



St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

October 2023



A Letter from Pastor Bo
October – The Maturing of Leaders

You are a leader. We established that last month. Actually, this was established in your baptism. If you still don't think so, come talk to me. Because I think you have a calling to change the world for the better.

October 1st – Why people around you grumble and criticize, and how to keep calm and trust God in the midst of it

October 8th – Led by the right way (The Ten Commandments)

October 15th – Don't be led astray by false gods

October 22nd – What a leader should want more than anything – close connection with God

October 29th – A child will show us, following Moses' example, how to die well. (Or maybe something about the Reformation. We'll see. But I do like that first option.)

Life will try and test you. Other people will drive you nuts. Sometimes no one will be listening to you. Sometimes they shouldn't! But God is at work in you to shape you into a shaper of new creation through your vocation. Moses and you are on the same journey, so let's learn from the guy!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



October Important Dates

October 4 – Pet Blessing

October 22 – Haunted House

October 29 – Youth Sunday

Food Pantry Current Need

- Shampoo
- Bar Soap
- Chunky Soup
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Peaches
- Canned Fruit Cocktail
- Stewed Tomatoes
- Pancake Mix
- Pancake Syrup

Food Pantry Report



August has proven to be a busy month for many reasons. We had 5 full weeks of being open which produced the largest number of clients served in the month of August since we have been keeping records. There were 420 families served of which 139 were large families of 5 or more so they received an extra bag of basic items. We came close to setting new daily records with 45 clients on August 8 and 42 clients on August 22. We signed up 37 new families in the month.

We still have need for volunteers. We are especially in need of help on Monday night in restocking (no client contact) from 5:30pm to 7:00ish (this does involve lifting) as well as our Thursday night team serving clients from about 5:30pm to 7:50pm.

We have been blessed with a myriad of donations this month. On the 3rd Friday night, the Chamber of Commerce held their monthly cruise night from which we received a car load of donations. Caliber Collision of Hatboro conducted a packaged goods drive during the month. We were delighted that PECO Gas Operations and Union Local 614 presented us with a check for \$3,250 generated from employee donations during July. Church of the Advent had a matching challenge to their congregation for toilet paper (an expensive monthly purchase for us otherwise).

Two volunteers that kept us connected to Moreland Towers and Charter Arms (high-rise, low-income housing in Hatboro and Warminster, respectively) decided to retire at the end of the month. We will miss them greatly. At the present time we are moving the excess bread and pastry that they delivered to increasing the donation that we share with Jesus Focus Pantry in Southampton.

As always, we are grateful for your continued prayers and support.

LAST MONTH

Sunday School Rally Day

Our Sunday School year kicked off with a service project and a backpack blessing! Our kids made birthday kits for those in need. Thank you to all who donated birthday cakes and supplies!



Brad Fox Concert

Michael once again put together an amazing program, bringing together talented musicians and volunteers to raise funds for the Brad Fox Memorial Scholarship Fund. Photos don't do the program justice, so if you missed this year, be sure to come to next year's concert! We are still accepting funds for the scholarship through October 3rd; if you would like to donate, please be sure to indicate the designation on your offering.



Youth Group Kickoff Barbecue

Abbie opened up her home to the Youth Group, and it was a fun night! Kids and parents ate hamburgers and hot dogs, played cornhole, and started planning the haunted house and other youth events for the year. Everyone had a great time!



Youth News & Events



Sunday School is back! Bring your child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10 am. We are offering classes for two different age groups: Preschool/Kindergarten, and 1st-6th grades. Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

The October Lesson Schedule:

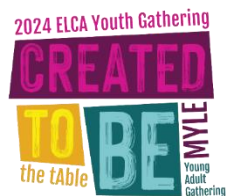
October 1
The Golden Rule

October 8
Mary Anoints Jesus with Oil

October 15
Honesty Is the Best Policy

October 22
Halloween Party & Haunted House

October 29
No Sunday School – Youth Sunday



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!



We can't have Sunday School without our teachers! We'd love to have enough volunteers so that the commitment is only one Sunday a month. We are looking for teachers for a Preschool/Kindergarten class, and a class for our 1st-6th graders.

Our lessons are so easy and fun to teach that one Sunday last year, one of our students ran the class, so we know you can do it! If you're interested, please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sichrised@gmail.com.



Youth Group Haunted House

On Saturday, October 15th our youth group will work on Haunted House prep and make scarecrows. Then, on October 22nd, we will finish creating the Haunted House, and will run it on Sunday, October 23rd. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Haunted House!

Youth Sunday

Our Sunday School kids and Youth Group will be leading worship on **Sunday, October 29th**. They will receive more details in Sunday School.

CHURCH NEWS



Needleworkers

We will be meeting on **Monday, October 2, at 1 pm** in the church library. Join us with your finished products and new ideas. If you have never been a member before but have an interest in learning to knit or crochet, welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Barbara Quinn or Joyce Hamilton.



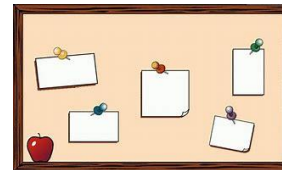
Pet Blessing

Bring your pets for a drive-thru blessing on **Wednesday, October 4th** from 5-6:30 pm in the loop out front. All kinds of pets are welcome to be blessed!



Haunted House & Spooky Dinner

Our annual Haunted House will be during Sunday School and directly following the service on **Sunday, October 22nd**. Our Youth Group (7th-12th grade) will be putting this event on for the Sunday School and congregation during and directly following the 10 am service, and then again that evening following a Halloween-themed potluck meal at **5 pm**. Bring your spookiest dish, wear a costume, and prepare to be scared!



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **October 25th** 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



Women's Soup & Sandwich

On **October 24 at 6:00 PM** we will have our "Final Evening Soup and Sandwich" event. As in the past, we will gather in Fellowship Hall but instead of soup and sandwiches, this meal will be catered with hoagies and drinks. Desserts will be provided by volunteers so please sign-up to bring a dessert if you can. Our entertainment for this final evening event will be author Heather Greenleaf who authored the book "An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor."



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will not meet during the summer months. They will start back up again on **Thursday, October 26th at 6 pm**. We will meet at the Country House Diner on York Road.



Soup & Sandwich Book Spotlight

An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor

A novel about family, food, and fortitude



By local author and Archivist of Upper Moreland Historical Association, Heather Greenleaf

An Imperfection in the Kitchen Floor tells the story of two women who, despite living one hundred years apart, face similar sacrifices, difficult decisions, and self-imposed perfection that many women will recognize in their own lives.

Molly moves to an old house that only her husband loves, giving up her job, apartment and, when the baby is born, her autonomy. Her husband's busy work schedule leaves her as the sole caregiver of their colicky baby, and Molly must reconcile her own self-doubt and find happiness in a life she didn't expect.

Tish lives in the same house a century earlier and yearns to leave behind the family delicatessen to travel west and paint the country's landscape. When a commuter train crashes, killing the riders on board, the tragedy hits close to home and Tish must choose between the family who needs her and the life she originally envisioned.

Heather has a degree in Art History from the George Washington University and a degree in Culinary Arts from Walnut Hill College. She lives in a historic home in Willow Grove, with her husband and two children.

In the Borough:



Trunk or Treat

The Borough of Hatboro will be holding a Trunk or Treat event at Pennypack Elementary on Friday, October 20th from 6-8 pm. The cost is \$5 per trunk, and there will be candy, games, a costume contest, a contest for the best decorated trunk, and family photo opportunities. To secure your pot, please stop by Borough Hall. Trunk or Treaters are asked to park on Bank St. or at Lehman Memorial Church, and take the trail over to Pennypack.

Coming Soon:



Women's Ministry Update

Going forward, the Women's Ministry Committee has recommended a change in the name, format, and times for future Women's Ministry events.

New Name: Ladies Lunch Bunch

New time: Noon

Location: Fellowship Hall

First Event in new format: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

New Format: Ladies bring their own lunch and drinks. Desserts will be provided by volunteers.

After Lunch Ideas: Some ideas for after lunch are games, coloring, knitting, books, table talk or special programs.

More information will be provided as we go on.



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



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Church Staff & Contact Information



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