



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

October 2026



A Letter from Pastor Bo

October 2026

Whittling It Down

There is no hearse with a U-Haul behind it. Following Jesus is stripping ourselves of all that is unnecessary, and some tough choices have to be made. So many things we have been taught are important to a good life, including many things we have spent a lot of time cultivating, aren't what is necessary.

October 4th – The Stone the Builders Rejected. First, we might reconsider what we and the world have rejected. On this feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, let us revisit that old stone that was thrown away, which will end up being the foundation stone. The way of Jesus is not a way held in great esteem by the world, but remember that the world is killing itself, and the way of Jesus is life and peace.

October 11th – Many are Called; Few are Chosen. When God invites you to a party, the most important thing is to come. And to read the instructions on the invitation. There is nothing more important. But instead, people neglect to come, or show up wearing the wrong clothes. Let's cut out distractions and get ready for the greatest party of all time.

October 18th – Give to Caesar What's Caesar's, and to God What's God's. That's a lot of giving. And when you've given all that away, what's left for you? Not much, but what does God give us in return? God gives us God.

October 25th – And Then There Were Two (Or One). With everything we give away, we are left with a life based on two (or one) simple rule(s). Love – God and neighbor. In the 16th century, reformers were trying to simplify a bloated and burdensome church. I say they didn't go far enough, or maybe they did, but we have work to do in our day, and it's getting down to live purely by love and love alone.



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 October

October 4 – Pet
Blessing

October 11 – Bingo

October 25 –
Haunted House

October 31 – Trunk
or Treat



Hatboro Community Cupboard Report

September 4, 2026

We appear to be at the mercy of mother nature. Sometimes when the weather is bad client visits are very low, other times clients are adjusting their schedules to avoid the storms and sometimes clients just choose to brave the storms. We have not been able to plan around these fluctuations so we are going with the flow. We served 152 families and added 20 new families to our registry. Total visits for the month were 308.

Donations have been consistent from all sources including our partner churches that provide both food and financial support. Our donations from Rolling Harvest have been affected by the weather as well. When lightning and thunder are present they cannot harvest the crops and thus we do not get fresh vegetables and fruit. We have begun harvesting produce from our community garden. We have received some welcome assistance with the garden from one of our neighbors who brings bonemeal and other products to enhance our yields. 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. In the meantime, a few of our long-term volunteers have stepped in to assist during vacations. 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:

Instant Oatmeal (Individual Packets) • Spaghetti Sauce • Canned Potatoes •
Canned Diced Tomatoes • Canned Mixed Vegetables • Chef Boyardee •
Peanut Butter (Small Jars) • Jelly (Small Jars) • Canned Peaches •
2-Pound Bags of White Rice

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:

October 4 – Noah's Ark
October 11 – Abraham & Sarah
October 18 – Moses
October 25 – Haunted House & Halloween Party



Confirmation will meet on October 4th and October 25th. We meet from 6:30 – 8 pm, and dinner is included in the class time.



Youth Group Haunted House

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to set up our annual Haunted House on Saturday, October 24th. The Haunted House will then be put on for the Sunday School students on Sunday, October 25th.

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.



Choir Rehearsals in October will be every Thursday evening.

Bell Choir: 6:30 pm

Traditional Choir: 7:45 pm



Pet Blessing

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



St. John's will be joining thousands of teams across the country to help save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. The walks are an opportunity to find a supportive community of people who get it, to know you're not alone, and to make a difference together. This suicide prevention walk will be on Saturday, October 10th at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia. Check-in starts at 9 am, and the walk begins at 10:30.

To donate or join our team, click the link below (if reading the digital newsletter) or reach out to the office.

[St. John's Lutheran Church - Fundraising For American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)



Mark your calendars, because St. John's is holding Bingo on **Sunday, October 11th at 1:00 pm!** Admission is \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door, and includes 10 bingo cards. Join us for 10 games and 2 bonus rounds. Contact Janice Vallone for tickets at 215-480-3823.



Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be on **Thursday, October 22nd at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.



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, October 21st, at 10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall.



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 Girl Who Was Taken" by Charlie Donlea. We'll meet on **Sunday, October 25th at 1 pm** in the church library. Hope to see you there!

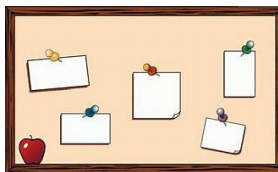


Council wants to hear from you! Church members are invited to speak to Council every month at the beginning of their meeting. Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, October 21st.**



Trunk or Treat

St. John's will be hosting a Trunk or Treat on **Saturday, October 31st from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm!** All are invited to dress up, come out, and get or give goodies.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



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.*

Large Print Bulletins Now Available

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

Thank You From....

Floss Braithwaite: Just wanted to thank the Needleworkers of St. John's for the beautiful walker bag and prayer shawl that I was able to take to my sister-in-law, Arlene Lukens. She was extremely grateful and has been using the shawl daily in prayer. The walker bag has also been put to good use. We have very talented and generous ladies at St. John's! Thank you so much.

Linda Eickhoff: Dear Friends, I want to express my sincerest appreciation for the beautiful altar flowers you gave me in August, the month of Alan's birthday and anniversary. He always loved flowers and so do I. They are a gift only God can make, and receiving them is a blessing. Thank you for your kindness.

Jeannette Heath: Thank you so so much for the beautiful flowers. It was so kind of you to think of me in such a lovely way. I can't wait to come back to church, I miss everyone. Lots of love to all!

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 August we have raised over **\$38,000!** Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

August 2026 Operating Budget Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status 8/31/26	
Income	\$281,300.66
Expenses	\$268,130.75
Reserve*	\$13,169.91

**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 Diver



Committee Members Needed

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.



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



@sjlchatboro



Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel!

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

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