

Seafarers International House

2016 Annual Report



*L e t
mutual love continue. Do
not forget to entertain strangers, for
by so doing, some people have entertained
angels without knowing it. Remember those
in prison as if you were in prison with them, and
those who are mistreated as if you yourselves
were suffering. (Hebrews 13:1-3)*



January 2017

We have entered a whirlpool. Social conventions, economic truths and political consensus have been upended. Nearly all our self-evident values have been sucked into a vortex of fear, doubt and denial.

When Seafarers International House was established in 1873 it was one of a handful of missions in the United States that welcomed and offered assistance to newly arriving seafarers and immigrants. Acculturation and assimilation were not without challenges, but ultimately the country and its people pulled together and thrived.

Now, it seems that the country's welcome mat for seafarers, immigrants and travelers in general has been withdrawn. The lives of seafarers and immigrants have changed. They have become more vulnerable, and their needs have become more urgent. As a consequence, Seafarers International House is transitioning to respond to these changing and challenging urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

New Mission Statement

As part of this transition, Seafarers International House has adopted a new mission statement. Now, we are *"the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants."* Check out the following pages and see how we're working to restore a little hospitality in the world.

Lutheran Response to the Urgent Needs



L u t h

Seafarers International House is a social ministry agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a ministry partner of the ELCA synods of Metro New York, New Jersey, New England, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna (PA) and Delaware-Maryland.

To better serve seafarers in the Port of Philadelphia, we partner with the Seamen's Church Institute of Philadelphia (Episcopal).

To better serve seafarers in the Port of Baltimore, we partner with the Baltimore International Seafarers Center (Anglican).

To better serve immigrants in the greater metropolitan New York area, we partner with First Friends and Catholic Charities of New York (Roman Catholic), Human Rights First (secular), American Friends Committee (Quaker), Survivor of Torture Program (Bellevue Hospital–New York University), among others.

of Vulnerable Seafarers and Immigrants

e r a n



The ELCA is committed to fostering unity among the children of God for the sake of the world. It encourages the activity of ecumenical and interreligious life in this church and enhances the public commitments of the ELCA in Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith circles.

Seafarers International House endeavors to honor this ELCA commitment to inclusiveness.

While its roots are decidedly Lutheran, Seafarers International House's mission clientele are multi-national and multi-faith. We offer pastoral care, hospitality, social assistance, advocacy and prayer to all seafarers and immigrants without trepidation.

Lutheran **Response** to the Urgent Needs



R e s p

In 2016, Seafarers International House

- Boarded 1,686 merchant ships
- Visited and offered hospitality, social assistance and advocacy to 18,970 seafarers.
- Made over 3,145 van trips for seafarers between the piers and shopping malls and other destinations ashore.
- Transported 7,661 seafarers to and from their ships.
- Delivered 1,771 Christmas-at-Sea satchels to seafarers.
- Visited 356 asylum seekers held in prisons and immigration detention centers.
- Provided social worker assistance to 23 asylees (persons granted asylum)

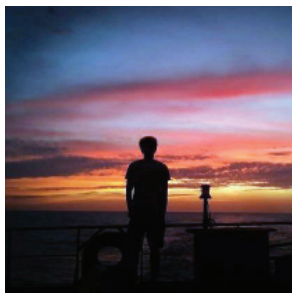
of Vulnerable Seafarers and Immigrants

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- Provided 805 nights of free lodging to asylees and other vulnerable immigrants.
- Provided emergency shelter in partnership with the American Red Cross of Greater New York to 72 victims.
- Hosted 181 church gatherings and 398 community group conferences.
- Expended \$535,800 (exclusive of lodging) on mission programs for seafarers and immigrants.
- Waived \$96,000 of revenues for immigrant lodging.
- Over 83% of total expenses went to mission programs and less than 17% went to administration and fundraising.

Lutheran Response to the Urgent Needs



U r g e n t

Neither seafarers nor immigrants are readily recognized.

They don't wear labels. Moreover, neither the docks, where the seafarers spend several hours or a couple of days nor the detention centers, where the immigrants, particularly asylum seekers, spend several months or a couple of years, are along the daily paths of those of us ashore.

Indeed, many Americans have no clue how the food and clothing get onto the store shelves; and many Americans have no clue how or even why people seek asylum in the United States. Before January 2017, seafarers and immigrants were barely within the American public's stream of consciousness.

Now, they have gained visibility in the public eye, unfortunately, as "foreigners" and "security risks".

In this context, the most urgent need seafarers and immigrants have is to be regarded as members of the human community, rather than social outcasts or violent predators.

of Vulnerable Seafarers and Immigrants

Needs



For years the United States has been nearly the only port state that would not allow a seafarer to disembark without a visa. Even with a visa, seafarers from Middle Eastern countries where the prevailing religion is Islam, are routinely denied shore leave.

For years, the United States has all but forgotten its roots in immigration. There are limits on the number of resettled refugees who may enter the country with threats of further cuts. While U.S. immigration laws do not impose a limit on the number of people who can be awarded asylum, the time elapsed before an asylum claim is adjudicated and the mandatory and demoralizing detention of asylum seekers pending the grant of asylum has the effect, if not the purpose, of discouraging persons from seeking asylum at all.

It's such a basic concept: all people need to be accorded basic dignity and acceptance, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religious beliefs or social status. But the concept seems to be so elusive to many.

Lutheran Response to the Urgent Needs



Vulnerable

We're land creatures. We all feel vulnerable in little more than a puddle. For seafarers, who spend an inordinate amount of time in the middle of some ocean, this sense of vulnerability is pronounced. Even the most seasoned seafarers know that the oceans can swallow them up without a trace.

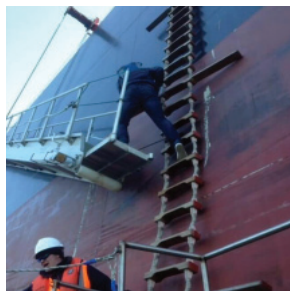
Even in good weather, the vast expanse of the seas leaves the seafarer vulnerable to profound loneliness and isolation. A ship cabin is a poor substitute for home. There are only a handful of crewmates on a given work shift, and with the advent of multinational crews and laptop computers, there's precious little interaction and socialization aboard ship.

Seafarers are also vulnerable to pirate attacks with the attendant fear of being held as a hostage and possibly maimed or killed as a ransom strategy.

Seafarers are vulnerable to unscrupulous ship operators who regularly try to cheat them out of their contractual wages and benefits or who will occasionally abandon the ship, leaving her crew with little or no food, water or means of repatriation. Even among large well-regarded shipping companies, financial difficulties

of Vulnerable Seafarers and Immigrants

Seafarers



can have a devastating impact on the seafarer. The interest of cargo owners, vessel supplier and other creditors seem to be regarded as more important than the discomfort of the stranded crews.

The United States typically refuses to allow seafarers without visa from coming ashore. But if the ship is suspected of ocean pollution, the crew will be removed from the ship and detained ashore as material witnesses for periods of months and years until the legal proceeding is completed, even though they lack visas.

Many of the ocean pollutions cases are settled with plea agreements imposing fines and penalties against the operator and incarceration of the chief engineer or offending crewmember. But rarely, if ever, does the plea agreement contain protection and continued employment of the innocent crew members who were forced to testify and will surely be blacklisted from future crew contracts or worse. Most of the countries from which seafarers hail are not known for exemplary human rights records.

These are the people who bring Americans 90% of what they eat, drive, wear and use in their households. Yet, when they are on the high seas and when they arrive in our ports, they are vulnerable.

Lutheran Response to the Urgent Needs



Vulnerable

There are many reasons why people decide to immigrate to the United States — democracy, peace, prosperity, good communities, career opportunities, good health care and better schools — all attributes about which Americans can feel proud.

There are many reasons why people decide to emigrate from their homelands — war, insurrection, famine, environmental degradation, intolerance and persecution on account of religion, ethnicity, political affiliations, social groupings, gender identity — all conditions about which Americans can feel empathy.

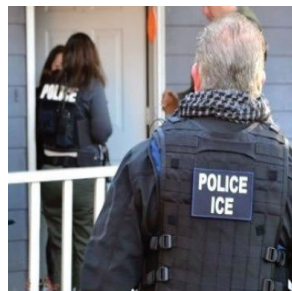
After centuries of welcoming the tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free, this country is circling the wagons, shutting the golden door and closing eyes to cruelty and deprivation in the world.

What happened?

We have become fearful that American culture, language and “exceptionalism” will be diluted, even lost with the continued arrival of foreigners.

of Vulnerable Seafarers Immigrants

Immigrants



Thus, immigrants are vulnerable. The relatively few that are accepted as resettled refugees will experience discrimination.

The folks who present themselves as asylum seekers on arrival here, will experience the trauma of handcuffs, leg shackles and imprisonment, compounding their earlier trauma from persecution abroad.

The folks who have lived in the United States for nearly their entire lives and never realized that they were undocumented infants when they arrived with their parents will experience late night home invasions by armed ICE officers.

Indeed, nearly anybody, including citizens, traveling to the United States now has to be concerned whether they'll be allowed to enter.

Ultimately, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and the other inalienable rights upon which the United States was founded will also become vulnerable to our own fear and xenophobia.

Lutheran Response to the Urgent Needs



We stand with seafarers. We stand with immigrants. Since 1873! Always Have, Always Will.

Our mission began as an outreach to Swedish seafarers and Swedish immigrants. Over the years, the mission evolved, based on the needs of the time. After the great wave of immigration from 1870 to 1920, the emphasis focused on seafarers for whom we provided safe, affordable lodging and a ministry of presence in the ports.

In the last ten years, the number of vulnerable immigrants coming to our shores and their harsh treatment by Government officials caused Seafarers International House to enlarge the use of its Guesthouse as a mission resource.

Today, we are proud of this dual mission for seafarers and vulnerable immigrants.

Our port mission for seafarers consist of seven port chaplains serving in ports in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The number of ships coming into these ports has decreased slightly in response to international trade levels and shipping routes. Moreover, new ships are designed for smaller crew sizes. Accordingly, the number of seafarers coming into our ports and staying at our Guesthouse has decreased over the last few years.

Our immigrant mission focuses primarily on asylum seekers, people who are forced to flee their homelands. There is considerable turmoil in the world, and today one out of every seven persons are displaced from their homelands due to war, insurrection, oppression, collapsed economies and natural disasters. Moreover, the United States has become increasingly fearful of the arrival of

of Vulnerable Seafarers and Immigrants

these folks arriving at our borders and our airports, seeking asylum. We risk becoming a xenophobic nation with only a core of citizens and institutions practicing philoxenia – welcoming the stranger.



This mission of welcome consists of visiting asylum seekers in the prisons and detention centers where they are held upwards of six months and more while they wait for the Immigration Court to hear and adjudicate their claims for asylum. After they are released, we are able to offer them temporary lodging in our Guesthouse. Last year, we visited 356 detained asylum seekers and provided needed lodging for 23 released ‘asylees’ over a period of 805 nights.

I get to know nearly all the asylees who come and stay with us for 3-9 weeks. In every single case I see the resilience, the urgency and the sheer determination of each person released from detention. They find jobs and apartments. They support themselves and become productive members of society. Without exception, they “pay their own way”, contrary to the stereotype that migrants are parasites on our country. And so it often comes to pass: time and time again, I visit detainees in the detention center one month and find that they are released to our care a month or two later.

We stand with immigrants and seafarers in whatever number and with whatever need they are presented to us. Always Have. Always Will.

Blessings,

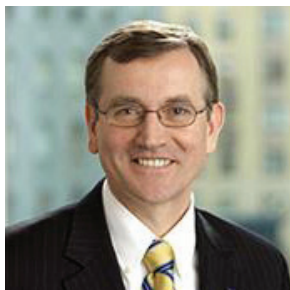
Marsh Luther Drege

2016 Outstandings Friends of Seafarers

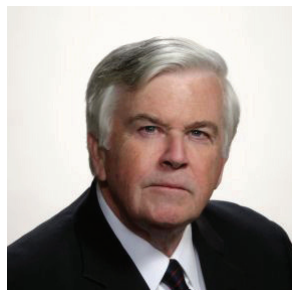


H. Marshall Ainley

At the 15th Annual *Setting the Course* Awards Banquet on April 21, 2016, Marshall Ainley (President of M.E.B.A.), Ian Blackley (President & CEO of OSG) and Ray Burke (Partner of Burke & Parsons) were honored by Seafarers International



Ian T. Blackley



Raymond J. Burke, Jr.

House. The banquet supports its port mission and honors leaders in the maritime community. We are grateful to these honorees, the maritime business, labor unions service organizations and individuals for their generous support.

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Bruce H. Davidson



Elisa Massimino

At the 3rd Annual Right of Asylum Mission Reception on October 18, 2016, Bruce Davidson (ELCA retired pastor) and Elisa Massimino (President & CEO of Human Rights First) were honored by Seafarers International House. The reception

supports its immigrant mission, raises awareness of the plight of immigrants and honors people who have dedicated their lives to helping immigrants. We're grateful to the humanitarian communities for their generous support.

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Financial

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Revenues	\$2,589,339	\$2,783,865
Program Services	2,090,187	2,175,787
Support Services	411,191	429,707
Change in Net Assets from Operations	227,156	68,896

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Summary

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Unrestricted Assets	\$5,138,653	\$4,806,322
Restricted Assets	346,243	451,418
Liabilities	346,581	376,238
Net Worth	5,138,315	4,881,502

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Your Gift to Seafarers in Port Baltimore

The Port of Baltimore



is Seafarers International House's newest port mission. In 2015, there were 1,826 ship arrivals in Baltimore, a four percent increase over 2014, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration.

Greater port chaplain resources are needed to meet the needs in this port. Donations from Delaware and Maryland entities and individuals are critical to sustaining a more robust port

ministry in the Port of Baltimore.

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Your Gift to Seafarers in Port Philadelphia

The Port of Philadelphia stretches over 130 miles along the Delaware River. In 2015, there were 895 ship arrivals in Philadelphia, a 21% drop from 2014. Nevertheless, with port terminals stretched over such a large area, it takes longer for port chaplains to reach the ships and serve their crews.



Donations from Pennsylvania entities and individuals are critical for our port chaplains to reach seafarers in need of assistance in the Port of Philadelphia.

Thank You to Our 2016 Donors

& Ms. Mary Jane Cullinan
Mr. William D. Romaine
Ms. Elizabeth A. Rowen
Ms. Janet Rudolph
Ms. Ruth E. Ruediger
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(Turnersville NJ)

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Mr. Guan Yang
Ms. Ann Zawistowski
Mr. & Mrs. Forrest L. Zetterberg
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Ch.
(Orwigsburg PA)

Thank You for 2016 Christmas-at-Sea

Advent Lutheran Church
(New York NY)
Advent Lutheran Church
(Wyckoff NJ)
Albion Correctional Facility
"Butterflies"
Ms. Nancy Anderson
Ms. Susan Symth Bell
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
(North Baldwin NY)
Calvary Lutheran Church

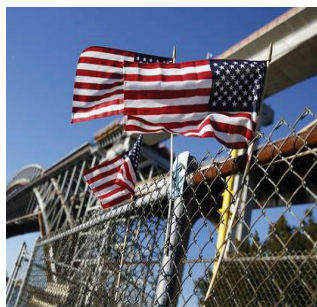
(Allendale NJ)
Christ Lutheran Church
(Islip Terrace NY)
Christ Lutheran Church
(Minot ND)
Christ Lutheran Church
(Wantagh NY)
Christ Lutheran Church
(Whiting NJ)
Christ Lutheran Church
(Woodcliff Lake NJ)

Christ United Lutheran Church
(Ashland PA)
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur W. Clark
Covenant Lutheran Church
(Ridgewood NY)
Emanuel Lutheran Church
(New Haven CT)
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
(Pleasantville NY)

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Your Gift to Seafarers in Port NY-NJ

Even with a three percent decrease in ship arrivals, the Port of New York and New Jersey remains the third largest port in the United States. There were 4,547 ships arriving in the port in 2015, carrying 5,520,199



TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent container units). Having raised the Bayonne Bridge roadway from 151 feet to 215 feet, so-called post-Panamax ships will be able to access all the terminals in the port. The port calls of these larger ships likely will be longer.

Donations for New York and New Jersey entities and individuals are needed to assure that our four port chaplains assigned to the port will be able to take advantage of the longer port calls to better serve the crews of these larger ships.

Thank You for 2016 Christmas-at-Sea

Episcopal Church Center (New York NY)	Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Ch. (New York NY)	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Bangor PA)
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Duncansville PA)	Holy Nativity Lutheran Church (Endicott NY)	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Rockaway NJ)
Ms. Susan Ferraro	Immanuel Lutheran Church (Holden MA)	Mr. & Mrs. William Reagan
First Lutheran Church (Clifton NJ)	Immanuel Lutheran Church (Kingston NY)	Reformation Lutheran Church (West Long Branch NJ)
First Lutheran Church (Fargo ND)	Ms. Kelly Kandler	Mr & Mrs. Karl H. Reko
Ms. June Garger	Ms. Margaret King	Mr. Thomas Richards
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Florham Park NJ)	Ms. Karen Krick	Ms. Patricia Roehrer
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Glen Rock NJ)	Mr. & Mrs. Regnal Leibensperger	Salem Lutheran Church (Bridgeport CT)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Kingston NY)	Ms. Louise Litke	Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Setaro
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Little Egg Harbor NJ)	Ms. Pam MacCormack	Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Ch. (Dushore PA)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Point Pleasant Beach NJ)	Mazeppa Union Church (Lewisburg PA)	St. Barnabas Lutheran Church (Howard Beach NY)
Grace & St. Paul Lutheran Church (New York NY)	Messiah Lutheran Church (Staten Island NY)	St. Jacobi Lutheran Church (Brooklyn NY)
Grace Lutheran Church (Astoria NY)	Nelson, Dianne & Sigurd	St. Jacobi Lutheran Church (Shohola PA)
Grace Lutheran Church (Bayonne NJ)	New Hope Lutheran Church (Jamaica NY)	St. John First Lutheran Church (Perth Amboy NJ)
Grace Lutheran Church (Wyndmoor PA)	Oceanside Lutheran Church (Oceanside NY)	St. John Lutheran Church (Lancaster NY)
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	Our Savior Lutheran Church (Croton-on-Hudson NY)	
	Our Saviour Lutheran Church (Fairfield CT)	
	Our Saviour Lutheran Church (Patchogue NY)	

Continued on page 24

Your Gift to Seafarers in Port Connecticut

Connecticut has three ports, Bridgeport, New Haven and New London spread 65 miles apart. In 2015, there were 121 ship arrivals in New Haven, 22 in New London and one in Bridgeport.

Nearly all of the vessels calling on the ports in Connecticut belong to small operators and are older, less well maintained and more poorly provisioned. The needs of the seafarers aboard these ships is correspondingly greater.

It is expected that the post-Panamax ships arriving in the larger ports will push out smaller vessels to ports in Connecticut. Donations from New England entities and individuals will be required, therefore, to enable our port chaplain to meet the greater number of seafarers, some with acute needs.



Thank You for 2016 Christmas-at-Sea

St. John Lutheran Church
(Passaic NJ)
St. John Lutheran Church
(Poughkeepsie NY)
St. John St. Matthew
Emanuel Lutheran Church
(Brooklyn NY)
St. Luke Lutheran Church
(Baltimore MD)
St. Luke Lutheran Church
(Williamsport PA)
St. Matthew Trinity
(Hoboken NJ)
St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Auburn PA)
St. Paul Lutheran Church
(East Windsor NJ)
St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Orwigsburg PA)
St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Pittsford NY)
St. Peter Union Church
(Macungie PA)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
(Feasterville PA)
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
(Marborough MA)
St. Thomas Lutheran Church
(Brick NJ)
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
(Wayne NJ)
Ms. Gloria Suranofsky
Third Lutheran Church
(Rhinebeck NY)
Trinity Lutheran Church
(Ashaway PA)
Trinity Lutheran Church
(Brewster NY)
Trinity Lutheran Church
(New Haven CT)
Trinity Lutheran Church
(Robesonia PA)
Trinity Lutheran Church
(Shelton CT)
U.S. Merchant Marine
Academy

Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA
Village Lutheran Church
(Bronxville NY)
Ms. Jennifer K. Vizina
Mr. & Mrs. Edward O. Wagner
WELCA Gethsemane Lutheran
(Manchester NH)
WELCA Trinity Lutheran
(Brewster NY)
Ms. Shirleen Wyland
WELCA Zion Lutheran
(Rahway NJ)
Zion Lutheran Church
(Minersville PA)
Zion Lutheran Church
(Orwigsburg PA)

Thank You Immigration Volunteers

Vanessa Alvarado
Loren Amor
Stephen Bennett
David Bullock
Jordan Byrne
Suzanne Campisi
John Cigolini
Nancy Cigolini
Art Clark
Ginny Clark
Ian Andrew Clarke
Zach Dean
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Thomas Dorsey
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Barbara Scatturro
Alice Schwartz
Marty Schwartz
Elizabeth Sevilla
Greg Simpson
Jeena Thomas
Pierre Thompson
John Tiedemann
Rachel Zarnke
Maryam Zoma

Thank You to Our 2016 Cookie Bakers

Christ Lutheran Church
(Whiting NJ)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Ch.
(Florham Park NJ)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Ch.
(Point Pleasant Beach NJ)
Ms. Elvira Hoegh
Holy Nativity Lutheran Ch.
(Endicott NY)
Immanuel Lutheran
(Kingston NY)
Oceanside Lutheran Church
(Oceanside NY)

Redeemer Lutheran
(Kingston NY)
William M. Rex
Patricia Roehrer
Lois Rumpfelt
Rev. Dr. K. Robert Schmitt
St. Jacobi Lutheran Church
(Shohola PA)
St. Mathew's Trinity
(Hoboken NJ)
St. Paul's Lutheran
(Auburn PA)

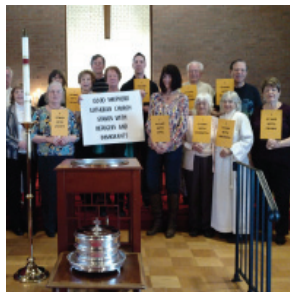
St. Peter Union
(Macungie PA)
The Madison Church
(Madison NH)
Trinity Lutheran Church,
(Brewster NY)
United Lutheran
(Mt. Vernon NY)
Upper Susquehanna Synod
New Jersey Synod WELCA
Zion Lutheran Church
(Orwigsburg PA)

Your Gift to Asylum Seekers in NY-NJ

For the next few years, there is little reason to believe that asylum seekers will be allowed to await their Immigration Court hearings without being detained and imprisoned.

Therefore, Seafarers International House will continue to encourage volunteers to visit asylum seekers in the Elizabeth Detention Center and other local prisons. And Seafarers International House will continue to provide lodging and social assistance to recently released asylees.

The detention of asylum seekers offends our moral sensibilities. Donations from entities and individuals throughout the country are needed to equip our visiting volunteers and to provide our asylees with lodging, assistance and a little hospitality and decency.



Thank You Homeport Society Members

Ms. Susan Smyth Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Donald DeLuca
Mr. Paul K. Erbes
Mr. & Mrs. C. Harry Forse
Rev. & Mrs. David L. Hurty

Mr. Gerard Marion
The late Rev. John C. Melin
Mr. Matthew D. O'Rear
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher V. Roehrer
Mr. & Mrs. Edward O. Wagner

If all ships become unmanned, fully robotic vessels, and if there were no persecution and no need to flee and seek asylum elsewhere, then the mission of Seafarers International House no longer would be needed. But that's only a dream. In all probability, the need for this Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants likely will continue long after most of us have entered the Church Triumphant.

The HOMEPORST SOCIETY consists of people who realize this, and want to continue to support Seafarers International House long after their demise with an estate gift. Please think about joining the HOMEPORST SOCIETY. Call 212-677-4800 (ext. 1203) for more information.

Thank You Lighthouse Keepers

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What is the best charitable gift? One that's not so small that you feel guilty. One that's not so large gift that you feel stressed. It's a gift in just the right amount to bring you joy.

From the charity's point of view, the best gift is also the one that arrives on a regular basis, allowing the charity to better budget its mission programs and services. LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS is an automated giving facility, that allows you to make a monthly or quarterly gift by EFT (electronic funds transfer) or credit card in whatever amount you choose. It's safe and convenient. Call 212-677-4800 (ext. 1203) for more information.

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Seafarers International House

123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003

212-677-4800 (seven days a week, 24 hours a day)

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