

The Crusader

Christ Lutheran Church
315 N Shipley Street
Rev. Ray M. Rogers
Seaford, DE 19973
302-629-9755
8L39 an Praise Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship

OCTOBER 2024



Pastor's Portion

Sunrise or Sunset?

"But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays" (Malachi 4:2).

A friend of mine who is a retired state trooper was recently asked to preach one Sunday when his pastor was on vacation. I was privileged to read his sermon before he occupied the pulpit, and the question he posed to the congregation seems critical for all of us to consider, both in our roles as American citizens and as members of a local congregation: "Are we at a point where the sun is rising or setting on this country and/or on this congregation?"

According to my friend's research, this question was on the mind of one of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin. In the summer of 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia to consider a new Constitution for the country. While the discussions and debates went back and forth, Franklin kept staring at the chair in which George Washington sat. After the Constitution was ratified, someone asked Franklin why he had been so focused on Washington's chair. He explained that he had been looking at the "half sun" carved on the back of the chair and was debating in his own mind whether the sun was rising or setting on the nation. When the Constitution was adopted, he concluded that the sun was rising on the nation.

We may have different opinions about the state of our nation and what direction we set for the future when we go to the polls in the coming election. But a more pressing spiritual question for us to consider, both as individuals and as the family of God at Christ Lutheran Church is this: Is the sun rising or setting on us? Are our best days behind us or ahead of us?

If you and I together made up the perfect Christian congregation here in Seaford...if we could be confident that God the Holy Spirit is going to send us the perfect pastor....if life all around us could be perfect, without any tragedies happening accidentally or caused on purpose by those with malicious intent...then we could say that the sun is rising on us.

The truth is, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). If you are still searching for the perfect congregation or still hold out hope we will get the pastor who is perfect, hear St. Paul’s quote from the Psalms: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3).

Given our undeniably sinful condition, how can I state so confidently that the sun is rising on us individually and corporately? I can, because of the promise of our text from Malachi, God’s promise set to music in that beloved Christmas carol, “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”:

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

Whenever we hear the words of absolution...whenever we remember our Baptism...whenever we partake of Jesus’ body and blood at His table...whenever we share mutual conversation and encouragement with one another...then Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness is shining the light of His love and forgiveness on us.

We can be about the “Father’s business”—sharing His love—right now, before the new pastor comes. The “sunrise” for Christ Lutheran is NOW! And I’m hearing God’s word from Ephesians 5:14: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Love in Christ,
Pastor Ray

EVANGELISM

October already! Enjoy God's Creation! View the fall foliage!

Evangelism Committee is at work in His Service to grow the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church!

To recap, the end of September Art Payne, Keith and Jean Lohmeyer and myself attended a Discovery Training hosted by Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Greg and Susan Finke were the main speakers. Greg is the author of "Joining Jesus on His Mission/How to be an Everyday Missionary." Greg had many thoughts, but the one that hit me most was this: "Love does not always work, but Love is the only thing that works!"

On Oct. 5th Pastor Ray & myself will be attending the Fall Leadership Conference at St. Andrews in Silver Spring, MD. If any one wishes to go with us just let Pastor Ray know. We will be carpooling.

We have answered the call to take part in the Downtown Seaford Association (DSA) scarecrow lamp post project. Our lamp post will be on the corner of High/Arch streets. We will be meeting at the church on Sept. 28th putting our scarecrow together and then transporting to its site. This will give the Church some notoriety.

October 26th is the Seaford Fall Festival. Christ Lutheran Church has reserved a table for this event. This exposure will let folks know we are here and ready to serve the community's needs! The festival will run from 10 am until 4pm. We will be having arts and crafts for the kids, handing out Bibles, and Church pamphlets and reading material about our congregation. Anyone that wants to help work at the table, please let someone know on the Evangelism committee!!!

Research is in progress gathering information on ways to reach the Youth and their families. Danielle Dempsey and myself are reviewing two possibilities. One is called American Heritage Girls, the other is called Trail Life USA for Boys. Both are Christian based. They both have balanced mentoring programs to help boys and girls through the kindergarten -12th grade.

Things like this will help gratefully attract new membership to our church. This is the kind of thing that can be used as a talking point when we are out and about Joining Jesus on His Mission being an everyday Missionary. Feel free to talk with us if you have any other ideas that you believe will help grow the church. We love you all! Be safe out there! Enjoy the fall season! We'll see you in church!

Joel Lichtenberg, Art Payne, and Danielle Dempsey
Your Evangelism Committee

October Newsletter Food Shelf Ministry Report

Proverbs 3:27 "Do not withhold good from those whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it."

In September, we shared our blessings with our neighbors by providing 71 non perishable food items, 3 cases of water and assistance with rent payments and electric bills.

Monthly, we also participate in Love, INC's "Grab and Go" lunch ministry.

Donations to the Food Shelf can be made throughout the month. All donations are blessed by Pastor on the second Sunday of each month.

Thank you for your continued support.

Blessings,
Food Shelf Team
Linda Boone
Carl Boone
Janet Moore

LWML Mission Grants Highlights

Every month, 2 LWML mission grants are highlighted in our newsletter to share where our mite box offerings are used to share the Gospel and love of Jesus.

Chesapeake District LWML Mission Grants – 10 new mission projects and a mission goal of \$110,000 were selected at the Chesapeake District LWML Convention last month. The first project funded, receiving the most votes, was Kids Against Hunger Meals, submitted by Peace Lutheran Church in Smyrna from our DelMarVa LWML zone.

Kids Against Hunger Meals – Orphan Grain Train Mid-Atlantic Branch - \$6,000 Kids Against Hunger Meals will be purchased and shipped to supply needed nourishment for families in poverty and famine. Clothes will also be supplied to families and the Gospel message of Jesus will be shared with all recipients.

National LWML Mission Grants

Zoe's Home Support – Trinity Lutheran Church – Clinton, MO - \$75,000

Zoe's Home, a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton, Missouri, helps homeless and at-risk pregnant and parenting women in need. The home enables women at risk of abortion or losing parental custody to overcome their current life situations and obstacles. Residents of Zoe's Home engage in spiritual care through church activities and Bible studies. The women participate in activities and classes to develop life skills in parenting, finances, cooking, and hygiene. After a one-year stay in Zoe's Home, the residents' goals are to complete their education, find steady employment, procure reliable transportation, attain financial independence, find independent housing, and actively engage in church and community support services. This grant will provide funds to meet the costs to ensure housing, food, transportation, life skills education, case management, and staffing for Zoe's Home.

August Mite Box Collection: \$461.00

September Mite Box Collection: 550.50

Christ Lutheran LWML News

Chesapeake District LWML Convention - In September, 4 of our members attended the Chesapeake District LWML Convention in Herndon, VA, joining over 130 participants from our district and speakers from across our country to learn about current mission projects, plan for our next biennium, and worship our Savior. The theme of the convention and the topic of our worship and Bible study was "We are the clay and you are the potter, Isaiah 64:8." Two of our own circuit pastors from the DelMarVa Zone, Pastor Michael Thress, of Faith Lutheran in Bear, and Pastor Jeremy Loesch, of Our Redeemer Lutheran in Newark, are serving as the 2 Pastoral Counselors for our Chesapeake District LWML, leading us in Bible study and worship. Both pastors have been friends since seminary and bring great fun and joy in their teamwork.

Our LWML has started our new season and we have projects we are ready to begin.

MOST Eyeglass Ministries - Did you know? Every year about 4 million pairs of eyeglasses are thrown away in the US, while 158 million people worldwide suffer from uncorrected vision. The cost of a pair of glasses in many developing nations is more than a month's salary. Without assistance from MOST Ministries, hundreds of thousands of people would go without the glasses they need to work, read or attend school. MOST Ministries often provides the only pair of eyeglasses a person will ever own.

Our LWML is collecting eyeglasses for MOST Ministries. Adult and children's glasses and nonprescription sunglasses are being collected. Please send glasses that are in good condition. Only soft eyeglass cases can be collected, too.

Matthew 25 Ministries Pill Bottle Collection: Caring For a Needy World With the Things We Throw Away - Matthew 25 Ministries collects empty plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. Their pill bottle program helps improve medical care in developing countries and cares for our environment by reducing waste. Did you know? In many developing countries, medicine is given to patients wrapped in leaves because no containers are available. Our LWML will be collecting large and small prescription & over-the-counter pill bottles with **and** without child resistant caps. Can you believe a little thing like a pill bottle can make a big difference in a person's life? In just a little way, we CAN make a difference. Bring your unused eyeglasses and pill bottles to the collection box at our Information Desk. Thank you so much for your help!

October LWML Meeting - October 17 @ 1pm

Join us for our next LWML meeting on October 17. Be a part of our mission to spread the love of Jesus throughout our community, our country, and around our world. We are looking forward to you joining us in the mission!



STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE: Bear one another's burdens – In Galatians 6, Paul tells us to “carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” At Christ Lutheran our Stephen Ministers are trained to do just that. They will provide one-to-one care, prayer and support to those who are going through a difficult or lonely time.

For more info, please call Aileen at 302-930-7070, Kathryn at 302-841-9622 or Pastor Ray at 302-629-9755.

BSSP October New Article

BSSP resumed Saturday classes on September 7th. Everyone was excited to be back together again on Saturday mornings. Our lessons this quarter are taken from CPH *Growing in Christ* series titled “God Provides Judges and Kings” and “God Works Through Prophets and Kings”.

October Bible Story Lessons

October 5 – David Becomes King
October 12 – God Forgives David
October 19 – The Wisdom of Solomon
October 26 – Solomon Builds the Temple



Just a reminder, if there is a need to cancel our Saturday morning class for any reason (such as weather), you will receive an automated call from the church’s call system with this information. If your phone number has changed, please let us know.

Leona Tull & Donna Hassman, Co-coordinators



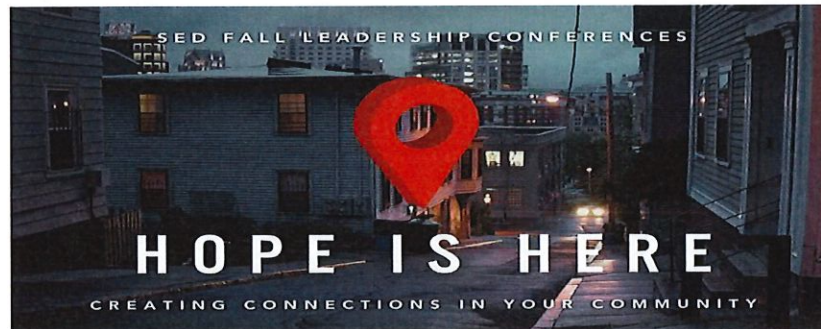
Altar Flowers

November 3
November 10
November 17
November 24

Cathy Young
Kathy Williams
Peggy Gum
Ron Coleman

Upcoming Events

- Friends Supporting Friends—Mondays at 11 am
- Men's Quartet Practice@6:15 pm on Thursday
- Choir Practice@7 pm on Thursday
- October 6 and 20 Holy Communion at both services
- October 2, 16, 23, 30@6 pm Lutheranism 101
- October 5th@9 am Fall Leadership Conference, Silver Spring, MD
- October 7@7 pm Council Meeting
- October 8@3 pm Lay Ministry Meeting
- October 13@2 pm Special Congregational Meeting
- October 17@2 pm LWML meeting
- October 22@11 am Brunch/lunch Pizza King Seaford
- October 26@10 am Seaford Fall Festival



SED Fall Leadership Conference | Northern | Hope is Here: Creating Connections in your Community

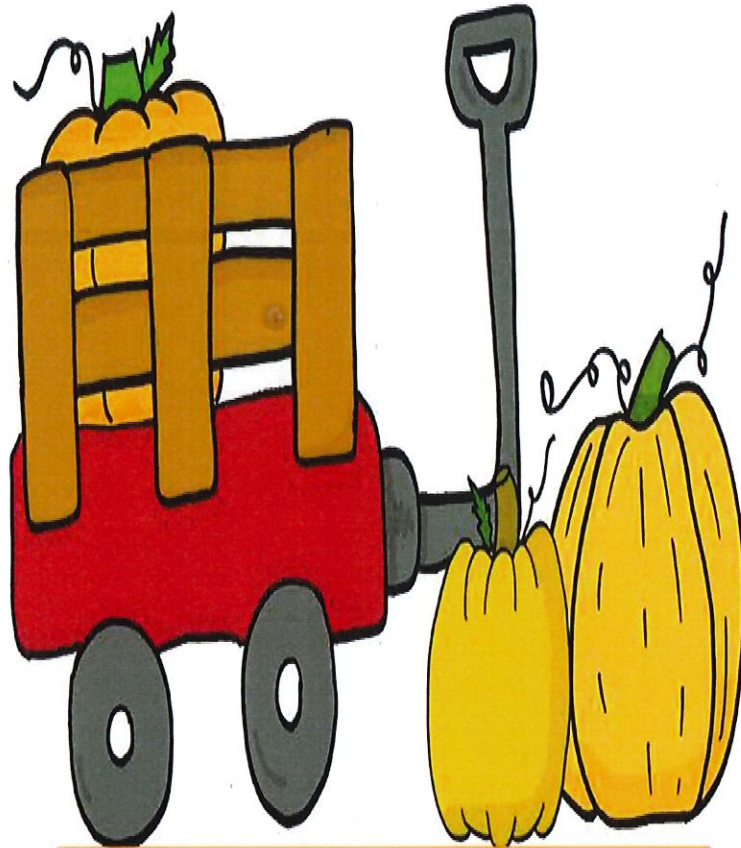


October Birthdays

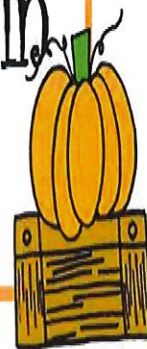
03 Joan Kresefsky
09 Shirley Smith
11 Keith Lohmeyer
12 Roy Lamberton
14 Alger "Pete" Peter
son
14 Micah Idler
18 Charlotte Kimlel
22 Ruth Williams
25 Ray Rogers
26 Bonnie Rose
26 David Cordrey
28 Jim Cooper
29 Jean Lohmeyer
29 Ron Byrd

October Anniversaries

18 Russell & Carol
Taylor
20 Dan & Carol
Schreffler
21 Bob & Roxanna
Wingate
22 Dave & Cathy Asche
24 Stephen &
Stephanie Scotton



A trip to the pumpkin
patch clipart



This is a blank and printable October Calendar. Courtesy of WinCalendar.com

◀ Sep 2024							October 2024		Nov 2024 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
		1	2	3	4	5	9 am Fall Leadership Conference-Silver Spring, MD 10 am BSSP			
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 7 pm Council Meeting	8 3 pm Lay Ministry Meeting	9	10 6:15 pm Men's Quartet Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	11 Office Closed	12 10 am BSSP				
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 2 on Congregational Meeting	14 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	15	16 6 pm Lutheranism 101	17 1 pm LWMIL Meeting 6:15 pm Men's Quartet Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	18 Office Closed	19 10 am BSSP				
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 Brunch/lunch Pizza King Seaford	23 6 pm Lutheranism 101	24 6:15 pm Men's Quartet Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	25 Office Closed	26 10 am – 4 pm Seaford Fall Festival 10 am BSSP				
27 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	28 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	29	30 6 pm Lutheranism 101	31 6:15 Men's Quartet Practice 7 pm Choir Practice						