

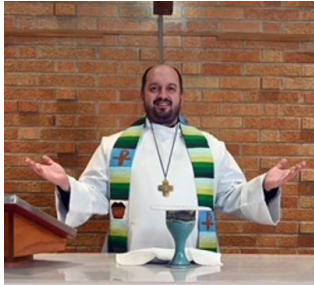


St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

July 2023



A Letter from Pastor Bo

July – The Dog Days of Summer Heat

When it gets hot, our character can be tested. Sometimes it's the weather, and sometimes life turns up the heat. I tend not to think of it so much as God arranging scenarios that drive us up the wall, but that nevertheless, we get into stuck in moments that we can't get out of, and our goal is to be faithful to God and love others in the midst of them.

The Old Testament texts in July have a theme of testing. (I almost wrote texting, but that would be weird.) We think of testing as a scary thing, and we are right in that, but the good thing is, we can pass the test and awesome things result. We can also fail the test and God's grace brings about awesome things anyway.

The first week in July (July 2nd) is the major one that speaks of testing. The whole deal with Abraham being willing to sacrifice Isaac is a very disturbing story to many, and yet it is referenced many times throughout the Old and New Testament. I may be able to give you a way to look at this story in a way that is more in alignment with the loving Father we come to know through Christ.

On July 9th (the day before my 24th anniversary), we will see Abraham's trusted servant go and test which local women would be a good wife for Abraham's son Isaac. I still have no idea what I'm going to do with that text, so this one is putting me to the test!

July 16th looks at three trials – Rebekah and Isaac unable to conceive, but then the trials that come with the children they do eventually conceive. Esau is the firstborn, and his character is put to the test by his younger brother, and Esau fails the test. How did God meet them in the midst of their trials, all the good times and all the bad times? We'll find out then.

July 23rd shows us God's faithfulness to us throughout every test, as God gave unconditional promises to wily Jacob while he was exiled from his family. This week's gospel lesson has Jesus reminding us not to harshly judge people too early!

July 30th – wow, what a mess. I'm just glad I'm not preaching this one. The test that comes when waking up with a different person than the one you thought you married the night before! The Old Testament can be wild. Let's just say Jacob's love for Rachel was tested, and he passed the test! Harry may need to lean into the Gospel this day, which says that God's work starts very small and insignificant, but it eventually takes over everything. The family that comes from Jacob and his wives can also be described this way.

Let's help each other remain faithful over the life's dog days. That's why we have this thing called church, because no one can face life alone!



July Important Dates

July 6 – Red Cross Blood Drive
July 10-14 – VBS (Twists & Turns)
July 29 – Trenton Thunder Faith & Family Night

Food Pantry Current Need

Our current needs list in priority order is:

- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Elbow Macaroni
- Chef Boyardee Canned Ravioli
- Canned Peaches
- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste



Food Pantry Report

Want to join an exciting team that serves our community? We have immediate openings for both Monday night set up (5:30pm until 7 ish) and Thursday night client serve (5:30-8:00pm). Also, we are looking to create a substitute corps for our day shifts (Tue, Wed, Thur 10:00-1:00). If your middle school/high school student needs service hours, now is the time to earn them. Contact Carol Schlegel

cschlegel9@aol.com or Alan Eickhoff
alan_eickhoff@yahoo.com

The month of May has proven the validity of the name change to reflect a wider positioning of the operation to be more than just the food pantry. Interacting with other efforts against food insecurity both in a donor roll as well as a recipient roll have marked this past month.

For a long time we have been able to share sliced bread and pastries with representatives from Moreland Towers and Charter Arms apartment operations. They in turn have given us extra meat products beyond their needs during distributions by Bucks County Opportunity Council. We have been able to weekly share our additional excess bread products such as rolls and unsliced bread. Every Friday a donation has been delivered to Jesus Focus Ministries in Southampton.

We were the recipients of a hugely successful “Stamp Out Hunger” drive by the postal workers of the Hatboro Post Office. It took 9 of our volunteers several hours to secure the donations delivered from 7 different postal routes. Additionally, a trip to the Post Office filled a van with the late donations.

The Chamber of Commerce began their summer Cruise Nights on the 3rd Friday night. Participants are asked to make a donation to the pantry operations in Hatboro. We received another van full of donated items.

We have been able to give a large supply of meat entrée items to both Church of the Advent and Hatboro Baptist for their weekly free meal campaigns held on the 3rd Saturday night and the 2nd and 4th Saturday nights respectively.

On Memorial Day we received a large donation of salads, sandwiches, bread from Willow Grove Baptist. Monday is a normal day of operation for them but they were closed for the holiday and would not open again until Thursday.

It has been a very busy month serving 334 families with 98 of those families being of a size large enough to receive a 2nd bag of basic items. That means a total of 422 bags of product were distributed.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support.

LAST MONTH

Confirmation Banquet & Confirmation

We are so proud of our 11 confirmands who made their Confirmation on June 4th: Aiden Ball, Beth Bannister, Kiran Bodamer, Riley Boyer, A. Peter Linn, Sarah Notarianni, Michael Pescatore, Robbie Rose, Lucas Smith, Annamaria Sweeney, and Jillian Twigg.



Vacation Bible School Day 1

We had such a fun week at Bible School! 19 kids came out for a great time hearing bible stories, eating yummy snacks, making crafts, playing fun games, and singing great songs!

The first day of our 3-day VBS, we learned about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (pictured below is our salt and light station), ate some pawprint cookies, made seed balls in craft, played some fun games, and sang Oh Happy Day!



Vacation Bible School Day 2

On the second day, we learned in lesson that Jesus died for us, made a sweet and yummy fish tank in snack, made dog toys and cat scratchers in craft, played more fun games, and sang Jesus Loves Me!



Vacation Bible School Day 3

On our third day, we stayed together all day. We sang our songs together, made more seed balls, had a quick snack, and then went outside for some water play! We had such a great time at VBS this week, and if you missed it, we'll have our second VBS of the summer starting July 10th!



Youth News & Events

Vacation Bible School



Our 5-day VBS is called Twists and Turns and it focuses on Peter's story with Jesus. This one takes place July 10-14 from 9:30 until 12:00.

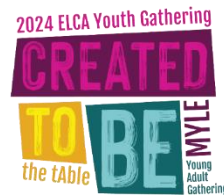
Registration Forms and information for volunteers are currently available by request through Abbie Metheny or the Church Office, and on the website as well: sjlch.org/vbs.

We are still looking for volunteers to run the various stations (Craft, Lesson, Games) and lead our different age groups (Pre-K/Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade) to each station. Please let Abbie know if you're available to help out!



Sunday School has come to a close until August, but we are using our time off to prepare for a great year next year!

Looking ahead, Rally Day will be on Sunday, August 27th during the 10:00 service. We hope to see you there!!



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!

CHURCH NEWS



Christmas in July Food Drive

Christmas in July is here to benefit the Hatboro Community Cupboard. **Starting on July 8th & 9th running thru July 24th** we are asking you to donate the following items: **canned vegetables, canned pasta sauce, toilet paper, cereal, diced tomatoes, canned fruit (no pears), applesauce, and Chef Boyardee ravioli.** Many people in our community have trouble putting food on their tables because of inflation, etc. Your donations will make a big difference in their lives. Thank you.

- COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY OF ST. JOHNS



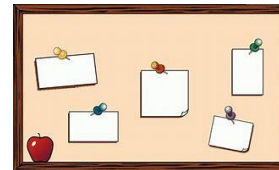
Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **July 26th** 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? Call or email me at: jimhowatjr@gmail.com



Golf League

Do you like to play golf? No matter your skill level, if you are interested in joining a league with fellow St. John's members please let Harry Betz know. If we get some interest, we will schedule a meeting to discuss the process. Harry's contact information is email hcbetz56@gmail.com or phone is 215-327-6595. Everyone is welcome!



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will not meet during the summer months. They will start back up again on Thursday, September 28.



Congratulations Class of 2023!

We are so proud of all of our church family who are graduating this spring.

Our high school graduates: **Kylie Behler** (*North Penn High School, heading to Bloomsburg University in the fall, majoring in Accounting and Business Education*), **Sean Bodamer** (*Upper Moreland*), **Caden & Christian Cerminaro**, **Evan Eickhoff** (*Boyertown Senior High School*), **Shane Fitz** (*Calvert High School*), **Brenna Gallagher** (*Central Bucks South*), **Natalie Grosch** (*Upper Dublin, going to Kutztown University in the fall to study History*), **Collin Heath** (*William Tennent*), **Kyle Long** (*Hatboro-Horsham, attending Susquehanna University in the fall*), **Andrew Schenfelt** (*CB South, heading to Millersville University in the fall*), **Gracyne Smith** (*Hatboro-Horsham, heading to Alvernia University in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice with minors in Forensic Science and Psychology*), **Zo Wagner** (*Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando, FL*), and **Mason Wynn** (*Hatboro-Horsham*).

Our college graduates: **Christina Burke** (*Christendom College, BA in Philosophy*), **Aidan Gallagher** (*Penn College of Technology*), **Allison Keller** (*University of Delaware, BS in Nursing*), **Jacob Keller** (*Penn State University, BS in Finance*), **Matthew Kramer** (*West Chester University*).

Our post-grad graduates: **Zachary Wagner** (*Florida State University*), and **Maryanne Sweeney** (*Penn Western University, STEM certification program*).



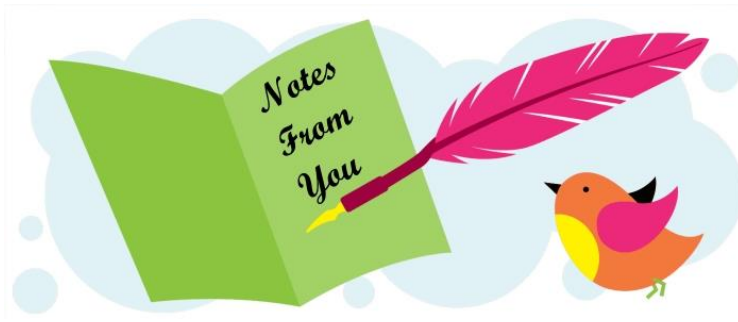
St. John's Day 2023

This year's St. John's Day will be held on Sunday, September 24th, and we need your help! If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up on the bulletin board. As in years past, we will need help with setup and cleanup, as well as food and games, among other items. More details will be coming soon.



Faith & Family Night

We're having a night at the ballpark! Join us on Saturday, July 29th at 6:30 pm when the Trenton Thunder will host the Williamsport Crosscutters. Tickets are only \$8, and there will be a postgame fireworks show! For more information, please contact Michele Muller at 267-254-2167 or purrfect03@verizon.net.



Dear friends,

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers delivered during my "medical adventure." Also, for the many cards and prayers. I am feeling stronger each day and hope to be among you soon.

God's blessings,

Carol Wolf



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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