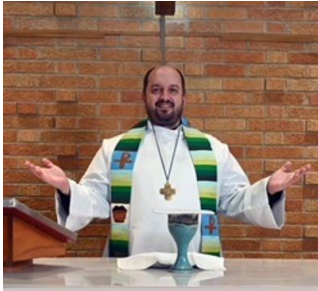




St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

November 2023



A Letter from Pastor Bo
November – The Work Continues

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us' (Hebrews 12.1). At the end of October, Moses dies before getting to the Promised Land. But God is faithful to promises made, and the people get there, and continue to have challenges along the way. Through Joshua, Deborah, and multiple shepherds good and bad, God continues to fulfill eternal purposes through God's people. The saints who have gone before us continue to inspire us.

November 5th – The departure from Egypt was marked by the crossing of the Red Sea. The entrance into Canaan is now marked by crossing the Jordan River in the same fashion. This day we remember those who have crossed that river into glory, which is prefigured by our baptism.

November 12th – Now Joshua's work is done. Will the people continue to be faithful to God, as God is faithful to them. This is a great and rousing speech to close off Joshua's life, and the people respond that each of their households will continue to follow God. (Hint: They aren't so great at keeping that promise.)

November 19th – Deborah to the rescue. When little Israel becomes swamped by hordes of powerful foreign oppressors, women save the day with courage and guile.

November 26th – Christ the King. No other leader like him. Ezekiel promises that God will come to personally shepherd Israel, with strength and tenderness. Jesus embodies this *par excellence*. Come and worship him to close out the liturgical year before Advent.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



November Important Dates

November 5 – All Saints Sunday

November 19 – Hatboro Holiday Parade

November 26 – Advent Family Night

Food Pantry Current Need

- Toilet Paper
- Canned Potatoes
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Shampoo
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Boxed Pasta

Food Pantry Report



Have you ever considered doing something for the benefit of the community? A form of public service, perhaps? If so, the Hatboro Community Cupboard has immediate openings for volunteers on Monday and Thursday nights. Monday night is set up night and starts at 5:30pm until about 7pm. It does involve some lifting but does not involve client contact. Thursday night also starts around 5:30pm for volunteers and involves serving clients from 6pm to 7:50 pm. Contact Alan at alan_eickhoff@yahoo.com or Carol at cschlegel9@aol.com. You won't regret it.

The month of September was not as busy as September 2022 or August 2023. Still, 342 families were served. 105 of those were families of 5 or more members so they got a 2nd bag for basic commodities. That is 447 bags of packaged goods going out in a month's time.

There were 23 new families added to our registrations during the month. That gives us 369 families registered for 2023. Our average number of families served is running around 85 per week.

We were blessed with yet another major donation from the Chamber of Commerce's Cruise Night on September 15. Church of the Advent delivered their August collection of toilet paper as well as a substantial financial donation. We have been able to redirect the extra bread and pastry that previously went to Moreland Towers and Charter Arms. We now deliver twice each week to Jesus Focus Ministries in Southampton as they are open 5 days per week. They in turn have provided an abundance of individual snack items which we have passed along to HATPacks for their use. HATPacks needs 360 units for each of their distributions and we have transported enough product to complete this number 8 times. It is indeed a blessing to see the "community" part of our name being fulfilled.

Our donation stream of meat has slowed to a trickle. Thankfully, Warminster Grocery Outlet made a spontaneous donation of chicken. They followed that up with a second donation of a variety of products and commodities.

HATPacks distributed a flyer to each family that they serve in the Hatboro-Horsham school district that listed the Cupboard days and times. We hope this will increase community awareness of our availability.

We thank you all for your continued donations, support and prayers.

LAST MONTH

St. John's Day

Despite the rainy weather, we had a great time at St. John's Day! We had so many members come out for food, music, games, and more! Thank you to everyone who made this day such a success!



Pet Blessing

17 pets came through our loop for a blessing: 13 dogs, 2 cats, 1 lizard, and 1 hamster. These animals are such a blessing in their owners' lives, and blessed our day as well! Each one got a personalized prayer and a good pet before going on their way.



Youth News & Events



Sunday School is back! Bring your child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10 am. We are offering classes for two different age groups:

Preschool/Kindergarten, and 1st-6th grades. Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

The November Lesson Schedule:

November 5

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

November 12

Thinking of Others

November 19

Advent Candles

November 26

No Sunday School



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 Sunday 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 sichrised@gmail.com.



Youth Group Friendsgiving

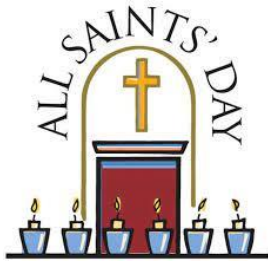
Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, November 19th** from 4:00-6:00 pm for a "Friendsgiving!" Our youth are asked to bring a side dish or dessert, as the turkey is already taken care of. Please check your emails for the sign up sheet, or reach out to Abbie Metheny for more details.



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

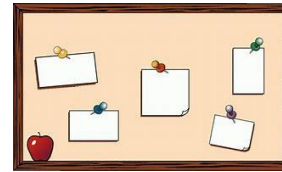


All Saints Sunday is on **November 5th** this year, and we are collecting photos of loved ones for our windows out front. Please also give the office names and photos of loved ones who passed away since November 6th, 2022 so we can add them to our slideshow. Please get names and photos to the office by **Thursday, November 2nd**.



Needleworkers Display

The needleworkers of St John's wanted you to know that there are prayer squares available near the front doors. Also for your loved ones who are homebound, we have beautiful prayer shawls in floral bags near the stairway. One other item available by request are lap robes. If you are interested in a lap robe please ask Barb Quinn, Joyce Hamilton or Linda Nieckoski about them, and we will be glad to show them to you. Check out our projects when you come to services on **November 11th and 12th** when some of these items will be on display and will also be available for distribution.



Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the December Newsletter is **November 15th**. Please send any events, notes, or volunteer opportunities to Ashdon at office@sjlch.org.



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **November 15th** 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? Email me at: jimhowatjr@gmail.com



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, November 16th at 6 pm**. We will meet at the Country House Diner on York Road.



Parade Volunteers

The Hatboro Holiday Parade will be on **November 19th**, and we will once again be opening our doors to offer warmth, hot dogs, and hot chocolates to those in the parade. If you would like to volunteer, we will have three shifts: set up and serving from 12:30-2, serving and directing traffic into the church from 1:30-3, and serving and clean up from 2:30-4:00. Any questions please contact Harry Betz at hcbetz56@gmail.com.



Holiday Parade

St. John's will be participating in Hatboro's Holiday Parade this year on Sunday **November 19th**. We will be giving out hot chocolate and candy canes. If you would like to participate please contact the church office at office@sjlch.org by November 5th.



Advent Family Night

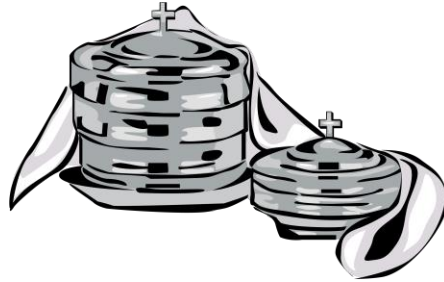
Advent Family Night will be on **Sunday, November 26th, at 5 pm**. This will be a potluck dinner. Our activity this year will be a Nativity Escape Room, where you and your team will solve nativity-themed riddles to see if you can be the fastest team to get through your room! Please sign up on the bulletin board.



Thanksgiving Donations

The Community Outreach Ministry will be collecting gift card donations for Grace Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, beginning the weekend of Nov. 4th. We will need gift cards to either; Giant, Acme or BJ's warehouse in the denomination of \$15 to \$20. Please attach the activation slip and how much the gift card is for. You can bring the gift cards until Sunday Nov. 19th so we can deliver them to Grace Lutheran.

St. John's Committee Spotlights



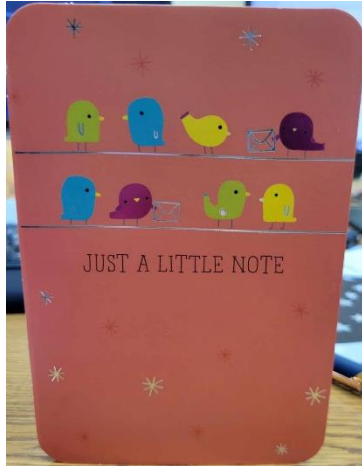
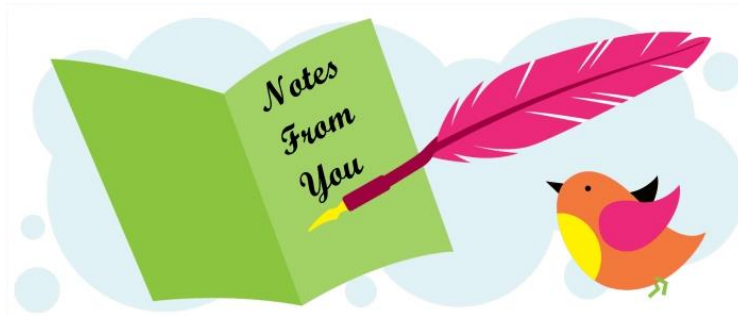
Altar Guild

The Altar Guild at St. John's is responsible for setting the altar before each service. Every weekend, a team will dust the altar and rails, place the flowers at the altar, change the colored paraments on the altar and pulpit to match the church season, set the tables and prepare the elements for Communion, and clean up after the services as well. We currently have openings on a few of our teams. Set up and take down takes approximately 40 minutes each time, and you would be working with an experienced team member. Each team serves every four to five weeks. Contact the church office or Chris Brinkworth at 267-474-1395.



Needleworkers

The Needleworkers Committee consists of those folks who like to work with their hands to create useful and appreciated items using sewing needles, crochet hooks, and knitting needles. Afghans, preemie hats, Baptismal blankets, lap robes, walker bags, prayer shawls, and prayer squares are just some of the items we have made. These items have been welcomed and appreciated in hospitals, hospice facilities, dialysis centers, and by individuals in need. Check out our projects when you come to services on November 11th and 12th when some of these items will be on display and will also be available for distribution.



Dear lovely ladies of the Needleworkers group & Birdie,

We are so appreciative of your talent and kindness! The lap blankets are beautiful and are used daily!

Sincerely,

Kristin Cowell

New Seasons at New Britain

Coming Soon:



Women's Ministry Update

Going forward, the Women's Ministry Committee has recommended a change in the name, format, and times for future Women's Ministry events.

New Name: Ladies Lunch Bunch

New time: Noon

Location: Fellowship Hall

First Event in new format: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

New Format: Ladies bring their own lunch and drinks. Desserts will be provided by volunteers.

After Lunch Ideas: Some ideas for after lunch are games, coloring, knitting, books, table talk or special programs.

More information will be provided as we go on.



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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