

# Heartbeats

The Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church – Egg Harbor City, NJ

September – October 2019

## You're Invited to Advent Dinner Church!

Pastor and theological writer Peter Marty writes, “The company around a table is sacramental. The human bonds that spring from it are sacramental. And yes, the food upon it is sacramental.” And I hope that you have no trouble saying, “Yes, indeed!” to this idea. I hope you can readily recall times when sharing food has made you sure and certain that God’s love for you is real and present.

Our primary sacramental meal is, of course, the Lord’s Supper. But food and drink can also be sacramental as we: share traditional holiday meals with our families; gather for a hunt club dinner; eat a to-go meal on the tailgate of our truck before a soccer game; or pass a bowl of spaghetti and meatballs around the dinner table. The food and fellowship of all these meals – and many others – nourishes us in body and spirit. Sacramental meals enable the building and strengthening of relationships and remind us of our interconnectedness with each other and all creation. Peter Marty also writes: “Dead olives, dead rye crisp and dead Cheerios come to life in the cells of our bodies. A sea bass or a corn cob gives up its life so that another life may prosper. A transformation takes place through the mystery of a meal. Death gets resurrected into new life.”

We usually keep our everyday meals separate from the meal that Jesus hosts. However, the early church did not. They remembered well how Jesus regularly accepted invitations to dinner parties. He ate with friends and disciples, critics

and opponents, tax-collectors and sinners. In later times, the church got away from that practice. But in recent years Christians have started meeting for “dinner church.” Dinner church combines the sharing of the bread and beverage of the Lord’s supper with a community meal.

There are various ways of doing this, but the format is usually something like this: the sharing of the bread of the Lord’s Supper; a pot-luck meal; the reading of a bible story; some conversation at the table about the story; a sharing in the clearing-up the meal; and then the sharing of the drink portion of the Lord’s Supper as people prepare to head home. (The practice is often to consecrate grape juice so that everyone is offered a drink-size portion as a sign of God’s gracious generosity.)

So please mark your calendars! We are going to hold an Advent Dinner Church on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 p.m. I hope you’ll mark the time as a break from the busyness of preparing for the birth of Christ so that together we might be transformed through the mystery of a meal!

God’s peace to you in the living out of your faith,  
Pastor Kathleen

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## ELCA Churchwide Assembly Update

Every three years the ELCA convenes a Churchwide Assembly where voting members from ELCA synods:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide leaders and units;
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies;
- Elect leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws;
- Adopt a budget;
- Establish ELCA churchwide policies;
- And conduct other business related to

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly was held August 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This letter from Bishop Bartholomew describes actions taken at the 2019 Assembly. (*Please note: the ELCA has chosen to use the word “sanctuary” to describe the full range of support it gives to refugees and immigrants. I do wish that it had chosen a word other than “sanctuary” to describe its activities since “sanctuary” is often used in one very specific way and the ELCA does not advocate engaging in illegal activities. But please – read on! And if you’d like to read more, follow the links!*)

*Dear Friends,*

*I just returned from our ELCA Churchwide Assembly, along with almost 1000 other voting members (including 13 others from our synod1). We spent six days listening, discussing, praying, singing, meeting new friends, and living out our faith. We re-elected Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to a second six-year term and elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer to a six-year term as secretary. A number of memorials and resolutions were debated and adopted covering a variety of topics. Constitutional amendments were approved (or defeated), including a provision that declares ordination to be the entrance rite for deacons to come onto the roster*

*of the ELCA. The ELCA offered an [Apology to the African Descent Community](#) for systemic racism and oppression in the church – the Apology was accepted by the African Descent Lutheran Association. We began a year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women, 40th Ordination Anniversary of the first African-American woman, and 10th Anniversary of the church removing barriers to ordination for LGBTQ people. We adopted a social statement called [Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action](#) and [a policy statement on inter-religious engagement.](#)*

*While the assembly engaged in a lot of work and stopped for worship in the middle of each day, I have only seen headlines about two actions – a prayer walk to the ICE office in Milwaukee and the approval of a memorial naming the [ELCA a sanctuary church body](#). Both actions are public witnesses to our standing with refugees and asylum seekers, working for improved immigration policies, accompanying the most vulnerable among us, and praying for all who seek safer homes. Praying for an end to the detention of children seeking asylum and an end for the separation of families at our southern border is in line with the biblical call to love our neighbors.*

*The word “sanctuary” when used in the context of immigration, can be understood in many ways; there is no legal definition of sanctuary. For some, the word elicits an emotional response, even without being sure what it means. In 2016, the ELCA adopted the [AMMPARO strategy](#) which speaks about sanctuary as everything from holding English classes to housing people to writing to congress – all of these are ways of being sanctuary. This action does not ask for anyone to engage in illegal behavior.*

*(continued page 5)*

## Sharing our Altar Flowers

If you know people who might be cheered or comforted by receiving flowers from our altar, we'd like to hear about it! After service, just go into the sacristy and let the Altar Guild members know. They'll be to hear your suggestions and happy to have your help in delivering them if you're willing. After second service, they'll put the flowers in a painted coffee can for easy handling and give you a bulletin to bring along. Then you can have the pleasure of brightening someone's day with a gift of flowers!

Note: Deliveries don't have to happen on Sundays. If you can deliver flowers during the week, call the office and let us know. We'll put your name on a list so the Altar Guild can reach out to you for your help.

Thanks for considering how you can be part of this ministry!

### Worship Assistants Always Needed – All Ages! On-the-job training provided!

We are always in need of people to light candles, receive the offering, serve communion, read bible lessons and hand out bulletins. Kids, teens and adults are all welcome to participate in doing all these things! It isn't hard and it's a nice feeling to be part of making worship happen. If you'd like to give this a try, just call the church office and we'll add you to the schedule. (Call 609-965-1813.)



On **Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we will have one service at 9:30. We will celebrate All Saints Sunday with a blended service and a remembrance of those who have died in the past year.

After the service we will have a **Congregational Meeting**. At this meeting the Safe People Committee will share information about steps Zion has taken to help ensure people are safe as they participate in church activities. This meeting will include our first evacuation drill!

Please make a note on your calendars and plan to be here on November 3<sup>rd</sup> for All Saints Day worship and this very important congregational meeting!

### YOU CAN HELP FAMILY PROMISE OF ATLANTIC COUNTY:

Make a \$5.00 donation and receive a **25% shopping pass** for Boscov's that can be used all day on Wednesday, October 16th. We have the passes in the office so stop by and get one please!

Visit **Mickey and Minnie's Inn** on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 11am until 8pm for an **Oktoberfest Fundraiser!** FPAC will receive 10% of the proceeds for the day and you get to eat a delicious German meal.



# Doing God's Work with Our Hands Takes Many Hands!

Grateful thanks to these people for doing God's work with their hands since the last newsletter:

- Megan Kelley and the Friendship Committee for the confirmation reception, "Donuts with Dads" event, and our church picnic. And a special thanks to Janis Meekins and Bryan Nutall for bringing their food truck to the picnic!
- All those who worked on painting the Patio Room, the connector, and the Marucci Garden furniture: Brad Cahalan; Joe Cahalan; John Cahalan; Katie Cahalan; Lisa Denelsbeck; Jackie Ferguson; CJ Gonzalez; Jim Harris; Bill Kaluhiokalani; Champ Kaluhiokalani; Maria McIntyre; Paul McIntyre; Acxel Saravia; Linda Stewart; and Lisa Sweiderk. Plus a special thank-you to Jodi Cahalan for coordinating the project!
- Pete Butler, Terry Ferrante, and Pastor Kathleen who delivered the 2019 batch of Sewing Ladies Quilts to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Vineland (The Ladies made 166 quilts!)
- Rich Howey for mowing the church lawn all summer, digging out the dead boxwoods in the Marucci Garden, and pruning the remaining bushes.
- Hans Mueller for servicing some of our air conditioning units.
- An anonymous helper who made repairs to our emergency lights.

## Our Vacation Bible School ROARED!



We had an energized and engaging VBS full of singing, dancing, learning, snacking, and faith-building. And once again it was a great team effort with dozens of people helping to make it possible. A special thanks to the coordinators (listed below) and a big thank-you to the families who supported their kids' participation in the program and to everyone who served as group leaders, registration hostesses, projectionists, furniture and set movers, and donors of snack food.

Linda Stewart – was the overall "ROAR" coordinator and the mastermind behind the set design

Jaime Howey – was our Wild Bible Adventures storyteller and Safari Celebration leader

Lisa Denelsbeck and Lisa Sweiderk – made science and magic happen at Imagination Station

Carol Faust and Rich Howey – shared their acting skills

Judy Findeison – fed the Hungry Herd every day

Megan Kelley – introduced the kids to children from other lands at Kid-Vid Cinema

Judy Findeison, Megan Kelly, Dawn Naylor and Lisa Sweiderk – created sets and decorations

Cadence Findeison, McKenna Kelley and Donna Uecker – taught us the songs and dances

*(continued from first page)*

*Because we are church in three expressions (congregations, synods, and churchwide) the decision made at the Churchwide Assembly to become a sanctuary church body, only applies to the churchwide expression. Any congregation or synod wishing to become a sanctuary entity is free to decide to do so, or not. No congregation or synod is compelled to take on that designation. If a congregation wishes to become a sanctuary entity, it should also decide what that will mean.*

*We have congregations in our synod that already do the work of being sanctuary, some with an official designation and others working quietly behind the scenes. As a synod, we are committed to calling for immigration reform, to supporting a ministry for those in the Elizabeth Detention Center (under the leadership of Pastor Ramon Collazo), and to working with neighbors who make NJ home. This commitment is long-standing and unwavering.*

*In the coming weeks, the voting members from our synod will share reflections of the Churchwide Assembly with you through Jersey Jottings. I hope you will read them and then thank those who gathered for this holy time of being church. Behind the headlines and social media posts, the Holy Spirit called, gathered, and breathed life into the assembly. I am grateful to be a part of such a church.*

*Peace,*

*Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew*



The monthly brown-bag lunch bible study is continuing to meet (see below for dates). It meets in the Gathering Room from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Bring your lunch, a bible and your curiosity! Any bible translation may be used – the group likes comparing what they say.

**Upcoming sessions:**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>October 22:</b>  | Mary and Martha: Jesus' Family of Choice  |
| <b>Reading:</b>     | Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; Luke 10:38-42; John 11; John 12:1-9 |
| <b>November 26:</b> | Herodias and Herodias: Not so Sexy after All                                    |
| <b>Reading:</b>     | Mathew 14; Mark 6; Luke 3   |
| <b>December 17</b>  | Priscilla & Phoebe and Lydia & Rhoda: Paul's Church Ladies                      |
| <b>Reading:</b>     | Acts 18; Romans 16; Acts 16; Acts 12  |

# Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain

Nikki Nichols, Substance Abuse Navigator and Court Advocate for Cape Assist will be our guest speaker on **Sunday, October 27** to present "***Marijuana and the Adolescent Brain.***"

The program will be held 1:00 -2:30 pm. and will include the following topics:

- What is happening with marijuana?
- Trends in youth use
- New methods of injecting marijuana
- How to spot marijuana use, vaping
- The impact marijuana use has on the adolescent brain

The program is free and open to the public and will include time for discussion. We encourage all parents to attend, along with all adults who coach, teach, or volunteer with youth!

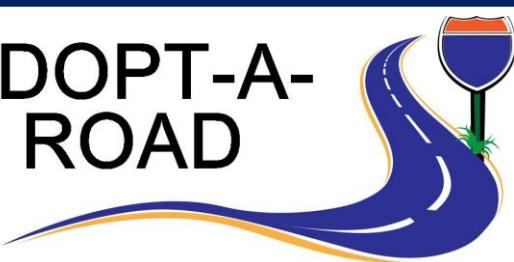
For more information about Cape Assist, you may visit their website: [www.capecassist.org](http://www.capecassist.org)



## Family Promise Cheerleader Needed

Zion needs someone to rally us around when it comes time to participate in Family Promise activities. If you would like to help us help Family Promise as it helps homeless families, please pray about whether this might be a task you could take on! Please call or email Pastor Kathleen to get more information about what this will involve.

## ADOPT-A-ROAD



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### Adopt a Road Clean Up Day!

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 a.m.**

Meet at the corner of Bremen and Duerer Street

#### DID YOU KNOW?

After 4 clean ups we receive a check from the County for \$200 that we can use Social Ministry projects!  
Help us out for a good cause!

**SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE ATRIUM!**

# Blood DRIVE

**Monda, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

**2:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Call 1-800-REDCROSS**

**Online:**

[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

**sponsor code: zionlutheran**

**Save time on the day of the donation  
by visiting:**

[www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass)

**Don't forget to HYDRATE  
and BRING ID!**



*Yes! That's Pastor Kathleen up on the counter and helping Champ put the screens back in the office windows! Pastor is always ready to jump in and help!*



*We have new ZLC aprons, thanks to the beautiful embroidery by Joanne Ware-Bradway. We added the ZLC heart logo to a plain black apron, and when the DOVES are hosting, they can add a DOVE pin! Dawn Naylor made the pins and Sigrid and Sandy were kind enough to model for us! Thanks to all who helped make this happen!*

*The kids in Miss Lisa's PreK class made binoculars to look for "God-sightings" - things that reassure us that God is with us in everything, and that God Is Good!*



*Youth Group had a DOG WASH in August! Due to the extreme heat, only a few dogs showed up, but we know they were cool and smelling good when they left!*



*Thank you, Zion members, for participating in the Annual EHC Latino Festival held at Key Rec Field in September!*

## ZLC MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR HEARTBEATS – AUGUST 2019

	2019 INCOME		2019 EXPENSES		DIFFERENCE
	This Month	YTD	This Month	YTD	YTD
Current Operating	\$ 11,475.56	\$ 105,815.88	\$ 10,527.39	\$ 106,292.00	\$ (476.12)
Restricted	\$ 842.00	\$ 6,271.99	\$ 389.50	\$ 6,356.96	
Building Fund	\$ 520.00	\$ 4,937.25	\$ 42.88	\$ 8,268.53	
Total	\$ 12,837.56	\$ 117,025.12	\$ 10,959.77	\$ 120,917.49	
	2018 INCOME		2018 EXPENSES		DIFFERENCE
	This Month	YTD	This Month	YTD	YTD
Current Operating	\$ 11,887.00	\$ 104,730.15	\$ 10,805.05	\$ 102,213.02	\$ 2,517.13
Restricted	\$ 1,400.27	\$ 8,230.39	\$ 2,445.33	\$ 10,619.05	
Building Fund	\$ 656.00	\$ 3,824.00	\$ 3,950.00	\$ 3,889.08	
Total	\$ 13,943.27	\$ 116,784.54	\$ 17,200.38	\$ 116,721.15	

### REMARKS:

*This report will appear in Heartbeats each issue.*

*Current Income is money received from Envelopes, Plate, Flowers, Sunday School, and money not designated for a specific purpose.*

*Restricted Income includes all money received and designated for a specific purpose.*

*The YTD Difference column shows whether we have spent more or less than we have received for current expenses.*

**FOR 2019, OUR CURRENT YTD EXPENSES HAVE EXCEEDED OUR CURRENT YTD INCOME BY \$476.12.**



**AmazonSmile**

Do you shop at AMAZON?  
Did you know Zion Lutheran Church  
is an eligible charitable organization  
for the Amazon Smile Program?

To date we have earned over \$40.00  
in rewards from the program and the  
money raised has been designated  
to our youth program!

SIGN UP by VISITING:

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

**Are you a Thrivent Member!  
You can help make a difference by signing up  
for the Thrivent Choice Program!**

You can designate your charitable dollars  
to Zion Lutheran Church (or other charity of choice)

For more information about the Thrivent  
Choice program and Choice Dollars:

- ✓ Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)
- ✓ Call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent  
Choice when prompted
- ✓ Contact your Thrivent Professional



**Saturday, October 12, 2019**  
**between 10am and Noon**

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
307 London Avenue  
Egg Harbor, NJ

**RAIN OR SHINE**

All pets must be on a leash or in a carrier!  
Donations will benefit the Humane Society  
of Atlantic County

A representative from HSAC will be present to  
provide information about the work they do.

**If you are unable to bring your pet  
a picture will do!**



## **Annual Coat Drive**

sponsored by

EHC Coalition for a Safe Community

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**1pm – 4pm**

**Volunteers are needed to help  
with sorting and distribution!**

We are now collecting new or in good condition: COATS, HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES, in all sizes! Please drop off to the church by **Sunday, October 20!** THANK YOU!



Thanks to Hope Konrady and her dedicated group of kitchen volunteers we can have a freezer full of church-cooked meals, ready to heat and eat!

Hope and her crew invite you to join them on **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** for their next cooking and meal prep day (9a-Noon). If you are interested in helping, please contact Hope at 609-513-3622.

The meals are made to be shared. In addition to our Home Angels, if you know of someone who is ill, or recently hospitalized, please feel free to share a meal with them!

## **Contact Cape-Atlantic**

We just learned about a free telephone check-in service called Contact Cape-Atlantic. Contact Cape-Atlantic provides daily check-in phone calls to older adults and disabled people who are living alone. The caller chats with the person and watches for the person's well-being.

Call **609-823-1850** to sign up to receive services or get information about being a volunteer.



**Zion Lutheran Church**

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