



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

August 2026



A Letter from Pastor Bo

August 2026

My Name Is Nobody

Coming off of the parables, where the kingdom grows in secret, mysteriously, in the August Gospel lessons, we find Jesus showing up in secret, mysteriously, as a nobody in nowhereville, and yet the everything shows up doing amazing things.

August 2nd – A Deserted Place. “We have nothing here (but five loaves and two small fish).” How many times have you been someplace where there are fewer people than expected, and you say, “Where is everybody?” Which is kind of insulting to the people who are there! How much more when Jesus is in your midst and you say, “We have nothing.” Ha! You have everything. Trust Jesus and see what he can do with nothing.

August 9th – “It’s a ghost!” Who can walk on the water? Nobody. Or maybe a ghost. Maybe Jesus is nobody, or a ghost, but he’s walking on the water. “If it’s you,” Peter says, “command me to come out to you!” This is arguably the best telling of the walking on the water story in the Gospels. What do you do when someone, possibly a ghost, tells you to jump off the boat?

August 16th – Jesus ghosts. This is a difficult passage, where Jesus basically ghosts (ignores) someone trying to get his attention and help, simply because of her ethnic background. He even says demeaning words. This is not, at first glance, the Jesus I want to follow. But tables are turned in this story. Let’s see how that happens.

August 23rd – “Don’t tell anyone about me.” How is Jesus supposed to have an impact if we’re to keep quiet about who he is? Jesus is confident that the seed growing in secret will take over everything. What does this say about our witness in our time and place?



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.



Important Dates in August

August 3-7 – VBS

A Letter from Pastor Bo (continued)

August 30th – Jesus is defeated. Jesus says plainly how he will go to Jerusalem and appear to be a failure. Peter cannot take this. Again, another point where this isn't necessarily the Jesus you want to follow. But if we trust in God's mission through Jesus, we can even follow Jesus into rejection, suffering, defeat, and death – with confidence that that will not be the end. The resurrection is a nice thing to remember, but very hard when you're going through the cross.

When you think you have nothing, when you're all alone, with nowhere to go, with nothing to say, and nothing to show for it, sometimes nothing can be a real cool hand. (That's from one of my favorite movies, released in 1967. If you know the reference, let me know, and how you think it fits in with these gospel themes.)

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



Food Pantry Current Needs List

Cereal • Canned Mixed Vegetables • Canned Carrots • Canned Baked Beans • Spaghetti Sauce • Canned Refried Beans • Ramen Noodle Soup • Peanut Butter • Toilet Paper

In addition to food and toiletry donations, the Community Cupboard is looking for donations of metal cabinets to hold our inventory.

Bucks-Mont Pride Festival – June 30



Vacation Bible School – Illumination Station – July 13-17



Youth News & Events

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer we will hold two five-day VBS sessions, one in July and one in August. All children ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome to join us, and children entering 7th grade and up are welcome to volunteer!

We will also be looking for adult volunteers to lead stations like games, snack, science, and craft, and others to lead the groups from station to station.

Please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sjchrsed@gmail.com to register your kids or to sign up to volunteer!



Sunday School and Confirmation have concluded for the summer, but join us again in September!



ROAD TRIP

August 3-7

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

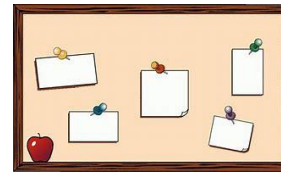
Parent Program: Thursday, August 6, 6 pm

CHURCH NEWS



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. The next book club book is "The Life List" by Lori Nelson Spielman. We'll meet on **Sunday, August 9th at 1 pm** in the church library. Hope to see you there!



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Council wants to hear from you! Church members are invited to speak to Council every month at the beginning of their meeting. Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, August 19th**.



St. John's Community Garden

Do you like to garden? Enjoy growing your own vegetables? We have a great opportunity for you to participate in nurturing our garden and helping to provide fruits and vegetables to the community and food pantry clients. Planting beds are in place and vegetable or fruit starter plants will be provided by the pantry. We are hoping to get the garden started within the next few weeks. If you are interested in joining us in this fun and worthwhile project, please see any of the pantry team leaders or contact the church office.



Women's Ministry Presents:

Women of the Bible Study

Women's Ministry will be hosting a monthly bible study discussing Women of the Bible.

All are welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning on **Wednesday, September 16th, at 10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall.

Large Print Bulletins Now Available

Large print versions of the weekend bulletins are now available in the Narthex before services.



Publicity Committee Photos

Our committee cannot always be at every event. If you attend events at St. John's, please take photos and send them to stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com, so we can put them on our social media accounts! *We want to respect everyone's privacy: If you or your family do not want your pictures posted on social media, please send us an email with your first and last name, and you will be put on our "do not share my picture" list to ensure your privacy.*



Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on **Sunday, September 27th 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!

Join Us in the Fall!

A number of our programs are taking a break for the summer, but will be back in September!

Bell Choir
Coffee Hour
Confirmation
Faith Explorers
Sunday School
Traditional Choir

Finance Corner



Air Conditioning Fundraiser

We are anticipating that we will need to replace the sanctuary's air conditioner next year, and it's time to get a head start on fundraising! We are aiming to raise \$100,000, and as of the end of June we have raised over **\$21,000!** Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

June 2026 Operating Budget Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status 6/30/26

Income	\$217,311.17
Expenses	\$212,395.22
Gain	\$4,915.95

This chart does not include donations to the Capital Improvement fund, which is not part of the operating budget.

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees:

Adopt a Highway - We are looking for someone to take over the Adopt-A-Highway program. This would entail organizing volunteers to pick-up trash once in the spring and once in the fall. St. John has adopted the section of York Road from County Line Rd to Bristol Road. Please contact Trish Strauss at 610-517-6471 if you are interested.

Altar Guild - We are looking for volunteers to join Altar Guild. Can you set up for a communion service and put away everything after the service? You will be working alongside someone that is an experienced team member. Set up and take down for communion takes approximately 40 minutes each time. Altar Guild is looking for members to help us out every four to five weeks. Contact the church office or Chris Brinkworth at 267-474-1395.

Coffee Hour - Right now we are down to 3 teams, which means that each month, one of the teams serve twice a month. The ideal schedule is once a month per team, but in order to do that we will need a few more volunteers. Our 'jobs' entail making coffee, putting out snacks, paper goods, and items for the coffee table (cups, sugar, creamer, etc), and putting it away at the end of the hour. I hope that over the summer you will consider joining us, and I'm looking forward to getting together again in the fall! Many hands make light work (and much coffee!). Marcie Divver

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed (continued.)

We need members for the following committees:

Hatboro Community Cupboard – Want to join an exciting team that serves our community?

- **Drivers** - Hatboro Community Cupboard needs volunteers with an SUV or truck to pick up donations the first Wednesday of every month from Noon-2:00 PM in Lansdale. Some heavy lifting is involved. You do not have to commit to every month to get on the volunteer list. Please call the office if you're interested!
- **Volunteers** – We are in need of volunteers for our evening shifts on Monday and Thursday evenings. Please sign up using the link on our website.
- **Team Leader** - We are looking for an individual to join our leadership team. Duties would include a one-hour meeting once a month (usually the fourth Wednesday) to discuss updates and status of all aspects of pantry operations, and filling in for team leaders during vacations. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve the community and work with a great group of volunteers, please reach out to Carol Schlegel at cschlegel9@aol.com.

Head Ushers - Our Usher team is looking for one or two head ushers this year. If you are interested, please see Joe Kircher or reach out to the office for more information!

Kids & Family Ministry - One of our team members is stepping down from the committee, so we're looking for new members! Our team works together to plan and execute Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other events for youth and families at St. John's.

Media Team - 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? We would love your help running the cameras, lights, and sound equipment that take our weekend and online services to the next level! Contact the office for more details.

Property Committee - The Property Committee is inviting members of St. John's to consider joining the committee. This committee is responsible for the church building, the church grounds, as well as the building and grounds at 457 Crescent Rd (parsonage). Committee needs are currently most often handled by email contact. Check the tab for committees on the church website to see the postings of what has been done each month. If you are interested in joining, please contact the office.



Committee Members Needed (continued.)

We need members for the following committees:

Publicity Committee – The Publicity Committee is looking for skilled members to help maintain our website and social media accounts, as well as volunteers who would be interested in manning a St. John's table at various events. Please reach out to us at stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com if you are interested!

Women's Ministry - Our Women's Ministry program is going to be "Re-imagined." We are looking for volunteers to join our committee to help plan future Women's Ministry activities and events. Please consider volunteering and being part of the future of Women's Ministry at St. John's. If you are interested, please see Carolyn Kircher or Pastor Bo, or email Carolyn Kircher at kirchercj615@verizon.net.

Like Us on Facebook & Instagram!



St. John's Lutheran
Church – Hatboro



@sjlchatboro



Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel!

You can find us on YouTube by searching "St. John's Lutheran Church Hatboro."



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!

Church Staff & Contact Information



Pastor Bo Bannister

Cell: 765-426-0500

Email: pastorbo@sjlch.org

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: sjchrised@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: office@sjlch.org

Church Website:

www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org

Publicity Committee Email:

stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com

St. John's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am – 2 pm

Friday *By Appointment Only*

Please call the office before coming in.

Pastor Bo's Office Hours:

Monday-Tuesday 3 pm – 5 pm

Thursday 10 am – 12 pm

Or by appointment