



Seafarers International House

MISSION STATEMENT

Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

HISTORY

SIH was founded in 1873 by the Augustana Lutheran Church as a mission to Swedish seafarers and immigrants in the Port of New York. Seafarers International House became an affiliated mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1987.

PORT MISSION AND CHAPLAINS

Time in ports is short ranging from a few hours to three days depending on the cargo. In a US port, a foreign seafarer will be regarded as a national security threat and is often denied shore leave. Seafarers International House Port Chaplains and volunteers assist mariners by providing WiFi hotspots to connect them to their families and friends, and for those that are able to leave the ship they offer transport to medical facilities or shopping malls. Many crew members also order necessities online and have the port chaplains deliver them when they visit. Most importantly, Seafarers International House staff spend time lending an ear, offering council, meeting spiritual needs, and advocating on behalf of seafarers regardless of faith or nationality.

IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Seafarers International House's work with immigrants focuses on asylum seekers, survivors of violence, and human trafficking, as well as other displaced people. Since 1873, we give hope and offer hospitality in form of temporary lodging to people who otherwise might face the risk of becoming homeless. Our social worker intern, through referrals from our approved partner agencies, helps asylees navigate the red tape to find employment and permanent housing.



Learn more

Please pray for our global partners.
If you wish to join the USS Global
Ministry team, email
annzimmerman@hotmail.com



Donate!



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Christmas-at-Sea

90% of global trade is transported on the high seas by crew members on container ships who remain invisible to most people. These seafarers are the “unseen essential workers” and are overworked, frustrated and lonely.

Therefore, we invite you to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas.

Please consider packing a satchel with the following items:

- **One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)**
- **Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym**
- **One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL)**
- **One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please)**
- **One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Health Snack Bar**
- **A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!**

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M, L, or XL on the back side.

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, because **you** have shared the spirit of Christmas with seafarers!

The Upper Susquehanna Synod is collecting satchels until November 5, 2024. Contact 570-524-9778 or brenda@uss-elca.org for details.
Thanks for supporting Seafarer's International House!

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