

The Heavenly Herald

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JANUARY
Garnet
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The year was 1534. According to legend, that December Martin Luther's Christmas gift to his children and the other members of his household was a hymn that he had written as a kind of Christmas pageant for them; it began with the words "From heaven above to earth I come" or, in German, "Vom himel hoch da kom ich her". The hymn is 358 in our *Lutheran Service Book*. While there is no real evidence as to the truth of the story, the hymn by Luther did appear in print for the first time the following year (1535). I can only guess how happy Luther's children were to receive a hymn as a Christmas present that year (not very, if my own reaction as child is any indication). The hymn does do a lovely job, however, of conveying the Christmas Gospel that the shepherds heard from the angels that night in Bethlehem so many years ago. It also gives us a glimpse into how the shepherds may have responded to God's gracious gift of Himself – and how we too ought to respond.

I share it here as a reminder for all of us what the Christmas season (which does not actually end until January 6 and the Feast of the Epiphany) is truly about.

1. "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
3. "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.
4. "He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

5. "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6. How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

7. Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

8. Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.

9. Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10. Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.

11. Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.

12. And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

14. My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.



(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

IGreetings Everyone,



I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year! It's hard to believe that 2025 has already come to a close, where does the time go? As we turn the page into 2026, I am reminded of how quickly the seasons pass, yet how richly they are filled with blessings here at Cheshire Lutheran Church.

December was, as always, a busy and joyful month at CLC. We began with Advent, a season of anticipation and preparation, and celebrated together at our Advent Jubilee Luncheon. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Rowold and Tricia for taking on the organizing of this wonderful event, to the Drust's for again generously providing the food and beautiful table decorations and to all who pitched in to make it special. Fellowship meals like this remind us that the church is not just a building, it is the people who gather, serve, and share Christ's love with one another.

We also harvested our Christmas tree, beautifully decorated our sanctuary, and set up our amazing Creche. Each year, these traditions bring warmth and reverence to our worship space, reminding us of the humble birth of our Savior. A big thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents to make our church shine during this holy season. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish when we all pitch in together.

As we step into the new year, I am drawn to the words of Mark 10:45: *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

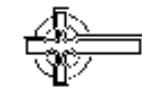
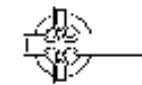
This verse is a powerful reminder of the heart of our faith, service. Jesus Himself modeled servant leadership, and as His followers, we are called to do the same. Whether it is decorating the sanctuary, preparing meals, teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, or simply offering a kind word to a fellow member, each act of service reflects Christ's love.

Looking ahead to 2026, let us continue to embrace this spirit of service. There will be many opportunities in the months to come, new ministries to support, events to plan, and neighbors to reach. I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider how you might serve, both within our congregation and in the wider community. Together, we can continue to be a light in Cheshire, sharing the hope and joy of Christ with all.

May this new year be filled with blessings, growth, and opportunities to serve. Thank you for all you do to make CLC a vibrant, welcoming, and Christ-centered family.

In Christ's service,

Bill Soulier
Parish President, Cheshire Lutheran Church



CTC Calendar

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Holy Communion	6	9:00 Undecorate the Church	7	1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	8
11	Annual Corporate Meeting 8:00 Worship 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Worship 12:00 VBS 2026 Meeting	12	13	14	1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	15
18	8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Holy Communion	19	20	21	6:30 Women's Book Club @ Barnes & Nobles Cafe	22
25	8:00 Worship 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Worship	26	27	28	1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	29
						30
						31

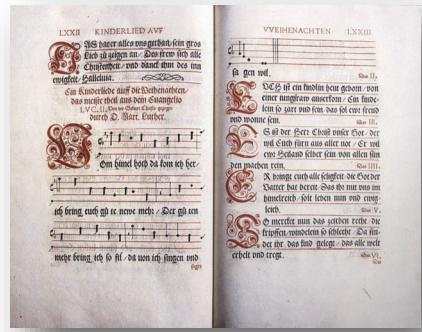
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(Continued from Pastors Message on page 1)

I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15. Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 358 "From Heaven Above To Earth I Come"
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Public domain



As we begin this new year, may we keep in mind God's awe-inspiring Christmas gift to all humanity, and may Christ Jesus fill our hearts and shape our lives.

In Christ Jesus, God's gift to you and me,
Pastor Rowold

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Christmas Pageant Update:

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant was on December 14, 2025 during the 10:30 a.m. service. Thank you to everyone who helped out that day. And Yes, the kids and adults got cookies when it was done.



Sunday School Resumes—REMINDER:

We will resume regular lessons on January 4, 2026 and there will be a fun Sunday on January 18.

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.

Wishing you a Happy And Healthy New Year!



VBS Update:

It is winter, but, it is also time to start thinking of warm tropical places and sharing God's Word with lots of children and volunteers. We will have a VBS 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. We will also choose the dates for this year's VBS. Anyone interested in being part of these decisions 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.

Many volunteers are needed for VBS; please consider helping out.

Tricia Rowold
Sunday School Superintendent



THANK YOU FROM THE ROWOLDS...

Thank you to all the members and friends of Cheshire Lutheran Church for your kindness, your prayers, and your generosity. My family and I are truly blessed to be a part of this faith community. May God bless and keep you always.





CLC CHOIR NEWS...

Please note:

- ♪ No Choir performances on Sunday January 11, 2026
- ♪ Bell Choir will perform on January 25, 2025

CLC ALL CHOIRS REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE...

Date	Time	Event	Choir
January 4 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 7 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 11- Sunday		No Choirs	
January 14 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 18 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 21 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 25 - Sunday	7:20 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
January 28 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
February 1 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir



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 in advance!



NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...

You are cordially invited to be a:

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

LESSON READERS for Sunday worship are needed! Please contact April Slauson for more information.



I would like to thank all ushers, lay readers, altar guild and acolytes for your generous service to CLC. A special thank you to Joanne Casberg for her weekly reminder telephone calls to the lay readers too. It has been an honor to serve as Worship Deacon for the past three years.

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 ...

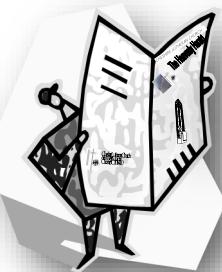
A hearing assistance system (Williams Sound Corporation) and four receivers have been donated to CLC. A receiver (hearing aid) may be obtained from any usher. Please feel free to ask for one and make sure you return to an usher at the end of the service so it can be returned to its proper storage place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

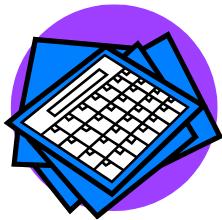


PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!!

(February 2026 Articles are Due!)

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (by Friday, **January 23rd**, 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!





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 nar-thex table as soon as they arrive.

Congregational Meeting Reminder:

Sunday January 11th after both Services

via Youtube stream and in the Sanctuary



WEATHER AND WORSHIP...

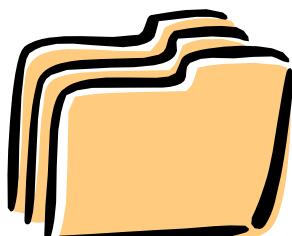
Who knows what kind of winter we will have this year! To find out when worship services have been cancelled due to weather conditions, check TV channels, WTNH channel 8 or MyTV 9, WFSB channel 3 and on the radio, WTIC 1080 AM. All these stations have websites that list weather closings too! A mass e-mail will also be sent. If you would like to be included on our mass e-mail, please let the church office know.

Stay warm!



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.



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.

CLC SAYS GOODBYE TO CHERISHED FRIENDS...

Norman R. Benedict

Sunrise May 7, 1927 ~ Sunset November 30, 2025

On November 30, 2025, our beloved brother in Christ “*Norman Benedict*” was called home to be with those that have gone before us and has been reunited with Our Lord.

A Funeral service will be celebrated on January 3, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Cheshire Lutheran Church. Visitation will be from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the church library with the service to follow. Inurnment will follow at the columbarium wall outside the church.

Georgianna J. Schupp

Sunrise August 15, 1926 ~ Sunset December 12, 2025

Our sister in Christ, Georgianna Schupp, was called to her eternal home with our Lord Jesus Christ on December 12, 2025.

Georgianna and her husband Ralph were beloved charter members of Cheshire Lutheran Church.

A Memorial service was held in Nelson Hall at Elim Park Place, 150 Cook Hill Road in Cheshire on December 29, 2025. Georgianna’s remains will be lovingly placed into our Columbarium along with her beloved Ralph at a later date.

Barbara Ruth Manthey

Sunset December 25, 2025

Our sister in Christ, Barbara Manthey, was called to her eternal home with our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, December 25, 2025.

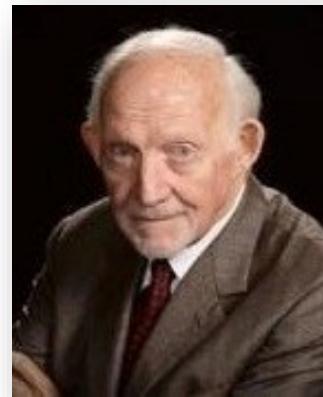
Barbara was a devoted and active member of Cheshire Lutheran Church, where she sang in the sanctuary choir and rang bells in the bell choir. Her faith was the foundation of her life and guided everything she did. Barbara’s Funeral service was at CLC on December 30th.

During this sacred season, we remember with joy that the Christ-child was born in Bethlehem to be the Light of the world and the Savior who grants eternal life to all who trust in Him. May the God of all comfort strengthen and uphold the Benedict, Schupp, and Manthey families, and our whole family of faith at CLC, as we mourn together and cling to the sure and certain hope we have in Christ.

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





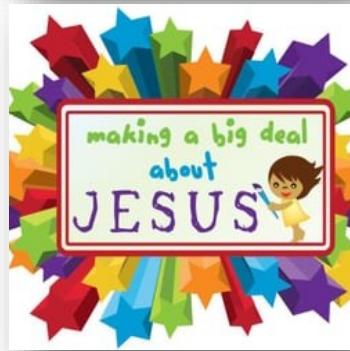
NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you,

Preschool here at Little Cherubs is oh so fun!

This month, we learned about all things related to Christmas: angels, Mary, Joseph, Stars, Manger, Shepherds, Wise Men and of course baby Jesus!

We practiced letters Mm, Nn, Oo and continued number recognition. We practiced counting to 100, and by 10s.



Practice, practice, practice: using scissors, tracing, sorting, and lacing to strengthen our fine motor skills. Writing & recognizing our names are always being practiced. The 4 year old class has been working to recognize their last names and begin writing those first and last names.

Our Bible time focused on Jesus. The children learned about the reason for the season. We reviewed all the parts of the Christmas story, told in the Bible.

The children came home with coloring pages and artwork that goes along with the monthly themes. The M, W, F class will have letter worksheets each week. All the classes will be practicing our names daily with tracing!

December 12, 2025, we had our feast. It was wonderful. We had over 90 people and enough food for all. Little Cherubs provided 2 huge Chicken Pot Pies from Costco, a tray of mashed potatoes and a large Shepard's Pie. I must say, it was very good. Next year, I think 3 Chicken Pot Pies and a Shepard Pie.

The children sang a few songs and led in prayer.

I (JoAnn) got to spend some time at the feast apart from the others. What a joy it was.

I must say "Thank You" to Ed, once again, for getting everything set up for the feast. Perfect as usual.

God Bless to all,

Little Cherubs

Joann Adinolfi Holstein



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 HOUSE & GROUNDS DEACON...



I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to 2026.

I recently read the fictional works by Ken Follett; "World without End" the follow-up to his monster novel, "Pillars of the Earth". The well-researched pages of both books describe the building of a cathedral in 12th century England, the artistry of the finished designs, and the incredible human effort that toiled over decades to complete. Many of these types of grand cathedrals were built, of course, and remain standing in Europe today. I enjoyed the books and the human commitment to advancing God's following.

Our beautiful church here did not take decades to build but has beauty the old world masters would certainly admire. Large sweeping wood beams and roof deck display natural wood harvested from forests God has entrusted mankind with putting it to good use. Stone that was quarried and then neatly cut guides our path in the narthex as we enter our church. And the stained-glass cascading "the light" on us in the nave would likely be the envy of many of the early cathedral master builders.

While our beautiful church has been very well cared for, the blessings of sun, wind and rain continue their visits to the exterior block and stone work buttressing the church. Like most churches over the centuries, some of our stone and mortar have begun to surrender the 75 years of battle against the elements. Later in 2026 we hope to tend to these areas with an eye on protecting the appearance and structure of our church. With God's help and guidance, our efforts will continue to provide strength and longevity, surely to be part of our own Cheshire Lutheran Church chronicles.

Jonathan Schrumm
House and Grounds Deacon



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!



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

The following has been recently added to our Website:

- † Wonderful aerial drone video put to music of our beautiful church grounds
- † Live streaming and video recordings of Sunday Services during
- † 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...

Our Sincere Appreciation

- † Thank you from our hearts to the Drust's and all others who helped with the Advent Jubilee Luncheon. We are BLESSED
- † Many thanks to those diligent few who live stream the services. Please, please offer to get involved! It likely won't hurt...lol
- † Many thanks to Stephen and Jonathan Manke for donating the lovely red Poinsettias that adorned our Altar on Christmas Eve. They were beautiful!
- † **Church Decorating – Thank You!**
Thanks to all the folks that helped out with setting up the Christmas tree, decorating it, and decorating the church. The tree you chose is perfect and beautiful!
- † **VERY SPECIAL** Thank you to Tim Weiland for ALWAYS being there to take pictures of all of our events! Tim, your hard work and dedication is GREATLY APPRECIATED!
- † Also VERY SPECIAL Thank You to Bill Juul and Steve Feero (and all the volunteers) for recording (audio & video) all our events at CLC. Bill also loads them onto our Website so we can enjoy them for many years to come. Thank You Bill.
- † Gracious thanks to Curt and Karen Smith for donating the beautiful wreaths that adorn the Church!
- † Special Thanks to Bill and Debbie Sherman for donating the lovely white Poinsettia plants that are placed beneath the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary.
- † CLC is blessed with many unnamed folk that continuously clean up our beautiful grounds. Thank you for your hard work and we want you to know that it is greatly appreciated. WE ARE BLESSED
- † Thank you to the folk that came out and set up our Beautiful Crèche. It is such an inspiration every time we drive by
- † Special thank you to Brenna Steczkowski or your hard work running our Church Office. We acknowledge your hard work and diligence with regards to organizing our Services and making sure everyone is informed. Thank You
- † Another special Thank You to all those who contributed to our worship services throughout the year. Pastor, Martha, Brenna, Tim W, Ed Schweizer, Steve Feero, Bill Juul and many others—Thank you from the bottom of our hearts
- † A humongous Thank You from Brenna to the members of CLC! Your generosity truly made a world of a difference to me and my family this Christmas season. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for your kindness. May God Bless us all in 2026!



THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...

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

January

January 3, 1521	Martin Luther excommunicated from Catholic Church by Pope Leo X
January 1958	First congregational officers elected, parish constitution adopted, and congregation officially named Cheshire Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 29, 1961	Opening dedication ceremony of Cheshire Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 7, 2018	Rev. David Patrick Rowold accepted our Call to fill pastoral vacancy of Pastor Charles Gustafson



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** has expanded its mission and ministry. Contact Sally Schrumm to learn more and volunteer.



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/

Kelley Collins-Pardee
Christian Education Deacon

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. 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	3 Pending
Subscriptions (Pre-Need)	32	1 Pending
Niches in Use or Subscribed	53	64% of total niches
Open Niches	35	36% available
Memorial Plaques (Purchased/Installed)	29	Includes both installed and ordered



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.



December 2025



Setting up the Crèche on December 6, 2025



Christmas Tree felling on December 19, 2025



Christmas Tree & Church decorating on December 20, 2025



Memories



Advent Jubilee on December 7, 2025



Christmas Program on December 14, 2025



Christmas Eve Services on December 24, 2025



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.

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 NEED YOU...

THAT'S RIGHT, WE NEED YOU!

We look forward to serving the Lord together.



CHESHIRE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

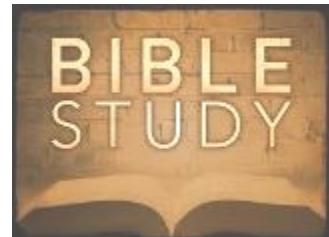
We look forward to serving the Lord together.

Bible Studies at CLC

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES...

Sunday morning Bible Study between the services starts at approximately 9:15 a.m. every Sunday.

In early January, we will be finishing our topic “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. Back in the fall, we began looking at the book of Romans. We are now well on 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.

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:

† January 7—Claudia Chong	† January 24—Paul Feidler
† January 7—Tim Weiland	† January 26—Carol Santoro
† January 11—Karen Bailey	† January 28—Lucas Donewald
† January 15—Alwin Manke	† January 30—Dale Zeppieri
† January 17—David Veleber	



Contact the church office to add your “Baptismal Birthday” to the list.



1st Catherine Barden
Todd Plantier
3rd Nora Bencivenga
4th Emily Smith
5th Michael Carrington
10th Craig Wilson
13th Christopher Barden
14th Barbara Manthey
18th Scott Slauson
Jim Schnell
20th Rebecca Mayer
23rd Margie Mertz
25th Carol Santoro
27th Don Dobbs
28th Eleanor Kenney
29th Jeff Mann, Jr.
30th Quincy Kwayu
31st Matthew Lynch



6th
17th

Patrick & Kelley Collins-Pardee 14 Years
John & Lynn Balash 51 Years



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 2026

ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING REMINDER...

The Annual corporate meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11th, after each service and Live Streamed on YouTube!

Our next Council Meeting is Tuesday January 27, 2026, at 7:00 PM in person

Planning Ahead for February:

† Voters Meeting Sunday February 22, 2025, after the late Service (approx. 11:45) in person



MLK Day

January 19, 2026



Cheshire Lutheran Church
660 West Main St
Cheshire CT 06410

