

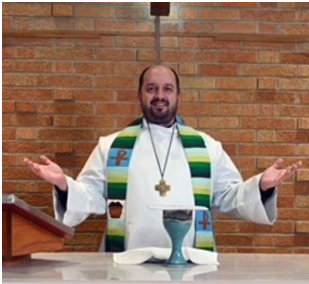


# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA  
*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

June 2024



## A Letter from Pastor Bo

### June 2024 – Listening

As we did last Summer and Fall, as we go back into Ordinary Time, we will focus on the Old Testament readings that take us through the Bible (somewhat) chronologically. Last year, we walked through the patriarchs and matriarchs in Genesis, Moses and Miriam and Aaron leading the people out of Egypt and through the wilderness to the Promised Land, Joshua's conquest of Canaan, and one story from the book of Judges -Deborah. This year, the period of Judges gives way to the period of Israel's kings in a united nation of Israel. We will see the rise of the final Judge, Samuel, and how God leads Samuel to anoint King Saul. Saul fails as king, and God gives the kingdom to David, promising an eternal dynasty to come from his lineage. This summer focuses on Samuel, David, and David's successor Solomon. And because Solomon was known for his wisdom, the Fall will focus on the Wisdom Literature parts of the Bible.

This June, we focus on Samuel and then the beginning of David's story. Key to these texts is the practice of listening to God. June will be a good time to learn and practice that.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – The boy Samuel begins to hear God. Key to the beginning of Samuel's story is his prayer of openness –“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

June 9<sup>th</sup>– Samuel runs into a dilemma. The people really, really want to have a king, a head of state and commander in chief leading an authoritarian, centralized government. Samuel knows this is not the perfect expression of who the people are called to be. Samuel listens to God, who tells him to listen to the people and give them what they want. Samuel is right, but people not choosing what is best won't stop God's ultimate plans.

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day! We meet a father named Jesse, who has a little runt of a son named David, the youngest of eight sons. Samuel listens to God, who tells him not to look on the outward appearance, but to choose the little runt. He, David, will be king.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – A favorite Sunday School story for many – David and Goliath. There's nothing in this story that relates directly to listening to God, but let's move from listening to seeing. No one sees a warrior in David except David, yet he is the only one to take on and defeat Goliath. Let's see people through God's eyes and not the world's.

## Letter from Pastor Bo, Continued.

June 30<sup>th</sup> – David shows us how to see the best in people in all their complexity. David's longtime enemy, King Saul, has just died, along with Saul's son, David's best friend Jonathan. To help the people of Israel heal, David mourns Saul and Jonathan and reminds the people of what was great about Saul. David can teach us a lot about how to see the best in people when we have been at odds with them.

Happy Summer.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



### Food Pantry Current Need

Our **most critical needs** right now are:

- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Potatoes
- 16 oz. Pork and Beans
- Pinto Beans
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Rice a Roni
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Chili
- Canned Beef Stew
- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo

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

We have two opportunities for donations but need drivers to pick them up.

One is seasonal with the growing season. Rolling Harvest will be distributing fresh produce items probably starting in June. The site has yet to be announced but likely will be in Bensalem as it was last year. The time was 11:30 every Tuesday last year. It lasted into September. Lifting from the pallet to your car is involved though a hand truck helps.

The other need is a new one. We have an opportunity to get milk from Garden of Health located in North Wales. This is pick up would be around 9AM every Tuesday and continue indefinitely. Lifting crates of milk is involved.

Please contact Carol Schlegel [cschlegel9@aol.com](mailto:cschlegel9@aol.com) if you are able to help with either of these opportunities.

April 2024 was certainly a different month. Neither earthquake nor solar eclipse deterred folks in need from visiting the Cupboard. We had enough solar eclipse glasses donated that every family could receive a pair during the week prior to the eclipse.

We ended the month with the highest number of visits in ten years. 415 visits total with only one of the weeks in the month with a total fewer than 98. The number of new families registered in the month was 19.

We are thankful that numerous individuals and each of our cosponsoring churches provided a monetary contribution during the month. Also, thanks to those who contributed product. We all know that the cost of food is rising and the support is vital.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

LAST MONTH

Sunday School Flower Delivery

Our Sunday School planted flowers for Earth Day and delivered them to the neighborhood the following week. They colored signs to put with the flowers wishing our neighbors a happy spring.



## Music Sunday

On Mother's Day, May 12<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual spring Music Sunday! Thank you to our Traditional Choir, Bell Choir, Monday Night Band, Pastor Bo, and all of our guest musicians for sharing your beautiful music with us!



# Youth News & Events



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

## 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](http://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, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**



## VBS at Hatboro Baptist Church

Hatboro Baptist Church is holding their Vacation Bible School from **June 24-28, 6 pm - 8:30 pm**, for ages Pre-K through Grade 5. They offer a dinner for staff at 5 pm, and for families at 5:30 pm, before VBS each night. See their website to register:

[hatborobaptistchurch.com/vacation-bible-school](http://hatborobaptistchurch.com/vacation-bible-school)

# CHURCH NEWS



## Book Club

Join us in the library on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm for book club. This month we will be reading and discussing *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.



## Congratulations to the Class of 2024

We are so proud of all of the members of our church family graduating this spring:

### Graduating 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Katrina Whiteley (Crooked Billet Elementary School)

### Graduating High School:

Joy Bannister (Pennridge High School, heading to East Stroudsburg University); Valerie Divver (Souderton High School, heading to West Chester University); Matilda Fisher (Perkiomen Valley High School, heading to William & Mary College in Virginia); Katie LaPlaunt (William Tennent High School, heading to Gettysburg College); Alessandro and Sela Navarro (both heading to Penn State Main Campus); Jessica Whisler (William Tennent High School, heading to Bloomsburg University)

### Graduating College:

Ashleigh Divver (Temple University); Jessica Marinelli (Rochester University, BS & Master in Engineering); Kira Roper (Fox School of Business at Temple University); Matthew Schenfelt (Ursinus); Maria Schweizer (St. Luke's Nursing School)

Congratulations from St. John's!



## Run for Music 5k

St. John's is sponsoring BSA Troop 81, and Ethan Campman is one of our Eagle Scouts. For his Eagle project, he is holding a 5k to support Hatboro-Horsham's elementary music program. The 5k is rain or shine, and will be held on **Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**. Check-in starts at 7:30 am, and the run will start at **9 am**. The run will be held at **Simmons Elementary School**. The entry fee is \$5 if you bring a gently-used instrument, or \$25 without. See flyers around the church or call the office for more details on how to donate.

## VOLUNTEER



### Mandatory Volunteer Training

All volunteers who work with youth at St. John's must attend a training on our Child Safety Policy. The next training will be held on **Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



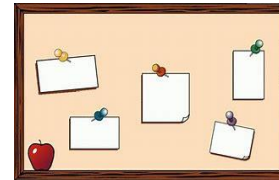
### Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **June 26<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? Email me at: [jimhowatjr@gmail.com](mailto:jimhowatjr@gmail.com)

## 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



### 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@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org).

## Coming Soon:

### 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.

### Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm for our annual Brad Fox Memorial Concert!

## Thank You!

The **Community Outreach Ministry Team** thanks all who were able to provide a gift card for delivery to A Woman's Place. 28 cards were received and delivered to AWP on Monday, 5/6/24. You have helped to make Mother's Day brighter for the clients of AWP.

My Dear Church Friends,  
Thank you so much for all your good wishes, cards, and church flowers this past month. They were all a bright spot as I was recovering from my recent surgery. It is wonderful to know that my St. John's family is always there for me!  
Much love and blessings,  
Carolyn Kircher

# 75<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>** after the worship service to gather for ice cream, games, and conversation.



## 75<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## 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. More information to come. Please indicate on your yellow attendance card or let the office know if you plan to attend.



## Mother's Day Fundraiser

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Fundraising plant sale was a great success. A total of 62 plants were sold netting a profit of \$658. Thanks to all who purchased plants and to the weather for cooperating with plant pickup.



# Finance Corner

## April Financial Update

Financial data for April is positive. We are beginning to see results from both cutting expenses and increased giving from the congregation. For the month of April income exceeded expenses by \$12,000. Although this is encouraging news the reduction in expenses was largely due to the audit expense of \$8500 not being charged in April. The audit is now complete and we would expect that expense to be included in the May payables. The fund raising for the new roof is ongoing. The total funds collected by the end of April was \$46,644.85 versus the expense of \$53,590.77. This results in a balance of \$6,945.92 to be collected before the roof is paid off. We are continuing to review all invoices and automatic charges to our accounts with vendors and have managed to eliminate approximately \$1,000 in unnecessary charges per month. We have asked the property committee to review all contracts and begin getting competitive bids in an attempt to reduce expenses. The cleaning service has been reduced by \$240 per month. Property will review all other contracts for potential reductions in cost. Insurance policies are due for review in August. We have been advised of a probable premium increase and will review our options and get competitive prices at that time. The copier contract is due early next year. We will review that close to year end to look for potential cost savings. Aplos contract is yearly, renewable in February. We are going to begin conversations with them to determine if we are getting the most benefit for what we are paying, for example, fees for text to give and on-line giving. We are making progress but cannot allow ourselves to lose sight of the goal. We must work towards a balanced budget to support the valuable ministries of St. John's Church.

## Roof Update

Earlier this year we replaced the roof over the church office and library, and we are working to raise the \$53,590.77 needed. Our final count for the month of May is \$46,644.85. With the match from our anonymous donor, it added over \$15,000 to our Roof Fund. We appreciate everyone who donated in March, and everyone who will continue to donate to get us to our goal. This leaves us with a **Balance of \$6,945.92!** To give, please mark "Roof Fund" on your physical offering, or select "Roof Campaign" when giving electronically. We are SO close. Thanks to all who have given to this Campaign.



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## 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](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!

## 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: [sjchried@gmail.com](mailto:sjchried@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn

Media Coordinator: Bob Muller

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Fax: (215) 675-9487

Church Email: [office@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org)

Church Website:

[www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org)