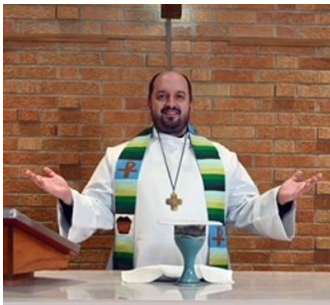




St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

October 2024



A Letter from Pastor Bo

October 2024 – Journey with Job

October is spooky time, as we move towards... Reformation Day. All the ghosts and goblins cover over the fears that we don't even like to think about. The fear that... What if the bottom dropped out of our lives, and even more, what if God seemed to abandon us?

Job is a book in the Bible that explores that. It's not the only perspective on that question in the Bible. The ultimate dealing with it happens in the crucifixion of Jesus. It's something we must grapple with if we are to live as mature Christians in a world that desperately seeks to avoid pain, and in so doing, to avoid truth.

October 6th – God allows. Is it true that 'God will only give us what we can handle'? Well, that quote isn't in the Bible and sometimes seems helpful, yet sometimes doesn't. We'll look at the divine drama in the heavenlies between God and the satan that Job never gets to see, to see if there's something that can make sense for us.

October 13th– God hides. Most of Job is simply back and forth speeches between honest Job and his friend who offer different hypotheses for why this could be happening to Job. In Chapter 23, around the middle of the book, Job delivers his most painful speech yet about the utter absence of God. Let's explore a question that you've probably never explored in church – How do we live out the absence of God? Where might there be good news here?

October 20th – God challenges. Just when we thought we had made our peace with the absence of God, God shows up. Without answers. Only questions. Questions that we don't know the answers to, in addition to all the unanswerable questions we were coming up with ourselves. This can lead us to the end of ourselves, and the beginning of worship.

October 27th – God restores. We get to what is meant to be a happy ending. Let's explore whether it truly is, and whether we see life really working that way, but let's also explore what this points to – the redemption of everything in the end. This will be a nice way to lead us into November, which tends to focus on the apocalyptic. It might be a good text for Reformation Sunday as well, but I'll have to think about that over this month.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



Important Dates

- October 5 – Pet Blessing
- October 20 – Halloween Potluck
- October 26 – Trunk or Treat
- October 27 – Reformation Sunday

Food Pantry Current Need

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

- Canned potatoes
- Canned carrots
- Hamburger Helper
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned beef stew
- Canned chili
- Boxed pasta
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Bar Soap

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

August 2024 was filled with surprises, most of a pleasant nature.

We were delighted to receive a financial donation from Redeemer Lutheran in Jamison. It was well timed as the donation stream is generally tapering off at this time of year and so we struggle a little bit to make it to the holidays.

We were surprised by our friends at Grocery Outlet in Warminster as they celebrated the grand opening of their expanded store and their five year anniversary. They awarded five local charities \$1,000 each in the form of two \$500 gift cards. We are using ours to pay for the 72 half gallons of milk that we purchase each week. The Cupboard Leadership Team attended the festivities to receive the ceremonial check.

Attendance at the Cupboard this past month was just shy of last year's record setting number. We had 407 visits to the Cupboard during August. Generally, our numbers are up in August as the family budgets tighten up in preparation for the opening of schools.

In early August US Congresswoman Madeline Dean held a forum for local groups battling food insecurity. Alan Eickhoff represented Hatboro Community Cupboard. The Congresswoman wanted to gather first hand information as she supports the pending Farm Bill which includes provisions for several programs of assistance for those in need as well as support for the farmers.

As always, we appreciate your prayers and support in our efforts to fight food insecurity within our community.

LAST MONTH

Rally Day

This year for our kick off to the Sunday School year, our students left positive messages in chalk on the sidewalk in front of the main entrance of the church.



New Members

We welcomed seven new members on Sunday, September 8th. We are so excited to journey with them!

WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS

A portrait of Nancy Boyle, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a dark blue short-sleeved top and a long necklace. She is smiling and standing in front of a light-colored wall.

NANCY BOYLE

A portrait of Art Fry, a man with glasses and a purple button-down shirt. He is standing in front of a light-colored wall.

ART FRY

A portrait of Valerie Holmes, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a green cardigan over a pink top. She is standing in front of a light-colored wall.

VALERIE HOLMES

A portrait of Shereesa James, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a patterned sleeveless dress. She is smiling and standing in front of a light-colored wall.

SHEREESA JAMES

CHERYL TIBERIO
MARK & JANICE
VALLONE

Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Thank you to everyone who came to the concert this year to make it a success! We raised over \$4,000 for the Brad Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Michael Brinkworth, our amazing vocalists and instrumentalists, and the audio/visual guys in the balcony for putting on such a great show!



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 – 1st grade, and 2nd – 6th grades. Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

Lesson Schedule:

- October 6 – Noah’s Ark
- October 13 – Abraham & Sarah
- October 20 – Halloween Party & Haunted House
- October 27 – Reformation Sunday



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.

Volunteer Information

We are always looking for teachers for Sunday School and volunteers to staff our nursery. We have a Two-Adult Policy, so every classroom with children must have two adults staffing that room. This requires a few extra pairs of hands. To hold two Sunday School classes and have a staffed nursery, we need at least 6 adult volunteers each Sunday morning. If you are available, please sign up on the Sunday School bulletin board, or reach out to Abbie Metheny at sichrised@gmail.com.

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. Links are on the Sunday School page on our website.



Children’s Library

If parents do not want to use the staffed nursery, but their child needs a break from worship, they are welcome to use the Children’s Library, located beside the Sunday School office.

The library will also be open after worship each week. Parents are welcome to sign out books on the clipboard, and bring them back when finished.

Youth News & Events, continued.



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

Youth Group this month is the annual Haunted House! Set up will be on Saturday, October 19, and the Haunted House will be held during Sunday School on Sunday, October 20, and later that evening at our Halloween Potluck at 5 pm.



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, October 27, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided. Students should complete their homework before class!

Youth Retreat

Our youth will be going on a retreat from Friday, October 11 – Sunday, October 13. They will be going to Crossroads Retreat Center in New Jersey with other youth from nearby Lutheran churches.



Bibles

Bibles will be distributed on Reformation Sunday, October 27th, during the 10 am service. New preschool students will receive *Notes from Jesus* picture books; 2nd graders will receive Early Reader Bibles; 8th graders will receive Study Bibles and *The Story*, which they will use in Confirmation.

CHURCH NEWS



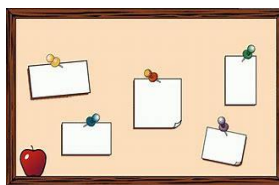
Pet Blessing

Bring your pets to church for a blessing on **Saturday, October 5th from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**. Blessings will be in the loop in front of the church. All pets are welcome!



Book Club

Join us in the library on **October 13th at 1 pm** for book club. This month we will be reading and discussing *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge.



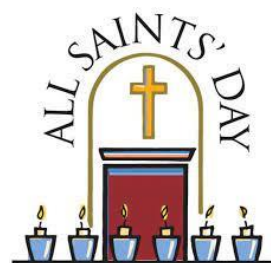
Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Women's Ministry's Ladies Lunch Bunch will return on **Tuesday, October 15th 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.



All Saints Sunday is on **November 3rd** 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.



Haunted House Potluck Dinner

Join us on Sunday, October 20th at 5 pm for a Halloween potluck dinner! There will be prizes given for best costumes and best on-theme spooky dish! Our youth group will also be taking guests through their haunted house. Sign up on the bulletin board!



Trunk or Treat

St. John's will be hosting a Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 26th from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm! All are invited to dress up, come out, and get or give goodies. Sign up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall for those who wish to decorate their Trunks and give out Treats. Any questions, reach out to Alan Diver at alan.m.divver@gmail.com or 215-436-0730!

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 14th**, after the 5:00 service. Stay tuned for more details!

Finance Corner

End of August Deficit Update

This is the Year-to-Date financial status through the end of August. We have changed from tracking against our budget, to tracking our actual income vs our actual expenses. The August numbers are virtually unchanged from July, because the August deficit was only \$90.

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 8/31/24

Income	\$272,036.71
Expenses	\$320,167.85
Deficit	\$48,131.14



Thank You!

Dear Pastor Bo Bannister and all those who signed the Get Well card,

Thank you for your healing prayers! What a pleasant surprise it was to receive your card! I was greatly touched by how many signed the card. I was in the middle of some challenging days following chemo treatment #3 when it arrived, and it was truly heartwarming to open it, see the message and read all the signatures!

I am blown away by the numbers of dear friends and friends of friends around the world who have been showing support and offering prayers. Church and synagogue prayer groups, as well as dozens of people from our time of service at the Bahai World Centre in Haifa, Israel – all offering prayers as I make my way through this health journey.

It is a wonderful thing that you are doing – supporting people with prayers. Please know that it is greatly appreciated!

With warm greetings,

Mary Watson, friend of Mary Bachman

Dear Members of St. John's,

Congratulations on reaching 75 years of ministry. I am so sorry I will not be able to join you on the 29th since I conduct a worship service at 2:00 pm each Sunday. However, though I will not be there in person, I will keep you in prayer on this special occasion. It was a deep honor to be at St. John's for almost 19 years. You blessed me richly as you taught me what it meant to minister with grace and compassion. You will always have a special place in my heart and I pray God will bless you richly in the next 75 years of ministry to God's people.

With heartfelt gratitude and love,

Pastor Brian D. Cox

Thank you everyone for your cards, prayers, and thoughts over the past year, and also for the most recent altar flowers. They came at a great time when I needed a pick-me-up!

June Crippen

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."

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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