



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

SUN, DECEMBER 3: Albany Maritime Ministry to Collect Christmas at Sea donations at Holiday Open House

(November 29, 2023) On Sunday, December 3 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, the Albany Maritime Ministry will be collecting Christmas at Sea donations at a Holiday Open House at the William G. Hempel Seafarer Center (109 Smith Blvd) at the Port of Albany.

The Christmas at Sea/Hospitality program distributes a gift-wrapped shoebox/small box that can be distributed to seafarers who are away at sea and far from home. Suggested items for donation include:

- Clothing (knit caps, gloves, work gloves, warm socks, sweatshirt)
- Stationery (writing paper, envelopes, notepads, pencils, pens)
- Toiletries (razor, shaving cream, toothbrush/toothpaste, deodorant, combs, etc.)
- AA/AAA batteries
- Inexpensive electronic accessories (earbuds, charging cords, etc.)
- Puzzles, word searches, books

-NO CANDY OR ALCOHOL PLEASE-

Albany Maritime Ministry is an ecumenical association that welcomes seafarers that dock in the Capital District. Led by Rev. Kate Drefke, Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (Troy) and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Poestenkill (Poestenkill), Rev. D. Lowell Chilton, Pastor of First Lutheran Church (Albany), and a volunteer board, the Albany Maritime Ministry addresses seafarers' spiritual, family, and material needs; advocates for seafarers' rights; welcomes seafarers aboard their ship when they cannot come ashore; collaborates with related agencies worldwide; and offers special programs and services, such as Christmas at Sea.

For more information, visit <https://albanymm.us/ChristmasAtSea.html>

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With four transport modes -- ocean vessels, barges, freight railroads, interstate highways -- the Port of Albany is Upstate New York's largest public port/logistics hub and serves as a Port of Entry with on-site U.S. Customs office and bonded warehouse. The Port is open and active year-round and includes deep-water shipping access and approximately 450 acres of land on both sides of the Hudson River in three municipalities. The Port of Albany is located 124 nautical miles north of

the Battery in New York Harbor. The facility is currently undertaking nearly \$50 million in maritime upgrades and investment as well as a \$700+ million Port expansion project. For more information, visit www.portofalbany.us.