



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Monthly News & Updates

March 2023



A Letter from Pastor Bo

March – Trusting a Loving God

Reflecting on the texts we will be hearing this coming March, I was encouraged by how much God loves and cares for us. These texts provide great and precious promises that sustain us, especially in times when it's clear that nothing else is completely trustworthy besides God. That, my friends, is the heart of Lent.

On March 5th, we will see that God clearly cares about all of our needs, material and spiritual. There is nothing God will withhold from those God loves, whom God has called according to God's purposes.

On March 12th, we will see that God is with us, providing for our needs, *even when we are being ornery*. Yes, even when we make ourselves enemies of God, God lavishes love on us.

On March 19th, we're going to have a little 'Christmas in March' as we look at the life of St. Joseph, spouse of Mary and stepfather to Jesus. We will surmise what it was about Joseph that made him a great candidate for this call, and all those things we think we need to bring to the table that we just don't need, because Joseph didn't have them in order to be useful to God's kingdom.

And on March 26th, we will draw near to the God who brings life from death. There's nothing God can't do. God's purposes will prevail, even if it seems they are long since down for the count. This is our loving God. This is the one to whom we commit our lives in trust.

I look forward to seeing how God's Word brings about transformation in our lives as we faithfully listen to it and seek it out in our lives.

And there is a bonus this month as well:

Midweek Lenten services will focus on our growth in wholeness, focusing on a different aspect of who we are each week that can be shaped by following Christ. Come join us at 11am each Wednesday!

Pastor Bo



March Important Dates

March 23 – Faith Explorers
March 26 – Stations of the Crockpots
(Lenten Family Night)

Food Pantry Current Need

Our current needs list in priority order is:

- Spaghetti
- Cereal
- Boxed Pasta
- Kidney Beans
- Rice
- Shampoo
- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Canned Fruit
- Paper Bags
- Applesauce
- Jelly

We no longer need egg cartons at the moment.



Food Pantry Report

The month of January has been full of excitement and change. First of all we can say that we finished 2022 with a significant increase in participation. 4,122 families were served during the year for an average of more than 79 families per week. The average number of families per week in 2021 was 71.

Our January 2023 use of the pantry increased by 70 families for a total of 343 families. 84 of these families were of 5 or more members and so received an extra bag. The total number of bags for January 2023 is 427.

For the moment we are no longer buying eggs so we are no longer in need of your egg cartons. Thank you for your faithfulness. However, we are in dire need of paper grocery bags. Up to now we have been able to exist on donations but our supply of paper bags is dwindling noticeably.

Our Facebook page is up and running with fresh updates regularly. Please check it out and “like” us at The Food Pantry at St. John’s.

As announced at the end of 2022 we have started actually enrolling our client families. We ask for photo id and where that is not possible we accept any document that has the client name and address on it. At this time we have over 150 families enrolled. The data is also being kept in an Excel spread sheet program. This will allow us to have more statistical information which is often necessary when applying for grants ourselves or in helping the agencies that supply us with product to apply for grants. Currently, we participate with Montgomery Anti-Hunger Network as well as Bucks County Opportunity Council. There are others that are more seasonal in nature.

The Pantry Leadership Team held their monthly meeting on February 1 and there are some new things coming so watch our Facebook page as well as our monthly updates.

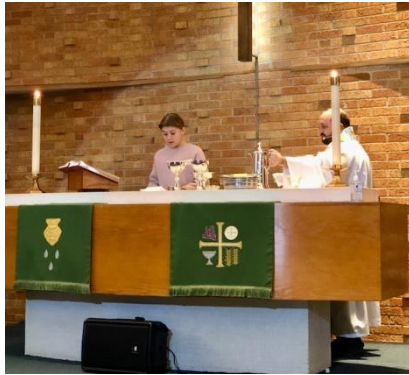
We thank you for your continued support as we battle food insecurity.

LAST MONTH

Pasta Dinner– Our Youth raised over \$1,000 towards their goal to get to the 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! We wouldn't be where we are without your support. Thank you so much!! Thank you also to parent volunteers, the Christian Education Committee, and Tom Smith for their time and talents in putting this all together!



Youth Sunday – Sunday School and Confirmation students led worship for us on January 29th. One of our Confirmands even wrote and preached the sermon!



Youth News & Events



We offer Sunday School for ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through 12th grade. These ages are split into 4 classes (Pre-K/ Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, 7th-12th grade). In order to make Sunday School a success, we need your help! Teacher signups are hanging on the bulletin board by the Sunday School office.

Lesson Schedule:

March 5:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: Joshua and the Fall of Jericho
- 7th -12th grade: **No Sunday School**

March 12:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: Ruth and Naomi Help Each Other
- 7th -12th grade: Parables

March 19:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: God Hears Hannah's Prayers
- 7th -12th grade: Faith in Film Part 1

March 26:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: David Defeats Goliath
- 7th -12th grade: Faith in Film Part 2



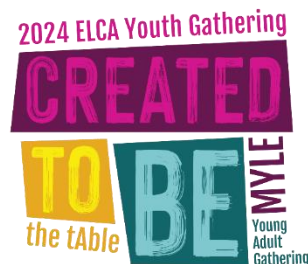
Confirmation Schedule

The confirmation overnight has been rescheduled for **March 10-11** (Friday into Saturday).

Regular Class: **Sunday, March 5**



Youth Group will not meet in March. We will see you in April!



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



There will be midweek Lenten services every **Wednesday at 10am**, starting on **March 1st**.



There will be another meeting of the Visitation Team after the Sunday service on **March 5** to go over some final details before we start our visits!



Needleworkers

Are you feeling the need to keep your hands busy and at the same time want to socialize with like-minded needleworkers? Turn off the TV and hang up the phone. Come and join us on **March 6 at 1 p.m.** in the church library. We have lots of ideas for projects and some yarn to get you started, and yes, we are willing to teach you to knit or crochet if you would like to learn. Give us a try. If you have any questions, please contact Joyce Hamilton or Barbara Quinn.



Men's Breakfast

BRR! Winter is here. Come in for a hot breakfast and warm conversation. New members welcome! On **March 22** we will meet at **Lancer's Diner** in Horsham at **9:00**. You can come as early as 8:45 and everyone gets a separate check. Any questions email or call me: rodorth@aol.com or my cell at 215-431-8437.



Faith Explorers

Small Groups are one of the most important ways that we connect and grow in our faith and as a community. Join the new Faith Explorers group to learn more about the bible and each other. We will meet the 4th Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be held on **March 23rd at 6pm at Country House Diner on York Road**. Feel free to contact Linda DiMeo with any questions at lindapfaff@gmail.com.



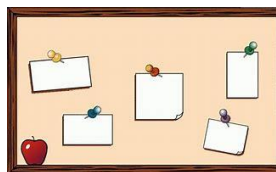
Stations of the Crockpots

Lenten Family Night will be Sunday, **March 26th at 5pm**. We are using last year's theme again, Stations of the Crockpots, as this event will double as our Chili Cook Off. Start perfecting your chili and cornbread recipes now to be sure you're ready for the competition!



Book Club

Come join us at book club! We meet monthly and discuss the book of the month. Each member chooses a book and we rotate through each member. The February book for book club is "The Murder Club" by Richard Osman. We'll meet **March 26th at 1:30pm** in the library.



Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Newsletter is **March 15th**. Please send anything you'd like to add to office@sjlch.org.



Good morning, Bob,

I want to thank you for using your talents to put St. John's services online week after week. When Covid began and gathering together was not possible posting the worship services became so vital, so encouraging when we all needed hope. I'm certain you never thought you'd still be working at putting services online 3 years later, but I want to personally thank you. One of the good things that has come from this entire experience is realizing just how much online worship means to folks when they cannot attend, like me today. I wasn't sitting in the pew this morning but I felt as though I was there, present with others at worship. Thank you!

Linda

Dear Friends,

I want to express my thanks to each of you who said a prayer, mailed a card, or send words of encouragement during my recent hospitalization. A middle of the night ambulance ride, hospitalization, and unplanned surgery can be frightening, but knowing I was in your prayers gave me the peace & encouragement I needed. Thankfully, I am healing nicely and hope to be back at St. John's soon.

With many thanks,

Linda Eickhoff

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 Newly Improved 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."

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