



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Monthly News & Updates

January 2023



A Letter from Pastor Bo

January – Onward in Mission

Reflecting on the texts we will be hearing this coming January, the message I get from them is, “We’ve got work to do!” It’s exciting work, it’s fun work, and it’s blessed work. We are equipped and empowered to cooperate with God for the benefit of the world! What an exciting privilege! I so look forward to exploring this with you and seeing what God does in our midst!

We begin, as all of God’s works begin, from a place of blessedness. January 1st is the Feast of the Holy Name, when Jesus was circumcised and given the name Jesus. Our Old Testament passage in Numbers 6 is the great priestly blessing spoken over the people of God unconditionally. It’s good to know we have the grace of God’s blessedness before we do anything to earn it.

Which leads us to baptism. On January 8th, we will remember Jesus’ baptism, and our own baptism into him. Before doing anything at all, God said, “This is my Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Jesus also wants us to know that God feels the same about each of us. The Isaiah 42 passage we will focus on speaks of the Spirit’s empowerment for our service to God.

On January 15th, we realize through Isaiah 49 that what God will use us for is so much bigger than our imaginations, and so much bigger than restoring what was done in the past. In John 1, Jesus invites us on a journey to “Come and see” what all he is up to.

On January 22nd, Isaiah 9 reminds us of the kind of joy we have as we engage in the mission of God. Matthew 4 describes the joy as being so great, people willingly have their lives interrupted to get closer to Jesus.

And on January 29th, Micah sums up the three dimensions of our mission on earth – do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. This pairs perfectly with the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, where Jesus brings us back to the life that is blessed. This is youth Sunday, and I believe we will get to hear their thoughts on the matter.

Church, it’s a new year. Let’s get ready to roll up our sleeves and participate in the mission of God to bless this world around us. We have such good news! We can offer the kinds of things people so desperately need! You have gifts that can get us there! You are blessed and equipped! It’s going to be a fun year!



January Important Dates

January 15 – New Member Meeting

January 21 – Youth Group Pasta Dinner

January 26 – Faith Explorers

January 29 – Youth Sunday



Food Pantry Report

Our first Thanksgiving campaign since returning to the client choice model was a huge success. Supported by the four co-sponsoring churches, numerous individuals, businesses and non-profits we were able to distribute 35 more turkeys than were distributed last year for a total of 105. That represents a major accomplishment. We actually were able to share some late arriving frozen turkeys with Hatboro Baptist for their bi-weekly community dinner program.

The final tally for November is 388 families receiving a total of 500 bags of food. This measurement does not include bread, pastry, cold items, frozen meats, eggs, or milk.

We are awaiting word from Philabundance as we have applied to participate in one of their programs that would align us with a grocery chain store.

We are in short supply of both paper and plastic bags and are currently investigating ways to be both environmentally conscious and have a means for our clients to transport their selections.

The plans for the Christmas distribution are very similar to what we did on Thanksgiving. We thank all who have helped make this Thanksgiving season a joyous one for so many of our families. We look forward to being able to repeat this benevolence this Christmas season with your support. Thank you.

LAST MONTH

Advent Family Night – Back in November we celebrated the beginning of Advent with a potluck, crafts, tree decorating and singing carols together.



Music Sunday – On December 11, about 25 musicians, as well as other volunteers and our Minister of Music, Michael Brinkworth, put on a beautiful Music Sunday program for 180 people! It was lovely for our sanctuary to be filled with music as our pews were filled with people!



Youth Group Bake Sale – Our Youth Group made some delicious treats and raised over \$300 towards getting us to the 2024 National Youth Gathering! Thank you for our support, and for upcoming fundraisers, please check out the Youth News and Events!



Coat Drive – Thank you for bringing in your coats! The final count was 73 coats, and we had a few more donations of hats and gloves as well. Thank you!



Youth News & Events



We offer Sunday School for ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through 12th grade. These ages are split into 4 classes (Pre-K/ Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, 7th-12th grade). In order to make Sunday School a success, we need your help! Teacher signups are hanging on the bulletin board by the Sunday School office.

Lesson Schedule:

January 1:

- New Year's Day - **No Sunday School**

January 8:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: Lesson info tbd
- 7th -12th grade: Jesus' Baptism: Matthew

January 15:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: Lesson info tbd
- 7th -12th grade: Tempted in the Wilderness

January 22:

- Pre-K – 6th Grade: Lesson info tbd
- 7th -12th grade: Beatitudes

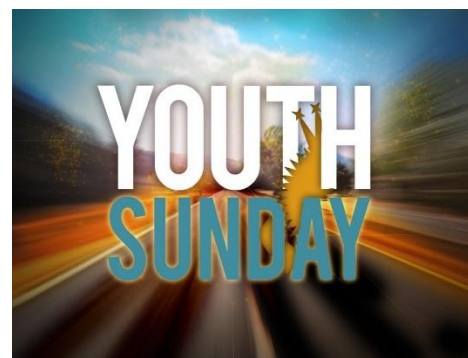
January 29:

- Youth Sunday – **No Sunday School**



Confirmation Dates

Due to scheduling conflicts this month, we will have Confirmation on **January 15 & January 29**, instead of our normal schedule.



We're so excited for our next Youth Sunday! The kids are working hard to put together a great service for us on **January 29**.

Youth Group News

Youth Group will meet on Sunday, **January 22 at 5:00** in Fellowship Hall to plan out the rest of the meetings this year. We hope to see you there!



Pasta Dinner

It's been a while, but our Pasta Dinner benefitting St. John's Youth is back! This year we are raising funds for the National Youth Gathering (information below). The dinner will be **Saturday, January 21 at 6:00**. The youth will serve spaghetti and meatballs. Please sign up on your attendance cards if you can attend!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO
the table

BE

MYLE
Young Adult Gathering

National Youth Gathering

We are trying to take our Youth Group to the ELCA's 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! If you'd like to support us, keep an eye out for Youth Group Fundraisers like the Bake Sale or Pasta Dinner, or you can designate "Youth" on your offering. Thank you for your support!

CHURCH NEWS

Visitation MINISTRY

We are getting our visitation team up and running again! The purpose of this team is to bring fellowship and Holy Communion to our members who are unable to join us in worship services. We will have our first meeting on **January 8, directly following the 10:00 service.**



Book Club

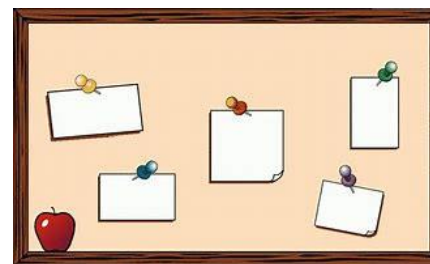
Come join us at book club! We meet monthly and discuss the book of the month. Each member chooses a book and we rotate through each member. The January book for book club is "My grandmother asked me to tell you she's sorry" by Fredrik Backman. We'll meet on **Jan 8 at 1:30 pm** in the church library.



Become Part of *Our* Church Family

New Member Meeting

Interested in becoming a member of St. John's? We will be offering a class after the 10:00 service on **Sunday, January 15**. Refreshments will be provided.



Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is **January 15th**. Please send anything you'd like to add to office@sjlch.org.



Attention Committee Chairs!

To prepare for the Annual Meeting, all Committee chairs are required to prepare a report for the Annual report booklet. Please have your report to the office by no later than **Sunday, January 22, 2023.**



Men's Breakfast

BRR! Winter is here. Come in for a hot breakfast and warm conversation. New members welcome! We will be going back to the 4th Wednesday of each month for winter; i.e. **January 25th, February 22 and March 22.** We meet at **Lancer's Diner** in Horsham at **9:00.** You can come as early as 8:45 and everyone gets a separate check. Any questions email or call me: rodorth@aol.com or my cell at 215-431-8437.



Faith Explorers

Small Groups are one of the most important ways that we connect and grow in our faith and as a community. Join the new Faith Explorers group to learn more about the bible and each other. Our next meeting will be held on **January 27th at 6pm at Mike's Bar and Grill Restaurant.** For January's meeting, please read the fourth part (I Love You) of "The Four Things That Matter Most" by Ira Byock. You can sign up on your yellow attendance card. Feel free to contact Linda DiMeo with any questions at lindapfaff@gmail.com.



I and my family wish to express much appreciation for your caring sentiments and condolences regarding Bob's passing. So nice to know he touched your lives in some way. Bob loved his God and his church, and tried to live his life with prayerful guidance. Again, the people of St. John's always reach out with heartfelt words and hugs! And a special thank you to Pastor Bo, who comforted Bob and us in his hour of need, as he led him to eternal peace. May God Bless St. John's Lutheran Church.

– Lynne Larson

Muchas Gracias, Vielen Dank, Thank You!!! The Social Ministry Committee again would like to thank the Congregation for their generous contributions and their support of the Christmas Giving Tree. The Breathing Room, A Woman's Place, and the Valley Youth House in Warminster are all extremely grateful for St. John's generosity. You are helping a great number of people of all ages. We collected \$1380 in gift cards which were distributed to the organizations of your choice. Many, many thanks.

– The Social Ministry Committee

Dec. 11, 2022
Dear Congregation
Thank you and Pastor Bo
for flowers, cards, prayers
and communion received during
the year... I am glad to see
things have returned to normal
since "COVID" with hard work by
the congregation and guidance by
Pastor Bo.
I too am returning to normal
(almost) but regret I will not be
attending St. John's since I reside
in Chalfont with my daughter and
family and attend church with them.
I have missed the fellowship
provided by attending church and
will continue to do so. God Bless
you all. (*St. John's Congregation)
In Christian Love
Rosemarie Rieck

Christmas Cards from You



To all my friends at
St. John's Church,
Merry Christmas!

May this holiday season
bring happiness to your home,
now and throughout the year

Miss seeing you
all at church + some
of our things we did
together in church.

Healthy + Happy
New Year!

In Peace,
Renie
John



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 Newly Improved 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"

Church Staff & Contact Information



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