



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

Monthly News & Updates

April 2023



### A Letter from Pastor Bo

April – Christ, the Victor

Reflecting on the texts we will be hearing this coming April, what stands out is how Jesus Christ overcomes all odds to be the champion of the world, the victor over sin, death and the devil.

Throughout Holy Week, we will see Jesus Christ get pummeled. Everything is thrown at him that can be thrown at him. And he takes it. He loves his enemies. Faithfulness to God and love for humanity keeps him going. But will that final knockout blow he takes be the end of the bout?

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>), the kids will lead us to acclaiming Christ as King with palms. But he's a different kind of King, coming in on a donkey. On Maundy Thursday (April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7) we will discover that the King is a sacrificial Lamb. On Good Friday (April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7), we will see the ultimate battle between love and death – both seem to win; your worldview determines what you believe. At Easter Vigil (April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5), we begin to crack open the first sign of a verdict as to who the last man standing will be.

On Easter (April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 and 10), don't miss it. We will see another dramatic presentation (oh, boy, putting the pressure on myself to come up with something new) about how Christ is the Victor over our divisions. I can't wait to see what I have to say about that! But it's not just something that I say – it's something that we get to live out together!

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Christ is Victor over despair. We will not just die and decay and that's it, any more than that was the end for Jesus.

The next two weeks, Jesus will personally invite us into his victory, in mirror image from the previous two weeks.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jesus invites us into his victory over death and despair through repentance, baptism, and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. We can live a new life of freedom and victory.

And on April 30<sup>th</sup>, Jesus invites us to share in his victory over division by taking part in the life of this community called Church. I believe one of our young folks will be telling us all about that.

Don't you think you and those you know need to hear something about victorious living? Don't miss a service in April!

Pastor Bo



### April Important Dates

- April 2 – Easter Egg Hunt
- April 6 – First Holy Communion
- April 7 – Good Friday
- April 9 – Easter
- April 27 – Faith Explorers

### Food Pantry Current Need

Our current needs list in priority order is:

- Boxed Pasta
- Canned Fruit
- Applesauce
- Toilet Paper
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Canned Carrots



### Food Pantry Report

February may be known as “the short month” but there was plenty of action at the Cupboard. First of all, you by now have noticed our name change. For years we were the “Pantry at St. John’s Lutheran” in an effort to not exclude our co-sponsoring churches, Church of the Advent, Hatboro Baptist, and Redeemer Lutheran, Jamison. Given that we are no longer a stand-alone pantry but are networking with other agencies and churches in the area to combat food insecurity we have changed our name to more correctly reflect what we do and how we do it. Our focus is still to operate the pantry but we now also work with other nearby pantries such as Lehman Methodist, Willow Grove Baptist, and Jesus Focus Ministries in Southampton. We have had a long history dating back to before the pandemic of working with Moreland Towers and Charter Arms living facilities. Recently we have been able to help Hatboro Baptist with their meal program. Thus, we felt it was time to rename our operation.

February is also known for the Super Bowl and while the Eagles may not have won, the clients at the Cupboard were winners. Thanks to the “Souper Bowl” efforts of both Redeemer Lutheran, Jamison and Hatboro Baptist special collections were held and the Cupboard is now well stocked with soup products.

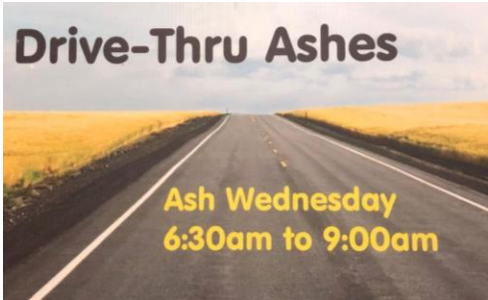
Use of the Cupboard was up by 48 families in February 2023 for a total of 251. Plus, 96 additional bags of food were provided to families of 5 or more members for a total of 347 bags of basic food items being distributed. The news media has recently made mention of the curtailment of SNAP benefits that were enhanced during the pandemic. In the last two weeks of the month we saw 12 new client families so that our registered family count is now in excess of 200 families. We will continue to track and note any potential increases in registration and usage.

Like us on Facebook, thanks for your supporting prayers and donations as we face a changing reality in our efforts to assist those suffering from food insecurity.



LAST MONTH

**Ash Wednesday – We offered Drive Thru Ashes for the community again this year, and it was once again a hit! More than 50 people stopped by for a Lenten blessing.**



# Youth News & Events



We offer Sunday School for ages 3 years old (and potty trained) through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These ages are split into 4 classes (Pre-K/ Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade). In order to make Sunday School a success, we need your help! Teacher signups are hanging on the bulletin board by the Sunday School office.

## Lesson Schedule:

### April 2:

- Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Abigail Brings Peace
- 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade: **No Sunday School**

### April 9:

- **Easter – No Sunday School**

### April 16:

- Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Elijah Confronts the Prophets of Baal
- 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Faith in Film Part 1

### April 23:

- Pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Elijah Provides for a Wide; Preparing for Youth Sunday
- 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade: Faith in Film Part 2

### April 30:

- **Youth Sunday – No Sunday School**



## Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation is having their last all day retreat for the year on April 1 at 10:00. We will be talking about the spiritual disciplines: faith, service, and community. We will also be talking about the Apostle's creed. We will also have class at 5:00 on April 16. We will be discussing Youth Sunday.



Youth group will be meeting at 9:30 on April 2 to throw the eggs onto the lawn and then hang out and help chaperone the egg hunt.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Who is that furry, little creature running through the lawn? It's the Easter Bunny! The Easter Bunny is coming early to Saint John's. Please join us after the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, April 2 for our annual Easter egg hunt.



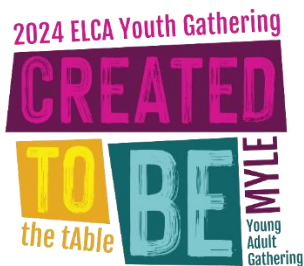
## First Holy Communion



Our Holy Communion class is baking bread on April 2 during the 10 am service for the Maundy Thursday service.



On April 6 our Communion class is receiving their First Holy Communion, please join us in celebrating with them.



## 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!

## Vacation Bible School

VBS is back! We will have 2 Vacation Bible Schools this year.



Our 3-day VBS will be called Pets Unleashed and it will focus in community service projects. This is on June 20, 21, and 22 from 9:30 until 12:00.



Our 5-day VBS is called Twists and Turns and it focuses on Peter's story with Jesus. This one takes place July 10-14 from 9:30 until 12:00.

Registration Forms and information for volunteers are currently available by request through Abbie Metheny or the Church Office, and will soon be available on the website as well.

# CHURCH NEWS



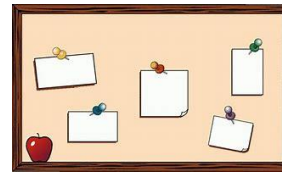
## Holy Week Schedule

- Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday Service – 10:00 am
  - Easter Egg Hunt to follow the service
- Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service & First Holy Communion – 7:00 pm
  - Reception to celebrate First Communion Class to follow the service
- Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Service – 7:00 pm
- Saturday, April 8 – Easter Vigil – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, April 9 – Easter Services – 7:00 am & 10:00 am



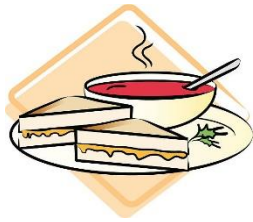
## Easter Flower Dedications

Dedication forms can be found in the Narthex, or emailed from the office by request. Please return completed forms with payment to the office on or before Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dedication donations this year will go to A Woman's Place or Lutheran Settlement House.



## Next Newsletter Deadline

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



### Women's Soup and Sandwich

Bring your sandwich **April 25th at 6pm** for "The Way of St. James", a pilgrimage of Ken Kissinger to Camino De Santiago, Spain. His journey at 70 years young of 500 plus miles walking, over 6 weeks with only a 16-pound backpack. The hostels, Cathedrals, scenery, and the people all making the journey to reach the Camino. Come join us for an evening you're sure to enjoy! All are welcome to the sanctuary at 6:45 for the presentation! Please sign up on the bulletin board on the ramp to Fellowship Hall.



### Men's Breakfast

Spring has sprung, time to get out and about! We have 3 upcoming men's breakfast dates for spring; i.e., the fourth Wednesday of each month: April 26th, May 24th, and June 28th. We meet at Lancer's Diner 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? Call or email me at: [rodorth@aol.com](mailto:rodorth@aol.com) or call my cell at 215-431-8437.

### We Have a New Mission Statement!

St. John's is committed to building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ.



### Faith Explorers

Small Groups are one of the most important ways that we connect and grow in our faith and as a community. Join the new Faith Explorers group to learn more about the bible and each other. Our next meeting will be April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Country House Diner on York Road.

### What Are St. John's Values?

Now that we have a new Mission Statement, our next step is to draft a Vision Statement. It's easy to see what we're doing, but we want your help to envision where we're going! We're asking the congregation for a word or short phrase of something that we at St. John's value. Some examples from our confirmands are "fun," "engaging," and "connected to the community." You can submit your values on your yellow attendance cards or on the website.



## 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 Newly Improved 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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