



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Monthly News & Updates

November 2022

A Letter from Pastor Bo

November – Hope Amidst the Shaking

“The present form of this world is passing away,” Paul tells the Corinthians (1 Cor. 7.31). God is bringing the kingdom about, and the world is in turmoil with uncertainty about what is next. This is nothing new. Another thing that is not new is that God’s people of faith, though we may be uncertain about exactly what will happen tomorrow or next year, we walk with the stability of hope, because we know who holds the future, and we know what we must do in the present: acquire wisdom, pray, love God, love each other, love our neighbor, and walk in the light. This is our hope amidst the shaking, our shelter from the storm.

The readings in November All Saints Sunday to the First Sunday of Advent highlight this theme. Even Reformation Sunday (October 30th) will prepare us as we sing “A Mighty Fortress is our God.” November 6th will give us hints of the age to come in Luke, but Paul warns us that there are troubles ahead, with Job encourage us that we will see our Redeemer standing on the earth. November 13th gives us more details about the shaking that can happen to our most beloved institutions, but we possess a greater value within us, to which we must hold on. November 20th – Christ is crowned king – on a cross. And from that exalted throne come forgiveness, assurances, and new life for all. November 27th begins Advent, where Jesus tells us to be ready for the Lord’ coming, and Paul describes that readiness as laying aside the works of darkness and putting on the armor of light.

To highlight this theme, I will introduce you to a friend of mine on November 13th. His name is Issa Odeh, and some of his family members will be with him. He is a Palestinian Catholic Christian and the lineage of his family living in the Holy Land and also practicing the Christian faith goes back to the very beginning. Issa and his family have been granted asylum to live in the United States. As Palestinian and Christian, they faced difficulties from both sides of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Their journey has been one of “hope amidst the shaking.” I love these people. They are warm and full of joy and goodness.

One way the Odeh family supports themselves is by selling goods made of olive wood from the Holy Land. These are beautiful and make for good Christmas gifts. If you have ever been in my office and seen the Lord’s Prayer on a beautiful string of planks in the shape of a cross, this is from the Odeh family. They will be selling them that day after church, so go check out their wares and buy some presents for your loved ones!

November Important Dates

- November 6 - All Saints Sunday
- November 9 – Lower Bucks Conference Gathering
- November 17 - Faith Explorers
- November 20 – Needleworkers Display
- November 27 – Advent Family Night

October Highlights

Blessing of the Animals - About a dozen people came out in the chilly rain to have their furry friends blessed! Most had dogs, but one cat braved the rain for a blessing!

New Members Classes - We had 6 prospective members come to the classes, and look forward to welcoming our New Members soon!

Family Dinner & Haunted House
- The kickoff to this year's Family Dinners was a success! We had about 35 people come to the dinner, and they brought incredible dishes to share. And our youth worked hard and put on a great show at the Haunted House!

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the December Newsletter is **November 15th**. Please send anything you'd like to add to office@sjlch.org.

Sunday School

We offer Sunday School for ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through 12th grade. These ages are split into 4 classes (Pre-K/ Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, 7th-12th grade). In order to make Sunday School a success, we need your help! Teacher signups are hanging on the bulletin board by the Sunday School office.

Lesson Schedule:

November 6:

- Pre-K-3rd grade: Absalom rebels and is defeated
- 4th-12th grade: **No Sunday School**

November 13:

- Pre-K-6th grade: Solomon asks for wisdom
- 7th-12th grade: Micah

November 20:

- Pre-K-6th grade: Solomon writes many Proverbs
- 7th-12th grade: Swords into Plowshares

November 27:

- Pre-K-6th grade: Solomon turns away from God
- 7th-12th grade: Faith as a Way of Life

Needleworkers

The Needleworkers group will have our gifts available on display **Sunday, November 20** after the service. We will have lap robes, walker bags, prayer shawls and our prayer cards. You are invited to take items needed for personal needs or gifts to those in need.

Food Pantry September Report

September saw several momentous events happen. We started and have now completed our campaign to bolster the air conditioning in the pantry and to install additional air conditioning in the adjacent storage area housing refrigerators and freezers. Fundraising to pay for this addition has been successful. Fundraising actually generated more funds than were necessary and we are going to start a maintenance fund. We are immensely grateful for the support we received and continue to receive.

The HATPacks leadership team has decided to step away from the pantry and focus on their mission of providing meals on non-school days for the Hatboro-Horsham School District students. The new pantry leadership team is made up of folks who have been involved in the pantry operation for a long time.

Pantry usage remains strong; we served 365 clients in September 2022.

We are also already thinking ahead to the holidays. We have a plan in place for Thanksgiving with the emphasis on gift cards in \$30 amounts to Grocery Outlet. We will be distributing Thanksgiving items the week of November 15.

So we close this report with a huge “**thank you**” to HATPacks for their ability to keep the pantry operating, a prayer that we of the new leadership team may be equally adept and a prayer of thanks for our faithful supporters.

Food Pantry Current Need

We are in need of donations as well! We are currently looking for non-perishable items, especially:

- canned goods
- pastas
- cereals
- soups

and toiletries:

- soap
- toothbrushes/toothpaste
- shampoo/conditioner
- etc.

As always, we appreciate all of your help!

All Saints Day

For All Saints Sunday (November 6) we want to formally remember all loved ones that have passed since November 2021. We would like all members of the church to bring a picture of anyone that has passed that they would like remembered to place on our glass windows in the front of the church. Bring a picture between now and November 6 and tape it to the windows. Let's fill up the entire front of the church with remembrances of loved ones that have passed.

Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be **November 17th at 6pm**, and we will meet at Mike's Bar and Grill in Warminster. Please sign up on your attendance cards in the coming weeks so we can give an accurate count to the venue. We hope to see you there!

Lower Bucks Conference Laity and Clergy Gathering

You're invited to receive inspiration, share ideas, enjoy a free meal, and connect with others at the Laity and Clergy Gathering of the Lower Bucks Conference of ELCA churches! **Advent Lutheran Church in Richboro** will host us for a meal, worship, and workshops on **Wednesday, November 9, from 6pm-7:45pm.**

Please indicate on your attendance cards or call the office to RSVP by November 6.

Men's Breakfast

All men are welcome at **Lancer's Diner** in Horsham on **Wednesday, November 16th.** No need to call ahead. Breakfast starts at **9:00** but you can come as early as 8:45. Everyone gets separate checks. We look forward to any new members of the church to join us. If you have any questions, call Rod Orth at 215-431-8437 or email me at rodorth@aol.com . We look forward to you joining us.

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. Our November book is *The Magic of Lemon Drop Pie* by Rachel Linden. **Book Club will meet in the Library on November 13 at 12:30pm.** Please note the time change to the afternoon. Please email Sharon Grosch at livespanol@yahoo.com with any questions.

Advent Family Night

Our next Family Dinner is our Advent Family Night! Please join us on **Sunday, November 27 at 5pm** for a potluck dinner and Advent activities, followed by a selection of Christmas music in the Sanctuary. As always, our family dinners celebrate that we are all one church family, so whether a family of 20 or a family of 1, we hope to see you there!

Upcoming December Events:

Music Sunday

Thinking ahead to next month, we're gearing up for Music Sunday on **December 11!** Michael Brinkworth and all of our ensembles are working hard and can't wait for the big day!

Coat Drive for the Homeless

Our Sunday School's winter outreach project this year is a coat drive for the homeless. Please bring in your gently used coats, any size, by **December 18** so the Sunday School kids can sort them and we can get them to those in need!

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!

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We're trying to get to 100 Subscribers! You can find us on YouTube by searching "St. John's Lutheran Church Hatboro."

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St. John's Lutheran
Church – Hatboro



@sjlch505

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