



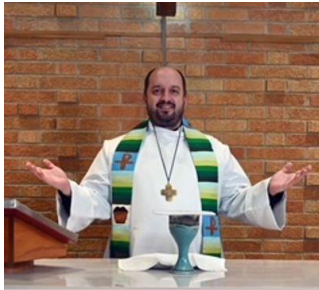
St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

January 2024

A Letter from Pastor Bo

January 2024 – Heed the Word!



Happy New Year! God is calling forth new things in you, in us, this year. God's word creates new life and opportunities where there weren't before. Human beings, unlike the rest of creation, have choices to receive or resist God's word. Let's start the year off right by saying yes to what God calls forth from us!

January 7th, the Baptism of the Lord – Jesus' baptism in the waters echoes the very first words of the Bible, in Genesis 1.1-5, which is the Old Testament reading for that day. In both cases, and in the case of our own baptism into Christ, God speaks, and out of the waters comes new life with a joyous purpose.

January 14th – "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." The young boy Samuel is confused by a calling of his name in the middle of the night. Who could it be? Eventually, he receives wisdom on what the appropriate response to this call should be. We will learn the same wisdom, opening up ourselves to what God has to tell us.

January 21st – The Principle of TOAD – Turn On A Dime. When you're heading in the wrong direction, how long should you wait before turning around? As soon as you can! We get to talk about one of the most interesting characters today – Jonah. Jonah is the prophet, but the one who has the hardest time obeying the word of God. The pagan city of Nineveh turns on a dime; God's prophet Jonah is a harder case.

January 28th – Look for the prophets. God has given us the written word of God, but God never just leaves it at that. God has always raised up prophets to tell us what God is saying for OUR particular time and place and situation. Open your hearts to look for and heed the words of prophets in our own day.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



January Important Dates

January 6 – Taking Down the Greens

January 16 – Ladies’ Lunch Bunch

January 24 – Men’s Breakfast

January 25 – Faith Explorers

Food Pantry Current Need

- Chunk Light Tuna
- Boxed Pasta
- Canned Fruit (especially peaches)
- Manwich
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Baked Beans
- Canned Black Beans
- Pancake Mix
- Rice-a-Roni

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

We have openings for volunteers for both Monday night set up (5:30 pm until 7-ish) and Thursday night client serve (5:30-8:00 pm). Also, we are looking to create a substitute corps for our day shifts (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10:00-1:00). If your middle school/high school students need service hours, now is the time to earn them. Contact Carol Schlegel (cschlegel9@aol.com) or Alan Eickhoff (alan_eickhoff@yahoo.com)



Food Pantry Report

The first major holiday distribution is complete and we are looking forward the next one and the final one for 2023. We are happy to report that we were able to offer a turkey or turkey breast to every client who wished one in the days immediately prior to Thanksgiving. 86 families took us up on the offer which included an opportunity to make their selections from what we call “the fixings table.”

We registered 37 new families in the month. Our pace for new families is a fairly steady 6-10 per week now.

The week of November 7 we set an attendance record of serving 111 families. That record only lasted for a week as the very next week we served 118 families. By the end of the month we had served 461 families with an addition 65 bags of basic grocery items for the large families. This is the most served in November since we started keeping records in 2015.

Meat items have become very scarce in the donation stream. We have tried to bolster the protein for our clients by increasing offerings of items such as beans and canned meats.

There are many folks and groups who made donations in November that allowed us to make a good Thanksgiving season for our clients. Donors from all our sponsoring churches kept up their regular pace of both monetary and product donations.

Additionally, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vogt once again got a grant from Thrivent and purchased turkeys. Numerous individuals brought in their local grocery store free turkey receipt for us to redeem. Bunn’s Natural Foods contributed, Endo Pharmaceutical conducted their annual campaign, Grocery Outlet, Horsham Giant made donations as well. Horsham Rotary donated the largest sized pumpkin pies any of us had ever seen. Business Network International and Nourishing Storm Yoga conducted food drives. The Happy Hour Committee of Gloria Dei Farms made a donation as well. The Safersoftware Gives Back program provided gift cards and items for the “fixings” table.

Cub Scout Pack 17 conducted the annual Scouting for Food and covered all of Hatboro. Plus a collection was taken up during the annual Holiday Parade. A collection was also received from Keith Valley Middle School.

Redeemer Lutheran conducted a special holiday campaign. Church of the Advent not only made their monthly challenge donation but added a monetary donation as well.

We continue to share with Jesus Focus Ministries in Southampton as well as Willow Grove Baptist.

As always, we thank you for your support.

Music Sunday

December 10th was our annual winter Music Sunday, and as always, we had wonderful musical offerings! Michael Brinkworth led the Bell Choir, Traditional Choir, and Monday Night Band. A few original pieces were shared as well! Thank you to all of our talented musicians and vocalists for the beautiful presentation!



Santa Visits Sunday School

Santa came to see all of our Sunday School students so they could tell him what they want for Christmas. We shared cookies, and Santa read us a story!



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/Kindergarten, and 1st-6th grades. Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

The January Schedule:

January 7

January 14

January 21

January 28



We can't have Sunday School without our teachers! We'd love to have enough volunteers so that the commitment is only one Sunday a month. We are looking for teachers for a Preschool/Kindergarten class, and a class for our 1st-6th graders.

Our lessons are so easy and fun to teach that one Sunday last year, one of our students ran the class, so we know you can do it! If you're interested, please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sichrised@gmail.com.



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, you can donate on St. John's website under "Children and Youth," then click "ELCA Youth Gathering." Thank you for your support!



Youth Group

Youth Group will meet on Saturday, January 20th at 6 pm. More details to come.

CHURCH NEWS



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On December 3rd, we welcomed nine new members to our church family. Welcome Sean Bobbie, Rod & Lee Boer, Dan Nieckoski, Lou & Natalie Notarianni, Lisa Schroeder-Savory, Kathleen Smookler, and Paul Wesemann!



January Choir Schedule

Bell choir will meet at 6:30 pm and the Traditional Choir will meet at 7:45 pm on the following dates in January:
Wednesday, January 3rd
Thursday, January 11th
Wednesday, January 17th
Thursday, January 25th



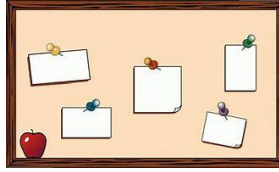
Taking Down the Greens

Join us on **Saturday, January 6th at 10 am** to take down the greens to prepare for the season of Epiphany. We can use all the help we can get!



Ladies' Lunch Bunch

Our Women's Ministry Committee invites you to their first meeting in their new format, Ladies' Lunch Bunch. They will meet on **Tuesday, January 16th** at noon in Fellowship Hall. Bring your lunch and drinks, and enjoy a provided dessert.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



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 for book club is "The Next Ship Home" by Heather Webb. We'll meet **January 21st, at 1:00 pm** in the church library.



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **January 24th** 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



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, January 25th at 6 pm**. We will meet at the Country House Diner on York Road.

Coming Soon:



Ash Wednesday this year will be on **Wednesday, February 14th**. Stay tuned for more information on Drive Thru Ashes and worship times!



This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 25th** at 11:30 am.



I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Pastor Bo and our St. John's family for your prayers, kind words, check-ins and thoughtful gestures of support I received while I was in the hospital and the weeks I have been convalescing at home. Your prayers have been a great source of strength for me, for this I am truly grateful. I am happy to say I am recovering steadily by God's Grace and looking forward to this beautiful Christmas season.

Love and God Bless,
Christine Brinkworth

Dear Friends, Alan and I want to thank you for the gift of the beautiful altar flowers today. Their bright colors and lovely fragrance really lift our spirits after the death of Alan's brother, Roger. Your prayers over the last several months have been a blessing to all of us, and we want to express our thanks. Alan was the oldest of the "Four Eickhoff Brothers" and always looked out for the "little guys." It's hard to be the only one left, but we're thankful Roger's suffering is over and he's in the arms of God. We're grateful for God's mercy and all your kindnesses and prayers.

Love,
Linda & Alan Eickhoff

The Community Outreach Ministry Team would like to express appreciation and thanks for their generosity in supporting our Thanksgiving projects this year. We were able to take \$720.00 in gift cards to our sister church in West Philadelphia, Grace Lutheran, and many bags full of groceries for the Hatboro Community Cupboard of St. John's.



Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas cards! They've made my desk that much more festive!
Ashdon Bobbie



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."

Church Staff & Contact Information



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