



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

September 2026



A Letter from Pastor Bo

September 2026

Generosity of Self

What Jesus asks of us this September can be tough. These texts are where Jesus's demands of discipleship burrow into the deepest part of who we are, and the love of God asks to transform that as well, and to give all of ourself away to people, when we would rather hide away something that resists God's call to generosity.

September 6th – A Commitment to Siblings in Christ. This is a passage about resolving conflicts in the church (Matthew 18.15-20). It's in our constitution. But we would be mistaken to only see this as a list of rules to follow. The impetus behind Jesus' teaching is a desire to reconcile and make things right. A true desire for relationship with a unique human being causes us to be flexible with rules yet unwavering in the commitment to the good of the community.

September 13th – Forgiveness (7x70). The way of discipleship is the way of radical forgiveness, especially as ones who have been forgiven ourselves. Not only does this make us more like Christ, but also the failure to forgive leads to a torment it would be best to avoid.

September 20th – No more keeping score. Jesus tells a story about people who work for different amounts of time and yet all get paid as if they worked the whole day. This isn't fair; this is grace. The way of discipleship is the way that is comfortable with a generous unfairness (not a cruel unfairness). God is radically gracious to all.



Our Mission:

To be a loving,
accepting
community
centered on
growing in Christ.

Our Vision:

To give people a
place to belong at
any stage of their
journey with God.



Important Dates in September

September 13 –
Rally Day

September 19 –
Hatboro Praise Fest

September 27 –
Brad Fox Concert

A Letter from Pastor Bo (continued)

September 27th – Spiritual Humility. For some of us, this might be the greatest sacrifice of all. We may put a lot of effort into being a good person, into being right with God. But the only thing that God asks is to have faith in what God has told us. In this way, maybe there are people we look down upon who are way ahead of us at pleasing God. Will we humble ourselves and acknowledge we have no reason to look down on anyone, when all God is after is a responsive heart?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



AC Announcement from Council President Alan Divver

Dear St. Johns Family,

I wanted to reach out on behalf of Church Council to let you all know that, as of 7/23, our AC system in the Sanctuary is no longer operational. Church Council, Property, and Finance are working together to collect bids and review our options for potentially funding a new system. We will keep the congregation abreast of any developments as we have them.

In the meantime, we are planning to move Saturday services for the upcoming summer weeks to Fellowship Hall. We've already had a couple of services down there in the past month and Pastor Bo and Michael have done a great job in making it a pleasant experience. Sunday morning services will continue in the Sanctuary but we will be keeping an eye on temperatures to make sure that it won't be too hot in there. If we determine we need to move a service due to high Sunday AM temperatures, we will make that decision by Wednesday and communicate it out accordingly. Our heating system is also still operational so as we reach the cool part of fall and winter, we will be able to rely on that.

I know this isn't news that any of us wanted to hear but this is only a small setback and one we've been doing our best to plan around for quite some time. I know that we can get through this together and continue to help St Johns grow and evolve in the coming years

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of the Executive Team and we'll do our best to address them.

Thank you for all of your support,

Alan Divver



AC Update from Council Treasurer Carol Schlegel

Dear St. John's Family,

I wanted to reach out to you to provide an update on the status of the HVAC system in the Sanctuary. Church Council was advised in August of 2024 that the HVAC in the Sanctuary was in imminent danger of failing. At that time the Church was not in a position to finance the replacement of the system and thus Church Council decided that when the HVAC failed we would move services to Fellowship Hall. As you all know, the system failed in July. The property committee immediately began soliciting bids to install a new HVAC system. At the same time we had one of the split units in Fellowship Hall fail. Those units are 22 years old and we have been advised to consider replacing all three instead of just one. We are in a better place financially but still not able to fund this project. However it must be done. We cannot commit to any contracts until we raise the funds to pay for the new system. Our goal remains at \$100,000. To help us reach that goal a few of our members, who have asked to remain anonymous, have offered to match dollar for dollar any donations received for the HVAC system between September 1, 2026 and October 31, 2026 up to \$30,000.

I know that we have asked the congregation for financial help many times over the last 2 1/2 years and you have been very generous. With your help we have turned the corner on our finance problems and will end this year with a balanced budget for the first time in quite some time. Unfortunately, we need to ask for your help again. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to the HVAC fund between September 1 and October 31 to secure the funds to commit to a contract for the new HVAC system.

Thank you for all of your support.

Carol Schlegel



Hatboro Community Cupboard Report

August 5, 2026

We appear to have settled in to a normal schedule during July. We served 155 families and added 18 new families to our registry. Total visits for the month were 325.

Donations have been consistent from all sources including our partner churches that provide both food and financial support. The Grocery Outlet "Independence from Hunger" campaign provided much needed items to stock our shelves. BCOC has resumed their Thursday distributions and Rolling Harvest has been filling in the gaps with fresh produce and some meats when available. We have also begun harvesting produce from our community garden. We were the recipients of a cereal food drive from Riverside Church. During the summer months the clients are less likely to take oatmeal or pancake mix and we couldn't keep up with the demand for cereal. We continue to provide bread, bagels, English muffins and desserts to Moreland Towers twice a week. The residents are most appreciative of the donations.

We continue to search for a substitute team leader. July was a difficult month with two team leaders on vacation. The remaining two team leaders had to do double duty. We are thankful for our dedicated volunteers who stepped up to help lessen the burden. We will continue to pursue substitutes. Until we find someone we will make due.

As always, we are grateful for our dedicated volunteers and all of the organizations that support us in providing food and personal care items for those in need.

Current Needs List:

Canned Peaches • Canned Pears • Canned Potatoes • Canned Vegetable Soup • Canned Mixed Vegetables • 1-Pound Bags of White Rice • 2-Pound Bags of White Rice • Manwich • Peanut Butter (Small Jars) • Jelly • Cereal • Toilet Paper

LAST MONTH

Vacation Bible School – Road Trip – August 3-7



Youth News & Events



Join us for Sunday School! Bring your child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10 am. All kids ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome to join us! Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

Lesson Schedule:

September 13 (**Rally Day**)

September 20

September 27



Confirmation will meet on September 13th. We meet from 6:30 – 8 pm, and dinner is included in the class time.



Backpack Blessing

All children, college students, teachers, and other school staff heading back to school are encouraged to bring their backpack or bag to worship on **Sunday, September 13th** for a blessing.

Kids & Family Ministry Team Members Needed

With the resignation of a few of our members, we are in need of new committee members. Our committee makes decisions and plans the following: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Youth Group, and various other events. Please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sichrised@gmail.com if you're interested in joining us! We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Teaching Sunday School is very easy and fulfilling! The lesson is all planned out for you before you arrive, you just need to read to the children and lead the craft, game, or other activity. We ask that teachers arrive at least 20 minutes before the service starts so they can go over the lesson and ask any questions they might have.

ALL VOLUNTEERS must complete St. John's Mandatory Volunteer Training (available digitally), and ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS must have completed their Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance as well as their Pennsylvania Background Check.

CHURCH NEWS



HVAC Match Campaign

The HVAC in the Sanctuary has failed and is in need of replacement. The property committee is reviewing bids for replacement of the system. However, we cannot commit to any contracts until we have secured the funds to pay for the project. This has prompted us to renew our efforts to add to the current HVAC fund to reach the goal of \$100,000 as quickly as possible. To assist us in this challenge we have had several donors offer to match dollar for dollar any donations to the fund between **September 1, 2026 and October 31, 2026** for a **maximum match of \$30,000**. Please prayerfully consider donating to the HVAC fund to help us reach our goal by October 31.



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour returns on **Sunday, September 13th, after the 10:00 service**. We are looking for volunteers to make coffee, put out snacks, and clean up and put away after. The commitment is once every 3 weeks until we are able to form an additional team. Contact Marcie Divver at mdivver324@comcast.net.



Book Club

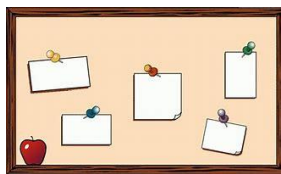
Come join us at book club! We meet monthly and discuss the book of the month. Each member chooses a book and we rotate through each member. The next book club book is "The Hideaway" by Lauren Denton. We'll meet on **Sunday, September 13th at 1 pm** in the church library. Hope to see you there!



Choir Rehearsals begin on Wednesday,
September 9!

Bell Choir: 6:30 pm

Traditional Choir: 7:45 pm



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



St. John's will be at Hatboro Praise Fest this year! Come out for live praise music (from St. John's Praise Fest Band as well as 5 other churches!), food, and activities for kids. Six different churches will be featured this year! Praise Fest will be on **Saturday, September 19th from 12:30-6:30 pm at Hatboro Community Church** (730 Preston Lane, Hatboro).



Women's Ministry Presents: Women of the Bible Study

Women's Ministry will be hosting a monthly bible study discussing Women of the Bible. All are welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning on **Wednesday, September 16th, at 10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall.



Fall Food Drive

The Community Outreach Ministry Team will have a Fall Food Drive **starting September 19th and running through September 27th**. Please donate the following for people in need:

Canned Peaches, Canned Pears, Canned Potatoes, Canned Vegetable Soup, Canned Mixed Vegetables, 1- & 2-Pound Bags of White Rice, Manwich, Small Jars of Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, & Toilet Paper



Council wants to hear from you! Church members are invited to speak to Council every month at the beginning of their meeting. Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 16th**.



Faith Explorers

Faith Explorers will return on Thursday, **September 24th at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

Large Print Bulletins Now Available

Large print versions of the weekend bulletins are now available in the Narthex before services.



Publicity Committee Photos

Our committee cannot always be at every event. If you attend events at St. John's, please take photos and send them to stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com, so we can put them on our social media accounts! *We want to respect everyone's privacy: If you or your family do not want your pictures posted on social media, please send us an email with your first and last name, and you will be put on our "do not share my picture" list to ensure your privacy.*



Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on **Sunday, September 27th 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!

Thank You!

The Community Outreach Ministry Committee would like to again thank the Congregation for their generous donations to the Backpacks and School Supplies outreach! They were greatly appreciated by the Breathing Room and the Valley Youth House.

Thank you.

The Community Outreach Ministry
Committee

Finance Corner



Air Conditioning Fundraiser

We are anticipating that we will need to replace the sanctuary's air conditioner next year, and it's time to get a head start on fundraising! We are aiming to raise \$100,000, and as of the end of July we have raised over **\$23,000!** Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

July 2026 Operating Budget Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status 7/31/26	
Income	\$253,513.84
Expenses	\$241,682.76
Reserve*	\$11,831.08

**Now that we have balanced the budget, we need to build a cash reserve in case of emergencies. Any excess funds after paying expenses will be applied to the reserve. This chart does not include donations to the Capital Improvement fund, which is not part of the operating budget.*



Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees:

Adopt a Highway - We are looking for someone to take over the Adopt-A-Highway program. This would entail organizing volunteers to pick-up trash once in the spring and once in the fall. St. John has adopted the section of York Road from County Line Rd to Bristol Road. Please contact Trish Strauss at 610-517-6471 if you are interested.

Altar Guild - We are looking for volunteers to join Altar Guild. Can you set up for a communion service and put away everything after the service? You will be working alongside someone that is an experienced team member. Set up and take down for communion takes approximately 40 minutes each time. Altar Guild is looking for members to help us out every four to five weeks. Contact the church office or Chris Brinkworth at 267-474-1395.

Coffee Hour - Right now we are down to 3 teams, which means that each month, one of the teams serve twice a month. The ideal schedule is once a month per team, but in order to do that we will need a few more volunteers. Our 'jobs' entail making coffee, putting out snacks, paper goods, and items for the coffee table (cups, sugar, creamer, etc), and putting it away at the end of the hour. I hope that over the summer you will consider joining us, and I'm looking forward to getting together again in the fall! Many hands make light work (and much coffee!). Marcie Divver

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed (continued.)

We need members for the following committees:

Hatboro Community Cupboard – Want to join an exciting team that serves our community?

- **Drivers** - Hatboro Community Cupboard needs volunteers with an SUV or truck to pick up donations the first Wednesday of every month from Noon-2:00 PM in Lansdale. Some heavy lifting is involved. You do not have to commit to every month to get on the volunteer list. Please call the office if you're interested!
- **Volunteers** – We are in need of volunteers for our evening shifts on Monday and Thursday evenings. Please sign up using the link on our website.
- **Team Leader** - We are looking for an individual to join our leadership team. Duties would include a one-hour meeting once a month (usually the fourth Wednesday) to discuss updates and status of all aspects of pantry operations, and filling in for team leaders during vacations. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve the community and work with a great group of volunteers, please reach out to Carol Schlegel at cschlegel9@aol.com.

Head Ushers - Our Usher team is looking for one or two head ushers this year. If you are interested, please see Joe Kircher or reach out to the office for more information!

Media Team - 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? We would love your help running the cameras, lights, and sound equipment that take our weekend and online services to the next level! Contact the office for more details.

Property Committee - The Property Committee is inviting members of St. John's to consider joining the committee. This committee is responsible for the church building, the church grounds, as well as the building and grounds at 457 Crescent Rd (parsonage). Committee needs are currently most often handled by email contact. Check the tab for committees on the church website to see the postings of what has been done each month. If you are interested in joining, please contact the office.

Publicity Committee – The Publicity Committee is looking for skilled members to help maintain our website and social media accounts, as well as volunteers who would be interested in manning a St. John's table at various events. Please reach out to us at stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com if you are interested!

Women's Ministry - Our Women's Ministry program is going to be "Re-imagined." We are looking for volunteers to join our committee to help plan future Women's Ministry activities and events. Please consider volunteering and being part of the future of Women's Ministry at St. John's. If you are interested, please see Carolyn Kircher or Pastor Bo, or email Carolyn Kircher at kirchercj615@verizon.net.

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St. John's Lutheran
Church – Hatboro



@sjlchatboro



Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel!

You can find us on YouTube by searching "St. John's Lutheran Church Hatboro."



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!

Church Staff & Contact Information



Pastor Bo Bannister

Cell: 765-426-0500

Email: pastorbo@sjlch.org

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: sjchrised@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: office@sjlch.org

Church Website:

www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org

Publicity Committee Email:

stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com

St. John's Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 am – 2 pm
Friday *By Appointment Only*
Please call the office before coming in.

Pastor Bo's Office Hours:
Monday-Tuesday 3 pm – 5 pm
Thursday 10 am – 12 pm
Or by appointment