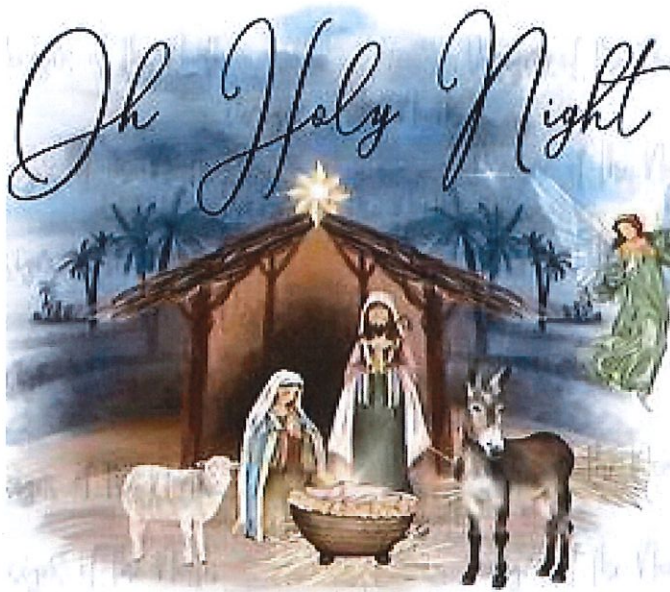


# The Crusader

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  
11:00 am Traditional Worship

## DECEMBER 2025



## Pastor's Portion

### **"Making Spirits Bright"**

Do your eyes glaze over when I hear the kind of astronomical numbers I heard on CBS Mornings earlier today? If estimates are correct, American shoppers are projected to spend between \$1.01 trillion and \$1.02 trillion during the holiday season. This amounts to a 3.7% to 4.2% increase from last year, when holiday sales reached \$976 billion.

Consumers seem to have mixed feelings about this holiday shopping season. In one survey, 77% of shoppers said they expected to pay more this holiday season for their purchases. Fifty-seven percent of responders to the survey expect the economy to weaken during the next six months. Yet on average, consumers will spend \$890 on gifts and seasonal items.

Should these facts and figures about our national spending patterns at Christmas dampen our celebrations this December? By no means! There's nothing wrong with gift-giving, decorating our homes, or getting together with friends and family for holiday parties. But as God's people, we have long known the true meaning of Christmas: that God sent His Son to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. As true man and true God, Jesus "tabernacled" among us in the flesh, so that ultimately He might offer up His life on the cross in atonement for the sins of the whole world. He alone lives up to His name Jesus, for He alone can save us from our sins. He rose again on the third day, so that He might be with us always, for He is our Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

This Advent season, we not only remember Jesus' first coming in humility and vulnerability. We also remember His presence now, wherever two or three are gathered in His name. We also look forward to Jesus' Second Coming in power and great glory, to take us home to our heavenly Father. "Salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Rather than fearing the end of the world, we are "looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat...According to His promise, [we] look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:12-13). What a day that will be, for "we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

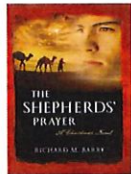
### Pastor's Portion (continued)

Our country may be in the economic doldrums this Christmas but as fellow believers who know "the true reason for the season." Nothing can prevent our gathering in God's house and our full-throated singing of praise to God this holy season. There will be tears mixed in with those praises as I prepare to step down from both full-time and part-time service here at Christ Church. You all have been truly wonderful to Linda and me during our time together with you. Anything good that has come from our sharing in the Gospel ministry here is truly owing to the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ. As for the rest, I trust in Jesus' forgiveness and yours. Linda and I may not be with you as frequently as we have been, but we will continue to remember all of you in our prayers. And our daily petitions will be for God's blessings upon Pastor Kevin or whoever serves you in the pulpit; for God's blessings on the Church Council and Call Committee; and for God's blessings upon the next full-time pastor whom God will send to Christ Church. Nothing will change about our friendship with all of you.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Ray

\*\*\*\*\*

## December Book Club



This month, *The Shepherds' Prayer*, by Richard M. Barry, is our Christmas novel for December. ***The novel tells the story of a young man orphaned as a baby setting off to discover the truth*** about the circumstances of his birth, the fate of his parents, and his heritage. The story is a short novel and easy to read. Join our book club on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm for a discussion of this engaging story. Bring a snack to share and examples of Christmas traditions you have celebrated in your life. Looking forward to seeing you at book club!



## FOOD SHELF NEWSLETTER ARTICLE December 2025

Matthew 25:35-36 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

In November we assisted a neighbor with her rent after she lost her job.

Bread, peanut butter and jelly, and lunch meats and cheese and apples were donated to support Love INC's Grab 'N Go lunch ministry.

We donated 374 non perishable and 105 personal care items, and a case of cat food. In preparation for the colder weather, we donated 10 sets of sheets (for Code Purple), 45 disposable rain ponchos, and 40 hand warmers. Five pair of gloves, 2 pair of socks, 2 hats, one sweater and one shirt were also donated.

Thank you for your continued generosity, support and prayers. Your donations are a blessing.

Blessings,  
Food Shelf Team  
Linda Boone  
Carl Boone  
Janet Moore

\*\*\*\*\*

## Upcoming Events:

Friends Supporting Friends held on Monday at 11 am  
December 7th and December 21st-Holy Communion at both Services

Adult Bible Study@5:30 pm December 3,10,17, 7 pm Advent Services followed by Choir Practice

**December 6th@9:30 am CornHole, 11 am BSSP Christmas Program**

**December 7th After Service Congregational Meeting**

December 13th@11:30 am LWML Ladies Holiday Luncheon

December 15th@2 pm Lay Ministry Meeting

December 24th@7 pm Christmas Eve Service

## WE DID IT!

Thrivent Financial (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood) challenged us to collect 500 food items by the end of October. As most of you know, we met that goal before the middle of the month. By the end of October, we donated over 700 items! Consequently, LOVE, INC will also receive a check for \$500 from Thrivent because we were one of the first 100 organizations in the Northeastern United States to meet their challenge. We were also able to donate warm socks and rain ponchos with the start-up money Thrivent provided. We are an amazing, giving church!



December 7  
December 14  
December 21  
December 28

Lois Obermire  
Teresa Lineweaver  
Congregation  
Gail Sigmund

### ***Evangelism Report for December 2025***

As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let our hearts be filled with Joy!

Another year has come and gone! My goodness, how time flies! Hope this finds everyone filled with Kindness and Grace!

With our semiannual meeting coming up on December 7th after the 11 am service here is a review of what your evangelism committee has been doing the past six months:

Worked with the property committee with concerns about roof leaks in Luther Hall.

Dave Gray and I designed and built the new Connection Center Cabinet to showcase CLC's many different Mission committees we have.

Composed and ran ½ page ads in the Seaford Star for 13 weeks.

Co-ordinated the design, purchase, and installation of the new Bible verses atop the entrances of both Luther and Fellowship Halls.

Arranged and re-arranged Narthex information center, food drive shelving, name tags board to enhance better visibility for newcomers.

Asked for help in polishing all brass items that had become tarnished. Kudos to Bill and Aileen Watkins for doing an awesome job getting this done.

Thanks so much to Don Miller for all his hard work in successfully organizing and calling past members inviting them to our 70th Anniversary Celebration!

New candelabums were requested, and Pastor Ray and Linda will be donating one in Memory of Pastor Mark Rogers, Ray's Brother, who passed away. Betty Wilks has also expressed interest in donating one in Memory of her husband Bob.

The church website will be adding videos of our different committees to boost interest in those visiting the site.

Working with Stewardship committee (Toby French) on different DSA (Downtown Seaford Association) events.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank all that helped with input and work this year to make it a memorable time as chair of the evangelism committee. I encourage everyone to search your hearts and come forward to be our next chair of the Evangelism Committee as I will be stepping down from the council as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. It has been a very rewarding time for me, and I enjoyed every minute! Candi and I will be doing some things we have been putting off! Thank you! God Bless!

Joel Lichtenberg



# SAVE THE DATE!

**Our semiannual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 11:00 service. On the agenda: our 2026 budget.**

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BSSP December News Article



## “Joyful Tidings”

On Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. the BSSP class will be presenting their annual Christmas program. This year’s program is based on the poem titled “Joyful Tidings.” The students really enjoy sharing the Christmas story and singing Christmas carols with everyone. Please plan to attend as it is a wonderful way to begin your Christmas season. Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, is also our last time BSSP meets in 2025. We will resume our regular Saturday classes on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Merry Christmas from the BSSP Staff and Students!

# Happy Birthday

02 Ron Coleman  
06 Leona Tull  
06 Russell Taylor, Jr.  
07 Drew Pianka  
17 Rick Morris  
21 Pat Tiff  
25 Candis Lichtenberg  
30 Xander Young  
31 Sue Morris

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## Call Committee

Church Council Members and CLC Congregation Members:  
During the month of October, Call Committee members interviewed a pastoral candidate on October 18th. Though he enjoyed our conversation, he withdrew from our call process because of current Divine calling activities and family obligations. As a result, the Call Committee contacted our District Office and requested that additional names of pastoral candidates be added to our call list. Following our 70th anniversary celebration, the Committee received three nominations from congregational members. Each LCMS pastor was contacted but declined. Two pastors were previously associated with CLC. Vicor Doug Hudson served CLC during our last pastoral vacancy and was ordained in 2017 at a Florida church. Though now in an Emeritus status he was "humbled beyond measure" to be nominated but declined due to family and personal commitments. Pastor Andy Watkins, now the Rev. Dr. Andrew Watkins is committed to his current Divine callings in Iowa. He is revitalizing two churches which faced closing, is serving as a missionary to a black urban mission in Davenport, as well as teaching online courses for Concordia University - Nebraska. Due to the national shortage of pastoral candidates, Committee members are also gathering information regarding the process for calling a seminarian student and will report to the congregation accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Madeline Dunn, chair  
November 3, 2025



## The Snowman

Christ Lutheran Church joined the Downtown Seaford Association (DSA) two years ago as a way to further our outreach to the community. As a followup to the annual DSA Scarecrow Contest, they added a Snowman/ Gingerbread Man contest this year, and CLC decided to submit an entry. Our outstanding artistic creation was installed near High and Pine Streets on 15 November, on the south side of High, near the light pole. I encourage everyone to check it out! Thanks to our fantastic team: Cathy Young and granddaughter Belle, Aileen Watkins, Keith Lohmeyer, Donna Hassman, and Dave Rose. Submitted by Toby French, Stewardship Ministry Lead.



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## December LWML News

This month, LWML will not be having a monthly business meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. We are hosting a Christmas Luncheon for all ladies of Christ Lutheran. Please join us!

**Mark Your Calendars! LWML Christmas Luncheon  
& Secret Sister Reveal, Saturday, December 13,**



## Stephen Ministry Minute

We Christians have so much to celebrate in December. There's an expectation of feeling merry and generous. People compare their emotions to what they assume others are experiencing or what they're supposed to feel and begin to believe that their own life lacks this holiday spirit. Be aware that the people in your neighborhood may be experiencing the holiday blues.

There are a few tips for dealing with the holiday stress.

1. Become involved in the Church activities offered during Advent.
2. Reach out to the elderly who may feel especially lonely this month.
3. Don't allow perfectionism to wear you down. Remember it's being together and goodwill that matter the most.
4. Make plans in advance for how to add joy to the season.

Invite a friend or neighbor to our worship services.

If you are experiencing the holiday blues, please reach out. You can call:

***Aileen Watkins 302-930-7070, Kathryn Lamberton 302-841-9622, or Call the church office at 302-629-9755.***

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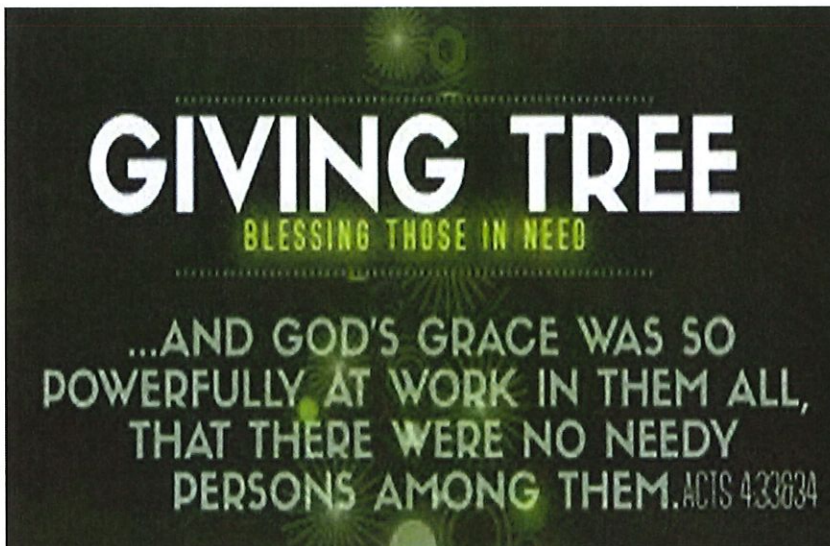
### ***Cornhole***

On December 6 we will be playing CornHole in Friendship Hall at 9:30 a.m. Please plan to join us. At 11:00 a.m. BSSP will present their Christmas program. Please take this opportunity to have fun, fellowship and a very special blessing as you witness our students tell the Christmas story with faith and innocence.

### **Our Christmas Giving Tree**

This Christmas season, Christ Lutheran is sponsoring a Giving Tree for Redemption City in Seaford. We have supported Redemption City through our Easter egg project and their residents came last year to help make Easter eggs. The mission of Redemption City is to provide shelter, stability, and access to essential resources that help individuals rebuild their lives and rediscover their potential.

The Giving Tree is a special project our LWML and Lay Ministry team are sponsoring this year to bless and support members of our community. The shelter for men hosts 9 residents and the women's shelter also hosts 9. Stop by our Giving Tree in the narthex and select a gift tag with an item listed for our friends from Redemption City. Please take several tags, if you'd like. Place each gift in a gift bag with the gift tag you chose attached, and return to church by December 21st. Let's bless our community with gifts of love as we share the message of Jesus' birth, the real reason for this holiday season! If you have questions, please contact Kathryn Lamberton, 302-841-9622, or Jean Lohmeyer, 302-569-4194.





### **December LWML Mission Highlights**

Read below to learn more about one LWML National grant and one LWML Chesapeake District grant. The mites we collect at church from our mite boxes every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month support these mission projects that touch the lives of people here and throughout the world with the message of our Savior.

### **LWML National Grant #5 – 2025-2027 Biennium**

#### **Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print - Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. - \$100,000**

Watch this video at <https://youtu.be/djQONx6ujzs?si=zuPs3ar5pRHsAVBV>. Millions of people around the world are

blind or visually impaired and are seeking to strengthen their Christian faith but find it difficult to access scripture-based reading materials. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is committed to providing Christian materials in braille and specialized large print worldwide at no cost. With a part of the grant funds, LBW will establish five new Ministry Production Centers in the United States. LBW will hold five related servant events at LWML conventions, Lutheran universities and schools, and district youth gatherings. Service opportunities provide young people with the chance to grow in their God-given gifts and share the Gospel. This grant will allow LBW to produce and freely distribute approximately 10,000 additional volumes of Bibles and other Christian materials. This grant will be used to purchase specialized paper, card stock, braille plates and equipment, and for training and shipping costs.

#### **Chesapeake District LWML Grant #7 – 2024-2026 Biennium**

#### **Life Changing Care for People in Dominican Republic Living with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities - \$5,000**

This grant will cover the cost of clothing, medical needs, rehabilitation, education, and spiritual life programs for the residents of Good Shepherd Lutheran Group Home in the Dominican Republic.

### **Thank You for Supporting Our LWML**

Our LWML is so thankful for your support of our Mite Box Ministry. Your gifts have made it possible to help fund each of the projects described in our Mission Projects Highlights each month. Thank You!

# December 2025

| December 2025  |  |                                       |  |   |                     |   | Jan 2026 ▶   |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------|---|--|
| ◀ Nov 2025   | Sun                                    | Mon                                   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu                 | Fri   | Sat  |
|  |  | 1<br>11 am Friends Supporting Friends | 2  | 3<br>5:30 pm Adult Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Advent Services<br>Choir Practice | 4                   | 5<br>Office Closed  | 6<br>9:30 am Cornhole<br>11:00 am BSSP Christmas Program |
| 7<br>8:30 am Praise Service w/Communion<br>9:45 am Adult Bible Study<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Traditional Service w/Communion  | 8<br>11 am Friends Supporting Friends  | 9<br>1:00 pm Book Club                | 10<br>5:30 pm Adult Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Advent Services<br>Choir Practice | 11  | 12<br>Office Closed | 13<br>11:30 am Ladies of the Church Christmas Luncheon<br>6:30 pm Bunco |  |
| 14<br>8:30 am Praise Service<br>9:45 am Adult Bible Study<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Traditional Service                         | 15<br>11 am Friends Supporting Friends | 16<br>2 pm Lay Ministry Meeting       | 17<br>5:30 pm Adult Bible Study<br>7:00 pm Advent Services<br>Choir Practice | 18  | 19<br>Office Closed | 20  |  |
| 21<br>8:30 am Praise Service w/Communion<br>9:45 am Adult Bible Study<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Traditional Service w/Communion | 22<br>11 am Friends Supporting Friends | 23                                    | 24<br>7 pm Christmas Eve Service   | 25<br>Merry Christmas!!   | 26<br>Office Closed | 27  |  |
| 28<br>8:30 am Praise Service<br>9:45 am Adult Bible Study<br>9:45 am Sunday School<br>11:00 am Traditional Service                         | 29<br>11 am Friends Supporting Friends | 30                                    | 31<br>Happy New Year!  |   |                     |   |  |