



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Hatboro, PA

### *Faith – Service – Community*

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Monthly News & Updates

February 2026

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#### A Letter from Pastor Bo

#### February 2026

#### Continuing the Epiphany Series, Jumping into Lent

In January, we took the first four phrases of 1 Timothy 3.16 and related them to the feast Sundays we celebrated in January: “Without any doubt, the mystery of godliness is great: He was revealed in flesh (*Epiphany*), vindicated in spirit (*Baptism*), seen by angels (*Confession of Peter*), proclaimed among gentiles (*Conversion of Paul*)...” There are two more phrases to that declaration of who Jesus Christ is, and I didn’t think I could make them work in February, because there are three weeks (before Lent) for two phrases, and I decided I can make them work.

**February 1<sup>st</sup> –Believed in throughout the world, Part 1: God’s Grace To Us.** This week we look at the Beatitudes. These are the people Jesus is highlighting as VIPs in the Beloved Community of God’s Reign. Not because they merited a special status, but because they are in need of mercy and grace. These are the people who come to Christ in faith, not counting on their own exceptionality. The zeroes in the world are heroes to God, because God’s strength is made manifest in them. (At the annual meeting after Sunday service, we get to here about what God has done through ordinary people who have faith.)

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – Believed in throughout the world, Part 1: God’s Grace Through Us.** Here Jesus tells us to take that grace we’ve been given and spread it to others. We are not to hide the light, but to let it shine through good works. God shows grace *to* us, and God shows grace *through* us. (We can put that into practice by helping paint Fellowship Hall Saturday, Feb 7).



#### 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.

## A Letter from Pastor Bo – Continued

**February 15<sup>th</sup> – Transfiguration:** Taken up in glory. Like the week about Paul from last month, this is a pretty obvious pairing. Where 1 Timothy was speaking about the Ascension (and/or possibly the return at the end of the age), the Transfiguration is another scene with disciples on a mountain where Christ's glory is on display. We now share his glory until he appears again in glory, and even more so after that. (And come see normal folks get transfigured into entertainers at our Fastnacht talent show this afternoon.)

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday** – Now is the time to come down the mountain with dirty faces and banishing any thoughts of pride due to being chosen to behold and share such glory, because the glory of Christ comes through suffering and death. That is the only way needed transformation happens. Fun, right! Well, sometimes we need to lean into that. (But enjoy our Lenten family night dinner at 6, an hour before our Ash Wednesday service.)

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Temptation in the Wilderness.** Let's kick off the weeks of Lent by following Jesus into the desert and taking up his victory over Satan as we wrestle our own demons. We are more than conquerors, not through our own strength, but through Christ!

Should be an exciting month. Pray for good weather. Groundhog, I'm looking at you. No more funny business.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



### Important Dates in February

- February 1 – Annual Meeting
- February 15 – Fastnacht Talent Show
- February 18 – Ash Wednesday
- February 18 – Lenten Family Night

## Food Pantry Report

January 7, 2026

December was a busy and stressful month. We no sooner put away the items from the Thanksgiving fixings table and we began planning for the Christmas dinner fixings table. Because Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were Wednesday and Thursday we decided that it would not be fair to bring in the Tuesday volunteers for one day. We decided to distribute the Christmas turkeys and fixings the week before so that we could close Christmas week. We gave out more than 100 complete dinners for Christmas. In addition to the regular grocery items.

We registered 17 new families in December serving 339 families. A lower number because of the one week shutdown of the pantry.

The donations continued to arrive all during the month of December from too many organizations to list. Giant Foods provided us with more than 40 hams that we will hold for Easter. Grocery Outlet has continued to provide meats and other staples for us. We are fortunate to have a close relationship with HatPacks. They have directed many donations to us from businesses and organizations that have contacted them for advice on which pantries were most in need.

We are reorganizing our stock room and our freezers in anticipation of the new grant from MAHN which will begin in January 2026. In addition we have received funds from a donor to purchase a new high efficiency commercial refrigerator to replace our old refrigerator-freezer. We used some of the donation to purchase two new carts for loading and unloading donations. They were much needed and are a hit with the volunteers!

We continue to search for a substitute team leader. We are confident that the right person is out there. We just have to be patient.

As always, we are grateful for our volunteers and all of the organizations that support us in our efforts to provide food for those in need.



### Hatboro Community Cupboard Most Needed Items

Spaghetti Sauce

Pork and Beans  
(small cans)

Mixed Vegetables

Apple Juice

Shelf Stable Milk

Chunk Light Tuna

Toilet Paper

Shampoo

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

# 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:

February 1 – Water to Wine

February 8 – Salt and Light

February 15 – **No Sunday School**

February 22 – Palm Sunday Lesson



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

This month's event will be on Saturday, February 21. Please stay tuned for more details!



Confirmation will meet twice this month, February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We meet from 6:30 – 8 pm, and dinner is included in the class time.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be burning palms for Ash Wednesday. **Please dress warmly as we will be outside.**

# CHURCH NEWS



## Congregational Vitality Survey

Please take the time to fill out the Congregation Vitality Survey that the Synod provided to us, either using the link in your weekly announcement emails, or filling out a paper copy in the Narthex and turning it in to the office.



## 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 for Book Club is "The Lost Bookshop" by Evie Woods. We'll meet on Sunday, **February 8th at 1 pm** in the church library.

## ANNUAL MEETING

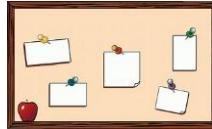


Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, **February 1<sup>st</sup>** directly following the Sunday worship service.



## Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be on **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.



## Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Ash Wednesday is on **April 18<sup>th</sup>**, and we will offer an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm.



### Fastnacht Talent Show

Yes! It is time again for fun and donuts! And to usher in the season, please join us on **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm** for an afternoon filled with plenty of fun and entertainment, and of course donuts! Please join us in the sanctuary, with donuts to follow in Fellowship Hall.



### Lenten Family Night

This year's Lenten Family Night will be held before the 7:00 Ash Wednesday service. Join us at 5:30 pm with soup or salads to share, and stay for the worship service that night.

### Drive-Thru Ashes



Ash Wednesday this year will be on **Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**, and we will once again offer Drive-Thru Ashes in the loop out front. We will be out there from 6:30 am – 9 am.



### Easter Dedications

Dedication forms for Easter flowers will be attached to bulletins as well as loose on the Hospitality Table during the season of Lent. Tulips and lilies are \$25 each, and hydrangeas are \$35 each. Please return dedication forms and payment by **Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**.



There will be Midweek Lenten Services every **Wednesday at 11 am**, starting on **February 25<sup>th</sup>**.



### 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 October we have raised over \$15,000! Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!



## Finance Corner:

### End of 2025 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 12/31/25	
Income	\$405,313.30
Expenses	\$420,427.06
Deficit	\$15,113.76**

\*\* This is the deficit in the **Operating Budget** which we have been tracking all year.

## Coming Soon:

### Trip to the Flyers Game

St. John's is going to the Flyers game on March 24<sup>th</sup>! It is \$85 per person. Please pay by cash, check (made out to St. John's), or venmo to AlanDivver2929

Contact Alan Divver (215-436-0730 or [alan.m.divver@gmail.com](mailto:alan.m.divver@gmail.com))

## Thank You!

The Community Outreach Ministries Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous giving from our "Giving Tree". We collected about \$1000 in gift cards and gifts that were given to a Woman's Place, Valley Youth House in Warminster, and The Breathing Room. They were very much appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of our Outreach Ministries.

Thank you again to our "Greens Crew" for all your hard work in putting our sanctuary back to normal. We couldn't have done it without you! Delores, Carolyn, Debbie & Karl, Linda, and our new "star guy" Dylan. Hope to see you all next year on 11/28/26! Sincerely, Tracy & Stephen Kirner.



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



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!



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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

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.*