



Building

Clifton, First

Building First in Faith-
renovations to our 1965
church building

Installed a new pitched and
insulated roof over all
existing flat roof surfaces

Parking lot lights and
sanctuary lights were
replaced with energy
efficient LED lights.





Grounds

Weehawken, Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd Garden Project



...a community-based initiative that brings together members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and our wider neighborhood to cultivate a space of growth, nourishment, and connection. Rooted in our mission to serve others and care for creation, this garden will provide fresh produce for our food ministries. The project will also serve as a learning space for youth and families, offering hands-on opportunities to explore stewardship, sustainability, and faith through gardening. Volunteers of all ages will participate in planting, tending, and harvesting, building relationships across generations and backgrounds. Through this effort, we hope to nourish bodies and spirits alike, transforming a simple patch of earth into a living sign of God's abundance and our shared call to love and serve our neighbors.



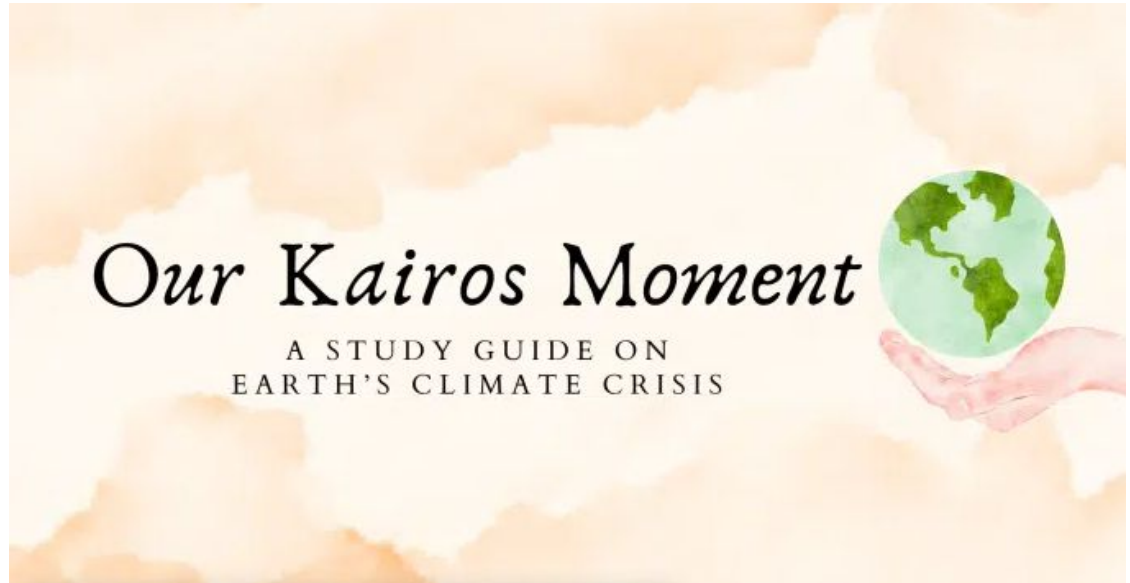


Worship and Education

Hamilton, St Mark

Lenten study "Our Kairos Moment"

Our Lenten congregational study focused on the ELCA social statement and social message on the climate crisis. We used the 2024 study guide from Lutherans Restoring Creation called Our Kairos Moment to explore different aspects of the climate crisis, reflect on their impact in our community, and identify hope for the future. Material from what we learned also became part of our Good Friday service on thirst as Jesus called for water from the cross.





Programs

Wayne, St Timothy

Bring Your Own Mug

A congregant who co-chairs our Coffee Hour fellowship decided to do away with the use of disposable paper/styrofoam hot cups and plastic table cloths. She and her husband repurposed and repainted bookshelf units, built individual cubbies, and refinished a small sideboard to create a beautiful area to serve coffee and treats on Sunday mornings.

Each cubby can hold multiple mugs, depending on size. Parishioners are invited to bring their own reuseable mugs from home, which now "live" here at church for their use each week. It's been a fun way for folks to express their individuality and has been well received. Families even pitch in and wash their own mugs before leaving.





Community Action and Advocacy

Jersey City, St Matthew

We gather a large amount of food from local grocery store partners to feed our neighbors and to repurpose food stock that stores would otherwise toss. Any spoiled produce received that is not suitable for the pantry is composted. This keeps food waste out of landfills and provides nutrients for a network of community gardens on vacant lots and adjacent to certain neighborhood parks.

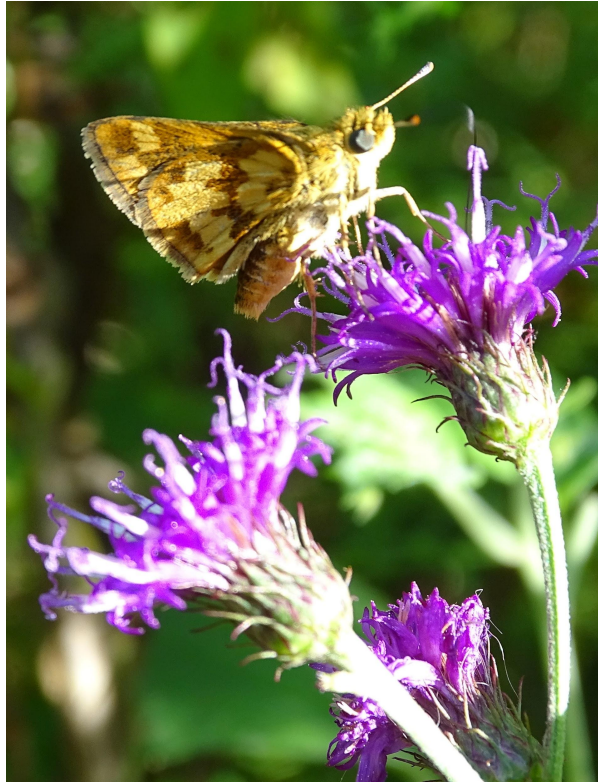




Action by the Youngest
Participant

Cherry Hill, St Michael Wildlife Habitat

Pollinator Garden
Development and
Maintenance -
including planting with
a local Girl Scout
troop!



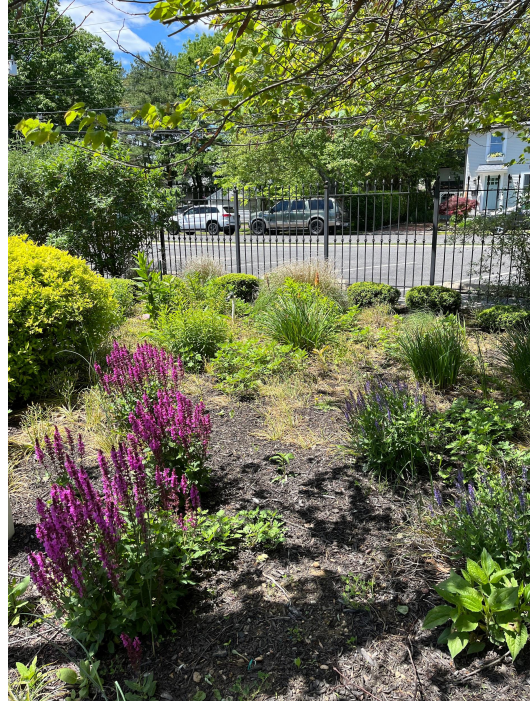


Action by the Oldest
Participant

Manasquan, Holy Trinity

Monarch Waystation & Pollinator Garden

...maintaining and planning to expand the garden planted for the church's 100th birthday (a project that includes the addition of both Butterfly and Pollinator boxes, as well the planting of even more native, pollinator attracting plants).





Holy Cow's Plant-based Eating Award

Woodbury, St Stephen

Meatless Sunday Social

Each month, we at St. Stephen's proudly host a free community meal. For our November 2024 Sunday Social, we served a "meatless meal," offering a delicious assortment of vegetarian dishes for everyone to enjoy. The menu featured bean stew, meatless lasagna, fresh salads, and more. Choosing plant-based options like these helps conserve natural resources and supports efforts to combat climate change.





Sol-ar's Solar Award

Marlton, Prince of Peace

Solar Installation

Prince of Peace in Marlton completed its installation with Ocean Solar and shared their experiences in the Bishop's Challenge "solar panel" panel last January!





Black Gold's Composting Award

Egg Harbor City, Zion

Composting and Earthworm Farming and Composting Coffee Grounds

The Sunday School director asked the congregation to bring in tightly sealing coffee cans to each child could have their own compost container. The children collected compost at home and brought it to SCS to be combined in a recycling bin at Zion. The director supplied an earthworm farm and earthworms so the students could follow the cycle of composting.

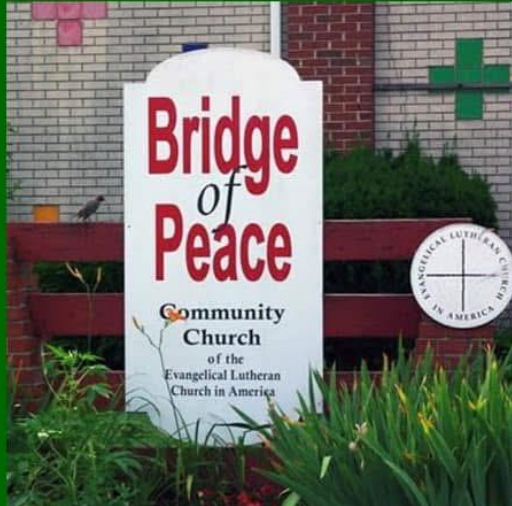
Labeled containers were provided in the church kitchen so that coffee grounds could be composted following coffee hour and other events. The grounds are collected weekly and taken off-site to be composted. The compost can be used by our volunteer gardeners to enhance the sandy soil in our beds and borders.





Teamwork Award
#1

Bridge Of Peace



We celebrate God's handiwork in creation by using our spiritual gifts to love our neighbors as God has loved us by providing fruits and vegetable for all.



Oaklyn, St Mark

Growing Together

Joining with our sister congregation, Bridge of Peace in Camden, to restart their vegetable garden and advocate for free toxics testing of urban soils. Worries about soil health have delayed the gardening start; raised beds will have to be used. Dangerous/overhanging tree limbs were removed by church men with chain saws and know-how.



Camden, Bridge of Peace Feed My Sheep/Community Garden

Feeding my sheep and building a strong community is our mission. Bridge of Peace has a great garden team which this year has participated from mission partners with hands on care from St Marks, Oaklyn; Seed Library from Temple Pennsauken and support from others. Our youth and adults have planted, tilled, and weeded! Our garden grows every year, in size and variety of produce.





Teamwork Award
#2

Princeton Junction, Prince of Peace

Reducing Waste - collecting soft plastic

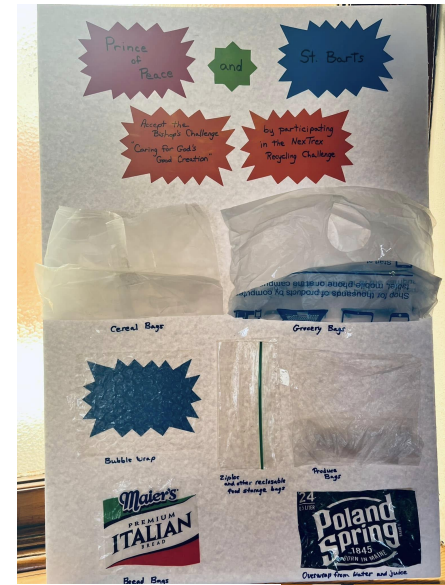
Along with St. Bartholomew's, Trenton, we are collecting soft plastic (bread bags, cereal bags, plastic that wraps boxes of things, etc). The collections are then taken to a center in Burlington. If we can collect 1,000 pounds in 12 months, we will receive a bench made from these kind of plastics. We plan to do this for at least two years so St. Bart's can also receive a bench! There are at least 10 people involved in the ordering the materials, bagging and delivering - but then at least 100 people involved in contributing plastic!



Trenton, St Bartholomew Soft Plastics Recycling with NexTrex

This has been a joint project with one of St. Bart's church partners, Prince of Peace in Princeton Junction. Working with Joan New of POP, each church obtained bins from Nex-Trex for collecting eligible plastics. Prince of Peace is the receptor for all materials, which their members weigh and transport to the drop-off location in Burlington. Upon completion of the project (1,000 pounds of plastics), a composite bench will be provided to POP for installation on their grounds.

Barbara Schendlinger designed a poster to inform parishioners about which plastics could be deposited. The bin was placed on the lower level, in Fellowship Hall. This was especially convenient since the industrial plastic wrap from our food pantry suppliers could be immediately recycled in the same physical space.





Overall Award

Use of Sustainable Kitchen products while hosting events

Minimizing Bottled Water Usage

Living Waters has purchased Brita pitchers and filters to encourage congregants and guests to use our tap water, and not provide bottles of water for events.



Ringoes, Living Waters

Enlarged community garden and used sea grass from the property and donations from congregants to keep weeds down in the off season. Used cow manure for fertilizer to minimize the number of chemicals put into the groundwater system. All produce grown from the garden is donated to the Flemington Food Pantry.



Ringoes, Living Waters

LED Lightbulbs

Wi-fi Thermostats

We replaced the light bulbs in the perimeter lights of our parking lot, as well as the sign located at the entrance to the church parking lot from the street.

Living Waters has purchased and installed wi-fi enabled thermostats throughout the building and have been using an energy management notification system for scheduling of heat and air conditioning.





**THE NEW
STEWARDS OF THE EARTH**

**Congratulations to our winners
...and to all who participated!**