



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

August 2023



A Letter from Pastor Bo

August – Striving with God, Striving with Human Beings

The Genesis texts continue the story of Jacob and his family line, and all the texts spring out of the name 'Israel,' which is given to Jacob in our text on August 6th. This name means 'strives with God,' because God says to Jacob 'You have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed' (Gen 32.28). A chief family characteristic is that we struggle – with God, with ourselves, with each other, and with the world.

On August 6th, we will see how Jacob wrestles with God – literally – at a key moment in the arc of Jacob's storyline. Do you know what you're often doing when you are wrestling with God? You are wrestling with yourself. That's deeeeeep. Carl Jung thinks stories about conflict between twins also represent one's struggle with oneself. Hmmm. We might have a lot of reflecting to do as we ponder this story.

On August 13th, we see Jacob's children severely mistreat their own brother Joseph. They almost kill him but then decide to sell him. Being a part of God's beloved people doesn't mean we reflect this belovedness to each other. We need to tell the truth. We are sinners even while we are saints.

On August 20th, we see the end of that story as we see Joseph, exalted in Egypt and extending grace and forgiveness to his brothers. We struggle on this earth, but the goal of the struggle is not to win as much as it is to reconcile and make peace with. Not a fuzzy overlooking of wrong, but truth, repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Hence the need to struggle within ourselves and with God as well.

On August 27th, the text at the beginning of Exodus unmask the struggle we constantly have, 'not with flesh and blood, but with the powers and authorities of this dark age' (Ephesians 6). The opening to Exodus reveals to us what insecurities lie behind every misused and oppressive power wielded in this world, and the strategies those who are secure in their God use to subvert and resist.

Now that I just laid August out like that, I'm really looking forward to covering these messages. That sounds like a powerful sermon series! And it will help us as we move into the grind of the fall, where there will be much striving with God, ourselves, and people, as there always is. But the word of God can help us live into the ultimate purpose and sustaining promises in the midst of the struggle.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



August Important Dates

August 15 – Newsletter Deadline

August 23 – Mens' Breakfast

August 27 – Sunday School Rally Day

Food Pantry Current Need

- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Elbow Macaroni
- Chef Boyardee Canned Ravioli
- Canned Peaches
- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

Food Pantry Report



June is a month filled with observances, graduations, Father's Day, weddings just to identify the traditional ones. We sadly said "good bye" to our Abington High School students. That means we have immediate openings for volunteers. Our greatest need is Monday nights from 5:30 to 7:00ish for set up (no clients) and Thursday night from 5:30 to 8:00 to serve clients. Please contact Carol Schlegel at cschlegel9@aol.com if you have questions or are interested in helping.

We joyfully accepted major donations from the June Hatboro Cruise Night on June 16. That day also saw the Hatboro Horsham School District Food Services donate items as the school year ended. We ending up sharing some that bounty with Moreland Towers and Charter Arms. See our Facebook page for pictures.

We thank Grocery Outlet for donations. Though it was still June the "Independence from Hunger" campaign that lasts the entire month of July actually began in late June. Donate \$5, a bag gets filled with product, you get a \$5 coupon for your next shopping trip. There are pictures on Facebook of this as well.

June 2023 saw 26 more clients served than we had in 2022. 90 of these clients were families of 5 or more and so they received 2 bags of basic products. That is a total of 423 basic bags. That doesn't include the bread, pastries, and the cold items such as meat and milk.

We had 31 new families register in June That gives us 289 families on our registration books.

We thank you for your continued support of this growing community ministry combating food insecurity.

LAST MONTH

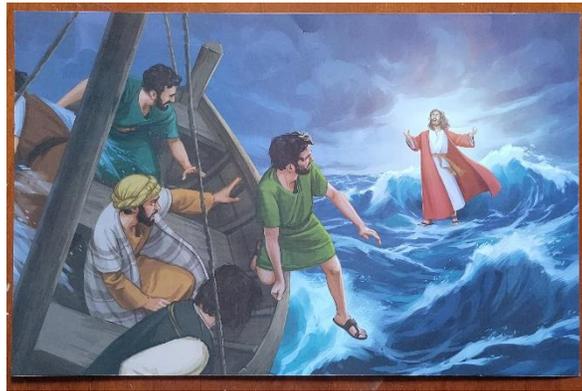
Vacation Bible School Day 1

Day 1 of VBS was all about fish! We made fishing rods in snack, made fish in craft, and learned about the time the disciple Peter realized that Jesus is God's son – when Peter was fishing all night and caught nothing, but when Jesus told him to go try again, he caught so many fish the nets broke, and they needed another boat to help pull in all the fish!



Vacation Bible School Day 2

The theme of our second day was walking on water. Our teddy grahams walked on icing in snack, we made boats in craft, and our lesson taught us that while we know a lot about Jesus walking on water, Peter was there above the waves, too! But when he got scared, he started to sink, and Jesus was right there to help him back up. We learned that Jesus cares about us, even when we're scared.



Vacation Bible School Day 3

On Wednesday, we learned that Jesus loves us. Our lesson showed us that Jesus forgave Peter for denying him 3 times the night he was arrested, and after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus cooked fish for breakfast for the disciples and asked Peter 3 times if he loved him, and Peter said yes all 3 times. In snack we had some breakfast foods (not fish!), and in craft we painted our shirts for the parent program!



Vacation Bible School Day 4

Thursday's message was that Jesus wants us to tell people about him. Our bible story told us that Peter and John once healed a man who couldn't walk, and they were arrested for sharing the good news about Jesus in the temple (see the photos of the temples we built!). Even though they were arrested, they knew Jesus wanted them to tell others about him, so they didn't stop. In snack we made a tic-tac-toe game out of pretzels and cookies, and in craft we made a game. And in music, we made sure we were ready for the parent program!!



Vacation Bible School Day 5

Friday was our last day, but we still had a lot to do and learn! Our last lesson of the week taught us that Jesus loves everyone! Our story was about the Roman soldier Cornelius, and how he broke rules to invite Peter into his home to learn about Jesus. After we heard the story, we went fishing for the words to spell out our verse of the week: "Show me your ways, God; teach me to follow you." (Psalm 25:4). In snack we ate leftovers from Thursday's parent program, and in games we did an even bigger obstacle course! At the end of the day, we all got together to play pew battleship. Even Pastor Bo played along!



Youth News & Events



Sunday School is back! On August 27, our Sunday School program is back with Rally Day.

For our Rally Day project this year we are going to make birthday kits for families in need. We are asking for 9X13 throwaway foil containers, cake mixes, icing, candles, balloons, and sprinkles.

There will be a box outside of the Sunday School office for donations. Any questions please contact Abbie Metheny at sjchrised@gmail.com.



We can't have Sunday School without our teachers! We'd love to have enough volunteers so that the commitment is only one Sunday a month. We are looking for teachers for a Preschool/Kindergarten class, and a class for our 1st-6th graders.

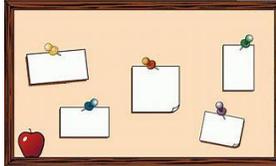
Our lessons are so easy and fun to teach that one week last year, one of our students ran the class, so we know you can do it! If you're interested, please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sjchrised@gmail.com.



National Youth Gathering

We are trying to take our Youth Group to the ELCA's 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! If you'd like to support us, you can donate on St. John's website under "Children and Youth," then click "ELCA Youth Gathering." Thank you for your support!

CHURCH NEWS



Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September Newsletter is **August 15th**. Please send any events, notes, or volunteer opportunities to Ashdon at



Golf Outing

Interested in joining the golf gathering? We get together for 9 holes every Monday. Here are the details:

When: Every Monday night at 6:00 (weather permitting)

Where: Fairways Golf Course in Warrington

How much: \$27 to walk \$33 to ride

What skill level: We do not care :) Seriously this is more about having fun than competitive golf.

How do I sign up? Call, text or email Harry Betz by the previous Thursday. Cell phone is 215-327-6595 Email is hcbetz56@gmail.com



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **August 23rd** at **Lancer's Diner** for breakfast. We meet at **9:00**, but you can come as early as 8:45 and everyone gets a separate check. All men, any age, are welcome! Questions? Call or email me at: jimhowatjr@gmail.com



Book Club

Our next book is "The Keeper of Happy Endings" by Barbara Davis. We'll meet on August 27th at 1 pm in the church library.



Backpack and School Supplies!

Beginning Saturday, August 5th and continuing through Sunday, August 20th, we will be collecting gift cards and school supplies for the Back To School Challenge. We will be supporting the Breathing Room, which helps families affected by cancer, and Valley Youth House in Warminster, which gives youth between the ages of 13 and 19, a safe place to live. **All items must be returned by Sunday, August 20th.**

Gift Cards should be sent to the Church Office or put in an envelope and placed in the offering plate. The other supplies may be dropped off at the Church during Church service on Saturdays and Sundays, or Church office hours.

The following are items needed by both places.

\$15 or \$20 gift cards to Walmart, Target or Amazon. Please label whether they go to Valley Youth or the Breathing Room.

- 1, 3 and 5 Subject Notebooks
- Composition books (different colors)
- Markers: Washable, Dry Erase, Highlighters, Sharpies
- Folders: Character or Solid Colors
- Lunch Boxes and backpacks – Tweens and Teens
- Zippered Pencil cases, Pens, Pencils, Erasers, colored pencils
- 1 and 2 inch binders, dividers
- Looseleaf paper, graph paper, graphing notebooks
- Lined 3 X 5 index cards, post its
- Glue sticks
- Earbuds compatible with Chrome Books
- Protractors
- Rulers
- Small pocket tissue packs, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes

Thank you,

Community Outreach Ministries Committee

Coming in September:



St. John's Day 2023

This year's St. John's Day will be held on Sunday, September 24th, and we need your help! If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up on the bulletin board. As in years past, we will need help with setup and cleanup, as well as food and games, among other items. More details will be coming soon.



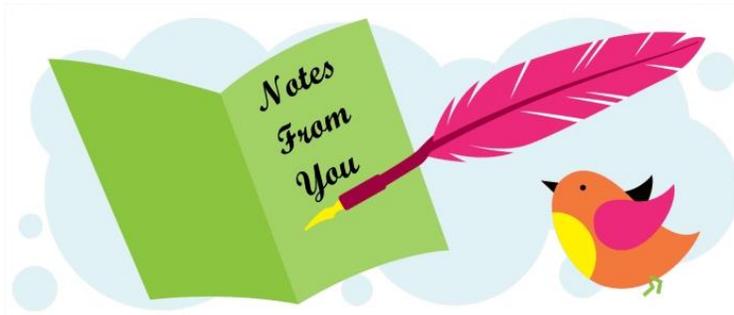
Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on Sunday, September 10th at 4 pm for our annual Brad Fox Memorial Concert! Our sanctuary will be filled with a variety of music styles that our team of musicians is already working hard to prepare for you! All benefits from this concert will go to a scholarship fund for a William Tennent High School Senior who is going to pursue a "hero life" as an EMT, police officer, firefighter, military personnel, etc. We hope to see you there!



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will not meet during the summer months. They will start back up again on Thursday, September 28.



To the Congregation of St. John's:
Thank-you for the beautiful altar flowers
from June 18th. We have enjoyed them
all week and reminded us of the beauty
of you.
Sincerely,
Cathy Wesemann



Help Wanted

Are you...

- a Confirmand who needs to meet your Worship Participation requirements?
- a student looking for Community Service Opportunities?
- someone interested in learning a new skill and helping out behind the scenes?

Bob Muller would love your help running the cameras, lights, and sound equipment that take our weekend and online services to the next level!



Check Out Our Website!

Please find us at www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org to stay up to date on what's happening at St. John's! Find Pastor Bo's sermons, upcoming events, and information about the church and the food pantry, and more!

Like Us on Facebook & Instagram!



St. John's Lutheran
Church – Hatboro



@sjlch505



Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel!

We're trying to get to 100 Subscribers! You can find us on YouTube by searching "St. John's Lutheran Church Hatboro."

Church Staff & Contact Information



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