

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

NOVEMBER 2024



Pastor's Portion

- ²⁵ I lie in the dust;
revive me by your word.
²⁶ I told you my plans, and you answered.
Now teach me your decrees.
²⁷ Help me understand the meaning of your
commandments,
and I will meditate on your wonderful deeds.
²⁸ I weep with sorrow;
encourage me by your word.
²⁹ Keep me from lying to myself;
give me the privilege of knowing your instructions.
³⁰ I have chosen to be faithful;
I have determined to live by your regulations.

(Psalm 119:25-30 NLT)

Can you believe that Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner? Shortly, we'll feel the pressure of the season to buy the best gifts, to travel at the busiest times, and to put on the fanciest shindigs. Is it any wonder that we get worn down...worn out...and depressed. Have you ever heard the expression, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"? Before the rush of the holiday season, we could all benefit from the preventive "medicine" of Psalm 119 to ward off the depression that often strikes at this time of year.

Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude

The Psalmist writes: **"I will meditate on your wonderful deeds" (v. 27).** We can't slow down time, but we can ignore consumer pressures and celebrate Thanksgiving, no matter what the ads tell us.

For what can we be thankful? Besides all the material blessings we enjoy (everything included in the petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread"), there are the spiritual blessings we have in Jesus, which we acknowledge every time we say the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in...the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Sorrow Is Real...But the Promises of the Word Are True

The Psalmist doesn't sugar-coat reality. He freely admits **"weep[ing] with sorrow (v. 28)"**. Yet He doesn't give up on God, whose shoulders have proven broad enough to take his lament. At our lowest points in life, we are probably less inclined to read the word, when that is really what we need the most. **"Encourage me by your word" (v. 28)**, pleads the Psalmist. We need promises such as [2 Corinthians 4:17](#): "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." Or again, Psalm 30:5: "For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

Avoid Self-Deception

Finally, the Psalmist knows all too well the power of self-deception. He prays to God: **"Keep me from lying to myself" (v. 29)**. What are some of the lies we tell ourselves: "I'm so busy I don't have time to pray. I can go it alone in life. I don't need worship. There are so many demands on my life that I don't have time to exercise or take care of my body as well as my soul." You can't take care of anyone else if you don't take care of yourself.

I admit it: Sometimes I like to sit and stew, so to speak, in my own juices. I'd be much better off to "take it to the Lord in prayer" or to seek a session of private confession. If you need someone to listen so you can unburden yourself, my office door is open and my phone is seldom off.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Ray

Evangelism Report for November

God's Grace, Peace and Mercy be with everyone! As we enter this month of November, a time of harvesting comes to mind! In order to harvest, we must first do some sort of planting. Then comes a nourishing of the seed that has been planted. Different seeds need different nourishment. Seeds of grain for example corn, beans, wheat, vegetables, flowers and trees and the like need water, sun, wind, weeding and pruning to grow and flourish. A relationship requires many things, for example time, patience, understanding, willingness, direction, silence, hope, change and most important is love. As a church we have just harvested and put on paper all that Christ Lutheran Church has accomplished over the past 70 years. The seeds of these accomplishments have been planted in the hands of the Southeastern District LCMS for a call for a new Pastor. It is now in God's hands to nourish His choice for us. We must thank God and welcome with open hearts and minds the choice God has made for us. It is now our part to prepare ourselves for a new pastor and his family. By each of us joining Jesus on His mission for us to be everyday missionaries we can grow our congregation and be the welcoming place for our community and beyond.

Your evangelism committee:

Joel Lichtenberg, Art Payne and Danielle Dempsey

November LWML Mission Highlights

LWML National Grant #22 – 2023-2025 Biennium

Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in U.S. — Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000

Hispanics have become the second largest ethnic population in the United States and Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) realizes that there are many opportunities to reach out with the Gospel using Christian resources that are available through media and outreach technology.

LHM is not simply translating English materials into Spanish, they are crafting programming, media content, and written materials for Hispanics by Hispanics. These are applicable to daily life in the American culture and help to spread the Gospel. Working with LCMS ministry leaders, churches, districts, universities, and seminaries, LHM has been able to reach out to more of the Hispanic population.

This grant will share God's message of salvation with the Hispanic people through technology in their own language, which will help strengthen their faith and encourage them to seek to learn more about Jesus.

Chesapeake District LWML Grant #2 – 2024-2026 Biennium

Humanitarian Aid Shipment – Orphan Grain Train Maryland Branch - \$6,000

40 foot containers of humanitarian aid including medical equipment, school supplies, food, clothes, and sewing machines will be shipped to areas of need around the world while sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

November Mite Box Collection – Sunday, November 17

November LWML News

November LWML Meeting – Thursday, November 21 @

1pm Join us for our next meeting on November 21 for fellowship, planning, and refreshments. Our LWML is planning several mission and fellowship activities. We are looking forward to you joining us in our church's LWML ministry.

Christmas Ladies' Luncheon – Saturday, December 14 @

12pm Our LWML will be hosting a Christmas Luncheon for all ladies of Christ Lutheran on Saturday, December 14. Bring a lunch item or dessert to share with everyone. Drinks will be provided. All ladies are invited to participate in a fun gift exchange activity. Bring a wrapped gift with a \$15 value if you would like to participate. More details to come!

MOST Eyeglass Collection - Our LWML is collecting prescription adult and children's glasses, as well as nonprescription sunglasses. Soft eyeglass holders are requested, but please **do not** include hard eyeglass cases. Bring your glasses to the Information Desk and place them in the purple box labeled MOST Eyeglass Collection. Our old glasses are providing sight to people around the world as the Gospel of our Savior is shared with thousands.

Matthew 25 Ministries Pill Bottle Collection – Bring your empty clean plastic pill bottles to church. Our LWML is collecting large and small prescription and over-the-counter plastic pill bottles with **and** without child resistant caps. Please remove your prescription label, if possible. Put your pill bottles in the purple box labeled Matthew 25 Ministries Pill Bottle Collection. These pill bottles will be sent by Matthew 25 Ministries included in shipments of medical supplies to provide medicine to people around the world.

Worship Anew

Engaging and Equipping Aging Adults with Resources to Live a Full and Abundant Life in Jesus Christ. Learn more about Worship Anew today! Check our Information Desk for resources to review and order for free.

Worship Anew is an LCMS supported ministry providing online, print, and televised resources for aging adults. Worship Anew began over 50 years ago as a televised worship service in Toledo, Ohio named *Worship for Shut-Ins*, and has grown into much more. The 30-minute weekly worship service available today includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastoral message available to watch anywhere, anytime online at www.Worship.Anew.org and on Facebook, Vimeo & YouTube @WorshipAnew. Hope-Full Living is another resource, a daily devotion in large print written for seniors by seniors published quarterly. Hope-Full Living devotions can also be listened to daily online at HopeFullLiving.org and on the Hope-Full Living App. A monthly magazine, *The Broadcaster*, is published by Worship Anew featuring articles that strengthen and support our spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. Look into these wonderful resources available to you.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS: We would like to prepare at least 4 baskets for those in need within our congregation and for residents at the men's and women's shelters of Redemption City. If you would be so kind as to leave any of the following items on the table in the kitchen closest to the church offices by November 17th:

Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce (plastic jars); Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Boxed Stuffing Mix, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Rice, Canned Fruit (no single serving packaging), Pie Filling, Canned Soup, Canned Vegetables, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Canned Meats, Cranberry, Gravy (canned or package), Pancake Mix/Bisquick, Pancake Syrup.

If you would like to donate a turkey or roasting chicken, please leave a message with the church office so we can insure that there is adequate space in our church freezer for them. Many thanks!



STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE:

Just as the shepherd is with his sheep, God is with his people. His presence comforts us. It means wherever we are, in whatever situation, we are not alone. Aloneness is never so sharp as when we are suffering. Our trained Stephen Ministers can be present in your pain. The physical presence of another human being can bring significant comfort to those who are suffering. They will be with you in mind and spirit – understanding and empathizing with you in your pain. We want to comfort you. Call Pastor Ray for more information on having someone walk with you during a rough patch.

Call Committee Update

More than 40 copies of the Draft Congregational Profile were distributed to church members for their review prior to the Special Congregational Meeting held on October 13, 2024. Thirty-five members participated in the pot luck luncheon following the traditional worship service. Madeline Dunn, Call Committee chair, conducted the meeting following the luncheon. Pastor Michael Thress, circuit visitor, opened the meeting with prayer and explained the Southeast District - LCMS' procedures for filling a pastoral vacancy. He reiterated the importance of the Call Committee's drafting of a comprehensive Congregational Profile as well as the congregations review, editing, and approval of this required document. Madeline thanked members who proof read the entire document and highlighted typos which needed to be corrected. She also identified the importance of each section, entertained comments and discussions, and asked for and received motions to accept each section as approved/edited. Before adjournment, a motion was made and unanimously approve to submit the entire document as edited to the Southeast District - LCMS.

Respectfully Submitted,
Madeline Dunn, Call Committee Chair

BSSP October New Article

November BSSP News Article

It is November and we have begun singing Christmas songs on Saturday mornings in preparation for our Christmas program.

We ask that our students attend the Saturdays leading up to the program.

The Christmas program will be on Saturday, December 7th at 11:00 a.m. We invite the congregation to put that date on your calendar to attend.

Just as a reminder, BSSP continues to bring items for Food Shelf to benefit Love, INC. each Saturday.

November/December Schedule

November 2 – God Provides for Elijah

November 9 – Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

November 16 – Elijah is Taken to Heaven

November 23 – Practice for Christmas Program

November 30 - **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday**

December 7- **Christmas Program**



Happy Thanksgiving from the BSSP students and staff.



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
- November 3rd and 17th Holy Communion at both services
- November 4th@7 pm Council Meeting
- November 19th@3 pm Lay Ministry Meeting
- November 21st@1 pm LWML meeting

November Newsletter Food Shelf Ministry Report

Psalms 145:9 "The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

In partnership with DHSS and Love In the Name of Christ, we were able to assist our neighbors with electric bills, emergency hotel stays while more permanent housing arrangements could be made, and with prescription medication expenses.

Two hundred forty-three (243) non perishable items, 3 cases of water and 2 blankets were delivered to Love INC's Cross Building. Luncheon meats, cheese and bread were also provided for the "Grab and Go" lunch ministry.

Two emergency food boxes were replenished with non perishable food items. These boxes are distributed at the discretion of Pastor Ray.

As the weather becomes colder, we plan to support Love INC's Code Purple efforts. This program runs from December 1 through March 15 and provides over-night accommodations for our homeless neighbors.

Thank you for your continued support.

Blessings,
Food Shelf Team
Linda Boone
Carl Boone
Janet Moore



November Birthdays

01 Dave Asche
01 Melissa Cooper
01 Jim Young, Jr.
03 Ann Schmick
11 Kathy Williams
11 Joan Petzold
12 Tracy Neilson
12 Maddie Dunn
13 Gabrielle Schmick
14 Niko Scotton
15 Linda Boone
16 Dee Dee Bolden
16 Stephen Scotton
17 Betty Myers
17 Janice Conaway
20 Donna Moyer
20 RW Williams
21 Gilda Miller
24 Doris Farace
24 Janet Filling

November Anniversaries

10 Toby & Patricia French
25 Roger & Ann Schmick



A Redemption Christmas

John Waller • Live December 13th



**Benefit Concert for
Redemption City
December 13,
7:00 pm
Seaford High
School - \$10**

November 2024

November 2024							Dec 2024 ▶
◀ Oct 2024	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Office Closed	2 10:00 am BSSP
3 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	4 11 am Friends Supporting Friends 7 pm Council Meeting	5	6	7 6:15 Men's Quartet Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	8 Office Closed	9 10:00 am BSSP	
10 8:30 am Praise Service 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service Food Shelf Sunday	11 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	12	13	14 6:15 pm Men's Quartet Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	15 Office Closed	16 10:00 am BSSP	
17 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	18 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	19 3 pm Lay Ministry Meeting	20	21 1 pm LWML Meeting 6:15 Men's Quartet Practice 7 pm Choir Practice	22 Office Closed	23 10 am BSSP	
24 8:30 am Praise Service 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service	25 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	26	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving!!	29 Office Closed	30	