



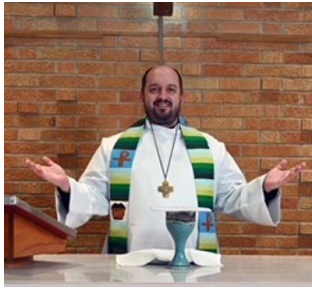
# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

June 2023



## A Letter from Pastor Bo

June – God's Grace for Ordinary Sinners – Like Us!

First off, a big thank you as we are heading toward summer. A big thank you for Music Sunday, from Bob Muller and the upstairs crew to Michael Brinkworth and all the performers, and all you folks who came out not just to listen, but to be engaged in worshipful participation. It was a great day.

A big thank you to Linda Di Meo who had a vision for a spiritual discussion group and launched it with great success.

Thanks to all the folks who helped with youth and family ministry this year, and to Abbie Metheny leading our kids. Thanks to stealth maintenance/property brothers Alan Eickhoff and Ken Woods and the property to make sure this ark is still floating and for doing so many little things behind the scenes.

Thanks to the faithfulness of altar guild, to Council, and so many committees who have been making sure that faith, service, and community are happening on a regular basis. Including some renewed groups like the Community Outreach Team, Women's Ministry, and the Visitation Team!

And thanks to Ashdon Bobbie and Jessica Flynn for helping us communicate, celebrate, and know what's going on, and Bob Muller again for getting our new website up and running.

Can you believe God can use ordinary folks like all of us (and you) to impact our community with the Gospel? The texts in June remind us of all that.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Sunday, we will go back to the creation story and be reminded that God says we are good as we are, and that we bring God delight. Surely that will be the message to those who are being confirmed that day!

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we will see God call Abraham bless the world, and we will see in the New Testament how some ordinary dude named Barnabas was used to help bring that blessing to the world 2000 years later.

One June 18<sup>th</sup>, we will see Abraham and Sarah participate in God's purposes, even with all the ways they fell short of perfection.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, we will also remember others in Abraham and Sarah's story – Hagar and her son Ishmael. Though not central figures in the Bible's story, and in many ways victims of the central figures, God looks out for them and guides them.

We are going to be majoring on the Old Testament stories in our summers and falls, because I think we would do well to get a fuller grasp of the Bible's big picture. I'm excited to walk through the Bible with you. Enjoy your summer!



### June Important Dates

June 4 – Confirmation Service  
June 20-22 – VBS: Pets Unleashed

### Food Pantry Current Need

Our current needs list in priority order is:

- Mac & Cheese (boxed)
- Peanut Butter (standard jars)
- Jelly (standard jars)
- Canned beef stew
- Baked Beans
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta sauce
- Applesauce
- Cereal
- Knorr side dishes
- Chef Boyardee canned pasta (beefaroni, ravioli, lasagna)
- Instant Potatoes
- Rice a Roni



### Food Pantry Report

Attendance in the past month has been much like the weather. Totally unpredictable. One week we had 94 clients and another week we had 66. The monthly total matches last year's total with 313 families visiting the pantry. 87 of those were families of 5 or more members so the total number of bags distributed is 400.

We were able to provide a special entrée to any family who wished it for their Easter meal. Immediately following Easter we received a large number of cakes from Rillings Bakery. The beautifully decorated bunny shaped and egg shaped cakes were greatly appreciated.

We have been able to make a connection with another pantry to receive our leftover rolls and unsliced bread at the end of the week. We already had been sharing leftover sliced bread and pastries with Moreland Towers and Charter Arms living facilities. This adds to our goals of reaching out to help others and also our goal of avoiding waste of products.

Alan Eickhoff and Carol Schlegel attended the April meeting of the Eastern Coalition for Pantries held by MAHN (Montgomery Anti-Hunger Network). The purpose of these meetings is to share information, update pantries on new programs. It is always interesting to hear from other pantry operations and tour the host facility. In this case it was the New Life Church in Glenside. Hatboro Community Cupboard has offered to host the July meeting.

The biggest news item for April was the notification that we have received a grant from MAHN for food supplies. The grant is in the form of credits at two local food suppliers. We have some extra paperwork to do tracking the number of Montgomery County residents helped and how often they receive help. Those aged 60 and above as well as 17 and below are enumerated as they attempt to identify specific groups being served. This is the first grant the current Leadership Team has received.

As always, we appreciate your prayers and support.



LAST MONTH

Youth Sunday

About 15 of our youth led worship on April 30<sup>th</sup>, including a few of our 6<sup>th</sup> graders who delivered the sermon together. This was the final Youth Sunday of the 2022-2023 school year, and we are so proud of our youth for getting in front of the congregation to lead together. We can't wait until the next Youth Sunday in October!





## Music Sunday

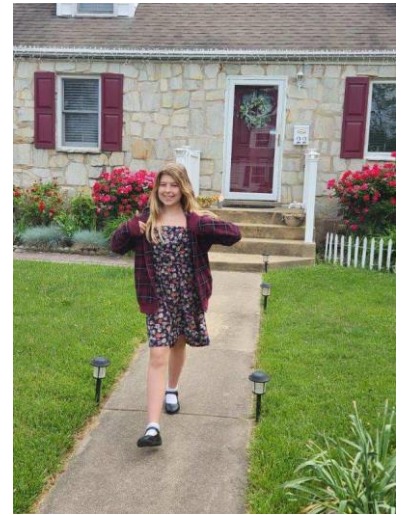
Music Sunday saw performances by the Wednesday Night Band, our Sunday School students, the Monday Night Band, a piano solo from Claire Pisanick, St. John's Bell Choir, St. John's Traditional Choir, and a few guest musicians. It is such a joy to hear all of these musical groups performing in one service. Thank you, Michael, for putting all of this together!





## Sunday School Flower Delivery

We decided to end the Sunday School year the way we usually begin them, with an act of service to the community. The kids planted flowers earlier in the month, and delivered them to the porches of our neighbors. It was a beautiful day for a walk, and a few neighbors offered us waves and thanks in return. We hope to grow this ministry in future years, to spread the spring joy throughout more of the neighborhood.



# Youth News & Events

## Vacation Bible School

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



Our 3-day VBS will be called Pets Unleashed and it will focus in community service projects. This is on June 20, 21, and 22 from 9:30 until 12:00.



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](http://sjlch.org/vbs).



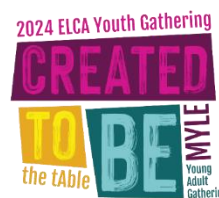
Sunday School has come to a close until August, but we are using our time off to prepare for a great year next year!

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



## Confirmation Service

The Confirmation service will be on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

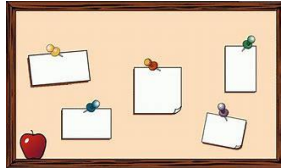


## National Youth Gathering

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



## Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the July Newsletter is **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please send any events, notes, or volunteer opportunities to Ashdon at [office@silch.org](mailto: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.



## Upcoming Events

In July, we will be holding a "Christmas in July" drive for the Hatboro Community Cupboard, and we will once again be collecting school supplies in August. More details will be available in the coming months.



## Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **June 28<sup>th</sup>** 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: [rodorth@aol.com](mailto:rodorth@aol.com) or call my cell at 215-431-8437.



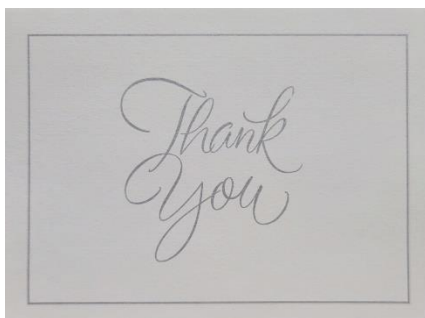
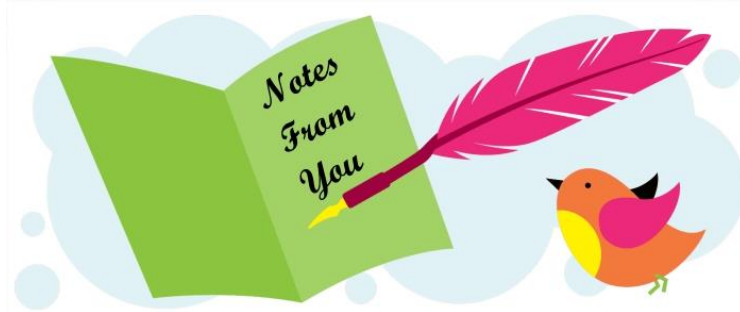
## St. John's Day 2023

We are excited to announce that St. John's Day 2023 will be held on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking for volunteers to help out with planning and on the day. Keep an eye on the weekly announcements for more details.



## Book Club

The June book for book club is "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides. We'll meet on **June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm** in the church library.



I wanted to thank St. John for allowing us to have Mason's Eagle Court of Honor in Fellowship Hall. It was perfect for this event. Thanks so much!

Trish Strauss

Dear Friends, Thank you very much for the gift of the beautiful flowers that graced our altar today. The white blossoms add a fragrant touch of spring to our house and are a reminder of the kind people of St. John's. Although I was in the hospital during Holy Week, I felt your prayers surrounding me and giving me encouragement. Thank you!

Linda Eickhoff



I would like to thank everyone at St. John's that sent our prayers and get well wishes. Prayer is a wonderful thing & I am sure it helped me through my ordeal. May God bless you all,

Henry Vogt





Thanks to the generosity of St. John's congregation, 24 gift cards were delivered to A Woman's Place on Tuesday, 5/9/23 for a total of \$540. The Community Outreach Committee thanks you for your continuing support of this worthy cause!

Just a note of thanks to Pastor Bo and the entire St. John's family for all of the prayers, cards, flowers and concern during the past few months – first for the passing of my mom, Joan Parker, and then for my recent illness/hospital stay. I am thankful to report that I am on the mend and looking forward to slowly resuming some of my activities at church. I have missed everyone and feel truly blessed to have such a caring congregation looking out for me and my family. Many, many thanks for being so supportive!

– Denise Betz

I want to thank my dear church family for all the get-well wishes! The cards meant everything to me. They were funny, meaningful and beautiful! It gave me a real good feeling just knowing that you were all here for me. I am feeling well again and my new knee is coming along. Love and blessings to you all.

– Carolyn Kircher

## Recommendations Wanted



We are looking to have some painting done on the exterior of our building, and we're hoping you can help! If you know of a contractor who does exterior painting work, please contact Alan Eickhoff (215-539-7676 / [alan\\_eickhoff@yahoo.com](mailto:alan_eickhoff@yahoo.com)) or Ken Woods (215-290-9246 / [lawncarpet@aol.com](mailto:lawncarpet@aol.com)).

## 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](http://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!



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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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