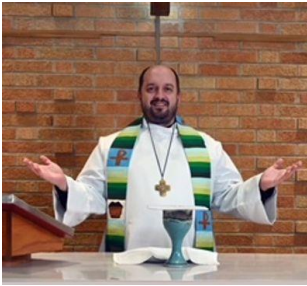




St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

August 2024



A Letter from Pastor Bo

August 2024 – Living with Limitations

Looking at the assigned Old Testament passages in August, it becomes clear that the kings which are focused on in these passages (David and Solomon), are not perfect and need to find their completeness in God. They are human, just like us, and so they aren't unattainable examples for life.

August 4th – Case in point, David is sinful. Guess what. So are we. Sometimes God has to get our attention creatively, because our hearts are hard. But David provides an example of acknowledging our sin and displaying a heart of contrition.

August 11th– David, like us, experienced great loss. This chapter explores David's tragic loss of his son Absalom. This loss was brought about through many people's choices, but David's sin that was just forgiven last week also contributed to this tragedy. There are no answers here necessarily. Sometimes we just need to lament.

August 18th – In this chapter, David's son Solomon succeeds him as king. What does Solomon lack? Wisdom. So do we. Solomon's prayer for wisdom is a model for us as we seek God for the wisdom we need.

August 25th – The Temple that David wanted to build is finally built by his son Solomon. Completing this project does not mean that we now have everything we need. No, but now we have a direction to face for everything we will need. God is present and available to all people in whatever they face.

“And let endurance complete its work, so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.” – James 1.4

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



Important Dates

August 6-8 – VBS – Camp Firelight

September 8 – Rally Day

September 8 – Brad Fox Memorial Concert



Food Pantry Current Need

Our most critical needs right now are:

- Boxed Pasta
- Baked Beans
- Pinto Beans
- Kidney Beans
- Canned Peaches
- Canned Potatoes
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Chili
- Canned Beef Stew
- Toilet Paper
- 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

We are in dire need of substitute drivers. This has been a request for several months now and there has been little response. Please consider helping if you are able. We make 13 or 14 stops per week at 10 different locations either picking up or dropping off items. If we could find a driver on Tuesday mornings, we could get a donation of milk in North Wales rather than having to purchase all our milk. We have needs that are in Bensalem at 11:30 on Tuesdays involving lifting of produce boxes. We need help with a team of drivers on the first Wednesday each month in North Wales around 1pm to help load product and transport it back to the Cupboard. We have Thursday needs at 11:30 in New Britain that involve lifting cases of frozen meats. Contact Alan Eickhoff at 215-675-1298 even if you can only do it one time.

The exciting news for June was the awarding of a grant of \$8,500 from Montgomery Anti-Hunger Network. This is the second year that MAHN has administered a grant of \$500,000 from the Montgomery County Commissioners. The grant is a credit to be used with designated food providers by December 15 (we won't have any trouble spending it). MAHN award \$460,000 in grants and will use the other \$40,000 for bulk purchasing that will be shared with agencies.

We were one of 55 agencies in the county that combat food insecurity that received a grant. We will be reporting each month the number of adults served, number of children 17 and under served, and number of seniors age 60 and above served as well as total number household visits. Tracking these numbers for the early part of 2024 was part of the application process.

We thank the Hatboro Horsham School District for two deliveries of fresh produce received at the end of the school year. We continue to work with administration from the district to establish a formal networking connection between the schools that may have families in need and our Cupboard.

We thank Horsham Giant for conducting a food drive this past month. It produced three shopping carts of product and \$125.00 in gift cards.

We encourage you to visit Warminster Grocery Outlet in July. They are currently running their annual Independence from Hunger Campaign. You pay \$5 for a prepacked bag of grocery items which they then donate to either Hatboro Food Cupboard or to Willow Grove Food Pantry (one of our networking partners). At checkout when you pay for the bag, they will give you a \$5 coupon for your next visit. There is no limit on how many times you may do this so shop early and often.

Typical of recent trends the June use of pantry numbers were second only to the 2021 pandemic numbers. 361 families used the Cupboard in June, 27 of them for the first time.

We thank you for your continued interest, support and prayers.

LAST MONTH

VBS – Start the Party Day 1

30 kids joined us for our first bible school of the summer! The first day, we learned about the parable of the wedding feast! We made a welcome sign in craft, and played Twister and freeze dance in games! Snack was a microphone made of ice cream cones and marshmallows.



VBS – Start the Party Day 2

On day 2, we learned about the feast the disciple Matthew held when he was invited to follow Jesus, and learned that everyone is invited to Jesus' party! In craft we made invitations for our closing program, and in snack we made party blowers out of pretzel rods and fruit roll ups.



VBS – Start the Party Day 3

On Wednesday we learned about Jesus' parable of the lost son. In craft we made doors to remind us we always have a place where we are loved, and decorated our shirts for the parent program! In snack we made necklaces out of treats! We played more games and learned more songs for our program.



VBS – Start the Party Day 4

Day 4's lesson was the Woman at the Well. We talked about all the things that make our cups overflow with joy, and did a science experiment to see that joy overflow. In craft we made glass jar wells, and in snack we made pianos out of graham crackers and chocolate! In the evening the kids showed off everything they learned for parents and church members.



VBS – Start the Party Day 5

On the last day, we learned that Jesus is the light of the world, and we get to carry that light out into the world and keep the party going! We made disco balls in snack, and paper lanterns in craft. In lesson, we made party bags filled with confetti to take the party with us! Thank you to all of the volunteers who were able to make this week a success!



Youth News & Events



Sunday School is out for the summer, but join us for Rally Day on **September 8th**!

Vacation Bible School



Our 3-day VBS is called Camp Firelight. In this program, we will learn to put our trust in God! This one takes place **August 6-8 from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm.**

Registration Forms and information for volunteers are currently available by request through Abbie Metheny or the Church Office, and on the website as well:

www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org/vbs

VBS Volunteer Information

We can't have VBS without our volunteers! We need a lot of help to run each session.

Group Leaders are responsible for taking their group of kids (broken down by age group) from station to station. Group Leaders are with the same group of kids all day. The different age groups are Pre-K & Kindergarten, 1st-3rd Grade, and 4th-6th Grade. We need two adults with each group.

Station Leaders are responsible for running their stations: Games, Snack, Lesson, Music, Craft, and Science. Station Leaders are provided with a book with the lessons, crafts, etc. explained. Most even have a script, so it's easy to teach! Only one adult is needed to teach each station, though the more, the merrier!

Youth Volunteers entering 7th grade and up are welcome to join us as a helping hand! They can help with groups or stations.

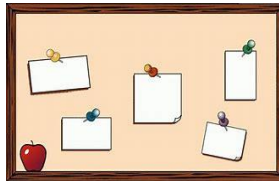
ALL VOLUNTEERS must attend St. John's Mandatory Volunteer Training, and ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS must have completed their Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance as well as their Pennsylvania Background Check. Links are on the VBS page on our website.

CHURCH NEWS



Book Club

Join us in the library on **August 4th** at 6:30 pm for book club. This month we will be reading and discussing *The Summer of Songbirds* by Kristy Harvey.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **August 28th** 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



75th Anniversary Party

The 75th Anniversary Party will be Sunday **September 29th, 2024** from **1-5 pm** at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge (VE) Club in Warminster. There will be a committee member outside of the sanctuary after worship on Saturdays and Sundays with a sign-up sheet and collecting money for the 75th anniversary celebration. The cost is **\$20 for adults and \$10 for school age children**. If your budget will not allow for the extra cost please still sign up and the committee will help with fees. The menu selection will be presented and there will be a cash bar.



Backpacks and School Supplies

Beginning Saturday, August 3rd and continuing through Sunday, August 18th, we will be collecting gift cards and school supplies for the Back To School Challenge. We will be supporting the Breathing Room, which helps families affected by cancer, and Valley Youth House in Warminster, which gives youth between the ages of 13 and 19, a safe place to live. All items must be returned by Sunday, August 18th.

The following are items needed by both places:

- \$15 or \$20 gift cards to Walmart, Target or Amazon. Please label whether they go to Valley Youth or the Breathing Room.
- 1, 3 and 5 Subject Notebooks,
- Composition books (different colors),
- Markers: Washable, Dry Erase, Highlighters, Sharpies
- Folders: Character or Solid Colors,
- Lunch Boxes and backpacks – Tweens and Teens
- Zippered Pencil cases, Pens, Pencils, Erasers, colored pencils
- 1 and 2 inch binders, dividers
- Looseleaf paper, graph paper, graphing notebooks
- Lined 3 X 5 index cards, post its, glue sticks
- Ear buds compatible with Chrome Books
- Protractors, rulers

Gift Cards should be sent to the Church Office or put in an envelope and placed in the offering plate. The other supplies may be dropped off at the Church during Church service on Saturdays and Sundays, or Church office hours.

Thank you!

The Community Outreach Committee

Coming Soon:

Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on **Sunday, September 8th** at 4 pm for our annual Brad Fox Memorial Concert!

Joseph & Mary

Our very own Bob Evans has been working tirelessly on a musical, and we will see it later this year! Please stay tuned for more details.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour will return on Rally Day Sunday, September 8th. See you there!

Join Us in the Fall!

A number of our programs are taking a break for the summer, but will be back in September!

Coffee Hour

Faith Explorers

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Music Programs

Sunday School

Youth Group

Thank You!

Our heartfelt thanks for the generous contributions from the congregation and the memorial fund donation from the Schneider family that have allowed us to pay off the loan for the roof!



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



Pastor Bo Bannister

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: sjchrised@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn

Media Coordinator: Bob Muller

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