



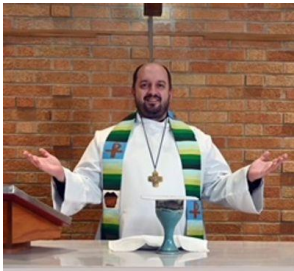
# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

September 2025



## A Letter from Pastor Bo September 2025 All the Feels

This month's passages are a roller coaster ride of emotions. Life can be very scary, but we can trust God.

**September 7<sup>th</sup>** – Complete surrender, as clay in the hands of the potter. Jeremiah says God's the boss. We need to be okay with putting out lives in God's hands. Jesus shows us how to do that, by intentionally surrendering everything, everything we have and are, to God.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Solemnity of the Holy Cross. This shows us that we can trust God's love and goodness. The consequences of sin are much more vast than we ever imagine, something we never think of when we turn away from love. According to Jeremiah, sin undoes that order of creation, sending it back into the chaos that it was before God brought order to it in Genesis. The cross of Christ is God in Christ loving us so much that creation becomes undone – and redone – in Christ.

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** – Feast of St. Matthew. The reading from Jeremiah is one of despair. Very much like one would feel if one was a 1<sup>st</sup> century tax collector. You ever have a job that vexes your conscience and afflicts your soul? Who will save you? Jesus can walk right into the midst of your workplace and change everything.



### 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 September

September 7 – Rally Day & Brad Fox Concert  
September 10 – Dine & Donate Event  
September 14 – New Members Class  
September 21 – New Members Reception  
September 27 – Kids' Ice Cream Party  
September 28 – Youth Sunday

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

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** – Investing in the future. Jeremiah has pronounced judgment. Everything is going to break. This nation is going down, temple and all. The people will be transplanted to exile in Babylon. But Jeremiah is told to purchase property in the land of Israel anyway. Why? Because there will be a future. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told to use our money with a view of the world to come.

Let go and let God!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Bo

### **Food Pantry Report**

August 13, 2025

July client visits are returning to previous levels, the heat and humidity notwithstanding. We served 402 families in July which is up from the 318 families we served in June. We registered 13 new families during the month. We completed the process of organizing our inventory in the stock room in anticipation of the first order from the Montgomery County grant due on Monday August 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Grocery Outlet Independence from Hunger campaign was a huge help in restocking our shelves with food for the clients. Although the donations were considerably less than received last year, we are always thankful for the support from the community. Grocery Outlet has contacted us inviting us to coordinate an additional food drive in the fall which will be organized and executed with pantry volunteers on a weekend in October. The date has not been determined yet. While on the subject of food drives, we have several scheduled in the coming months. Giant Foods, Riverside Church, St. John's Women's Ministry just to name a few.

We received a large donation of food and Acme gift cards from the Horsham Moose Lodge in addition to many others where the donors asked to remain anonymous. Our partner churches, Redeemer Lutheran, Hatboro Baptist and Church of the Advent provide vital support to our efforts of providing food to families with food insecurity. Many thanks to them. We would not be able to serve the community without their support.

We continue to seek drivers to cover for vacations and pop-up opportunities to pick up donations. Thank you to everyone who is assisting in recruiting volunteer drivers.

We are grateful for all of the support from our pantry partners, the congregation, our dedicated volunteers and the local community.



### **Hatboro Community Cupboard Most Needed Items**

Canned Meat (tuna,  
chicken, Spam, etc.)

Canned Carrots

Spaghetti Sauce

Hamburger Helper

Manwich

Tomato Soup

Canned Peaches

Bar Soap

Toothpaste

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

# LAST MONTH

## Ice Cream Social

We had a great turnout for our ice cream social this year! Thank you to the new Fellowship Connections committee and all of the volunteers who made it happen, and to the Pacitti Brothers ice cream shop in Hatboro for your donations!



## Vacation Bible School Day 1

On Tuesday, we learned that God is with us on the journey! We learned about how Abraham and Sarah followed God. In snack we made a campfire, and in craft we made suitcases to pack for our journey with God. In games, we raced to pack suitcases.



## Vacation Bible School Day 2

On Wednesday, we learned that God is with us when we're JOYFUL! WE learned about Mary and Elizabeth's family reunion, and how Mary sang about her joy. We made smiley face cookies in snack, and instruments in craft to make a joyful noise. In science, we used vinegar and baking soda to make our balloons expand to be filled with joy, and in lesson, we practiced expressing different emotions, and then built Elizabeth's house out of blocks!



### Vacation Bible School Day 3

On Thursday, we learned that God is with us near and far! Our lesson taught us about Paul meeting a tentmaker and telling the Good News about Jesus. We made graham cracker tents in snack, and paper cars in craft. In science, we made phones out of paper cups so we could tell each other the Good News! In lesson, we learned the story under tents we built ourselves!



## Youth News & Events



Sunday School is back! 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:

September 7 – Rally Day Service Project

September 14 – God's Promises to Abram

September 21 – Joseph and His Brothers

September 28 – YOUTH SUNDAY (*No Sunday School*)



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

This month's event will be a barbecue and movie night offsite on **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please see Abbie Metheny for more details!



### Kids' Ice Cream Party

Calling all kids! We want to celebrate all of the youth we see throughout the year at our various events: Sunday School, VBS, Youth Group, Confirmation, or sitting in church, as well as their families, our volunteers, and everyone who donates supplies!

Join us on **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall at 6 pm** (or following the 5:00 worship service) for ice cream and fun!



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 class will be on Sunday, **September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall, and our class topic will be *What Is Confirmation?*



### Backpack Blessing

All children, college students, teachers, and other school staff heading back to school are encouraged to bring their backpack or bag to worship on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** for a blessing.

# CHURCH NEWS



## Rally Day Service Project

Our Sunday School Kids Are Packing Love for Our Troops! On September 7<sup>th</sup>, our Sunday School children will be putting together care packages for military service members. We are asking for donations of small items such as snacks, hygiene products, puzzle books, socks, and other thoughtful goodies to bless our soldiers while they serve far from home. We would also love to include **generic letters from the congregation**—words of encouragement, thanks, and prayer mean so much to those on the front lines. Please bring donations and letters to the church by **Saturday, September 6** so we can send these packages with love and gratitude.



## Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour returns on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:00 service**. We are looking for volunteers to make coffee, put out snacks, and clean up and put away after. The commitment is once every 3 weeks until we are able to form an additional team. Contact Marcie Divver at [mdivver324@comcast.net](mailto:mdivver324@comcast.net).

Here is a list of items we are looking for:

- high-quality socks
- soap (shampoo, body wash, face wash, etc.)
- toothpaste, toothbrush and floss
- deodorant (travel size/non-aerosol)
- lip balm; foot powder
- baby wipes
- sunscreen
- hand sanitizer
- pain-relieving topical cream (not a necessity, but can be a real luxury)
- Vicks VapoRub
- sewing kits
- lens cleaning cloths and glass cleaner for goggles
- hand warmers
- decks of cards
- puzzles
- batteries (AAs and AAAs)
- hot sauce (Taco Bell sauce packets are convenient in the field)
- water flavoring packets
- beef jerky
- Slim Jims
- protein bars
- gum
- sunflower seeds



### Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on **Sunday, September 7<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!



### New Members Class

The next New Members Class will be on **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** after the 10:00 worship service.



### Music Programs Return in September!

Bell Choir and Traditional Choir return on **Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>!** Rehearsals will be every Wednesday evening. Bell Choir begins at 6:30 pm, and Traditional Choir begins at 7:45 pm.



### Dine & Donate at MaGerks

Join us for a special dine and donate event in support of St. John's!

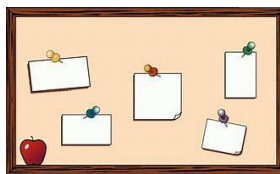
This fundraiser will be held on **Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 4-9 pm** at MaGerks on Horsham Road in Horsham.

Whether you choose to dine in or order takeout, simply mention St. John's when placing your order and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the fundraiser.



### 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 "The Secret Guests" by Benjamin Black. We'll meet on **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm** in the church library.



### 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@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org).



### New Members Reception

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come out and celebrate with our new church members! This reception is in honor of **all new members since January 1, 2022!** Join us **Sunday, September 21 after the 10:00 service in Fellowship Hall!** A bagel tray, pastries, and other snacks will be available. Sign up on the bulletin board.



### Scouts Court of Honor

St. John's charters Scout Troop 81, and their Court of Honor will be **Monday, September 22nd at 7:30 pm** in the Sanctuary. Please come out to support our scouts!



### 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 September, that is Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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!



### Faith Explorers

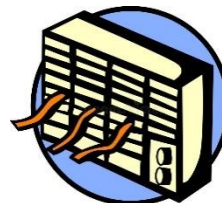
Faith Explorers returns on Thursday, **September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** at the Break Time Diner on York Road.



### Live Streaming

Can't join us in person? We live stream our services every Sunday on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SJLCH>. Don't worry about missing out, because the videos will stay on our channel for you to come back to! Thank you to Jess and Jim Yankowski for all you do to make this happen!



### 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. Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

## 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.

**Kids & Family Ministry** - Our team works together to plan and execute Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other events for youth and families at St. John's. Please let Abbie Metheny know at [sjchrised@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrised@gmail.com).

**Stewardship Committee** - We are looking to bring back our Stewardship Committee. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to the office.

**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](mailto:kirchercj615@verizon.net).

## Coming Soon:



### 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!



### 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.



### 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.



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 a rummage sale and 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!

I would like to thank the people of St John's for the flowers and many cards I have received after my recent surgery. Your support, prayers, and kind words have strengthened me and keep me moving.

Thank you.

Allison Hudson

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## Finance Corner:

### End of July 2025 Deficit Update

| Year-to-Date Financial Status<br>through 7/31/25 |              |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Income                                           | \$208,079.48 |
| Expenses                                         | \$236,170.41 |
| Deficit                                          | \$28,090.93  |



## Help Wanted

Are you...

- a Confirmant 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.***