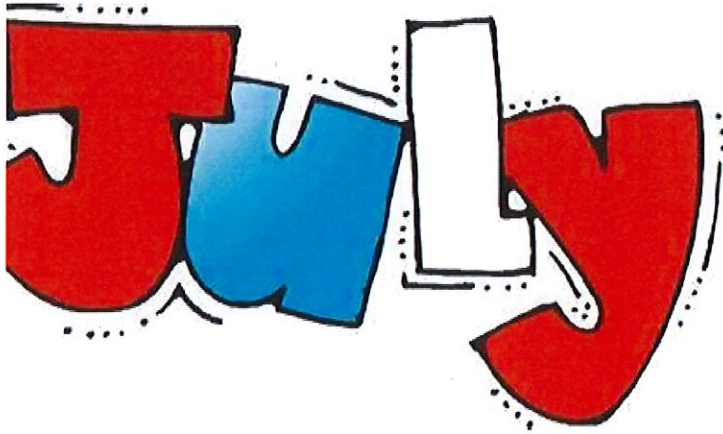


# **The Crusader**

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 2024

## Pastor's Portion

### "Head, Purse, and Heart"

**"There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse."** Though we're unsure of the author, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

**Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us.** He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. The Spirit enables us to receive this gift of grace by faith. In Jesus' name we are called Christians, children of our Heavenly Father. **With this change of heart, a whole new life is opened to us (conversion of the heart).**

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us **repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind.** We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For **when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.**

And thus, He calls us to **a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse.** Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom. St. Paul is quoting Jesus when he says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – **a conversion of the heart** – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also. I'm sure you'd agree: We can't buy our way into heaven. We can't outgive God either. Consider what God has given us: He has given us new life in Christ and made us temples for His Holy Spirit. **In this new life, our thinking has been changed (conversion of the mind).**

**Our joyful giving has been opened up (conversion of the purse). And our meaning and purpose for living has been changed (conversion of the heart).**

You and I will get off the path of walking with Jesus in this newness of life to which we were raised in Baptism. But I know this: Even when we fail, God in Christ still loves us and calls us back to a closer walk with Him.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Ray

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#### Food Shelf Ministry Report

Proverbs 14:31 "Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him."

Through your continued sharing of God's gifts, several families were aided with short motel stays while DHSS located more permanent housing arrangements.

We are continuing to provide fresh-cut luncheon meats, cheese and bread for lunchtime distribution by Love INC's Cross Center. We plan to support this ministry each month.

We provided 126 non-perishable food items and also provided electric bill assistance for several families.

The list of high-needs items has been updated and is attached to the food shelf in the narthex, it includes:  
Sunblock and sunburn relief items, individual bottles of water, single-serve fruit cups, shelf-stable microwave meals, oatmeal, rice, instant potatoes and canned vegetables.

Blessings,  
Food Shelf Team  
Linda Boone  
Carl Boone  
Janet Moore

**You're Invited to a Lutheran Corn Hole Tournament** at our sister congregation, Immanuel Lutheran, Easton, MD (the church is right on US 50 just north of the State Police Barracks and National Guard Armory). Travelling teams from Immanuel, Preston and Bethany Salisbury are also expected to participate. Festivities will be from 4 to 7 p.m on July 20th. Even if you're not playing, there will be food (hot dogs, chips, and drinks provided) and live music to enjoy. You're asked to bring a lawn chair and a dessert to share. The "Martin Luther Corn Hole Trophy" will be awarded to the victorious church team!

**Altar Flowers:** We are looking to a new provider for altar flowers, beginning in July. Tammie's Country Florist in Hurlock will be delivering arrangements starting July 7<sup>th</sup>, at the same \$30.00 cost we have been paying. If you've already made out a check to Seaford Florist for an upcoming Sunday, you can either pick up the check at the church office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or we will mail it back to you. One of Tammie's drivers will bring the flowers each week, but if you'd like to speak with Tammie about a special arrangement, her phone is 443-786-8102. Her business address is 109 S. State Street, P.O. Box 323, Hurlock, MD 21643. Tammie's email is [imn2flowers@yahoo.com](mailto:imn2flowers@yahoo.com).

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### BSSP July News Article

The next activity for BSSP will be Vacation Bible School the week of August 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. We meet each evening from 6:00 to 8 p.m. and begin with a light meal. This is followed by an opening with music, Bible story, craft, and music/closing. The theme this year is "Scuba – Diving into friendship with God" and we look forward to a very fun-filled week.

If you are thinking about getting involved 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.

The Lord has taken care of and blessed this program for 60 years, and we know he continues to bless this program as we continue for many more.

Leona Tull and Donna Hassman  
Co-coordinators



## **July LWML Mission Highlight**

Every month, our newsletter highlights LWML Mission Grants receiving support at the LWML national and district level through our Mite Boxes. Each of these projects has been voted for by delegates to our district and national LWML conventions every 2 years. Additional information, videos, and pictures of each grant are available online at [www.lwml.org/mission-grants](http://www.lwml.org/mission-grants) and [www.lwmlchesapeake.org/district-grants-2022-24](http://www.lwmlchesapeake.org/district-grants-2022-24).

### **LWML National Grant #13**

#### **Water and the Word - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya - \$80,000**

Students in schools and orphanages sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) lack clean water and regular access to pastoral care. Water and the Word, based in Thermopolis, Wyoming, works with the ELCK to improve water systems for the schools. After evaluating a school's needs, Water and the Word installs water harvesting equipment (rain gutters and tanks), locally sourced filters, hand wash stations, and clean water storage systems. Students and staff are taught about personal hygiene, handwashing, and the importance of drinking only clean water.

After installation, an ELCK pastor (trained in water equipment) visits the schools every 3–4 months to ensure that the water system is working, visits with the children, and provides needed pastoral care.

This grant will provide clean water and cover travel expenses for pastoral care to students in 12 additional schools and orphanages in Kenya.

### **Chesapeake District LWML Grants**

All of our Chesapeake District LWML Grants have been funded for the 2022-2024 Biennium. New mission grants for the 2024-2026 Biennium will be selected at our Chesapeake District LWML Convention in Herndon, Virginia, on September 20-22, 2024.

**May Mite Box Collection: \$439.00**

**June Mite Box Collection: \$569.80**

Thank you so much for your faithful contributions on Mite Box Sunday every month. Together we are helping to spread the Gospel message of Jesus here and throughout the world.

## **Christ Lutheran LWML**

### **Mite Boxes? What are Mites All About?**

Upon entering our sanctuary at Christ Lutheran on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month, we are greeted by a large cardboard box decorated with a purple and white LWML emblem. An announcement through our one-call phone system goes out monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week to remind members to bring their Mite Boxes to church. Little boxes containing coins, dollars, and even checks, are deposited into that big box with the purple emblem. Many of us are familiar with this event, but some members have no idea what this is all about. Do you know what this activity is or why we do it? What are mites really all about?

In the early 1800s, women's groups called "cent" or "mite" societies began throughout the United States with a focus on raising funds for important church projects and missions. Little boxes first appeared in 1871 when the Baptist "Woman's Mission to Woman" urged their members to use little printed boxes that had been distributed to raise funds for mission projects.

Over the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies also used a little box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the box collected regular contributions of "mites" — small offerings given above and beyond the support given to the local church. By giving just a little extra from each household, the message and love of Jesus could be spread throughout the world through mission work. The Mite Box was born.

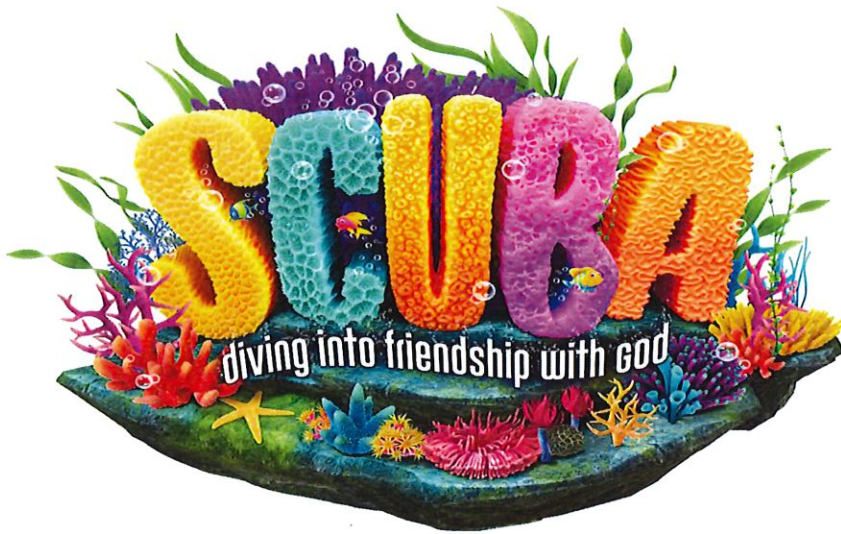
When the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was formally organized in 1942, national and district mission projects were established. From each local church's Mite Box gifts, 75% of the mites stayed regionally within the district to support local missionary projects, and 25% of all Mite Box gifts from each district are sent for national and international LWML missions.

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML mission projects to proclaim the Gospel message of Jesus. Today, LWML supports and funds mission projects locally and throughout the world with millions of dollars annually given in love through our Mite Boxes.

### **The Widow's Mite**

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41-43).*

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



# Upcoming Events:

- Friends Supporting Friends—Mondays at 11 am
- July 1st@7 pm Council Meeting
- July 7th and July 14th-Holy Communion at both services
- July 9th@7 pm Call Committee Meeting
- July 20th@4 pm CornHole tournament

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July 7  
July 14  
July 21  
July 28

Donna Hassman  
Kathy Williams  
Carol Taylor  
Linda Davis





### July Birthdays

- 01 Michelle Nuss
- 02 Kathi Payne
- 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 Roger Schmick
- 26 Henry Tift
- 29 Aaron Morris
- 29 Patricia Laiacona

### July Anniversaries

- 06 Tom & Pat Laiacona
- 29 Janet & John Filling



The task of caring for others can be overwhelming. It can be a huge responsibility and should not be entered into alone. Stephen Ministers have the support of their fellow Stephen Ministers. We are often called upon to be the spiritual support for someone who is providing care for a loved one. It is important to remember that we are never alone. God is with us.

God has created people to be multifaceted by nature. We are physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual beings. The spiritual dimension is the focal point for the Christian caregiver.

As we seek to understand spiritual needs more fully, both in ourselves and others, listen to Paul's words in **2 Corinthians 4:6** *"For it is God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

God has given us the cure for our spiritual needs through Jesus. As caregivers we relate to other's deep spiritual needs. With God's help we reach out and share Christ's love with others who have spiritual needs and hurts.

If someone you know is facing a challenge and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: **Aileen Watkins 302-930-7070, Kathryn Lamberton 302-841-9622, or Pastor Rogers at 443-523-8579.**

**Mark Your Calendar for Future LWML Activities!**

**August 15 – LWML Meeting @ 2pm.** This meeting is our annual brainstorming and planning session. Have ideas? Come and share them. Help plan our year with mission projects, fellowship activities, Bible studies, and more. Please join us!


**Sept. 20-22, 2024 – Chesapeake District LWML District Convention @ Hyatt Regency, Herndon, VA.** Save the date and mark your calendar for our biannual District Convention. We would love to send a large group of members to participate in worship, activities, and fellowship. Our new Chesapeake District 2024-2026 Mite projects will be selected at convention.



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# July 2024

This is a blank and printable July Calendar. Downloaded from [WinCalendar.com](http://WinCalendar.com)

July 2024						Aug 2024 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 11 am Friends Supporting Friends 7 pm Council Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Office Closed 	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>
<b>7</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>8</b> 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Call Committee	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</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>15</b> 11:00 Friends Supporting Friends	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Office Closed	<b>20</b> 4-7 pm Cornhole Tournament
<b>21</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 Mite Box Sunday	<b>22</b> 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 am Praise Service 9:45 am Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Service	<b>29</b> VACATION 11 am Friends Supporting Friends	<b>30</b> BIBLE	<b>31</b> SCHOOL			