

# The Crusader

Christ Lutheran Church  
315 N Shipley Street  
Seaford, DE 19973  
Rev. Ray M. Rogers  
Seaford, DE 19973 Phone: 302-629-9755  
8:30 am Praise Worship  
9:45 am Sunday School

# MAY 2024



## Pastor's Portion

**1 Corinthians 3:5-7** <sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. Now is the time to plant a garden—both at home and here at Christ Lutheran.

### **What Is The Seed We Are Planting Here at Church?**

It's the precious "seed" of the Word of God, which we are sharing in sermons, Bible classes, informal conversation, and all our interactions with one another. That Word, connected with the water of Baptism, has power to give us new birth into the family of God, cleanse us from all sin, and renew us in the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

**Who Is Needed to Sow the Seed?** Notice, Paul doesn't place one person above another in this task of spreading the Word. Paul isn't better than Apollos, or vice versa. We don't have to wait until we get a new called pastor to plant the seed. Many servants are needed to get the Word out **NOW...TODAY**: teachers are needed for Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, the Bible School for Special People, and Vacation Bible School later this summer. (So far, only people have volunteered to serve for VBS. When you hear God calling your name, will you respond: "Here am I! Send me!?) As you go about your daily work and listen to the needs of those around you, you will gain the opportunity "to give a reason for the hope that you have..." (1 Peter 3:15). The Holy Spirit will not only give you **what** to say (Luke 12:11-12), but **how** to say it, namely "with gentleness and respect."

**What is God's Desire for Christ Lutheran?** There is no question about the fact that God wants the Body of Christ to grow. Paul unequivocally states in our text: "God... makes things grow." God wants each of us to "**grow in the grace** and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). No matter how old we are or how ever many worship services or Bible classes we have attended,

there is always something more for us to grasp concerning “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,” though when all is said and done, it is a love “that surpasses knowledge” (Eph. 3:128-19).

God is concerned not only for this **qualitative** growth in each of us individually, but also for the numeric or **quantitative** growth of the church. It was said of the church in Acts that “the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47; see also Acts 16:5). We know that “God our Savior... wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth” (1 Timothy 2:3-4). As you follow Paul’s injunction there in 1 Timothy 2 to “pray for all people,” may God lay upon your heart the desire to pray for one unchurched person. As an ambassador for Christ, you can say to them: “Become friends with God; he’s already a friend with you.” (2 Cor. 5:20 The Message).

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Ray

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Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
11:00am  
Stargate Diner  
23415 Sussex Hwy  
Seaford, DE 19973

We hope to see you there !

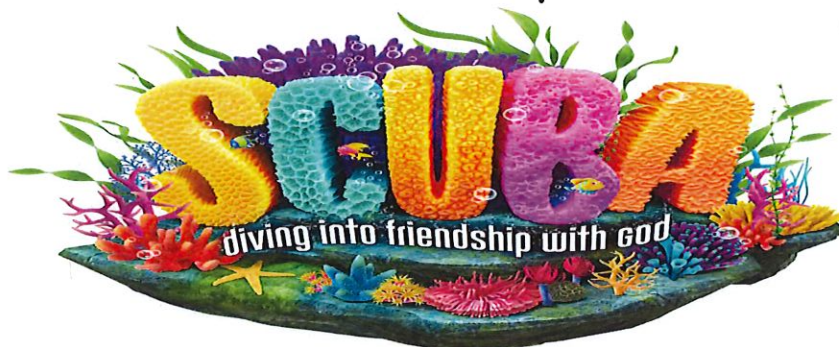
## From the President

### Church Ministry

Bonnie and I have been members of Christ Lutheran for about 6 years now. We are very satisfied with our church home. We feel loved and appreciated. I know that you agree with me that our church performed amazing ministry to Pastor Dave and Michelle while he was dealing with his multiple illnesses. While most people would expect the loss of a full-time pastor to be devastating to a church's attendance, that was never the case for us. Our members remained united in our ministry and dedication to our congregation. We are also blessed to be near a huge 55+ development that is a magnet for people leaving the much higher taxed states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Consequently, our membership actually increased! Christ Lutheran is blessed with Pastor Ray and Linda. Most churches in the Call process are stagnant – waiting for their next spiritual leader. Not Christ Lutheran! Pastor Ray wants to move us forward – to grow spiritually, numerically, and in fellowship. This will only work if you step up. Leave your comfort zone. Most of us are retired. Remind yourself that we retired from our jobs, not from God. In the next couple of months, we will be called to step into ministry that might be new to some of us. Some of the members of our congregation have served for decades and may no longer be able to continue all that they did. Who will step up? Who will say, "Here I am lord!"?

In Christ,  
Dave Rose

Vacation Bible School is  
Coming!  
Monday, July 29<sup>th</sup> - Friday,  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6:00-8:00 pm



#### SOLAR ECLIPSE COMMENTS

The solar eclipse, Monday before last, brought to mind many different thoughts and comments. One of my co-workers exclaimed "How can anyone not know there is a God? The sun is 400 times the size of the moon and 400 times farther away from the earth than the moon is. The shadow of the moon was not half or double the size of the sun coverage, but just the right fit." Additional thoughts come to mind as to why the moon, planets and sun hold their positions. One may have learned in high school about Newton's Second Law of Gravitation "Every object attracts every other object with a force that varies directly with their centers of mass and the square of the distance between them". We get to witness that twice a day if we live near a river or ocean when we see that massive force pulling the waters towards the moon. It is never enough to pull the moon to the earth or the earth to the sun. The "Force" that keeps all these heavenly bodies in their respective positions can be no other than our omnipotent God.

Don Miller, Seaford

## Food Shelf Report

MATTHEW 25:40

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

During the month of April, 169 non perishable food items were donated and given to Love INC. Numerous requests for electric and housing assistance were received from Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS)/Shipleigh Center and Love INC Connection Center. All requests are verified prior to releasing any funds.

Two emergency food boxes were assembled to address any immediate needs for food and are distributed under the direction of Pastor Ray. We were able to fulfill the needs of one of our neighbors this month.

Blessings

Linda Boone

Food Shelf Coordinator

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### BSSP May News Article

On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be ending our Saturday morning classes for this year with a picnic. Vacation Bible School "Stellar" is planned for August 5-9. Look for more information to come in your mail. If you are interested in helping with VBS, please let either Leona or Donna know.

### Calendar and Bible Stories for May

May 4 – Paul and Timothy

May 11 - Lydia

May 18 – End of Year Picnic

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Leona Tull and Donna Hassman

Co-Coordinators

## May LWML Mission Highlight

### National Grant

#### **SET APART TO SERVE - LCMS Office of Pastoral Education | \$100,000 Preparing Generations to Serve as Church Workers**

Set Apart to Serve is an initiative of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The purpose and goals are to create fruitful engagement in the home, congregations, and Lutheran schools between influential adults and youth — to encourage a journey toward full-time church work vocations so that the Synod's congregations and schools are served in the coming decades.

In the last 14 years, the LCMS has experienced a 59% decrease in their pre-seminary Concordia University enrollment along with a dramatic decrease in enrollment in other Christian education programs. The seminaries have experienced a decrease of 55% in those enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree.

The grant will assist in the funding of expenses associated with a broad, rigorously planned, and well-constructed, multi-year sustained effort across the LCMS, to affect a major positive, cultural change in how church worker vocations are perceived. Prospective students — from the earliest years of their life in the family household — are encouraged and inspired to consider and appropriately prepare to serve the Church in lifelong professions that advance the Gospel and deliver God's mercy.

### Chesapeake District Grant

#### **Changing Hearts One at a Time, Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC - \$4,000**

Changing Hearts One at a Time provide continuing support for low-income families in the DC area through Peace Lutheran Church in DC by providing clothing and hygiene supplies for children and sharing the Gospel with the children and their parents by establishing relationships.

### March Mite Box Collection: \$214.00

# Upcoming Events

- Friends Supporting Friends—Mondays at 11 am
- May 2nd@7 am, Salisbury area prayer breakfast, Wicomico Civic Center
- May 5th and May 19th-Holy Communion at both services
- May 11th@10 am BSSP, 6:30 pm Bunco
- May 12th-Food Shelf Sunday
- May 15th@11 am breakfast/lunch Stargate Diner, 7 pm Review of Movie “The Chosen”
- May 16th@5:30 pm, LWML end of year dinner, Passwaters Restaurant
- May 18th@10 am BSSP Picnic
- June 22nd-tentative date for Church picnic

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May 5  
May 12  
May 19  
May 26

Art & Kathi Payne  
Betty Wilks  
Peg Farmer  
Janet Moore





### **May Birthdays**

04 Lawrence Foster  
13 Aileen Watkins  
23 John Filling  
23 Betty Wilks  
27 Teresa Lord

### **May Anniversaries**

09 Ron & Carin Vermette  
19 Art & Kathi Payne  
21 Carl & Linda Boone  
25 Eric & Maureen Stanton  
29 Doug & Eileen Halfmann

### **Christ Lutheran LWML Upcoming Events**

**May 16, 5:30pm - End-of-the-Year Dinner** - All women of Christ Lutheran are invited to attend our LWML End-of-the-Year Dinner on May 16 @ 5:30pm. We will be joining together on the veranda at Passwaters Restaurant in the Heritage Shores Clubhouse in Bridgeville. Please come and enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun with the ladies of our congregation.



**SINGING CHEERFUL SONGS TO A PERSON  
WITH A HEAVY HEART IS LIKE TAKING  
SOMEONE'S COAT IN COLD WEATHER OR  
POURING VINEGAR IN A WOUND.  
PROVERBS 25:20 NLT**



**DON'T SING SONGS TO A HEAVY HEART** is a book written by Kenneth Haugk after he lost his wife to cancer. It was filled with practical suggestions and insights of how to reach out to others who are dealing with difficult situations. When we offer our help to a hurting friend we can add to their burden if we say, "Call me if there is anything that I can do to help." Instead, offer to provide a specific task. Here are a few ideas that were suggested in Haugk's book. You might offer to:

- cut their grass or other gardening needs
- Shop for them
- Run errands
- Provide transportation
- Care for pets or children
- Make phone calls
- Stay with an ill family member so the primary care giver can attend to other business.
- Provide a specific meal from their favorite restaurant
- And most important of all, just sit with them and listen.

If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministries, or possibly becoming a Stephen Minister please contact us. Aileen Watkins 302-930-7070, Kathryn Lamberton 302-841-9622, or Call Pastor Ray Rogers at 443-523-8579.

**2 0 2 4** NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 

**THURSDAY, MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
*Salisbury Area*  
**Prayer Breakfast**  
**Speaker:**  
**Dr. Jerry Regier**  
**Public Servant, Scholar and Christian Leader**



**Tickets \$20 per person**  
**Table of 8 - \$160**

Tickets available at The Country House

For information contact Ted Evans 410-430-4189

To order tickets by mail, send check payable to: Salisbury Prayer Breakfast Committee  
PO Box 521, Salisbury, MD 21803

*For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.*  
*2 Samuel 22:29-31*

## Christ LWML Mission Work in Action

**Mission work is alive and well at Christ Lutheran!** We need to give each one of you who supported our Easter Egg project a great big virtual hug! You all know who you are! We can't name specific names for fear of leaving someone out. It started with planning and publicity and then shopping for supplies. We continued with making flowers and covering wooden boards with wax paper.

Those egg orders kept coming in, slowly at first, but sales increased as people remembered that Easter was in March! And what a major production line was assembled on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>! Egg dipping and packing continued Sunday and Monday. Then distributing eggs lasted through Palm Sunday, with only a few remaining to distribute during Holy Week. So thank you again to everyone who sold the eggs, bought the eggs, made the eggs, and worked in distributing the eggs also. We couldn't do this project without you!

At the LWML meeting on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> we met with LOVE INC to learn more about their mission work. After that we voted to use all the profits from this year's egg profits to support 3 well deserving projects. Love INC received \$4,000, The Orphan Grain Train was sent a check for \$2,000. And finally Redemption City has received a check for \$500. We are sharing the Love of Christ both far and near with our MITES and Missions donations.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

# May 2024

May 2024							Jun 2024 ▶
◀ Apr 2024	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7 pm Review of Movie "The Chosen"	<b>2</b> 7 am Prayer Day At Wicomico Civic Center	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b> 10 am BSSP
<b>5</b> 8:30 am Praise Service w/Communion 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service w/Communion	<b>6</b> 11 am Friends Supporting Friends 7 pm Council Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7 pm Review of Movie "The Chosen"	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Office Closed	<b>11</b> 10 am BSSP 6:30 pm Bunco	
<b>12</b> 8:30 am Praise Service 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service Food Shelf Sunday	<b>13</b> 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 11 am Breakfast/lunch at Stargate Diner 7 pm Review of Movie "The Chosen"	<b>16</b> 5:30 pm LWML end of year dinner@Passwaters	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b> 10 am BSSP Picnic	
<b>19</b> 8:30 am Praise Service w/Communion 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 1:00 am Traditional Service w/Communion Mile Box Sunday	<b>20</b> 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	<b>21</b> 3 pm Lay Ministry Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b> 8:30 am Praise Service 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service	<b>27</b> 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7 pm Review of Movie "The Chosen"	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Office Closed		