



# Albany Maritime Ministry

Welcoming seafarers along the Hudson River in New York's Capital District

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A ministry of the Capital Area Council of Churches

## Spring/Summer News

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### Grateful for Supporters and Volunteers

Through the invaluable generosity of our supporters and volunteers, we continue to welcome seafarers who dock in our area, and distributed numerous shoebox gifts at Christmastide. We also purchased three Chromebooks for the Seafarer Center, which were installed by Rev. Rees-Rohrbacher. The gifts and Chromebooks are especially valued because they help alleviate the isolation and loneliness of those who work at sea.



We are grateful for donations from Resurrection Church in Cairo, NY, and Thrivent, with thanks to Rev. Vernon Victorson, our former board president. Thanks go to all!

*Chaplain Rev. Hempel at our 2017 Open House, talking with Rev. Landry, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Loudonville, NY.*

### Ahoy, New Board Member

Rev. John Medwid has been elected to our board. John is the pastor of First Lutheran Church in Albany, the the oldest congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He brings to our ministry a vast resume of experience, having worked with diverse populations since his ordination in 1990. Welcome aboard, Rev. Medwid!

### Sea Sunday 2018

For over 160 years, Sea Sunday has been marked as a day of global recognition for those who transport our material goods by sea, and with great sacrifice to their own lives. Sea Sunday usually focuses on prayer, church services and fundraising. This year, on **July 8**, we ask you to join thousands of others from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who gather to pray, celebrate and fundraise for the needs of seafarers. Packages of information, including sermon notes and posters, are available at the *Mission to Seafarers' Sea Sunday* webpage.

#### Highlights:

- ♦ Grateful for supporters and volunteers
- ♦ Ahoy, new board member
- ♦ Sea Sunday 2018
- ♦ Speaker available for your meeting
- ♦ Call for volunteers
- ♦ Our clothing bank needs refilling
- ♦ **Sidebar:** piracy attacks

### Piracy Attacks: No Light Entertainment

Journalist Steve Matthews recently compared the persistent danger of piracy with transient media attention on the 2013 film, *Captain Phillips*. The film featured Tom Hanks as the hero captain of a container ship, *Maersk Alabama*, which was hijacked off the coast of Somalia in 2009. Since 2013, piracy has disappeared from the news as if the problem has been solved. Even so, thousands of maritime workers remain vulnerable every hour that they are at work. In 2017, alone, 180 piracy and armed robbery incidents were reported to the International Maritime Bureau. Ninety-one seafarers were taken hostage and 75 kidnapped.

“The drama of Captain Phillips may be entertaining viewing in the comfort of our own homes,” Matthews writes, “but it should also remind us that we cannot be complacent about attacks on ships and seafarers and must support those unfortunate enough to fall victim and back necessary actions to prevent such attacks in the future.”

\* Jan. 31, 2018, [missiontoseafarers.org](http://missiontoseafarers.org)

### Speakers Available for Your Meeting

We are available to speak about the plight of the seafarer and the work of Albany Maritime Ministry in addressing their needs. Please contact us.

### Call for Volunteers

Our ecumenical ministry has been busy welcoming seafarers along the Hudson River in our area, and we need more volunteers to support this growing effort. Various opportunities exist and training is provided. All you need is a warm smile and a little time to spare, as fits your own schedule. Please contact us through our website, email, phone, or by scanning the QR code (left) on your mobile device.



### Our Clothing Bank Needs Refilling

Seafarers travel on both sides of the equator and they often work in challenging weather conditions. They need warm, protective clothes at all times of the year. We try to supply that need, but our clothing bank is running low on supplies. Please consider donating some of your unused work clothes.



*Seafarer on watch*  
*"I was a stranger and you took me in."*  
*Matt. 25:35*

### WE NEED MEN'S SIZES S, M, L

JEANS

SOCKS

WARM JACKETS

OTHER WORK CLOTHES



### A Prayer for Seafarers

LORD God, we thank You for seafarers who transport many of our daily needs. Watch over them, keep them from danger, befriend them in loneliness, and bring them safely home to those they love. AMEN