



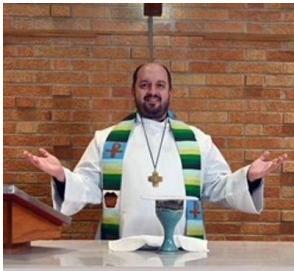
# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

October 2025



## A Letter from Pastor Bo October 2025 God's Doing a New Thing

In September, we went through a roller coaster ride of emotions, because the prophet Jeremiah was so in touch with the heart of God and God's grief over the ruin of Israel. This month, it's still mostly Jeremiah, but the emotions ratchet up from sorrow to joy as God brings about something new and healing.

**October 5<sup>th</sup> – Lamentations.** If you need to pray some sad prayers (especially if your people have just been conquered – or some spiritual equivalent that you might personally resonate with), Lamentations is your book. September was leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem, and Jeremiah is sad. There is space for healing lament in our spiritual journey, and we often drown that out in an effort to keep everything happy and positive.

**October 12<sup>th</sup> – Prosperity in Exile.** This is the week of the context of one of everybody's favorite verses – Jeremiah 29.11. Our reading stops short of that (though I will have to mention it, I'm sure), but it's all about investing into the place where you are now in hopes of the future. Don't wallow in your sadness, but start building a new future.



### 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 October

October 4 – Pet Blessing  
October 19 – Haunted House Potluck Dinner  
October 25 – Trunk or Treat  
October 25 – Adults' Halloween Social  
October 26 – Reformation Sunday

### **A Letter from Pastor Bo – Continued.**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>** – The New Covenant Coming. Often a Reformation passage (which ironically is next week), this passage in Jeremiah talks about a new intimacy and knowing of God that will come about in a new covenant. These promises through Jeremiah have been fulfilled in Christ. So let's unpack what it means to know God in a deeper way than simply words on a page.

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** – Reformation, Abundance, and Generosity. We'll be talking about all of that today, because God promises that through the prophet Joel. This comes after we humble ourselves and repent before God and seek God earnestly. But these promises are what God loves to do for us. God is so generous with us; let us live generously!

It gets better!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo

### **A Letter from the Generosity Committee:**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This fall, our generosity theme is *"Living in Gratitude, Giving in Faith."* As followers of Jesus, we know that everything we have—our time, our talents, and our treasures—are gifts from God. We are called to respond with joy, generosity, and faith.

Through your giving, St. John's continues to:

- Feed the hungry through our food pantry/support local missions
- Nurture children and youth in faith through Sunday School and youth ministry
- Care for the homebound and elderly through visitation and prayer

Your offerings make these ministries possible!

In the coming weeks, you will receive a generosity card. I invite you to pray about how you might share your gifts in the coming year. Every commitment, no matter the size, is an important part of our shared ministry.

Please join us on Commitment Sunday, October 26th. Together, we will offer our commitments in worship as a sign of gratitude and faith in God's future for our congregation.

Thank you for all the ways you live generously. I give thanks to God for you!

In Christ,

The Generosity Committee

## Food Pantry Report

September 4, 2025

August was a normal month. We had one week that was significantly busier than usual. Typical of a holiday week where we served more than 100 families. For the month we served 372 families. We registered 31 new families this month and are seeing more children than we have in previous months. This was a new record for us.

We received our first orders under the grant but had to return several cases of vegetables. The distributors are only offering low salt and no salt vegetables. We know from past history that our clients do not choose no salt vegetables when shopping. We are working with the suppliers and other sources to purchase the vegetables that our clients prefer.

We have been blessed to have a continuous flow of donations from many sources including our partner churches. In addition, we will be the beneficiary of several upcoming food drives. Riverside Church has delivered the first collection from their food drive. Giant Foods and St. John's Women's Ministry are up next. The Grocery Outlet food drive is scheduled for October 11 and 12.

We are currently in desperate need of a substitute team leader. Although Alan can never be replaced, we are feeling the effects of his absence. We do not have anyone who can fill in for our leaders during vacations or scheduled time off. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the pantry leadership team please let us know. The team meets once a month. Usually on the last Wednesday of the month to discuss plans, finances and current issues with the pantry. The person would also be "trained" in filling in for team leader vacations.

As always, we are grateful for our volunteers and all of the organizations that work behind the scenes to support us in our efforts to provide food and personal care items to those experiencing food insecurity.



### Hatboro Community Cupboard Most Needed Items

Boxed Pasta  
Spaghetti Sauce  
(cans preferred)  
Canned Corn  
Canned Meats  
(tuna, canned  
chicken, Spam)  
Knorr Sides  
Rice a Roni  
Hamburger Helper  
Canned Chili

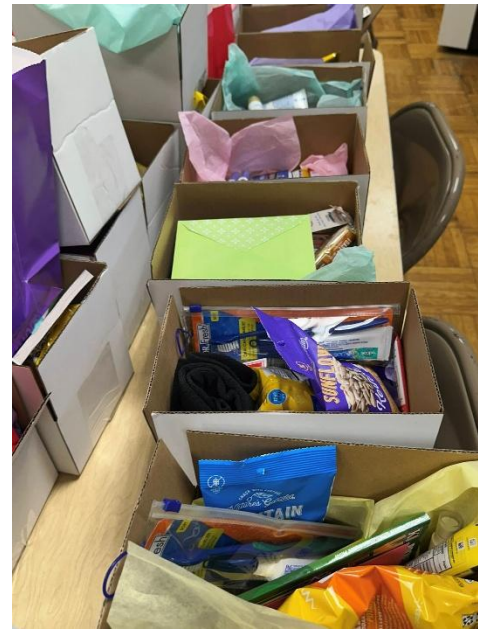
In addition to food and  
toiletory donations, the  
Community Cupboard  
is looking for  
donations of metal  
cabinets to hold our  
inventory.



# LAST MONTH

## Rally Day

Sunday School kicked off the year with a service project, preparing care packages for our military service members! Thanks to the congregation's generous donations and the kids' hard work sorting through them, we were able to pack 35 care packages! Thank you!



## Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour returned in September, and we are so happy to have our weekly fellowship back! We are still looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up, please reach out to Marcie Divver or the office if you're interested.





## Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Thank you to everyone who came out in support of the Brad Fox Concert! It was an amazing event, and we raised \$3,000 for the Brad Fox Memorial Scholarship!



## Youth News & Events



Join us for Sunday School! Bring your child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10 am. All kids ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us! Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

### Lesson Schedule:

October 5 – Baby Moses

October 12 – Burning Bush

October 19 – Haunted House & Halloween Party

October 26 – The Plagues



**Youth Group is held on the third Saturday of every month at 6:30 pm, from September – May.**

This month's event will be setting up the Haunted House at St. John's on **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**. Please see Abbie Metheny for more details!



### Nursery

The nursery has been relocated to the Library. We are working to staff the nursery each week so that parents can drop their children off before worship, and pick them up after the service. The nursery will be open from 9:50 – 10 minutes after the service ends on Sunday mornings.

We are still looking for volunteers to help staff the nursery. We are hoping to have 4 teams, so that volunteers will only be needed in the nursery once a month. Please see Abbie Metheny or reach out to the office if you are interested.



We are inviting all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade this fall, or those in high school who would like to be confirmed, to join our confirmation class this fall!

This month's classes will be on Sunday, **October 5<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup>** in Fellowship Hall, from 6:30 – 8pm.



# CHURCH NEWS



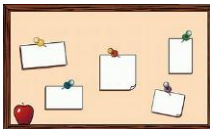
## Pet Blessing

Bring your pets to church for a blessing on **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**. Blessings will be in the loop in front of the church. All pets are welcome!



## 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 next book for book club is "When All Is Said" by Anne Griffin. Members are also encouraged to read "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi on their own for a future discussion. We'll meet on **Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm** in the church library.



## Next Newsletter Deadline

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



## Team Spirit Fundraiser

Fellowship Connections invites you to support the air conditioning fundraiser while showing off your team spirit! Pay \$5.00 and wear your favorite team jersey the Saturday and Sunday of a home game for the Philadelphia Eagles! We will have mini paper footballs for you to sign your name and show off your support for the fundraiser, along with showing off your sports attire! A member of the Fellowship Connections Committee will be collecting \$5.00 before and after **Saturday and Sunday services** during the weekends of Eagles home games: **In October, that is October 4-5 and October 25-26**. If you decide to wear Dallas Cowboys attire, there will be a double charge for you!! Just joking! Everyone is welcome to wear their favorite team jersey! No worries at all if you do not own a jersey or sports attire. You can still donate towards the air conditioning unit!





### Holiday Candle Sale

Fellowship Connections is working with the Langhorne Candle Company to support an exciting fund-raiser event! There will be a table set up in the Narthex with over forty candle samples. Two types of candle sizes are available to purchase. 8-ounce is \$11.00, and 16-ounce is \$18.00.

It begins **Saturday October 18 and runs through November 2, 2025**. Please return your order form along with cash on November 1 or November 2, 2025. A member from Fellowship Connections will be collecting the order forms and cash for your candle order.

Friendly reminder, please use caution while managing the candles. The candles are on loan from the Langhorne Candle Company.



### Haunted House Potluck Dinner

Join us on **Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** at 5 pm for a Halloween potluck dinner! There will be prizes given for best costumes and best on-theme spooky dish! Our youth group will also be taking guests through their haunted house.



### Faith Explorers

Faith Explorers returns on Thursday, **October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm** at the Break Time Diner on York Road.



### Trunk or Treat

St. John's will be hosting a Trunk or Treat on **Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm**! All are invited to dress up, come out, and get or give goodies.



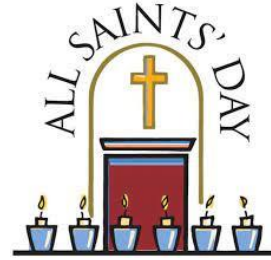
### Adults' Halloween Social

Join us on **Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**! There will be a spooky guessing jar, and prizes for best costume. A hoagie/wrap tray will be served along with beverages and desserts. A \$10 donation is appreciated to help offset the cost of food. Fellowship Connections will be collecting a \$10 donation on the weekend of October 18-19. Please don't worry if you cannot donate, everyone is welcome to participate in this event!



### 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 August we have raised over \$11,000! Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!



All Saints Sunday is on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** this year, and we are collecting photos of loved ones for the windows in the Narthex. There will be tape in the Narthex through the month of October for you to put up your photos. The office kept photos from the past year, and will put them up at the beginning of October.

## VOLUNTEER



### Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees:

**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** - Coffee Hour is offered every Sunday following the 10:00 service in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed for coffee hour. The teams make coffee and put out snacks, and clean up and put away after. Currently once every 3 weeks until we are able to add an additional team. Contact Marcie Divver. Thank you.

**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.

**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.

## Coming Soon:



Join us on **Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** from **10 am – 2 pm** for our holiday bazaar! There will be crafters, vendors, and a raffle, as well as food trucks!



### Dinner and a Show

We will once again be putting on Bob Evans' original musical *Joseph & Mary* this Advent! On **December 20<sup>th</sup>**, join us for dinner and a show. Stay tuned for more details.

## Thank You!

The Community Outreach Ministries Committee would again like to thank the congregation for their wonderful response for our summer collection of backpacks, school supplies, and gift cards. You always support our outreach ministries so generously. The Breathing Room and Valley Youth House were very appreciative. Thank you.

The Community Outreach Ministries Committee

## Finance Corner:

### End of August 2025 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 8/31/25	
Income	\$238,405.05
Expenses	\$263,095.25
Deficit	\$24,690.20





## 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?

We would love your help running the cameras, lights, and sound equipment that take our weekend and online services to the next level! Please reach out to the church office if you're interested in joining the Media Team!



## 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



Pastor Bo Bannister

Cell: 765-426-0500

Email: [pastorbo@sjlch.org](mailto:pastorbo@sjlch.org)

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: [sjchrised@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrised@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: [office@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org)

Church Website:

[www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org)

#### Office Hours:

**Monday-Friday 9 am – 2 pm.**

***Please call the office before coming in.***