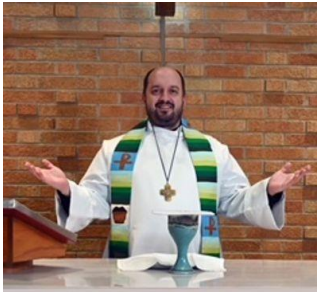




St. John's Lutheran Church  
Hatboro, PA  
*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

September 2023



**A Letter from Pastor Bo**  
**September – The Forging of Leaders**

This Fall, as I look at the Old Testament texts in the lectionary, one word arises – leadership. “So,” you might say to yourself, “I’m not a leader, so I can skip church until Advent.” WRONG. (Buzzer sounds, whammy sounds, everyone around gasps in shock, someone faints).

It’s not just about you. It’s about *us*. God calls God’s people “a kingdom of priests” (Ex. 19.6; Rev. 5.10). In other words, the church is a “community of leaders.” This might be why we sometimes have conflicts – because we’re all leaders together, which is hard to pull off. Together we lead this world (particularly our local community) towards the dream God has of the world. We start by leading our individual selves. We come together and peaceably work through our different gifts and visions and discern how to live out the kingdom in our time and place. And we each seek to influence those in our lives through prayer, service, and witness.

Also, if you don’t feel like much of a leader, it is obligatory you hear every sermon in September! Moses didn’t feel like much of a leader, either! In September, we will see how God forged Moses into a leader.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – God, in a burning bush, calls Moses to free the Israelites from slavery

September 10<sup>th</sup> – God and Moses seal the people’s identity through the ritual of Passover

September 17<sup>th</sup> – God and Moses lead people through an insurmountable obstacle (The Red Sea)

September 24<sup>th</sup> – God and Moses provide for people’s needs when that looks impossible and everybody is whiny

In October, we will see Moses mature as a leader. And then in November, we talk about leaders post-Moses (no, not rapper Post Malone), who led through chaos and crazy times (which might be good descriptors for the time in which we live.)

Basically, Fall is about us stepping up our game, trusting God to direct us to be who we need to be in a world that needs guidance and good news. Are you in?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



## September Important Dates

September 10 – Brad Fox Concert

September 24 – St. John's Day

## Food Pantry Current Need

- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste
- Apple Juice
- Baked Beans
- Beef Stew
- Canned Meats (not tuna)
- Canned Carrots
- Canned Beets



## Food Pantry Report

We are still recruiting volunteers for Monday night set up (starts 5:30 and lasts to 7:00ish) and Thursday night client serve (starts 5:30 and lasts to 8:00ish). Please contact Alan Eickhoff [alan\\_eickhoff@yahoo.com](mailto:alan_eickhoff@yahoo.com) or Carol Schlegel [cschlegel9@aol.com](mailto:cschlegel9@aol.com) if you are able to help.

The month of July has been seriously busy for many reasons. First of all, the Grocery Outlet campaign, "Independence From Hunger" actually started in late June. We picked up donated bags every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. We thank the Warminster Grocery Outlet for their hearty participation in this program.

We had another cruise night in Hatboro sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. \$60.00 was donated in addition to the large amount of product. Two more cruises remain on August 18 and September 15. Come on out in your cruiser or just turn out to see the cruisers. Donations are received at the corner of Moreland Ave and York Rd.

Willow Grove Baptist Pantry shared a major donation from Trader Joe's in Montgomeryville on July 4. Lots of fresh produce, fruits, salads and sandwiches.

We got our first order through the MAHN (Montgomery Anti-Hunger Network) grant that we received in the spring. This allowed us to fill in the gaps of items not received in the donation stream.

The Horsham Giant conducted a food drive in our behalf during the final two weeks of the month. It took a box truck to bring in all that was donated.

The Community Outreach Committee at St. John's conducted a "Christmas In July" food drive for the July weekends. Congregation members brought in items based on needs lists that were available at the collection table.

We were able to share surplus bread, pastry, meat, and canned goods with the Jesus Focus Ministry pantry in Southampton. We also continued our regular sharing of bread and pastry with both Moreland Towers and Charter Arms residencies. In exchange they have given us extra meat products.

We hosted the Eastern Coalition of the Montgomery Anti-Hunger Network meeting. The presenting speakers were from Navicate a referral service providing assistance in navigating the maze of social welfare agencies. Following that were break out sessions discussing and sharing pantry issues.

Our attendance for the month was down a little bit from last year. We served 306 families last month. However, 85 of those were families of 5 or more people so the number of basic bags distributed for the month is 391.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

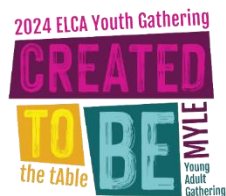
### **The September Lesson Schedule:**

*September 3*  
**Labor Day Weekend, No Sunday School**

*September 10*  
Jesus Came for Everyone

*September 17*  
How to Pray

*September 24*  
Jesus Sends Out His Disciples



### **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 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 [sjchrisd@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrisd@gmail.com).



### **Youth Group Barbecue**

Join us on Saturday, September 9, at 6:00 for a Youth Group (grades 7th-12th) cookout. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided, but it is asked that people bring side dishes. It will be held offsite and for any further details, please email Abigail Metheny at [sjchrisd@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrisd@gmail.com).

# CHURCH NEWS



## Golf Outing

Interested in joining the golf gathering? We get together for 9 holes every Monday. Here are the details:

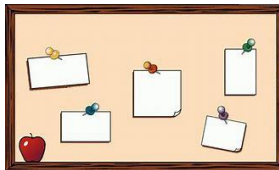
**When:** Every Monday night at 6:00 (weather permitting)

**Where:** Fairways Golf Course in Warrington

**How much:** \$27 to walk \$33 to ride

**What skill level:** We do not care:) Seriously this is more about having fun than competitive golf.

**How do I sign up?** Call, text or email Harry Betz by the previous Thursday. Cell phone is 215-327-6595 Email is [hcbetz56@gmail.com](mailto:hcbetz56@gmail.com)



## Next Newsletter Deadline

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



## Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm** for our annual Brad Fox Memorial Concert! Our sanctuary will be filled with a variety of music styles that our team of musicians is already working hard to prepare for you! All benefits from this concert will go to a scholarship fund for a William Tennent High School Senior who is going to pursue a "hero life" as an EMT, police officer, firefighter, military personnel, etc. We hope to see you there!



Coffee Hour returns **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**, following the Sunday service. In order to enjoy this time of fellowship, we need volunteers to set up and clean up! If you are interested in joining one of our Coffee Hour teams, the time commitment is only about 2 hours per month. Please contact Denise Betz at [hardeebetzb@mns.com](mailto:hardeebetzb@mns.com) or 215-796-2641 to join a team!



### St. John's Day 2023

This year's St. John's Day will be held on **Sunday, September 24th**, from 1-4 pm. Join us for a day of fun with games, good food, music from our own talented musicians, and other activities (including face painting, a bouncy house, and a cookie walk!). We hope to see you there! As in years past, there will be **No Parking** in our lot that day. Schneider's Funeral Home has graciously allowed us to use their lot that day, and if you're worried about the walk, we have a volunteer who can give you a ride over from your car.



### Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **September 27th** 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)



### Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will not meet during the summer months. They will start back up again on **Thursday, September 28 at 6 pm**. We will meet at the Country House Diner on York Road.



There will be **No Parking** in our back lot on Sunday, September 24th for the 10:00 service. During the service, our volunteers will be hard at work setting up for St. John's Day in the afternoon. Schneider's Funeral Home has graciously allowed us to use their lot during the service and the event itself.

# Coming in October:



## Pet Blessing

Bring your pets for a drive-thru blessing on **Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** in the loop out front. All kinds of pets are welcome to be blessed! More information will be available in the coming weeks.



## 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.



## Haunted House

Our annual Haunted House will be during Sunday School and directly following the service on **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Our Youth Group (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) will be putting this event on for the Sunday School and congregation.

## Youth Sunday

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



Thanks to all of you who participated in Christmas in July with donations of food for the Community Cupboard. Many needy people will benefit from your generosity. Thank you, The Community Outreach Ministry Team.



The Community Outreach Ministries Committee would like to thank the congregation for another year of wonderful support for our Backpack and School Supplies Challenge. We received over \$300 in gift cards and many, many school supplies that will be well used by our recipients. Valley Youth House in Warminster and the Breathing Room are thrilled and overwhelmed by our generosity. Thank you very, very much.



## 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."

## Church Staff & Contact Information



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