

# HOPE CLINTON

NOVEMBER

## WELCOMING “THE OTHER”

Hope Clinton welcomes 17 new members this Reformation Sunday! It has been an amazing journey and an honor to listen to the stories of so many especially “The Other”. Some Hope Clinton new members at come from various faith (or no organized religion) backgrounds. Many have been excluded or hurt by people within various faith traditions and churches. Yet, these new members are risking so much by tipping their toes back into a spiritual growth faith community. Next month, another 11 people will formally become part of Hope Clinton, as well.

Hope Clinton’s new members remind me each day of the importance of carrying a radical welcome way of being, which is first and foremost a spiritual practice. This practice combines the ministry of radical welcome and hospitality with a faithful commitment to doing the theological, spiritual and systemic work to eliminate the historic, systemic barriers that limited the genuine embrace of groups or persons that have been generally marginalized in so many mainline churches (young adults, the poor, LGBT people, people of color, people with disabilities). God loves all people and so many have been denied this unconditional love.

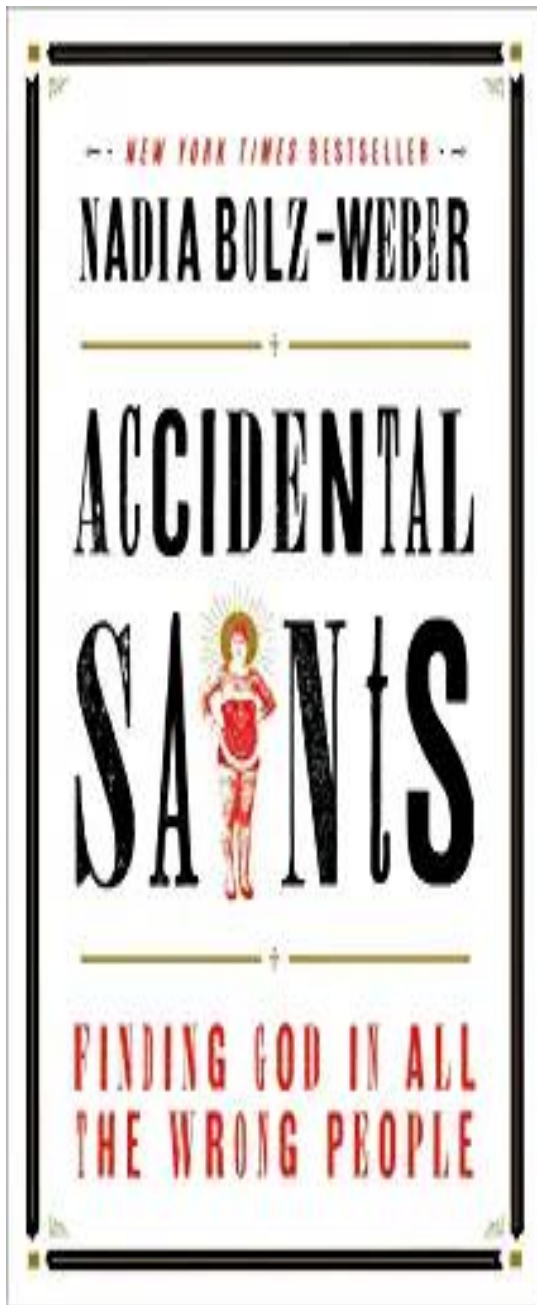
Hope Clinton understands that each group and person bring a set of gifts and perspectives that help the whole community of faith fulfill God’s dream and purpose. We, together, continue to embrace everyone’s voices, presence and share power, with a special commitment to embracing people and groups that have been so often overlooked, shut-out, excluded or disregarded by churches. God’s kingdom is big and wide. So is the love of the people that fill Hope Clinton. I look forward to you meeting our new members this Sunday during worship at 10:30am. -Pastor Karis

***“God doesn’t need your good works, but your neighbor does”- Martin Luther***



## Hope Clinton joins local community clean-up day

Have you ever wondered why the majority of Jesus’ ministry was in the community and not in the temple of his day? Time and time again, Jesus was consistently serving others and healing people out and among them. The gospel accounts are filled with Jesus’ interactions out among the people. At Hope Clinton we are actively involved in our local community in Clinton, Maryland and throughout the US with our nation-wide members. Last Saturday, Hope Clinton participated in the North Clinton Community Association neighborhood clean-up.



What if that person you've been trying to avoid is your best shot at grace today? And what if that's the point?

In *Accidental Saints*, New York Times best-selling author Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, and ELCA pastor, invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls “a religious but not-so-spiritual life.” Tattooed, angry and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people—a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious Bishop and a gun-toting member of the NRA. As she lives and worships alongside these “accidental saints,” Nadia is swept into first-hand encounters with grace—a gift that feels to her less like being wrapped in a warm blanket and more like being hit with a blunt instrument. But by this grace, people are transformed in ways they couldn’t have been on their own.

In a time when many have rightly become dis-illusioned with Christianity, *Accidental Saints* demonstrates what happens when ordinary people share bread and wine, struggle with scripture together, and tell each other the truth about their real lives. This unforgettable account of their faltering steps toward wholeness will ring true for believer and skeptic alike.

**Join Pastor Karis as she leads this three-week book discussion beginning Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 5pm on Zoom:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84228335809>**

## HOPE CLINTON NEW KIDS PAGE ON WEBSITE

<https://hopeclinton.org/just-for-kids/>

Thanks to Drew (Worship Director) and Michael (IT Director), the Hope Clinton website features a new kid's page! Take a look at the latest kid's sermons, games and activities. Drew is also featured singing his favorite kid's songs.

In the coming weeks, the Hope Clinton staff and volunteers will be developing and hosting online Zoom gatherings. These events will offer young members and participants within Hope Clinton's community of faith opportunities to grow during COVID-19 and beyond. The Hope Clinton team is currently researching the best curriculum that is real and relevant with today's youth with a grace centered theology. There is also a confirmation class beginning to take form.

*After much prayer and consideration, the ELCA Youth team decided to postpone next summer's Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

***The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.***

*To learn more about the postponement and the 2022 Gathering, please visit: [elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19](https://elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19)*



## PASTOR CARPENTER TO LEAD *JOY UNSPEAKABLE* DISCUSSION



Pastor Tony guides the North Clinton neighborhood through Barbara Holmes book, *Joy Unspeakable*. This book challenges a narrow, Eurocentric definition of Christian contemplation by examining the full range of contemplative practices of the Black church. Contemplation isn't merely stillness or silence; it is whatever roots us inward - toward spirit, toward wisdom, toward an anchor in the best of the traditions of ancestors, toward a unity of heart and mind, toward an integration of intellect and emotion and action. She writes, "Our obsession with blamed with the question of who is or is not worthy of God's full embrace disrupts the journey. For we are not headed toward a single goal: we are on a pilgrimage toward the center of our hearts.... We need only make the contemplative turn to restore our inner sight." Holmes looks not just to the songs and prayers and culture and Biblical interpretation of the Black church, narrowly defined, but to the spirituality of social protest movements, the wisdom of Black leaders operating outside the sphere of church, the syncretism of the Christian tradition meeting African spirituality, the expressions of wisdom and heart-centeredness of Black music.

**This exciting study begins Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 7pm and continues for three-weeks:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81551788037>

Holmes' commitment to the wisdom and life of her culture and generosity in sharing it is beautiful. Her blending of preservation and welcome of innovation is also unusual.

**LEGACY GROUP (65+) POST-WORSHIP ZOOM CALL EACH SUNDAY AT 11:15**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/s/89398667488#success>

**OR CLICK THE "JOIN ZOOM" CALL UNDER THE HOPE CLINTON LIVE TAB:**

<https://hopeclinton.org/>

## Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries

Members of the ELCA believe that Christ's church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude. Our faith liberates us to embrace each person in their wholeness — questions, complexities, ethnicity, culture and all. The Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team assists the ELCA in becoming more culturally diverse and anti-racist by working with ELCA congregations, synods, communities, agencies and institutions. The team provides consultation, programming and resources to help accomplish this work to which the ELCA is called.

The Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team works within the ELCA toward the goal of full partnership and participation of African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander and Latino people in the life of this church. This is done in partnership, together with leaders throughout the church, churchwide ministries staff, regions, synods, congregations, agencies and institutions. Each ethnic specific community has developed a mission strategy unique to their needs and aspirations. Each ethnic specific ministry program director works in partnership with their community's rostered and lay leaders and ethnic associations.

The Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team also assists this church in working to become more culturally diverse and anti-racist by providing resources and opportunities to engage in cross-cultural and racial equity learning through the work of Racial Justice Ministries.

Find out more about each of the following Ethnic Specific Ministry areas, their mission strategies and related associations here

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries>:



## HOPE CLINTON GROUPS?

We believe that Hope Clinton is better together! Groups possibly *can* help the Hope Clinton faith community connect relationally and grow spiritually through Zoom during COVID-19.

Yet, Hope Clinton realizes it's important that groups don't become clique's or places of exclusion.

Some communities of faith have groups based on common interests while other churches have various study groups. Hope Clinton is not quite sure if groups are the best path forward due to intentionality of remaining an inclusive community of faith. Your voice matters on this topic and creative ideas are welcome.

Please contact Pastor Karis with your ideas and input at

[Pastorkaris@hopeclinton.org](mailto:Pastorkaris@hopeclinton.org)



### **Celebrating 50 Years of Ordaining Women and the Rev. Elizabeth Platz**

In 2019 and 2020, we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely.

As part of this anniversary year, the ELCAs lament that women have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed, and excluded. We also celebrate the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors.

The Delaware-Maryland and Metro D.C. Synods invite you to celebrate these historical moments with us during the month of November! Pastor Karis will be part of one panel! Pastor Karis will be with other clergy women for the Nov.5 session.

**Register here:**

<http://metrodelca.org/50-40-10/>

*JOIN PASTOR KARIS AND PETER BROOKS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020, FOR A SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION AND HEALING AS THEY RECOGNIZE NATIVE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES ON THANKSGIVING EVE OR AS A DAY OF MOURNING.*

*THIS SHORT SERVICE CAN BE FOUND ON HOPE CLINTON'S FACEBOOK PAGE AT <https://www.facebook.com/hopeclinton>*