perfect as a centerpiece above the table or in the classroom, family room or bedroom, this Lenten mobile grows throughout Lent as we pray through the days until Jesus' glorious resurrection. Each day, a new piece is added to the mobile, creating a beautiful decoration for Easter. A daily devotional verse and Scripture passage are also included. A great companion piece to the children's Lenten devotional booklet of the same name. *Cutting is required and string is not included.*



## NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEACON...



### Upcoming Event: Souper Bowl of Caring

As we gear up for the iconic Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8th, we invite you to bring your donations of soups to the church from now through February 15th. Please place your contributions in the specifically marked bins under the counter near the library door.



Monetary donations are also welcome and can be placed in the red box on the counter. All collected money will be used to purchase cans of soup, and all donations will be delivered to the Cheshire Food Pantry.

See the bulletin board for more information.

### Ongoing Collection for Cheshire Food Pantry



The January food pantry donation was 55 pounds. The new executive director Cheshire Food Pantry, Michael Mongillo, thanks the congregants of CLC for our ongoing donation. He has asked that we modify our donations items for the winter months. He would like to assign us the current dish detergent and ask us to **add maple syrup** to our collection during the winter months if possible.

Our continuous collection for the Cheshire 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.

## FEED OUR FUTURE

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Terri Daly  
Social Welfare Deacon

## YOUR IMPACT MATTERS: THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS SUPPORTING CLC ...



**Don't forget to direct  
Choice Dollars®**

As most of you know, Thrivent is a membership owned fraternal organization. It provides financial advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs to help members make the most of all they have been given. Thrivent Choice is one of the membership programs available to help members make an impact in their communities. Eligible Thrivent clients can direct where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds by directing Choice Dollars they earn quarterly to enrolled nonprofit organizations.

In the past, CLC has received up to \$2,500 from Choice Dollars alone. A tremendous thank you goes out to all Thrivent members who have allocated Choice Dollars to CLC over the years.

As a reminder, Thrivent members who still have 2025 Choice Dollars have until **March 31, 2026** to direct them. After March 31, these Choice Dollars will expire. Please take advantage of this generous program by direct any remaining Choice Dollars by March 31. If you have any questions, please contact Alan Spose at (203) 623-1650.

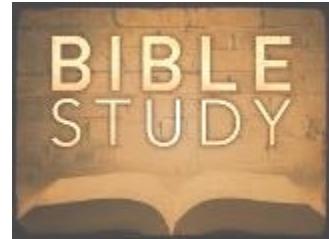
### Test Your Knowledge on the History of CLC Quiz (page 8) answers:

1 B; 2 A; 3 A; 4 B; 5 D; 6 D; 7 C; 8 B; 9 B; 10 B; 11 C; 12 D; 13 A; 14 C; 15 D; 16 B; 17 C; 18 B; 19 D; 20 B; 21 C; 22 B;

# Bible Studies at CLC

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES...

The Sunday morning Adult Study between the services starts at approximately 9:15 a.m. every Sunday. Beginning February 1, we will be starting our next topic "End Times" from *The Lutheran Difference* Bible study series. "Millenium. Revelation. Rapture. Eternity. 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 our Sunday morning Adult study, our midweek Bible study meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. We began looking at the book of Romans back in the fall and have almost finished working our way through it. We are on our last lesson and will wrap up our time in St. Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome in time for our traditional Lenten hiatus.

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.



## 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.

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

† February 4—Don DePaolo  
† February 7—John Casberg

† February 8—Alyssa DeLaubell

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



1 Larry Fiedler  
 10 Judi-Lynn Reidinger  
 11 Kiley Soulier  
 13 Regina Lynch  
 20 Glenn Myers  
 24 Jeanette Bothroyd  
 25 Gloria Nuechterlein  
 26 James Donewald  
 28 Vicki DePaolo

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**February 2026**

Somebody needs to get married in February!



**WINTER  
WONDERLAND**



**Happy Birthday!**



*Voters* will meet Sunday **February 22, 2026** after the 10:30 service.

*Council* will meet Tuesday, **March 10, 2026** at 7:00 pm in the Church Library



**Cheshire Lutheran Church**  
 660 West Main St  
 Cheshire CT 06410

