



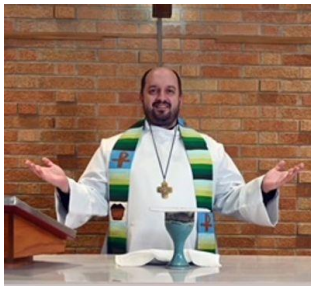
St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

July 2024



A Letter from Pastor Bo

July 2024 – Building the House

In July, we're often preaching to the choir (even though the choir probably won't be singing in July). The people we get are the people who are often, well, ones who read this newsletter and show up all the time anyway. In July, as we continue through 2 Samuel, we see the beginning of David's kingship, and how his reign is established. As we find ourselves at 75 years, at a rebuilding point, and looking to be firmly established in this new territory in a changing world over the next 75 years (or even just 7.5 years!), God's special king has things to teach us, both in what to do and in what not to do, as we seek to see God's reign established in our midst. In order to build the house, we need:

July 7th – We need unity and confidence. After a few years of being divided between Saul's son and David, Israel finally comes together under David in 2 Samuel 5. And David leads them with absolute confidence in what is right. We need that same unity and confidence today.

July 14th– We need whole-hearted, beautiful worship. In 2 Samuel 6, David brings the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem amidst an exuberant display of worship to God. And pleasing God was the only aim. This worship wasn't meant to be a dignified ceremony that the nobility would approve of; this was all out for God alone. What can we learn from the heart and dance of David.

July 21st – We need God to build the house, not merely our own strength and ideas. David wants to build God a house, but God replies that the house God will build will be for God and for David. 2 Samuel 7 teaches us how to yield to God's grace.

July 28th – We need to use our gifts to serve and not to be served. David teaches what not to do, becoming complacent, lustful, and corrupt. How can we avoid the trappings of success? 2 Samuel 11 gives us clues.

Build the house, build a bigger boat. Same thing.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



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

The month of May brought some pleasant surprises while also continuing some trends. The trend of additional people coming each month continues. We saw on average 88 families per week this year as compared to 83 families per week in 2023. But, the trend of adding new clients slowed in the month as we actually had two weeks without adding any new families.

We are grateful to the employees of the Hatboro Post Office for their participation in the annual Stamp Out Hunger Campaign conducted on the Saturday prior to Mother's Day. This is a large effort on their part to advertise, collect and then deliver the donations. We count on their effort as part of our planning.

June began with a generous donation of items collected by our friends at Redeemer Lutheran. Twenty-two bags of packaged goods were delivered on Monday June 3.

We thank you all for your continued support as we transition from school year patterns of giving and distributing to summer time. We are looking for substitute volunteers to fill in during vacation times for our regular volunteers. Contact Carol Schlegel at cschlegel9@aol.com if you are able to help in this worthy community effort at alleviating food insecurity.

We ask you to support the donation campaign that Horsham Giant will be running for us starting in mid-June.

LAST MONTH

Adopt a Highway

Troop 81 picked up trash along York Road for St. John's Adopt a Highway program.

Thank you Scouts!



Youth News & Events



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

Vacation Bible School

VBS is back! We will have 2 Vacation Bible Schools this year.



Our 5-day VBS will be called Start the Party. In this program, we will celebrate the good news of Jesus! This is from **July 8-12 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.**



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



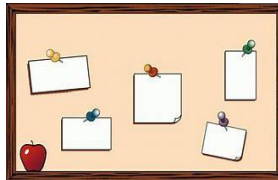
Book Club

Join us in the library on **Sunday, July 7th** at 6:30 pm for book club. This month we will be reading and discussing *The Five-Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderbrand.



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **July 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



Next Newsletter Deadline

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

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.



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!

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank all of you who have reached out to us as I continue to rehab from knee replacement surgery.

Thanks to Pastor Bo for the pre-surgery prayers and post-surgery communion visit. Thank you, Barbara Quinn, for the delivery of the altar flowers on Memorial Day weekend. Thank you, Linda Nieckoski and Diane MacKay for planting the annual flowers in the Memorial Garden for me. Thank you, CJ Hamilton, Carol Schlegel, and Ken Woods for covering numerous tasks at the Cupboard.

Thank you to all those who signed the prayer request card or sent an individual card. It has been a joy to read your encouraging words.

My healing process moves forward with the support of all of you.

Alan Eickhoff

75th Anniversary Celebrations

St. John's turns 75 this year! To celebrate, we will be holding activities from April through September. Check the newsletter every month for trivia questions, and check back in the following month for the answers!



Ice Cream Social

Please join us on **Saturday, July 20th** after the worship service to gather for ice cream, games, and conversation. Please see the flyers around the church.

SAVE THE DATE!

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.



75th Anniversary Trivia

How many pastors have served at St. John's in the last 75 years, and can you name them all?

Answers will be published next month.

OOPS!

In answer to the April Newsletter trivia question: "When was the Saturday night service added?" the May Newsletter stated: "A weekly Contemporary Service was added on Saturday nights beginning January 1, 1959."

Our apologies, the answer was partly correct. In fact, a weekly Contemporary Service **WAS** added on January 1, 1959, but it was added as a 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship Service.

At that time there were worship services Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The correct answer to the original question should have been: "The Saturday night non-traditional form of worship began in November 1995 at 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening."

At a later date that time was changed to 5:00 p.m.

Finance Corner

May Financial Update

Financial data for May is mixed. For the month of May expenses exceeded income by \$15,000. This was primarily due to the \$8,000 cost of the audit (which was expected) and the \$5,000 cost of the evaluation of the air conditioning system for the sanctuary (which was not expected). The fund raising for the new roof is ongoing. Donations to the roof fund from the congregation totaled \$2300 for May reducing the balance owed to \$4,647.92 before the roof is paid off. We contacted Verizon to reduce our monthly phone bill and negotiated a new contract for faster and cheaper internet service (WIFI). The property committee has renegotiated our contract with Waste Management resulting in a cost savings of \$159.00 per month. Our insurance policies are scheduled for renewal in September. We have been advised to expect a 10-15% increase. We will receive a formal notification in August at which time we will begin getting estimates from other insurance carriers in the hope of generating additional cost savings or at least avoiding a 10-15% increase in costs. Attendance was up in May as were donations. Donations were \$7,000 over budget for May due to the faithful giving from the congregation. Review of all expenses is ongoing. We will continue to look for additional opportunities for cost savings wherever we can.

Roof Update

The congregation continued to make donations to the Capital Improvement Fund in May. The new numbers are as follows:

Cost of the roof: \$53,571.00

Donations: \$48,944.35

Balance: \$4,647.92



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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www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org