

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

JULY 2025



Ponderings from Pastor Ray: "The Alabaster Flask"

Do you picture Jesus with a scowl or a smile on His face? Too often we only imagine Jesus staring at us with a furrowed brow, pursed lips, and a penetrating gaze that goes right through us. Jesus was not a "sad sack" whose company others shunned. No, Jesus had such a magnetic personality that others wanted Him to be part of their daily lives (Mary and Martha inviting Jesus and His disciples to dine at their home) and to be a part of their special celebrations (the wedding at Cana). I was especially touched by the story of Simon the Pharisee inviting Jesus to a banquet at his house (Luke 7:36ff.).

Simon and all his invited guests were spread around the table, reclining on their elbows and with their free hands partaking of the food before them. It may sound strange to us, but neighbors would often gather in the room, just to eavesdrop on the conversation of the main attendees of the banquet. One such uninvited guest was a "sinful woman" of the town who defied convention and ignored the whispers of everyone who despised her for her "lifestyle." She stood at Jesus' feet, wet them with her tears, and dried them with her hair. Breaking open an alabaster flask of rare and expensive ointment, she anointed Jesus' feet with this soothing and fragrant balm.

Everyone in the room was aghast that Jesus should accept such a tribute from such an obvious sinner. They thought, "Jesus should have shunned her rather than accept her presence and her gift." Jesus can see directly into Simon's self-righteous heart, and Jesus overrules Simon's condemnation by telling Simon a little story.

The story goes like this: There were two people who took out loans and could not pay the interest on them, let alone the principal. One borrower owed almost a year and a half of his wages; the other was in debt for about two and half months' wages. Jesus asks, "Who will be more appreciative when the money-lender cancels both debts?" Simon gives the obvious answer: "The one who has been forgiven the greater debt."

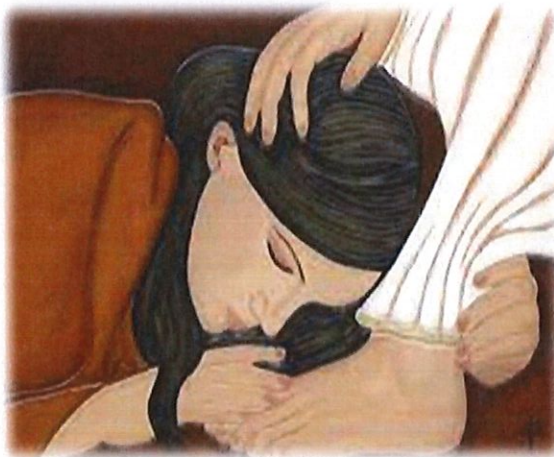
What can we, the members and friends of Christ Church, learn from this story? If you've been forgiven much, you will love much. Who has taken the initiative when it comes to our relationship with God? Obviously, it is God. God is the one who first loved us. He sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for us—and not for our sins only, but for the sins of the whole world.

As we consider the banquet at Simon's, which of the two people, Simon or the so-called "sinful woman," probably felt as if he or she had received a greater forgiveness? Most likely, Simon felt little need for forgiveness,

because Jesus points out that Simon never extended to Jesus the common courtesies of the day, including footwashing and anointing. The woman, on the other hand, was well aware of her own sins and wanted to thank Jesus for His gracious dealing with her. Assessing the seriousness and extent of your own sinfulness today, do you identify with Simon or the "sinful woman"? If we have truly been forgiven much, then we (like the woman) will love much, showing to the rough-edged and the unloveable the love which the Holy Spirit has poured into our hearts (Rom. 5:5).

We need this love at Christ Lutheran if we are to fulfill God's purposes for us. As St. Paul writes, it is the love of Christ that "constrains us" (2 Cor. 5:4), that is, prompts us to be faithful in Bible study and worship and to go the next step and invite others into our fellowship. This love constrains us to "welcome the stranger," making him or her feel at home. The woman at Simon's house gave to Jesus a costly gift. What sacrifice are you willing to make for your Lord and Savior? When you are asked to sing in the choir, to teach, to help with VBS, or bring food to someone recovering at home from surgery, will you respond as Isaiah does, saying to the Lord, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)? Will your service to the Lord and your neighbor be given first priority or something you only fit in when all the other demands of work and pleasure have been satisfied? Will you give your offerings, not until it hurts, but until you become the kind of "cheerful giver" that God loves (2 Cor. 9:7)? May the mighty wind and the purifying fire of the Spirit be at work among us and enable us to give God-pleasing answers to the questions that stem from the night Jesus spent at Simon's house.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ray



July 2025 BSSP News Article

The BSSP Program will host its summer Vacation Bible School program on August 4th – 8th. The theme is “True North – Trusting Jesus in a Wild World”. Students will sing, pray, and learn through Bible stories, Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust!

A light dinner will be served from 6-6:30 p.m. and class is from 6:30-8 p.m. Come and meet new friends, do creative crafts, have surprising adventures, and music. Come join the fun and bring a friend.

If you are thinking about getting involved and helping with BSSP, this would be a good time to give us a try. VBS is a lot of fun! Leona will be looking for members of the congregation to help with the preparation, serving and clean-up of one evening meal. We have many individuals who have helped for several years and keep coming back. Please prayerfully consider helping this year.

For more information and to register, call Leona at 302-245-4328 or Donna at 302-629-4183.



Save The Date!

We will be needing teachers and volunteers!
Christ Lutheran Church will once again hold its Vacation Bible School for elementary school aged children this summer. Our dates are Monday, July 28th through Friday, August 1st. 6:00-8:00 pm.

Proverbs 19:17 “One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deeds.”

In June we were able to assist with two electric bills and one hotel stay while the family's apartment was undergoing mold remediation.

We continued our support of the Grab and Go lunch ministry and also donated one hundred fifty three (153) non perishable food items. An additional donation of a set of towels and washcloths, one case of water, sunscreen and bug spray (8 cans) was also made. Current high priority items include: travel-size hand sanitizers, bug spray, sunburn relief lotion and cereal.

Love INC has a number of volunteer opportunities available including sandwich preparation, bagging chicken for distribution, clothing closet assistance. Contact Love INC directly if interested.

Every donation you make is significant and blesses someone. Thank you for your continued generosity, support and prayerful consideration to help meet the increased needs of our community.

Blessings,

Food Shelf Team

Linda Boone

Carl Boone

Janet Moore



July 6
July 13
July 20
July 27

Joan Kresefsky
Kathy Williams
Donna Hassman
Carol & Russ Taylor

Evangelism Report for July Newsletter

This is the article that ran in the Seaford Star on the 19th of July. We are looking into the possibility of running more ads to inform the community of what is taking place at Christ Lutheran Church. If anyone has any ideas for future ads feel free to pass them along to the Evangelism Committee for review. Now is the time to step up our efforts and activity to help grow membership for our new Pastor and his family to shepherd.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

When you read this, know that you are within a short drive to a destination that could change your life for the better.

Today most people are at a crossroads, going one way or the other. How does one choose the best way for them to go? A journey that may have begun a long time ago, or maybe you're in mid-life, or are a young couple just starting out. Whatever direction you fit into is at your doorstep.

How is it possible to digest and understand which direction to take on the crossroads of life? Are the possibilities endless? Where does one start? Who might have the answer? Is it too late for me? Am I at the crossroads alone? What if one stumbles? How does one take that first step? Would a support group be there to help me on my journey? How does one learn to have trust? These and many other questions are all part of life's journey!

One step to begin the journey at your crossroads is to be totally honest with yourself. Make the time to reflect on where you are now. Ask yourself, what have I accomplished so far? Are there some things you would have done different? This time with yourself and your thoughts will be very revealing. A wave of emotions will fill your mind and heart. Joy, Happiness, Sorrow, Tears, Regrets, Hope, Love, Prayer, Disgust, Rage, Vision, Acceptance, Gratitude, Gratefulness, Belonging, Giving, to mention a few.

This is not a one-time sit down with oneself! It will be an ongoing thought process and periods of adjustments to the rest of one's life. Embrace this process often and one's path on the crossroads of life will be one incredible and rewarding journey. You will share journeys with others along the way. Who knows...soulmates, friendships, mentors, will be formed. Conversations you have could mean positive course changes in the direction one is going.

One key to this journey, is to have an open mind and heart with each conversion and encounter that comes along.

Here is your invitation to:
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
315 N Shipley Street, Seaford, DE 19973

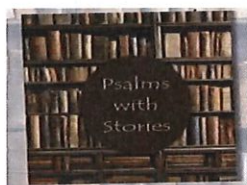
*"Together We Love, Serve, Encourage and
Grow in the Family of Christ Here and
Throughout the World!"*

Sunday Services:

Praise Worship: 8:30 a.m.

Bible Classes: 9:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship: 11 a.m.



Women's Midweek Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 11am

Psalms with Stories connects familiar Bible characters to the Psalm(s) they quoted and/or composed while walking with God through life's events. The stories we will be discussing are:

July 15th: Jonah

July 22nd: The Crossing of the Red Sea

July 29th: David & Saul in the Cave

August 5th: David, Abigail, and Nabal

August 12th: David and Bathsheba

August 19th: Joshua

August 26th: Jesus – Our Priest and King

ALL study materials will be provided.
Any questions, please speak to Michelle Nuss.

Upcoming Events

Friends Supporting Friends held on Monday at 11 am
Women's Bible Study starting Tuesday, July 15th@11 am
July 6th and July 15th-Holy Communion at both services
July 12th@6:30 pm Bunco

**Happy
Birthday**



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 Michelle Nuss | 06 Tom & Pat Laiacona |
| 02 Kathi Payne | 29 John & Janet Filling |
| 03 Catherine Mackler | |
| 06 Fran Hassett | |
| 07 Tim Pianka | |
| 11 David Kiefer | |
| 12 Eileen Halfmann | |
| 13 Carol Taylor | |
| 14 Janet Moore | |
| 17 Will Hiller | |
| 19 Robert Schmick | |
| 26 Henry Tiff | |
| 29 Aaron Morris | |
| 29 Patricia Laiacona | |
| 30 Karen Wackett | |

July 2025

◀ Jun 2025						July 2025						Aug 2025 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
		1	2	3	4 Office Closed Happy 4 th of July!!	5							
6 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	7 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	8	9	10	11 Office Closed	12 6:30 pm Bunco							
13 8:30 am Praise Service 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service Food Shelf Sunday Stephen Minister Meeting	14 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	15 11 am Women's Midweek Bible Study	16	17	18 Office Closed	19							
20 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 Mite Box Sunday	21 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	22 11 am Women's Midweek Bible Study	23	24	25 Office Closed	26							
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