

# The Heavenly Herald

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

News From The President	2
CLC January Calendar	3
January Worship Servants	4
Thank You From The Rowolds	5
Pastor Emergency Number	6
Assistance for the Hearing Impaired	6
News from Our Financial Secretary	6
Pledge Packet 2025 Reminder	6
News from Our Evangelism Deacon	7
News from the Stewardship Deacon	7
News from the Fellowship Deacon	8
Weather and Worship	8
Our Sunday Morning Prayer List	8
New Pictorial Parish Family Directory Coming Soon	9
CLC Calendars for 2025	9
CLC Says Goodbye to a Cherished Friend	9
CLC Choir News	10
Greeting Card Fundraiser	10
News from the Worship Deacon	11
News from The Social Welfare Deacon	11
News from Our Little Cherubs	12
News from Our Youth Deacon	12
Helping Hands	13
Bottles and Cans for Little Cherubs	13
News from the House & Grounds Deacon	14
New on Our Website	14
Our Sincere Appreciation	15
This Month in Our History	15
On the Bulletin Board	16
News from the Christian Education Deacon	16
Sunday School News	17
First Sunday Food Drive Trend	18
Memorial Garden & Columbarium News	19
So, How Are You Going To Help	19
December 2024 Memories	20-21
Need Help with Running Video Equipment	22
Strengthening our Digital Presence on Facebook	22
Support Hope Pregnancy Center	22
Bible Studies at CLC	23
Do You Know Your Baptism Birthday?	23
January Birthdays	24
January Anniversaries	24
Annual Corporate Meeting Reminder	24

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

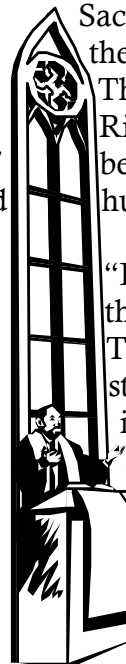
“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’” Matthew 28:18-19 (ESV)

These words should be familiar to every Christian. They were spoken by our Lord Jesus as He stood on the Mount of Olives, just before He ascended into heaven. For many of us, the first time these words entered our ears was on the day of our baptism; they were spoken by the Pastor as the water was poured on your head and you were made a member of God’s family. But these words should be familiar to you for another reason.

Every Sunday, the Divine Service begins the same way; we start with the words of the Invocation: “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” The name that was put on you and me in Holy Baptism – the name that made you and me into the baptized and redeemed children of God – is also the name that calls us together to receive God’s gifts given through the Word and the Sacraments. Those words give us our identity as God’s people.

Those words also begin the daily prayers found in Luther’s *Small Catechism*. Whether we’re getting up in the

morning or going to bed in the evening, the Catechism encourages us to make the sign of the cross and say, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Those words start and end our day. They also start and end our lives, being the first words in the Rite for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and in the Rite for a Christian Funeral. Those words also start the Marriage Rite, where a man and woman begin their new lives together as husband and wife.



“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” The words – those names – are the start of our lives, the source of our identity, and the foundation of our faith. It is that God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, who created you, who redeemed you, and who makes you holy. That is the God in whom we trust and on whom we build our lives. He is the one in whom we hope for eternal life.

As we start this new year together, let’s start it in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let’s start this year speaking that name as we begin Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each day, entrusting every day and every night to the God who created you. Let’s start the year speaking that name

(Continued on page 5)



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

**Sunday Worship Services:**  
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
(Nursery Care Available - 10:30 AM)

**Sunday School  
&  
Adult Bible Classes:**  
9:10 AM

**Summer Worship Service:**  
9:00 AM  
(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*

*Jeff Mann—Parish President*

*Beth Soulier—Editor*

## **NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*AND THE CHURCH COUNCIL*

Greetings All,

And just like that it's 2025... I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you a very Happy, Healthy and Rewarding New Year!

Christmas is always such a special time at CLC with the church beautifully decorated and many opportunities for worship and fellowship with friends and family. It is always nice to see certain members that have moved away return to visit with family and friends for the holidays. It is also nice to see those that grew up in the CLC family, but left for college or career opportunities return for a visit.



Kudos to Tricia Rowold and all the volunteers that worked so hard to prepare the children for this year's Christmas Pageant. I thought the pageant was amazingly presented, and it was wonderful to see so many children involved. The children did an awesome job with both their singing and the reciting of their lines and our future looks bright!

Our annual CLC Advent Jubilee Luncheon was held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 10:30 service (pageant) and it was spectacular. This luncheon was attended by over one hundred members and friends of CLC and I can confidently say that a fantastic time was had by all. The food was delicious and abundant and Andy Clark did a great job of entertaining us with his trivia competition.

We owe a huge and well-deserved THANK YOU to Pam and Andy Clark for orchestrating and setting up this event, to Don and Diane Drust for generously donating the meats and main sides, and to all the Fellowship Committee members and volunteers that pitched in with planning and setup. CLC is blessed to have so many selfless members that jump in wherever they see a need and just make things happen!

Martha did an amazing job of preparing and presenting an inspirational and uplifting musical ministry throughout the Christmas season. The Choir, Hand Bell Choir, Special Music, Instrumentalists and children all performed in a manner that filled the church with wonderful music. Although these performances may only last a few minutes, the hard work and dedication that goes into preparing for them is extensive – Thank You ALL!!

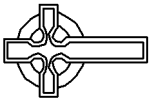
As always, Pastor Rowold did a masterful job of both preparing and presenting his weekly and special services throughout the Christmas Season. He was in attendance for all our fellowship activities and you can rest assured that he keeps a close eye on everything that happens at CLC.

I would also like to recognize the hard work performed by our CLC Altar Guild! This is another group of CLC unsung heroes that work behind the scenes to make sure our altar is always perfectly prepared, properly adorned, and that the Lord's Table is perfectly set week after week. Thank You All!

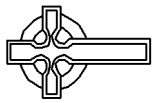
I will sign off for now with this being my final article as your current Parish President. Once again I thank you for all your prayers and support throughout these past three years and I wish nothing but the best for your new Council, our Pastoral Staff and this amazing

*(Continued on page 5)*





# BELLEVILLE January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4
5 8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Holy Communion	6 	7	8 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	9	10	11
12 8:00 Worship 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Worship Annual Corporate Meeting	13	14	15 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	16	17	18
19 8:00 Holy Communion 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Holy Communion	20	21	22 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	23	24	25
26 8:00 Worship 9:10 SSchool, Youth & Adult Bible Studies 10:30 Worship	27	28 7:00 Council Meeting	29 1:30 Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir 7:45 Parish Choir	30	31	

*(Continued from Pastors Message on page 1)*

together in the Divine Service every

Sunday, as we gather to receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation from the God who redeemed you. Let's start the year speaking that name in the rites that mark the beginning, continuation, and end of our lives together in Christ.

Let's start the year in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, but let's do more than speak it. Let's spend the whole year trusting in the God who called you and me by water and that Word in Holy Baptism, and, together, living out our faith in the God who called you and made you His own.

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”



*(Continued from News From The President on page 2)*

congregation going forward!

Our next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28th, and the next meeting of our Voters Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, February 23rd, at 11:30 (or after conclusion of the 10:30 service).

Please plan on staying for the Annual Corporate meeting, held immediately after each service on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – should take around 20 minutes +/-.

Yours in Christ,  
Jeff Mann  
CLC Parish President



## 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.

Pastor Rowold





## HOW TO REACH PASTOR IN AN EMERGENCY...

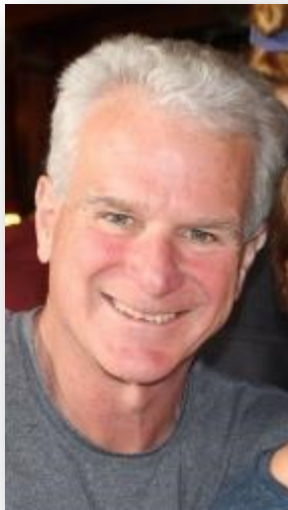
If there is no answer in the Church Office, Pastor Rowold may be reached on his cell phone listed in our church directory.



## 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.

## NEWS FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY...



### Reminders from Your Friendly Neighborhood Financial Secretary:

- ✦ If you have Pledge envelopes, PLEASE use them; having to lookup members envelope numbers can lead to human error.
- ✦ Please remember to mark on the outside of your offering envelopes with the exact amount of money enclosed. This is a very important check and balance for us.
- ✦ If you've been absent for some time and want to bring your offerings up to date, kindly use ONE rather than MANY envelopes.
- ✦ PLEASE do not post-date checks.
- ✦ PLEASE use black or blue ink for your checks.
- ✦ You can submit donations to the church via *online transactions* through the Church's website.
  - ◆ Additional Information:
    - \* No transaction fees when contributing directly from a bank account. If contributing via credit or debit card, the donor has the option of adding 3% to help offset processing fees
    - \* Contributions may be made to the "General Fund" or "Other Fund" (e.g. in memory of, music, youth, etc.)
    - \* Contributions can be recurring or one time only
    - \* The ability to create an account or make donations as a guest
    - \* *Little Cherubs Tuition payments can also be submitted* through the Church's website. The payments can be made directly from a bank account without incurring any transaction fees. If paying by credit or debit card you must select to pay the 3% fee to offset the transaction fees

Alan Santoro—Financial Secretary



## PLEDGE PACKETS FOR 2025...



Pledge Sunday for 2025 is here. For those that have returned your Pledge Card and Time & Talent Card for 2025, THANK YOU! For those that have not, a friendly reminder to do so.

Thank you in advance!

## NEWS FROM OUR EVANGELISM DEACON...

Happy New Year! The Fellowship and Evangelism Committees are very excited to announce that we are hosting a Daddy Daughter Dance on February 8th in our Fellowship Hall from 6 PM- 8 PM. This event is open to all CLC members, those that attend regularly and their friends. Tickets will be forthcoming! We are looking for people to help us plan, set-up, chaperone the event and clean up afterwards. If you are interested, please contact me or Pam.

I am also planning on hosting our second Easter Egg Hunt at church. It was a huge success last year. Stay tuned for more information.

Many blessings in the New Year!

Erica Bencivenga  
Evangelism Deacon



## NEWS FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP DEACON...

Reminder... if you have not already, it would be most appreciated if you would return the response cards from your pledge packets... your Pledge Card itself shows your financial commitment to CLC, and your Time and Talent card is your invitation to get involved!

It is never too late to turn these in - you may leave them in the church office, or include them in the offering plate during services.

THANK YOU for all of your support!

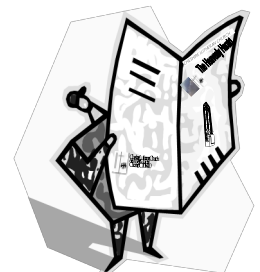
Rob DeLaubell  
Stewardship Deacon



**Congregational Meeting Reminder:**  
**Sunday January 12th after both Services**  
**& via Youtube stream and in the Sanctuary**

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING THIS NEWSLETTER A SUCCESS!!**  
**(February 2025 Articles are Due!)**

Please electronically submit ALL articles and information to Beth Soulier (by Friday, **January 24<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!



## NEWS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP DEACON...



As we ring in the new year and say good bye to 2024, I would give thanks to The Lord for the gift of fellowship. Here at CLC, we are richly blessed with an amazing Pastor, sharing the word of God and guiding us on our journey to be closer to God. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated Sunday School Superintendent and staff, enthusiastic Council, and heavily involved congregation: all committed to the mission of God.

Hebrews 10:24–25 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching"

There are opportunities for Fellowship during Coffee Hour, following the 8 AM service. If you would like to contribute by sharing a food treat or preparing, setting up and/or cleaning up, please sign up on the bulletin board.

On Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Fellowship and Youth committees will combine forces and hold a **GAME DAY!** We will watch a UConn, Men's Basketball game as well, as playing board games for the Youth. This is a family friendly event and all ages are welcomed to join us. If you would like to share a snack, it would be much appreciated. The game begins at 2:30 so arrive at 2:00 to get your snacks and seats.

Pam Clark  
Fellowship Deacon



## 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 at the beginning of December. 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.



## NEW PICTORIAL CLC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY COMING SOON...

We're excited to announce that an updated pictorial member directory is in the works!

### What you need to know:

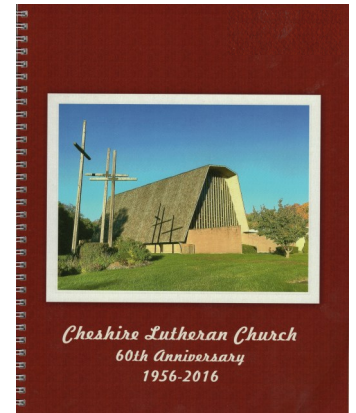
- ✚ The directory will feature updated pictures of our CLC family.
- ✚ It's designed to help congregants "put a name to a face" during Sunday services and other gatherings.
- ✚ April Slauson has volunteered to lead this effort, starting in September.
- ✚ We're praying for 100% participation.
- ✚ We are no longer taking new photos (with the exception of those who are homebound), but we are still accepting your favorite pictures.
- ✚ If you prefer not to include your picture, please confirm your accurate contact details using the pre-printed sheets available outside the Church office.

### What you need to do:

- ✚ Reach out to April Slauson or Beth Soulier via email to let us know you have a favorite picture you wish to include in the new Pictorial Directory. You will need to contact the Church Office or previous Directories to obtain our email address's because sadly, we can't advertise email addresses here.
- ✚ For members opting out of the directory, we ask that you confirm/update your contact information.

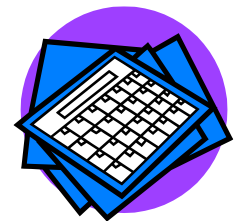
Feel free to reach out to April Slauson or Beth Soulier if you have any questions.

Submitted by April Slauson



## CLC CALENDARS FOR 2025...

**2025 Calendars** are here. The calendars are sponsored this year by our Little Cherubs Christian Preschool. You are welcome to pick up a copy from our hallway counter or narthex table as soon as they arrive.



## CLC SAYS GOODBYE TO A CHERISHED FRIEND...

**Sunrise February 24 , 1929 ~ Sunset December 8, 2024**

*William Hillis, M.D.*

On December 8, 2024 our beloved brother in Christ "*William Hillis, M.D.*" was called home to be with those that have gone before us and has been reunited with Our Lord.

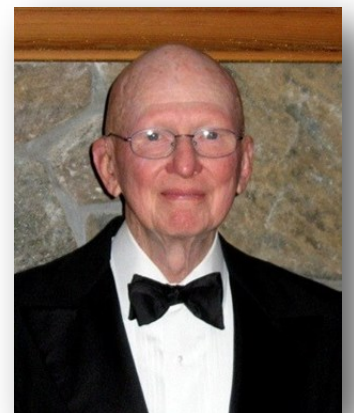
Funeral Services for Dr. Hillis will be held at The Cheshire Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. William will be inurned in our Columbarium following the Funeral.

We join the Hillis family in grieving the loss of this devoted man of God and we cling to our Savior Jesus as we look forward to the day when we will be reunited with William and all the faithful around the throne in heaven.

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

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

***Matthew 25:21***





## CLC CHOIR NEWS...

Please note:

- 🎵 No Choir performances on Sunday January 12, 2025
- 🎵 Bell Choir will perform on January 26, 2025

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

Date	Time	Event	Choir
January 5 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 8 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 12 - Sunday	<b>No Choirs</b>		
January 15 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 19 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir
January 22 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
January 26 - Sunday	7:20 AM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	8:00 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Bell Choir
January 29 - Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rehearsal	Bell Choir
	7:45 PM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
February 2 - Sunday	10:00 AM	Rehearsal	Parish Choir
	10:30 AM	Performance	Parish Choir

## 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

## NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP DEACON...

*You are cordially invited to be a:*



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



For a typical four Sunday month, there can be at least 70 “periods of service” when members usher, acolyte, read lessons, greet other members before service, and prepare the altar. (And this does not count the choir’s musical offerings that make our worship special).

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

## NEWS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEACON...

### **Cheshire Food Pantry:**

Our December donation was an impressive 62 lbs.

#### **Cheshire Food Pantry—Adopt a Shelf**

Your generosity makes a significant impact on those in need.

- **Adopt a Shelf - Liquid Dish Soap:** We’re continuing our “Adopt a Shelf” program, focusing on **liquid dish soap**.
- **Delivery Sign-Up:** There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for 2025 monthly food deliveries. When signing up to deliver items to the food pantry, please aim for the **third week of the month**. This helps us accurately record our food totals for the **Heavenly Herald**.
- Don’t forget to provide the **weight** of the items to Brenna so we can update the trend chart in the Heavenly Herald each month.

Note that the food pantry will accept diapers, wipes, and personal care items. No clothes, please. Place these items in the bins for the food pantry.

### **Thanksgiving Offering:**

This year our offering will go to the Southern District LCMS Helene Relief fund.

### **HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER UPDATE:**

They are not accepting donations at this time. Please do not place any more donations in the bassinets. We are trying to contact them and will keep you updated.

This is my last article as Social Welfare Deacon, and I want to thank Vickie DePaolo for all her help and support. Thank you to all of you who got Thrivent Grants for projects and transported monthly donations to the Food Pantry and Hope Pregnancy Center.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS !!  
YOU MADE MY ROLE A PLEASURE!!**

Nancy Engelhardt  
Social Welfare Deacon





### NEWS FROM OUR LITTLE CHERUBS...

In Joann's absence, the preschool has continued to thrive due to the dedication of the teachers. The children learned the true meaning of Christmas and created many glittery ornaments for their families. There have been countless puzzles put together, blocks built, books read and paintings created. Several children in the four-year-old class have begun writing their name over this past month.

It was bittersweet saying goodbye to Ms. Michele this month. She has resigned from Little Cherubs due to unforeseen circumstances. We will miss her and wish her the very best in her future.

Ms. Fiona and I will continue working with the three-year-old class along with a substitute. I have accepted the lead teacher position, and I am looking forward to using my God-given talents to share more of Jesus.

We continue to pray for Joann's health to improve. My last conversation with her was positive. She is seeing improvements. Praise God for that.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Tracy Lennon (Teacher)

\*\*\*\*\*We are currently looking for substitute teachers and a part-time teacher.\*\*\*\*\*



### NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH DEACON...



The Youth had their annual Christmas cookie baking and decorating on the 14<sup>th</sup>. I hoped more Youth could make it, but those that were there had a good time making cookies and listening to holiday music.

Next up for the Youth is a game day on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Keep you eye on the bulletin board for more activities this winter.

Thank you all for your support and donations to the youth group!

Andy Clark  
Youth Deacon



## CLC HELPING HANDS...

### Helping Hands Committee News:

The Holiday season has been a busy one for HH...we delivered homemade pumpkin bread at Thanksgiving and assorted cookies at Christmas to about a dozen of our fellow parishioners, now basically shut in/homebound.

While these gifts were well received, I think all who delivered them agreed that the visits and 1/2 to 1 hour spent with them in fellowship were the “ best gift”!

Thank you to those who helped with this outreach.. Cliff and Paula Ongley, Ed Schweizer, Karen Smith, Karen Bailey, Margie Mertz, Trish Greenhalgh , Tricia Rowold, and Susan Harris.

Winter can be a long, dreary season for these people, a few months before we plan an Easter visit!

Please consider making a winter visit to spread some cheer to one or more of them.

HELPING HANDS has expanded! We will now reach out to the CLC elderly, shut ins and widows/widowers on a regular basis with cards, visits and small seasonal gifts. We will continue to offer meals and transportation to those in need.

Volunteers have been a vital part of HH and, with the additional outreach, will continue to be an important part of our activities! I continue to ask all prior volunteers to renew your interest in HH and complete the volunteer form in the narthex. New volunteers are always welcome. My requests over the past few weeks have yielded only 4 volunteers, so, please, take a look at the volunteer opportunities and give some prayerful consideration to ways your hands can help!



Please contact me with any questions. I have a purple folder in the hanging file on the counter near the office door if you complete the volunteer form or have other messages for me. Thanks in advance!

Thank you,  
Sally Schrumm  
Helping Hands Committee

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

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- ✠ Meals
- ✠ Transportation
- ✠ 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



## 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 want to wish everyone here at CLC a wonderful 2025. My term as Deacon of House & Grounds has come to an end. I wish Jonathon Schrum the best as he starts off his term as the new Deacon.



The furnace in Little Cherubs decided to stop heating. It seems the circuit board to the furnace had enough and decided to quit on us. Thanks to Ed who spearheaded the operation in getting heat back on for Little Cherubs!

Not to be outdone, one detector for our fire alarm system felt it necessary to trigger an alarm. Though there was no safety issue, the Cheshire Fire Department was dispatched and stated a false alarm had occurred. It's good to know that in an actual emergency our detection system is working as designed. Again, Ed spearheaded the replacement of the faulty detector. Fire System Services replaced the sensor as well as conducted the annual inspection of our fire alarm system.

A big thank you to Don Drust. Don arranged for his crew to strip and wax our Fellowship Hall. They do a beautiful job and thank you Don & Diane Drust for all you do!

Another example of all that our members do. Tim spent some time in Gancarz Creek maintaining the many plantings. It's a beautiful area of our House & Grounds. In addition, Jim and Margie Mertz maintain the area throughout the season. As well as many others to include our Columbarium and other areas throughout our property.

Another area of our House & Grounds that need some attention are the pews in the Naïve. Companies have been contacted to repair the faulty kneelers. In addition, I'll be getting quotes to replace the padding on the kneelers.

Lastly, there was a trouble code with an annoying beeping tone set off by the fire alarm system. It turns out one of the phone lines went down. Frontier was able to troubleshoot the problem to the Central Office. The service was restored and the fire alarm system reset and all is well now.

As always, a very sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of you who lend your time, talents and treasures to our House & Grounds.

Todd Plantier  
House and Grounds Deacon

## 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...



# Our Sincere Appreciation

- ✚ Thank you from our hearts to the Drusts 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 past.
- ✚ Special thank you to Brenna Steczkowski for 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 2024 year. Pastor, Martha, Brenna, Tim W, Ed Schweizer, Steve Feero, Bill Juul and many others—Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



## THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY!...

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

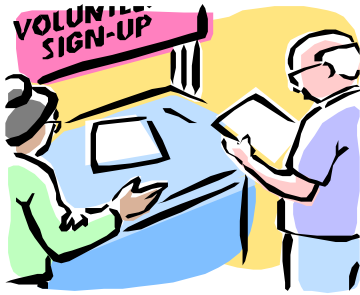
### January

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!*

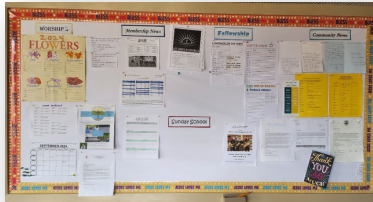


### *This month on the Bulletin Board:*

- † 2025 Flower Chart Sign-up
- † CLC Usher Schedule
- † Live Stream Camera & Operator sign-up
- † Updated Address information for Pastor N & Gloria and Bo Hagstrom at Elim Park ♡
- † 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
- † Recent Nuechterlein Family photo—See Pastors Message in October HH
- † Sunday School Schedule through 2025
- † Sunday Coffee Hour sign-up
- † Thank You Cards and other correspondence
- † Cheshire Food Drive Volunteer info. and sign-ups

### *Others looking for help!*

- † Fellowship Deacon needs volunteers to help make the events happen. Contact Pam Clark if you can help in any capacity.
- † Ushers are needed to work both services. Contact April Slauson to volunteer.
- † Helping Hands is 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/](http://www.cheshirelutheran.org/little-cherubs-christian-preschool/)

Kelley Collins-Pardee  
Christian Education Deacon



# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Sunday School Pageant on December 8. The kids did a great job.



We had a couple weeks off at the end of December and we are now back every Sunday until Easter.

We will have regular Sunday School lessons on January 5, 12, & 26. We will have a Daniel and the Lions' Den fun day on January 19.

### Sunday School Schedule:

9:00 a.m.: Join us for snacks and fellowship before Sunday School.

9:20 a.m.: Sunday School Opening.

Our lessons in January take the students back into the Old Testament to learn about Samuel and King David, Daniel, and the Return from Exile. These lessons will wrap up our time with the Old Testament for this year.

In February we will be back in the New Testament and stay with New Testament lessons through the end of the Sunday School Year.

I can't wait to see everyone back in Sunday School after our Christmas break.

### VBS

Save the Date! July 7-11, 2025, for VBS here at CLC; we will use Group's *True North* VBS, "Trusting Jesus in a wild world." Decorating Wish Lists will come out in February and a volunteer sign-up sheet in early March.



We will start taking registrations in late March. Hope to see you there.

Tricia Rowold  
Sunday School Superintendent

**2024** ←

**2024**<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub>

As the year comes to an end,  
remember this truth:

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."  
(Deuteronomy 31:8)

Step into the new year with faith, knowing God is already there, preparing the way.

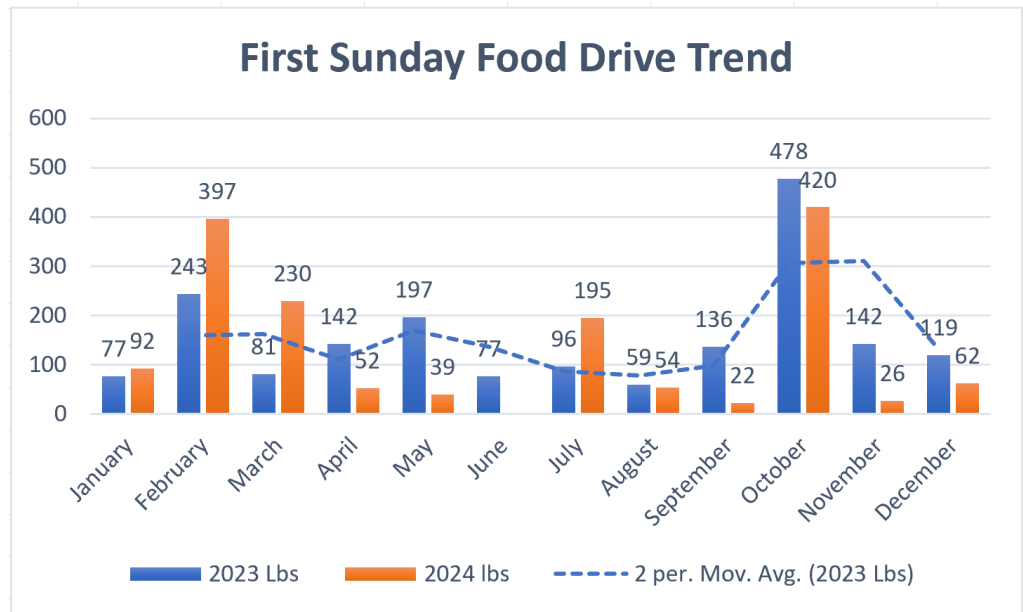
©saltandlight.words

→ **2025**



**DONATE YOUR FREEBIES!**

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



**HELP WANTED**

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

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

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

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

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

**CHESHIRE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS HELP...**

The Cheshire Community Food Pantry needs our help more than ever. Covid-19 has decreased contributions, children are home and people out of work. There are no Sunday donations to the Pantry. We can directly drop off items at the Pantry or send a cash for them to purchase what they need most. **THEY NEED OUR HELP!**

The Cheshire Community Food Pantry is located at:  
 175 Sandbank Rd  
 Cheshire Ct 06410

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

Call for drop off times: 203-699-9226

# MEMORIAL GARDEN & COLUMBARIUM NEWS...

The Columbarium Committee continues to communicate and meet regularly to discuss status of Inurnment Subscription and Memorial Plaque purchases.

Reminder to families and loved ones of the inurned, per our By Laws, kindly refrain from leaving items (flora, trinkets, etc.) at or around the Columbarium. While we understand this is done in loving remembrance, CLC does not have the staff to remove these items in a timely manner. Please feel free to discuss with any member of the committee. Thanks so much.

## Subscriptions

- ✦ There are currently 14 of our CLC Family inurned in our Columbarium and 1 pending Inurnment occurring soon
- ✦ There are currently 30 inurnment subscriptions & 6 pending possibilities
- ✦ We have 22 memorial plaques purchased, and one pending possibility

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

### Saints Inurned In Our Columbarium

- Marilyn E. Allesandrine (Jul. 31, 1939 – Mar. 21, 2019)
- Lillian Derganc (June 4, 1933 - Sep. 6, 2023)
- Judith Schnaars DiDomizio (Dec. 4, 1941 – May 10, 2021)
- Richard Hagstrom (May 22, 1930 – July 4, 2021)
- Edythe (Diddy) Izard (May 17, 1922—Mar. 7, 2023)
- Richard (Dick) Izard (June 20, 1921—July 4, 2009)
- Philip L. Kenney (Aug. 4, 1927 – Nov. 22, 2013)
- Arthur F. Munter Sr. (Feb. 8, 1929 – Jan. 21, 2018)
- Mary Bianchini Munter (Jun. 16, 1929 – Mar. 11, 2021)
- William F. Schmollinger (Feb. 9, 1924 - Jan. 20, 2007)
- Carolyn R. Schmollinger (Jan. 13, 1929 - June 28, 2022)
- Ralph Joseph Schupp (Nov. 9, 1926 - Sep. 20, 2021)
- Joseph W. Stark (June 17, 1932 - Dec. 31, 2021)
- Rita Martha Stark (Mar. 30, 1932 - June 5, 2023)

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

For more information, grab a pamphlet and/or contact any member of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium Committee. Please also stay tuned in the coming weeks for more information to our congregants regarding End of Life Planning.

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



## So, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HELP?...

Are you serving as an acolyte, an altar assistant, an usher, a reader, or a choir member? All of these folks help to make our services happen on Sunday morning; it's because of their involvement and participation that our services are as rich, and full, and well run as they are. If you are not serving in one of these ways, please do. We are currently looking for readers, ushers, and choir members (youth and adult and handbell).



If you can sing, please join the youth or adult choir. If you can't sing, then please be a reader. If you can't read in front of people, then be an usher. If you can't walk up and down the aisles to collect the offering, please join the bell choir. We have ways that just about every member of our family of faith can help – all we need is you. To join one of the choirs, speak to Martha Medford. To be a reader or an usher, speak to April Slauson.

# December 2024



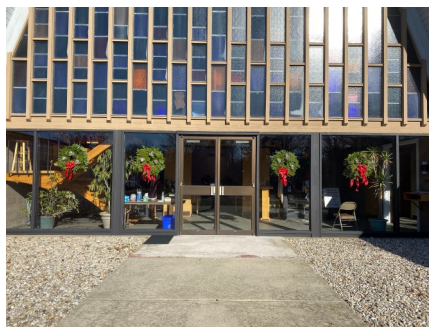
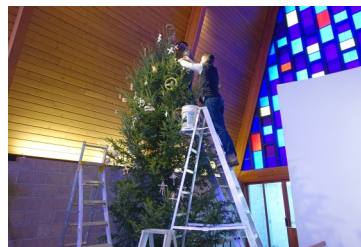
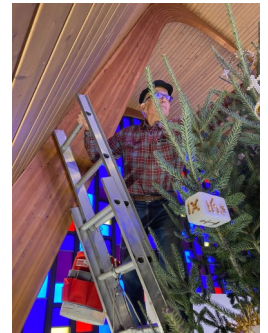
Setting up the Crèche on December 7, 2024



Christmas Tree felling on December 13, 2024



Christmas Tree & Church decorating on December 14, 2024



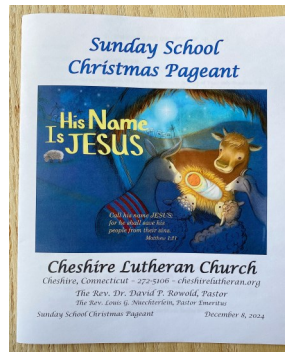
# Memories



Advent Jubilee on December 8, 2023



Christmas Program on December 17, 2024



Christmas Eve Services on December 24, 2024



## 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.

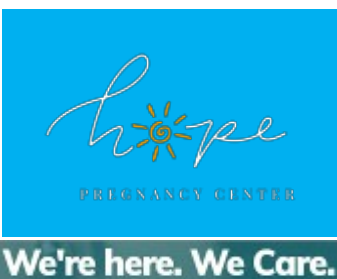
## CLC STRENGTHENING OUR DIGITAL PRESENCE ON FACEBOOK...



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 SUPPORT HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER...



We are **NO LONGER COLLECTING** baby items until further notice.

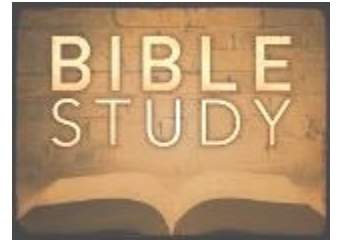
**Hope Pregnancy Center**  
110 Main St.  
Cheshire, CT 06410  
203.271.2703  
[hopepregnancycenterct.org](http://hopepregnancycenterct.org)

# Bible Studies at CLC

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES...

Come and join us as we dig deeper into God's Word together in Bible Study.

Our Sunday morning Bible Study between the services starts at approximately 9:10 a.m. every Sunday. During the Fall, we were following along with the same Scripture lessons as the Sunday School, except we were using the series "Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School" from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* as the basis for our time together. With the beginning of the new calendar year, we will also be starting a new study. Join us on Sunday mornings as we dig deeper into God's Word together.



In addition to Sunday morning Bible, we have our Midweek Bible study on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. that is looking at the book of Acts (also known as *The Acts of the Apostles*). We are currently mid way through Lesson 9 of our study, titled "Bound And Yet Free", which looks at chapters 21 through 24 of Acts. At the end of December, we finished chapter 21 and are now moving into chapter 22.

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

Everyone is welcome to join us any time, even if it's your first time, and even if it will be the only time. I look forward to seeing you.

## 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.

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## January 2025

6th	Patrick & Kelley Collins-Pardee	13 Years
17th	John & Lynn Balash	50 Years



- |                      |      |  |
|----------------------|------|--|
| <b>ANNIVERSARIES</b> | 1st  | Catherine Barden<br>Larry Logan<br>Todd Plantier |
|                      | 3rd  | Nora Bencivenga                                  |
|                      | 4th  | Emily Smith                                      |
|                      | 5th  | Michael Carrington                               |
|                      | 10th | Craig Wilson                                     |
|                      | 13th | Christopher Barden                               |
|                      | 14th | Barbara Manthey                                  |
|                      | 18th | Scott Slauson                                    |
|                      | 20th | Rebecca Mayer                                    |
|                      | 23rd | Margie Mertz                                     |
|                      | 25th | Carol Santoro                                    |
|                      | 26th | John Shepard                                     |
|                      | 27th | Don Dobbs  |
|                      | 28th | Eleanor Kenney                                   |
|                      | 29th | Jeff Mann, Jr.                                   |
|                      | 30th | Quincy Kwayu                                     |
|                      | 31st | Matthew Lynch                                    |

### ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING REMINDER...

The Annual corporate meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, after each service and Live Streamed on YouTube!

Our next Council Meeting is Tuesday January 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM in person.

#### Planning Ahead for February:

✠ Voters Meeting Sunday February 23, 2025 after the late Service (approx. 11:45) in person.



**MLK Day**  
**January 15, 2025**  
**Observed**  
**January 20, 2025**



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

