



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Monthly News & Updates

October 2022

A Letter from Pastor Bo

October – It's About Faith

A professional tightrope walker asked a crowd if they believed he could walk a wheelbarrow across a tightrope 50 feet in the air. A man said, "I believe you can." The tightrope walker said, "Do you really believe? Get in the wheelbarrow."

Each month in the newsletter, I will give an overview of the theme of the month's readings in church. In October, the theme is FAITH. On October 2nd, Jesus tells us what faith the size of a mustard seed can do. On the 9th, faith involves gratitude, even when your journey is incomplete. On the 16th, faith insists that right will not lose to injustice. On the 23rd, faith trusts in God even when we have nothing to offer. On Reformation Sunday, faith involves the courage to step out publicly into a new kind of life.

Martin Luther insisted that faith wasn't just head knowledge about God and the events of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. After all, even the devil knows that, but the devil does not have faith. Faith is a personal trust, with skin in the game. Faith is stepping out as if what we proclaim is really true – that there is a Creator God, that Jesus lived in the same world we do, that he died and rose again, that there will be a resurrection and a judgment. (And the other bits, too.) If we really believed, how would we live our day to day lives? How would we break through what holds us back? How would we work to make the world a better place? How would we pray? How would we treat people? These are questions we will be exploring in our weekend services in October, including Youth Sunday on October 30th!

"If God had a face/what would it look like and would you want to see/if seeing meant that you would have to believe/in things like heaven and in Jesus and the saints/and all the prophets?" – Joan Osborne, "One of Us"

October Important Dates

- 10/2 – First Confirmation Class
- 10/4 – Blessing of the Animals
- 10/8-9 – Conversations with Harry
- 10/15-16 – New Member Class
- 10/23 – Family Dinner & Halloween Party & Haunted House
- 10/27 – Faith Explorers
- 10/30 – Reformation Sunday & Youth Sunday

September Highlights

Brad Fox Concert – 20 talented musicians and behind the scenes volunteers put on a fantastic show for an audience of 169 people, raising over \$6,000 for the Brad Fox Foundation!

St. John's Day – Between 80-85 people came out to celebrate St. John's Day, playing fun games and eating great food!

Rally Day – 19 kids kicked off the Sunday School year with a bang! They collected more than 50 items for the dogs at WAGS!

Faith Explorers - About 30 members came out for the first meeting of the Faith Explorers for a conversation about Joy and Happiness over great food!

New Members Class

Interested in becoming a member of St. John's? We will be offering a class after the 5:00 service on **Saturday, October 15**, and after the 10:00 service on **Sunday, October 16**. Refreshments will be provided.

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:

October 2:

- Pre-K-3rd grade: David is Merciful to Mephibosheth
- 4th-12th grade: **No Sunday School**

October 9:

- Pre-K-6th grade: God Forgives David
- 7th-12th grade: Covenant & Commandments

October 16:

- Pre-K-6th grade: Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated
- 7th-12th grade: Joshua Renews the Covenant

October 23:

- All ages: Halloween Party & Haunted House

October 30:

- **Youth Sunday – No Sunday School**

Blessing of the Animals

The feast day of St. Francis of Assisi is coming up, and we are inviting the congregation and the community to bring your pets to be blessed! Join us on **Tuesday, October 4th from 5:00-6:30pm** in the loop out front for a drive-thru blessing. All pets are welcome!

Altar Guild

Altar Guild will meet Sunday, **October 2nd** in the sanctuary following the 10:00 service.

Needleworkers

The Needleworkers group will meet on **October 3rd** in the library. Come to the meeting to plan our activities for the year.

Food Pantry

August was a month for the record books. The heat waves this summer made conditions close to unbearable in the Food Pantry, and both volunteers and equipment were overheating. A proposal was brought to and approved by Church Council to add additional air conditioning units. At this time the installation has been completed, but the fundraising still continues to get us to the \$10,500 cost of the units.

At the end of August, HATPacks had a volunteer at the pantry distribute school supplies, which brought more clients to the pantry, and brought the total families helped that week up to 121. The total for the month of August was 400 families served.

This additional client load depleted inventory substantially, and we are still working to replenish packaged and canned goods.

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support.

Sunday Family Dinner

Family dinners are back! Join us **Sunday, October 23**, for a Halloween party and haunted house, put on by our youth group! Bring your spookiest dish for the potluck, wear your costume, and we'll all have a scary good time!

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!

Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be **October 27th at 6pm**, and we will meet at Mike's Bar and Grill in Warminster to continue our discussion on Joy and Happiness. 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!

Next Newsletter Deadline

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

St. John's Day Thank You

Thanks to all who joined us for St. John's Day on Sunday, September 18th. The games were a great success, and the bouncy house was a real hit. About 80-85 of our friends and neighbors came out and had a great time!

Thanks to all who prepared food (it was delicious), took care of the grilling, helped with the games, and ran the popcorn and snow cone machines. Thanks to Bob for taking care of the music, the Bannister girls for dishing out the water ice, and Cat Adduci for the awesome face painting. Thanks to Denise Betz and Joan Parker for taking care of everything in the kitchen so efficiently! Last, and definitely not least, thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up!

This couldn't have happened without all of you!

Marcie Divver and Lynne Larson

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St. John's Lutheran
Church – Hatboro



@sjlch505

Church Staff & Contact Information



Pastor Bo Bannister

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: sjchrisd@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Whitely

Media Coordinator: Bob Muller

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Fax: (215) 675-9487

Church Email: office@sjlch.org

Church Website: www.sjlch.org

October

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10 am Worship Altar Guild-sanctuary 5 pm Confirmation	3 Pastor WFH 12:30 pm AIAIAlon Mtg. 5:30pm Food Pantry set up 7:00pm County Choralliers	4 10:30am Food Pantry 5pm Blessing of the Animals 7pm W&M Sanctuary	5 10:30am Food Pantry 7pm AA Dist. 23 Bs. Meg. 7pm WNB – Sanctuary	6 10:30am Food Pantry 6pm Food Pantry 7pm Executive	7 Pastor's Day off 7:30pm AIAnon & Alateen	8 5pm Worship Conversations with Harry 7pm AA Meeting
9 10 am Worship Conversations with Harry	10 Columbus Day Pastor WFH 12:30 pm AIAIAlon Mtg. 5:30pm Food Pantry set up 7:00pm County Choralliers 7:00pm Finance	11 10:30am Food Pantry	12 10:30am Food Pantry 7pm WNB – Sanctuary 7pm Property 7:30pm Chris Ed	13 10:30am Food Pantry 6pm Food Pantry	14 Pastor's Day off 7:30pm AIAnon & Alateen	15 Newsletter Deadline 5pm Worship New Member Meeting 7pm AA Meeting
16 10 am Worship New Member Meeting 5 pm Confirmation	17 Pastor WFH 12:30 pm AIAIAlon Mtg. 5:30pm Food Pantry set up 7:00pm County Choralliers	18 10:30am Food Pantry	19 10:30am Food Pantry 7pm WNB – Sanctuary 7pm Council-FHall	20 10:30am Food Pantry 6pm Food Pantry	21 Pastor's Day off 7:30pm AIAnon & Alateen	22 9:30am AIAnon-Library 5pm Worship 7pm AA Meeting
23 10 am Worship SS Haunted House 5pm – Family Dinner & Haunted House	24 Pastor WFH 12:30 pm AIAIAlon Mtg. 5:30pm Food Pantry set up 7:00pm County Choralliers	25 10:30am Food Pantry	26 9am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Food Pantry 1pm RedCross – w/H.Baptist 7pm WNB – Sanctuary	27 10:30am Food Pantry 6pm Food Pantry 6-8pm Bible Study @ Mike's	28 Pastor's Day off 7:30pm AIAnon & Alateen	29 5pm Worship 7pm AA Meeting
30 10 am Worship Youth Sunday	31 Halloween Pastor WFH 12:30 pm AIAIAlon Mtg. 5:30pm Food Pantry set up 7:00pm County Choralliers					