



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

May 2025



## A Letter from Pastor Bo May 2025

So many promises to bask in this month of May. Soak in the warmth of God's love, and the dimensions of what resurrected life in Christ looks like.

May 4<sup>th</sup> – **Recalled.** Saul (Paul) has intense zeal for God, but going in the wrong direction. Peter has an intense zeal for Christ that is snuffed out by his failure. Watch Jesus turn both of these people around with love and grace.

May 11<sup>th</sup> – **Cared For.** It's Music Sunday! It's Mother's Day! It's Good Shepherd Sunday! These texts show the loving care Christ gives his precious disciples (that's us), just as Tabitha cared for the many in need in her community.

May 18<sup>th</sup> – **Caring for Others.** Jesus has cared for us. Now it's our job to recognize the care he gives to all people, and the care we must show to each other. The gap between Gentile and Jew disappears, and heaven comes down to earth.

May 25<sup>th</sup> – **At Home.** Here's the goal of the life of discipleship – to live your whole life in unceasing fellowship with the Triune God. Jesus promises that the Trinity will live inside of us, and we will dwell inside the city of God, even as Lydia offered hospitality to the messengers of God's good news.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



### 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



### Important Dates in May

May 4 – New Members Class

May 11 – Mother's Day  
Potluck Breakfast

May 11 – Music Sunday

May 18 – Youth Sunday



## Food Pantry Report

April 9, 2025

First, an apology to Riverside Church in Horsham. They were accidentally left off the list of donors in last month's update. We welcome their support.

We are delighted to report that March broke the cycle. The last day of January and February saw us have equipment failure on two different units. The last day of March only produced a clogged toilet for a problem.

We are delighted to share that an anonymous donor has provided the funds for us to purchase a new commercial freezer. We expect to take delivery shortly. This will not only increase our storage capacity but also allow us to take off line two very old inefficient units.

Attendance in March returned to previous levels. Though there was a slight falling off in numbers attending in January and February, March saw 365 families visit which is very close to last year's attendance of 383. We added 20 new families in March.

We are making plans to offer a special meal for the week prior to Easter and sign-ups are currently proceeding.

As always, we are grateful for your support and prayers.

### Thank You from Hatboro Community Cupboard!

An anonymous angel in the Hatboro area donated a new commercial freezer to the pantry, and volunteers and members of St. John's Property Committee helped to install it. Thank you so much!

### Most Needed Items

Canned Carrots  
Canned Potatoes  
Ramen Noodles (Soup)  
Rice a Roni  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Manwich  
Canned Peaches  
Canned Fruit Cocktail  
Pancake Syrup  
Tomato Soup

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





# LAST MONTH

## Chili Cook-Off

Congratulations to the winners of our Chili Cook-Off! Audrey Gobetz won with her chili, and Richard Gradwell won best cornbread and best mac and cheese! Congratulations as well to our second and third place winners, and thank you to everyone who came out!





## Palm Sunday

Our Sunday School kids led the procession with the palms during worship!





## Easter Egg Hunt

St. John's kids had a great time with their Easter Egg Hunt! Thank you to everyone who helped us stuff the eggs!





## 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:

May 4 – Delivering Flowers to Neighborhood

May 11 – **No Sunday School** (Music Sunday)

May 18 – **No Sunday School** (Youth Sunday)



**Confirmation Classes will be held on the fourth Sunday of every month, at 6:30 pm, from September – May.**

Our next Confirmation class will be on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided. Students should complete their homework before class!



### Children's Library

If parents do not want to use the staffed nursery, but their child needs a break from worship, they are welcome to use the Children's Library, located beside the Sunday School office.

The library will also be open after worship each week. Parents are welcome to sign out books on the clipboard, and bring them back when finished.



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

Stay tuned for details for our May activity!

## Vacation Bible School

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



Our 5-day VBS is called Camp Firelight. In this program, we will learn to put our trust in God! This is from July 10-14 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.



Our 3-day VBS is called Road Trip. In this program, we will be on the go with God! This one takes place August 5-7 from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm.

Registration Forms and information for volunteers are currently available by request through Abbie Metheny or the Church Office.

Stay tuned for more information on our website:

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

## VBS Volunteer Information

We can't have VBS without our volunteers! We need a lot of help to run each session.

**Group Leaders** are responsible for taking their group of kids (broken down by age group) from station to station. Group Leaders are with the same group of kids all day. The different age groups are Pre-K & Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade. We need two adults with each group.

**Station Leaders** are responsible for running their stations: Games, Snack, Lesson, Music, Craft, and Science. Station Leaders are provided with a book with the lessons, crafts, etc. explained. Most even have a script, so it's easy to teach! Only one adult is needed to teach each station, though the more, the merrier!

**Youth Volunteers** entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up are welcome to join us as a helping hand! They can help with groups or stations.

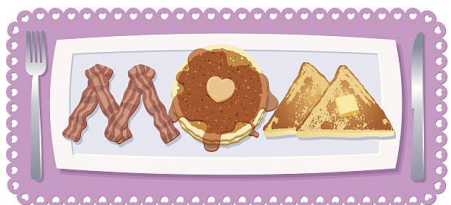
**ALL VOLUNTEERS must complete St. John's Mandatory Volunteer Training, and ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS must have completed their Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance as well as their Pennsylvania Background Check. Links are on the VBS page on our website.**

# CHURCH NEWS



## Plant Sale Pickup

If you ordered hanging baskets or patio pots through our Mother's Day Plant Sale fundraiser, pickup will be on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in the church parking lot.



## Mother's Day Potluck Breakfast

We are organizing a breakfast potluck in honor of the Mothers of St. John's on **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM!** We are looking for volunteers to supply breakfast dishes and to help run the breakfast. If you are interested, please sign up at the sheet near Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please contact Alan Divver (215-436-0730 or [alan.m.divver@gmail.com](mailto:alan.m.divver@gmail.com))



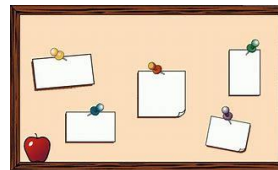
## New Members Class

The next New Members Class will be on **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** after the 10:00 worship service.



## Music Sunday

Join us **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** for Music Sunday! Our Traditional Choir, Bell Choir, and Band will be performing during the 10:00 worship service.



## Next Newsletter Deadline

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





### Calling All Class of 2025 Graduates

We would love to share in your achievement! If you are (or know someone who is) graduating from high school, college, or completing any other programs, please let us celebrate with you! Please submit names of 2025 grads to the office so we can celebrate as a church family. You can write it on your yellow attendance cards, or you can always email or call the office directly. Please submit your grads before **May 15<sup>th</sup>** so we can spotlight them in the June Newsletter!



### County Choraliers Concert

The County Choraliers will be holding their spring concert, Fill Your Life with Music, in the sanctuary on **Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm.



### Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall.



Women's Ministry's Ladies Lunch Bunch held their last meeting of the season in April. They will return in September!



### 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 Life Impossible" by Matt Haig. We'll meet on **May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** in the church library.

## Finance Corner

### End of March 2025 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 3/31/25	
Income	\$96,760.62
Expenses	\$107,268.68
Deficit	\$10,508.06

# 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 [sichrised@gmail.com](mailto:sichrised@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 Alan Eickhoff (215-675-1298) or Ken Woods 215-290-9246.





## 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!



## 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

Media Coordinator: Bob Muller

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.***