

MNYS CONFERENCE REPORTS



HUDSON

The Rev. Sonja Maclary



THE PASTORS OF THE HUDSON CONFERENCE MEET MONTHLY FOR WORSHIP, STUDY, AND CONVERSATION.

The congregations and lay people of the conference shared several events in 2018 including: "Ask, Thank, Tell: Creating Healthy Habits of Giving," led by The Rev. Lamont Wells, Asst. to the Bishop, on Jan. 30th, 2018, and a follow-up meeting on April 24th, which also served as the conference's annual meeting.

Together with the Delaware/Hudson Conference and with the support of a Leadership Grant, conference members have been participating in Healthy Congregations workshops. In 2018, two workshops focused on Leadership and Relationship in Healthy Congregations.

Our Facebook page, "Hudson Conference of the Metropolitan New York Synod." continues to be a forum through which conferences and congregations share news and events.

EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE

After a long search process, the Hudson Conference, together with the congregation, celebrated the installation of The Rev. Jeff Koenig as the new pastor at St. John's, Poughkeepsie!

We also welcomed Pastor Tom Taylor as Interim Pastor at Redeemer, Kingston, and Pastor Scott Adams as Interim at Trinity, Kingston.

STATEN ISLAND

The Rev. Wolfgang Laudert

GREETINGS FROM THE STATEN ISLAND CONFERENCE! WE, THE EIGHT MISSION OUTPOSTS ON STATEN ISLAND, ARE CHURCH TOGETHER! As pastors, we strive to meet regularly and gather weekly for text study, conversation, and fellowship. As congregations, we demonstrate that we are not mission outposts by ourselves.



On the South Shore, Christ Lutheran and Messiah Lutheran continue to partner as parishes together with a combined Confirmation program. We try to find ways for our congregations' youth to gather for fellowship, learning, and service. Our members, in both churches, often attend each other's events, such as our Men's Group gatherings, WELCA gatherings, worship, and learning opportunities. We know each other, routinely support our common endeavors, share each other's burdens, collaborate, and partner together for the sake of mission and ministry.

On the North Shore, prior to Rev. Wolfgang Laudert becoming Dean, all five of our congregations, (Immanuel Lutheran, Our Saviour Lutheran, St. Paul/St. Luke Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Zion Lutheran) were most recently engaged in conversation about our individual and collective futures. Leaders from these congregations became part of a Dream Team, to imagine what God might have planned, and what He is calling us to be. Dean Laudert has engaged in conversation with the clergy of the congregations and committed himself to meeting with each

congregation, to offer support and to listen to their individual congregational concerns. Our most recent joy was a joint 125th Anniversary Celebration of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, at which the Dream Team celebrated the success of encouraging collaboration among the churches and engaging in a shared worship experience. All our congregations on Staten Island, and their clergy, shared in the celebration. The Dream Team has turned its big vision conversations over to the Council leadership of the congregations. In addition, executive teams are utilizing a broad vision to start from the ground up.

All our Councils are evaluating and enacting policies and procedures together that uphold good governance, effective parish administration, and best practices. As a conference, we continue to share both gifts and burdens with each other. It is a hopeful sign that while we hear about change and transition across this church, and consolidation within the life of our synod, collaboration is the watchword for Staten Island.

Congregations are creatively working with one another, listening to the spirit together, working with our communities and our ecumenical partners. We continue to give thanks for the partnership and ongoing collaboration with our two Lutheran institutions: Eger Lutheran Home and Wagner College.

*Our motto:
We are church together!
The Holy Spirit continues to
work with and among us all
in this, our little beloved
"forgotten borough."*



EXCITING NEWS TO BE SHARED

- Pr. Wolfgang Laudert completes his first year as dean of the conference
- 125th Anniversary of Our Saviour Lutheran Church
- Pr. Martin Malzahn transitioned to the parish, after serving as chaplain of Wagner College
- Pr. Malzahn accepted a call to serve the good folks of Trinity Lutheran
- We continue to rejoice with Zion Lutheran as a conference with Pr. Saraka and all of Abraham's tribe!
- We are grateful for Pr. Art Pettersen and his coverage ministry at Immanuel
- We continue to give thanks for the birth of Pr. Garry Squire's granddaughter
- We welcome Pr. Mike Poole to the Metro NY Synod
- Pr. Poole recently accepted a call to serve as interim pastor to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Islip Terrace, NY - Western Suffolk Conference
- Christ Lutheran, Staten Island, says THANK YOU to the Metro NY Synod for the generous Congregational Capital Improvement Challenge Grant
- Thank you to The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Linman Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation) for leading us in our 2019 Staten Island Conference Retreat: "Proclaiming the Gospel for Such a Time as This: An Event for Those who Preach and Those who Listen"



TAPPAN ZEE

PUTNAM AND WESTCHESTER COUNTIES

The Rev. Jim O'Hanlon

THE TAPPAN ZEE CONFERENCE HAS REGULAR YOUTH ACTIVITIES. IN 2018, THIS INCLUDED GATHERINGS TO PREPARE FOR THE HOUSTON YOUTH GATHERING. The conference had a youth/confirmation retreat at Camp Wilbur Herrlich.

The Tappan Zee Conference has a conference retreat for pastors, which is usually at Koinonia, but this year it will be held at Holy Cross in West Park. The conference also holds weekly Pericope Study for preachers.

EXCITING NEWS TO BE SHARED

The Tappan Zee Conference had four installations this past year, out of thirteen congregations.

God is making everything new.



EASTERN NASSAU

The Rev. Emily Trubey-Weller

THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE EASTERN NASSAU CONFERENCE hold a weekly pericope group for pastors on Tuesday mornings. Seven of the eleven congregations of the conference participate regularly, with six participating weekly or nearly weekly. The pastors of the conference take turns in leading the study. This time of learning, conversation, and fellowship serves as an important opportunity for the cross-pollination of ideas and a platform to share collegial wisdom.

The Eastern Nassau Conference also holds monthly Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Bible studies that are open to all women of the conference. These meetings bring together women from many of the congregations, with congregations taking turn hosting and leading this monthly study.

Three of the congregations of the conference also held a Confirmation retreat collaboratively in September 2018, and are looking forward to doing the same in 2019. This retreat increases the opportunities for youth to engage in fellowship and encourages learning together. The other congregations of our conference have also been invited to participate.

As of February, the conference is in the process of planning a **conference-wide Eucharist service utilizing the materials provided by the Synod, to pray for guidance in the upcoming bishop election.**

EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE

The collegiality and collaboration among the pastors of the Eastern Nassau Conference is a sustaining force for many of us, and certainly for me personally, as Dean. In the fall, I took 12 weeks of maternity leave following the birth of my baby boy, and many of my colleagues were eager to help in any way they could. They attended council meetings on my behalf and were on call for emergencies; offering general support and encouragement. This is just one example of the collegiality we experience in our conference, making us stronger, healthier pastors, and enabling us to sustain stronger, healthier congregations.



Pastors of the Eastern Nassau Conference at their weekly Bible Study

WESTERN NASSAU

The Rev. Bob Cederstrom



THE ROSTERED LEADERS (PASTORS AND DEACONS) MEET WEEKLY FOR PERICOPE AT CHRIST NEW HYDE PARK.

Members gather for worship on non-Sundays (Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas morning, Ascension) and have regular Lenten and Advent mid-week worship. The worship sites are rotated among the respective congregations. Western Nassau Conference members have joint Bible Study with four congregations on Thursday evenings at Christ, New Hyde Park, and weekly Bible Study at Ascension, Franklin Square.

EXCITING NEWS TO BE SHARED

There is an ongoing conversation among several congregations (Ascension, Franklin Square; St. Andrews, West Hempstead; and Our Saviour, Mineola) to merge and form a new ministry together. Since March 3rd, the three congregations have gathered as one worship community on the first Sunday of the month. Our Savior, Glen Head, hosted a Living Nativity for the community, with live animals. They are also a prominent presence in the community as they feed the hungry and with their Thrift Shop, which provides clothing and household items to families in need.

This year, members of the Western Nassau Conference continued their gathered Christmas Morning worship at Christ New Hyde Park, where eight congregations were represented. **The emphasis this year was on the multi-cultural expression of the church.** The Rev. Percy Butiku presided, with dozens of different nationalities and several different faith traditions participating in this joyous event.

SOUTHWEST NASSAU

The Rev. Ed Barnett

THE SOUTHWEST NASSAU CONFERENCE MINISTERIUM MEETS ONCE A MONTH FOR THE EUCHARIST, AND FOR A BUSINESS MEETING WITH CONVERSATION. The conference also has an Annual Lenten Worship Service. There are a number of activities in the works for the near future, such as hosting a Youth Event that will be open to the entire Synod, lay leadership training, and intra-congregation communication.

The greatest highlight as a Conference in 2018 was the **“The Power of Forgiveness: Roll the Stone Away.”** Presenters included The Rev. Angela Khabeb (from Holy Trinity, Minneapolis), The Rev. Michelle Townsend de López (from Cross, Milwaukee), The Rev. Jerome Taylor (retired member of the Conference), and The Rev. Eric Mull (St. John’s by the Sea, Long Beach). This was a fantastic event open to the entire Synod. Grace Church, Malverne, hosted, and Bishop McCoid preached at the eucharistic healing service. It received rave reviews from all who attended and was the brainchild of The Rev. Linda Bell, who labored relentlessly to bring it to fruition.

EXCITING NEWS TO BE SHARED

With great joy, we welcomed The Rev. Alex Darling-Raabe into our midst, as pastor of Oceanside Church.

We continue the in-depth, missional conversation about what God is calling us to do and spread here in Southwest Nassau County.



PECONIC

The Rev. Kevin O'Hara



OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE PECONIC CONFERENCE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO HOLDING MONTHLY MEETINGS, SUPPORTING EACH OTHER AS THREE OF THE ELEVEN CONGREGATIONS HAVE ENTERED INTO A PASTORAL TRANSITION. Two congregations are seeking the next pastor and one congregation is looking to call a second pastor. The Peconic Conference is also facing its own transition, as the Rev. Rich Hill, who has faithfully served as dean over the past four years, was succeeded by the Rev. Kevin O'Hara.

During the Rev. O'Hara's time (since April), this conference has continued to look into mutual ministry possibilities, including supporting LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, and Roman Catholic dialogues), of which Rev. George Summers has been the biggest supporter. We thank him for his dedication to ecumenical dialogue during the many years he has served.

Peconic Conference pastors come together once a month for learning, having centered themselves around the book *Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again*, by Albert L. Winseman. This book was originally written in 2006, based on Gallup polling, but the implications of its findings are still relevant today. Highly recommended by a Roman Catholic priest in the conference, pastors have interacted with the book on multiple levels, with some even bringing the book's research back to the congregations they serve. The Rev. Bruce Kaifler has been a tremendous applicator, as he relates his ministry to the book's recommendations.

The Rev. Richard Hill coordinated an almost two-week trip to Israel this past fall, leading some members of the Peconic Conference to sites in the Holy Land. The group returned with a greater appreciation of the richness of the Biblical stories.

Members also welcomed new pastors to our Peconic Conference this past year: The Rev. Lori Kline (retired), The Rev. Harold Peeders (retired), and The Rev. Lorraine Peterson (chaplain at Stony Brook Hospital). We thank them for the work they do for the conference in providing coverage for churches in transition, teaching Diakonia classes, and ministering to those who are sick. We also want to thank The Rev. Rich Ajer, who has provided so much wonderful support and grounding for the conference as he continues to minister at Trinity, Rocky Point, on an interim basis.

On a lay leadership level, we would be remiss without mentioning Synodical Deacon Jean Dougherty, who has led post-Diakonia classes and has spent countless hours being the point-person for Women of the Peconic Conference's annual retreat (this year focusing on Mary and Martha, in the Bible). She and her extensive group of helpers have been a great assist in lifting up women-focused ministry. We would also like to thank Synod Deacon Gayle Capon, who has helped to keep the

synodical deacons of both Western Suffolk and Peconic Conferences together in ministry, prayer, and communication; her work often goes unnoticed, but is not unappreciated. Lastly, we thank Liz Hoffmann, who singlehandedly, week after week, keeps the Diakonia program going for the conference. It was only a few years ago that the Peconic Conference reinstated this program, and with her dedication, planning, and coordination, it continues to have enrollment and excitement.



The steering committee meets monthly to plan programming for the conference. This is made up of a group of dedicated individuals ranging in abilities and callings. We thank The Rev. Kevin O'Hara, The Rev. Paul Downing, The Rev. Richard Hill, The Rev. Winston Dookram, The Rev. George Dietrich, Synod Deacon Dee Hecker, Mrs. Jean Dougherty, Ms. Liz Hoffmann, and Mr. William Bushman, for their dedication.

We need to also thank The Rev. Joanne Bond, dean of Western Suffolk Conference, and all pastors who, once a year, get together in the Ronkonkoma area, for a Lenten retreat. We always look forward to continuing this tradition. And to The Rev. Jonathan Linman, who always brings knowledge, practicality, and hope—thank you for leading us in the retreat, year after year.

EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE

The Peconic Conference is guided by a steering committee, comprised of pastors and lay members from various churches. They focus on programming on a conference level. Everyone is excited about some of the upcoming events scheduled:

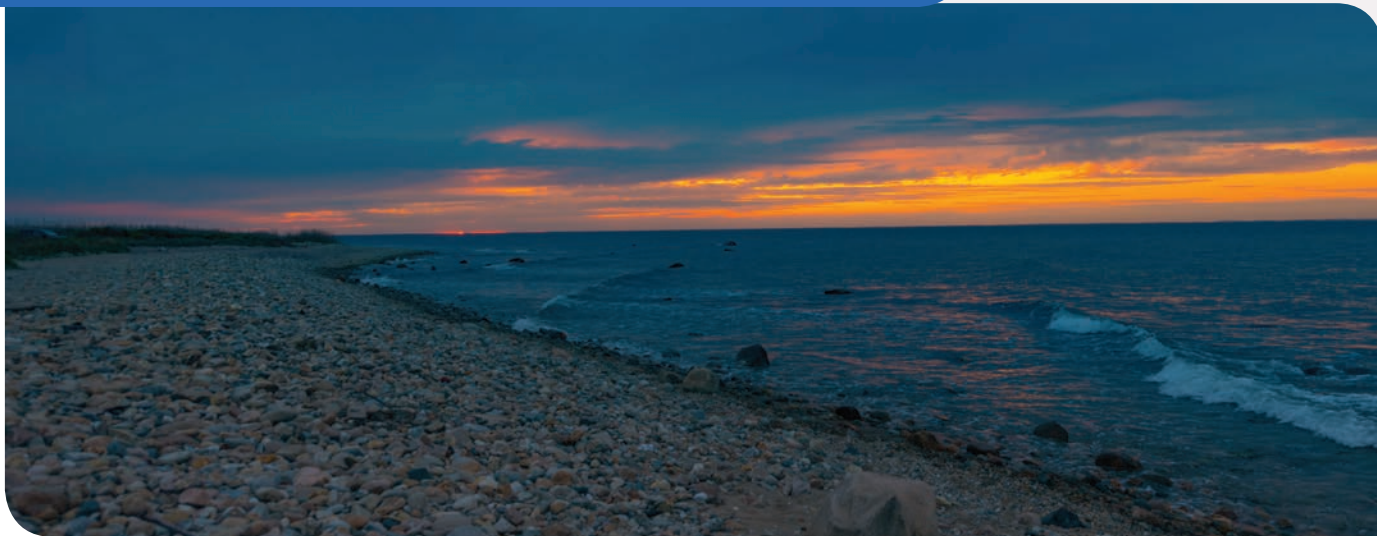
- A "Ring and Sing" during the season of Easter, when singers, bell choirs, and dancers will come together to perform some of their favorite Easter pieces.
- A stewardship campaign that will encompass many churches in the fall.
- Early planning to go to Italy and Oberammergau, Germany, for our next pilgrimage in July/August 2020. Additionally, we in the Peconic Conference are excited that we have three churches in transition, looking to call the next pastor or another pastor, possibly before the year's end (St. Andrew's, Smithtown; Hope, Selden; and Trinity, Rocky Point).

By the Holy Spirit's guidance, we look forward to being renewed in our calls by the vibrancy of new voices.



WESTERN SUFFOLK

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Bond



THE WESTERN SUFFOLK CONFERENCE:

- We meet weekly for pericope study.
- We meet monthly for worship, fellowship, and sharing.
- We meet annually for Conference gathering with Lay representation.
- We meet annually for Pastors Spiritual Retreat.
- We gather socially for Christmas gathering with spouses.
- We meet regularly, worship together regularly, and offer respect and support for each other.

EXCITING NEWS TO BE SHARED

Pastor Joel Brandt planned and coordinated the "Preaching in Lent" Course at United Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg on January 25, 2018. Many pastors from the conference attended.

All pastors serving congregations in our Conference attended the Bishop's Retreat in November.

The pastors and lay people of the Western Suffolk Conference are most grateful to Interim Bishop Donald McCoid for his leadership among us at this difficult time for our Metro New York Synod.



SOUTHEAST QUEENS

The Rev. Marcia Parkinson-Harrison

THE SOUTHEAST QUEENS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN DOING ITS PART TO LIFT HIGH THE CROSS OF OUR SUFFERING CHRIST IN THESE TRYING TIMES.

Each of the congregations is finding their manner of Evangelical outreach according to the needs of our various neighborhoods and the talents of our membership.

Conference members have come together in worship when each of our worship communities have celebrated anniversaries, community events, and revivals.

Conference members also make an effort to come together during the Lenten and Advent season. The pastors of the conference have focused on evangelism, community care, immigration, and voting, as we continue on this journey God has embarked us on.

The Rev. Marva Jenkins and the people of Epiphany celebrated its 86th anniversary with a dinner, dance, and service, with wide participation from members of the conference. The church was generous to its companion synod and to others in the community. They continue to do outreach, and host events in the area. Their motto is, **"Small Church, Grand Vision."** You can check them out on Facebook.

The people of New Hope, along with the pastoral guidance of The Rev. Marianne Tomecek, celebrated their 45th anniversary. The ministry continues its Food Pantry distribution, Book Bag Giveaway, Annual Health Fair, distribution of Thanksgiving Baskets, and Domestic Violence Walk. The Walk involves going through several communities, on foot, sharing information, and includes participation by several ecumenical churches. You can follow this congregation on Facebook, as well.

Our Saviour Jamaica celebrated its 95th Anniversary in October, with a grand Sunday celebration, as they welcomed back, as their guest preacher, former-associate Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Cathy Ellen Rosenholtz, now pastor of Augustana Lutheran in Washington, D.C. Pastor Rosenholtz served the congregation for almost eight years. They continue the tradition of outreach activities, including their annual Community Street Fair, which draws over 1,000 people from the neighborhood for an "everything-is-free" afternoon—and everything truly is free, even the food. They also added a number of Car Blessing Saturdays—drive in, drive out—blessing over 100 cars, two bicycles, and a skateboard. You can check out their choir and see streams of their worship at "Our Saviour Lutheran Jamaica" on Facebook.

The people at Prince of Peace, along with the pastoral guidance of The Rev Brenda C. Irving, have been faithfully adhering to the liturgical obligations of participation in our calendar, with culturally inclusive events. Prince of Peace Vacation Bible School, the Block Party, and the celebration of Black History and



Women's History month, continued to have a great impact on the community of Cambria Heights. They celebrated their 80th anniversary this past year, during which Bishop McCoid and staff were in attendance. You can follow this congregation on Facebook.

For 2018, Pastor Romeo Dabee and the people of Redeemer Lutheran and Nursery School, Queens Village, continued to worship at 10:30am. A major Capital Campaign was completed, with the help of the Synod's Capital Campaign Challenge Grant, and they were able to replace the roof over the large auditorium that houses their Nursery School. Each month, people are invited to the monthly Faith Walk, during which participants can share something that inspires them in their walk with God. You can check them out at redeemerqv.org.

The people of Resurrection and Pastor Marcia Parkinson-Harrison have continued to do outreach in the community. The bi-monthly food program has proven to be an effective witness, in that some of the guests have joined with the congregation in worship. The annual parade continues to be held, with the participation of various churches and businesses (barber shops, beauty salons, supermarkets, etc.) in the community. An active Sunday School program is also held, and young couples continue to slowly become involved with the life of the congregation. Resurrection has its services outdoors in the summer, providing a meal for whoever comes, and an outdoor fair for young people. Resurrection's motto is: "Risen to Shine."

The mighty St. Peter's continues to be a rock upon which the Southeast Queens conference stands strong. Members actively participate in congregational meetings, the African Naming Service, the church voting drive, the annual church parade



(which covers a one-mile radius), and with community donations and inspiring participation from businesses in the area. The trip to Africa, with youth participation, was instrumental in helping the youth learn about their history and identity. The music program and African drummer continue to provide a strong sense of witness to the young people in the area. The committees are functioning well, and you can check them out on Facebook.

As God continues to lead us as a conference, our prayer is to be an inclusive, multicultural conference that worships faithfully within our church, community, and the world.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We faithfully hold to the promises of our Family of God. We pray that our commitment to define the ways in which we can evangelize our communities in these changing, troubled times, will remain strong. We solicit your continued prayers for our progression in proclaiming the message of our Resurrected Lord and Savior. Amen.



WESTERN QUEENS

The Rev. Jeanne R. Warfield

If you think Western Queens Conference is “TOO BROAD, TOO DIVERSE” to find common ground, we would understand.

The Western Queens Conference covers ~40 - 45 square miles, west of the Van Wyck Expressway divide, covering the entire N/S latitude of Queens, and enjoys people of many languages and cultures. Yet, amazingly, the people who form our 19- WQC Congregations & Community Ministry Sites, find ways to minister together in events and activities. We are a delightful surprise to one another, “Hey, I know you!”

WQC reframes tendencies to “do for our own” (a parochial system of in-turning) to “collaborate together,” which turns us out. Solid, hands-on interaction and relationship-building is the result of inviting each other into ministries underway! Simply extending invitations to “come and see” one congregation’s ministry idea and/or event can become a conference-wide treasured reality and a fulfilling and ongoing experience.



WQC members mingle during **Sacred Arts** performances. Come together in Feeding Ministry efforts. Fund local Social Ministry endeavors. Pray for Educational Ministries. Laugh through Community Share Theater productions. Raise a loud voice at Carol-Sings and shared Easter Vigil experiences. Interact with National Guard members for Lessons & Carols (and fellowship) at a JFK operation base serving JOINT TASK FORCE EMPIRE SHIELD. Deepen relational connections among WQC people, as members reach out together to neighbors in life-supporting ways.



Rostered colleagues with conference connections gather at least monthly for worship, mutual care and conversation, and discovery. WQC members prompt each other for ongoing formation (e.g., “Exploring Moral Injury and the Role of the Faith Community in Response,” “Who was St. Nicholas of Myra?”), and colleagues cover and enhance pastoral care for one another and congregations. The Western Queens Conference deepens links and shares resources for neighborhood-based mission work.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: “WE’RE NOT DYING. WE ARE IN SIGNIFICANT TRANSITION.”

We can shift how we engage congregation- and community-based ministries, fund missions, collaborate to serve our neighbors, and train and utilize our leaders (Laity, Synodical Deacons, ELCA Deacons, and ELCA Pastors) in order to live a gospel-inspired life well. Our conference repeats the “I’m not dead, yet” line (Monty Python’s Holy Grail) to remind ourselves that systemic shift comes through thoughtful vision and flexible faithfulness in response to genuine realities. **Obvious, yet, challenging!** We are confident we can count on resiliency in Jesus to live forward. **We want to invite transformative, system-thinking practices for authentic 21st Century gospel living, and hope our synod, regional and churchwide expressions can engage with us in this way.**



MANHATTAN

The Rev. John Flack

THE MNYS MANHATTAN CONFERENCE WILL BE MEETING IN FEBRUARY TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THE MINISTRY PROFILE FOR OUR NEXT BISHOP. The ministerium meets monthly throughout the year, and many of the pastors come together for weekly text study.

Many of the Manhattan Conference congregations attended the Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education annual trivia night fundraiser. A wonderful time was had by all, for a deserving cause.

Whether or not members of the Manhattan Conference Churches are in close proximity to one another, they are all patrons of the Gospel, and labor together for the reign of God in their city.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

[copy] Manhattan Conference Churches strive to serve everyone through generosity, sharing the Word, sharing music, and sharing the gift of space, food and privilege. Many of the congregations are Sanctuary congregations; others have feeding ministries; some have preschools; and all our churches offer vibrant and thoughtful worship services.

The MNYS Manhattan Conference congregations are devoted to the word of our Lord—keeping their heads down and embarking on the path laid out in the Gospel.



BROOKLYN BRIDGES

The Rev. Katrina Foster

THE MNYS BROOKLYN BRIDGES CONFERENCE PASTORS SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER VERY STRONGLY. Each week, they gather for pericope study at St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church. Pastors from three different conferences regularly attend this weekly group.



Brooklyn Bridges has the best pericope study EVER!



Installing our newest colleague and the 2nd Pastor of St. Lydia's, Elsa Marty

Conference congregations rotated mid-week Advent services at three different churches this year, and St. John's and Park Church Co-op co-hosted the wonderful Thanksgiving Community Meal.

Collegial support, regular gatherings, and strong friendships make this a superb conference.

Brooklyn Bridges Conference also supported St. Lydia's through their vacancy process. Pastor Bob Wollenberg was a tremendous interim; he walked the congregation through the pastoral vacancy and equipped them to call their second pastor, Rev. Elsa Marty.



Community Thanksgiving Meal hosted by Park Church Co-op and St. John's Lutheran Church

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Congregations and clergy are better equipped and stronger when they assemble together regularly. Because Brooklyn Bridges Conference pastors come together weekly to study scripture, they experience a greater sense of encouragement, stronger connectivity, and overall are better prepared to be servant leaders in our faith communities.

SOUTH SHORE BROOKLYN

The Rev. Harriet Wieber



THE MNYS SOUTH SHORE BROOKLYN CONFERENCE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR CREATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AND WORK TOGETHER. Every year, they share Lenten Soup, Bible Study and Worship at each other's churches during Lent.

By working together and sharing scholarship money, they enabled the youth from their conference to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. It was an exciting, first-time experience for everyone!

The churches are looking to continue meeting as a "conference youth group," at least once every quarter. In 2018, they gathered at St. James to complete their "Stars of Hope" campaign for the "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.

Two of the churches support the Community Meal ministry at Jehu's Table. Conference churches also gathered for a workshop on Congregational Vitality, in October 2018, which was wonderfully led by the Rev. Lamont A. Wells, Assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission; and his very capable assistant, Mr. Brandon Dupree.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

South Shore Brooklyn Conference Churches are looking forward to the election of our new bishop and hope to be inspired to pursue new ventures in ministry under her, his or their leadership and direction.

