



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA  
*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

November 2024



## A Letter from Pastor Bo

### November 2024 – The Prequel – The House the Saints Built

Last November, we ended Year A's Old Testament Readings with Deborah and the period of the Judges. This June, Year B's readings began with Samuel and Saul and David. (The Lectionary gives us the option of using Summer and Fall to read through the Old Testament chronologically, which is what we've been doing. We have one more, Year C, which focuses on the prophets.)

In November, we go back to the period of Judges again, with the story of Ruth. Maybe it's fitting to travel back to the beginning of David's line at the time when we ourselves look back to the saints who came before us who are still with us. And then to the birth of Samuel. And then on Christ the King Sunday, David's celebration of this royal house God has promised and fulfilled.

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Saints. The Hungry Refugee. The saint who prepared the way for King David is a most unlikely saint – a poor pagan widow, Ruth, an asylum seeker from Moab, an enemy country. How she expressed her faith was by clinging to an Israelite widow (Naomi) who thought her own life was over. It would have been, but this companionship blossomed forth new life, not just for the two women, but for the whole world.

November 10<sup>th</sup> – A Conspiracy of Hope. It's not just laughs and giggles that made Ruth and Naomi so important. It was shrewd and strategic choices they made to survive and prosper. This week contains tips on how to win a good man and become the great-grandmother of a king. Actually, do not try this at home.

November 17<sup>th</sup> – When Your Back's Against the Wall. A new story, but also centering a woman. Hannah, one of two wives of Elkanah, is trapped in life. There is no good ending to her story. She is finished and all alone, unless God comes to her rescue. She weeps bitterly to God, and God comes through.

November 24<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King Sunday. The Last Words of David. Looking at what God has fulfilled, David claims that God's kingdom in the world brings light and joy and prosperity, as well as judgment for the wicked. Something to be thinking of around the Thanksgiving table, am I right?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



### Important Dates

- November 3 – All Saints Sunday
- November 5 – Election Day
- November 17 – Youth-Led Worship
- November 24 – Hatboro Holiday Parade
- November 28 – Thanksgiving

### Food Pantry Current Need

Our **most critical needs** right now are:

- Cereal
- Boxed Pasta
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Chili
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Black Beans
- Knorr Sides
- Rice a Roni

Additionally, we are looking for donations of metal cabinets to store our inventory. Call Alan at 215-675-1298.

All donations are appreciated, thank you!



### Food Pantry Report

Our Thursday night team is in need of volunteers. Volunteers arrive around 5:30PM to set up, clients are served from 6:00PM until 7:50PM. Clean up for the week ensues. If you can give of your time, please go to [SJLCH.org](http://SJLCH.org). Locate the Community Cupboard tab. Scroll to “volunteer” and then you will be at Signup Genius. The grid will have a very old start date, click the icon to the right at the top of the grid to get a current month calendar. Then sign up on the day of your choice.

We thank Church of the Advent for their monetary donation. Also, we thank Redeemer Lutheran for donating three more cases of the prepacked meals. And, thanks to Hatboro Chamber of Commerce as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month Cruise Night season of collecting food items ended on September 20.

Cupboard attendance for September 2024 exceeded that of September 2023 by 48 families. In completing statistics for one of our donor organizations, we calculated that 177 new families have signed up since the first of January.

Plans are already underway for the busy holiday season. If you will have a turkey that you earn at the supermarket but don't need, we can redeem the receipt if you write your shopper's card number on it.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we help our neighbors.

# LAST MONTH

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

St. John's celebrated 75 years of ministry at the VE Club in Warminster on September 29, 2024! Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make the day happen, to everyone who joined us at the party, and to all those in our past who helped us to get to this great occasion!



## Pet Blessing

We held a pet blessing in the loop out front, and saw lots of cats and dogs, and one hamster! Pastor Bo made sure to let the pets know that they are a blessing to their people, and prayed for their good health so they can continue to be!



## Youth Retreat

Four of our Confirmation students went on retreat with four other churches in the Lower Bucks Conference! We explored the four ideas in Acts 2:42: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”



## Haunted House & Halloween Potluck

Our Youth Group worked hard setting up this year's haunted house! They offered it for the Sunday School kids to go through on Sunday morning, and then came back to do it again for adults at our Halloween Potluck!



# Youth News & Events



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

### Lesson Schedule:

November 3 – The Ten Commandments

November 10 – David and Goliath

November 17 – Youth-Led Worship (No Sunday School)

November 24 – Angel Comes to Mary



**Youth Group is held on the third Saturday of every month at 6:30 pm, from September – May.**

This month's Youth Group will be a Friendsgiving! Look out for an email from Abbie to sign up to bring a dish for a potluck Thanksgiving Dinner!

Friendsgiving will be on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.



**Confirmation Classes will be held on the fourth Sunday of every month, at 6:30 pm, from September – May.**

Our next Confirmation class will be on Sunday, November 17, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided. Students should complete their homework before class!



## Nursery

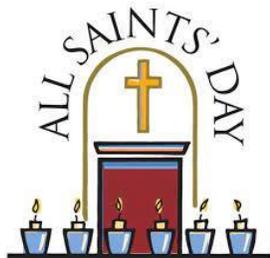
The nursery has been relocated to the Library. We are working to staff the nursery each week so that parents can drop their children off before worship, and pick them up after the service. The nursery will be open from 9:50 – 10 minutes after the service ends on Sunday mornings.

In the event that the nursery is not staffed, it is still open for parents to sit with their children if they need a break. There will be signs posted on the door to mark whether the nursery is staffed or not.

## Youth-Led Worship

The next Youth Sunday will be Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 service.

# CHURCH NEWS



All Saints Sunday is on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** this year, and we are collecting photos of loved ones for the windows in the Narthex. There will be tape in the Narthex through the month of October for you to put up your photos. The office kept photos from the past year, and will put them up at the beginning of October.



Women's Ministry's Ladies Lunch Bunch will return on **Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon**. Bring your lunch and drinks, and enjoy a provided dessert. Please sign up to attend on the bulletin board on the ramp to Fellowship Hall.

**The Ladies Lunch Bunch meets on the third Tuesday of each month at noon in Fellowship Hall.**



## Thanksgiving Collection

The Community Outreach committee is collecting gift cards for the annual Thanksgiving Outreach Project. We are asking for gift cards to Giant food store, Acme market and BJ's wholesale club. We will begin offering the tags on **Saturday November 2nd** and **due back by Sunday November 17th by the end of service**. The gift cards we collect will be taken to our sister church Grace Lutheran on Sunday November 17th. The gift cards will benefit their food pantry which is utilized by the neighborhood surrounding their church in West Philadelphia. Thank you for your continued support!



## Hatboro Holiday Parade

St. John's will be open on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for the Hatboro Holiday Parade! We are asking for volunteers to give their time to hand out hot dogs, hot chocolate, and water bottles to those marching in the parade!

## Coming Soon:



Our very own Bob Evans has been working tirelessly on a musical, and we will see it later this year! We have a date! We will put on the musical on Saturday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, after the 5:00 service. Stay tuned for more details!

## Finance Corner

### End of September Deficit Update

<b>Year-to-Date Financial Status through 9/30/24</b>	
Income	\$312,621.11
Expenses	\$358,745.70
Deficit	\$46,124.59

## Thank You!

Thank you for your support for our recent initiatives, Backpack and School supplies and our September Harvest collection for the St. John's Community Cupboard.

Coming up in November we will be starting our collection of gift cards for our sister church, Grace Lutheran in Philadelphia. This will start November 2nd, so look in the weekly newsletter for more information and updates.

As in the past our Church has opened its doors to the participants in the Hatboro Thanksgiving Parade. We will be asking for volunteers to help us in this endeavor.

Also in November, we will be starting our Community Cupboard food drive, and we will be setting up the Giving Tree for our December collection for A Woman's Place, The Breathing Room and Valley Youth House.

Look for more details for all of these events in the weekly announcements.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Community Outreach Ministries Committee



## 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](http://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."

### 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.

## Church Staff & Contact Information



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