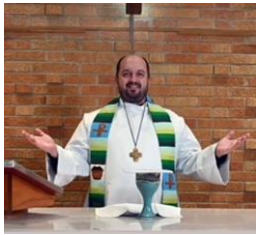




St. John's Lutheran Church
 Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

April 2026



A Letter from Pastor Bo
April 2026
Happy Easter.
The Risen Jesus Finds Us!

“Have you found Jesus, yet Forrest?” “I didn’t know I was supposed to be lookin’ for him.”

In addition to our annual Easter tradition of hiding and finding little Jesusses all over the church property, the theme from this month’s texts pops out at me – hide and seek. It’s both about Jesus finding us even when we try to hide and Jesus hiding and giving us hints (okay, promises) about where he might be found.

April 2nd – Maundy Thursday. Hidden in the meal, found in the love. We read John’s account of the last supper, which has no traditional words of institution (“This is my body”), but a lot of words about loving each other in community.

April 3rd – Good Friday. Jesus is dead. And yet already lives again, even before Easter, in his circles of beloveds.

April 4th – Easter Vigil. We keep watch this night. Why do we keep watch? New life is coming over the horizon. We search for it eagerly.

April 5th – Easter Sunday – He is risen! And the sought is always a step ahead of the seeker. Women come to the tomb only to not find Jesus, but to be found by him, and to be told where they can go find him. And they must find others to bring along to find Jesus. Find another beloved human to bring to church today.

April 12th – Found behind locked doors. Jesus finds the disciples. The disciples find Thomas. Thomas finds his faith.

April 19th – Found in our disappointments. Found in the stranger. He finds us together.



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 April

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

April 3 – Good Friday

April 4 – Easter Vigil

April 5 – Easter Sunday

April 13 – All Committee Meeting

A Letter from Pastor Bo – Continued

April 26th – Jesus is the good shepherd. He searches. He finds. He saves our life. He lays down his. Thieves and predators are Chuck Norrised.

Come let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our God our maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. – From Psalm 95, which was put into a song I memorized as a kid and can't get out of my head. There are worse things, I guess!

Easter Sunday will be "Bring My Friend to Church Sunday." Because you are going to bring "my" friend, which is you. And maybe you can bring your friend, too. Maybe I'll make a new friend if you do.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo

Food Pantry Report

March 11, 2026

February was another challenging month for the pantry as well as the clients. The weather wreaked havoc on the schedule and operating hours. Due to the extreme cold and significant snow and ice from storms we were not able to get deliveries as scheduled. We missed one milk delivery and multiple bread and dessert donations. We are following the Hatboro Horsham school district schedule for closings but luckily the closures were on Mondays so we were able to maintain normal hours Tuesday through Thursday.

That being said, we registered 25 new clients in February serving 348 families. We continue to see a decrease in client visits on Tuesdays. Many of our seniors, both clients and volunteers, advised us that they would not come due to their concerns over driving and walking in the cold and icy conditions. We have seen an increase in visits on Wednesday morning and Thursday evening shifts.

Donations in general have been down for the month. We continue to receive donations and financial support from our partner churches.

Our need for a substitute team leader is becoming more urgent. Although we have reached out to several of our volunteers we have not been successful in our efforts.

As always, we are grateful for our dedicated volunteers and all of the organizations that support us in providing food and personal care items for those in need.

Current Needs List

Instant Oatmeal • Jelly • Canned Mixed Vegetables • Canned Peas • Canned Carrots •
Chunk Light Tuna • Baked Beans • 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 6th grade are welcome to join us! Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

Lesson Schedule:

April 5 – Easter, **No Sunday School**

April 12 – Sermon on the Mount

April 19 – Jesus Heals the Blind

April 26 – Tax Collector



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

Stay tuned for more information about this month's event!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL INFO COMING SOON

This summer we will once again hold two VBS sessions, one in July and one in August. All children ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome to join us, and children entering 7th grade and up are welcome to volunteer!

We will also be looking for adult volunteers to lead stations like games, snack, science, and craft, and others to lead the groups from station to station.

Please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sichrised@gmail.com for more information!



Confirmation will meet on April 19th. We meet from 6:30 – 8 pm, and dinner is included in the class time.

CHURCH NEWS



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd

6 pm Foot Washing
7 pm Worship

Good Friday – Tenebrae

April 3rd

7 pm Worship

Easter Vigil

April 4th

7 pm Worship

Easter Morning

April 5th

7 am Sunrise Service
10 am Worship



Easter Flower Pickup

If you are picking up your Easter flowers, please wait until after the 10:00 service on Easter Sunday, or make an appointment with the Office to come during the week.



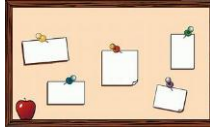
All Committee Meeting

The All Committee Meeting has been rescheduled to **Monday, April 13th** at 6:30 pm. We would like to discuss committee plans for the upcoming year to help coordinate activities and space usage as much as possible. We would also like to ensure we have up to date information on committee members and contact info of committee leaders. If a committee head cannot make it, please either send a representative with notes or reach out to Alan Divver at alan.m.divver@gmail.com with your updates for the meeting. Thank you!



Game Night

Fellowship Connections would like to invite the Congregation to Game Night on **Saturday April 18, 2026, at 6:00pm.** Bring your favorite board game or card games. Invite the family, friends, Co-workers, and neighbors for a Fun night! Fellowship Connections will provide light Refreshments. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board outside of Fellowship Hall.



Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the May Newsletter is **April 15th**. Please send any events, notes, or volunteer opportunities to Ashdon at office@sjlch.org.



Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be on **Thursday, April 23rd at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.



Gardening Committee Help Needed

It's getting to be that time of year! The garden committee is in need of volunteers to help with the care of gardens. This involves preparing the gardens for the planting of new plants, weeding, watering, maintaining and clearing out dead plants in late fall. We are also looking for someone to care for the two planters at the entrance of the church (planting seasonal flowers, and watering). If you are interested, please contact Linda Nieckoski at linski509@gmail.com or 215-441-5478.



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 club book is "Twice" by Mitch Albom. We'll meet on **Sunday, April 26th at 1 pm** in the church library. Hope to see you there!



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 \$18,000! Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

February 2026 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 2/28/26	
Income	\$60,496.58
Expenses	\$66,266.09
Deficit	\$5,769.51

This chart does not include donations to the Capital Improvement fund, which is not part of our operating budget.

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.



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 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

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: sjchrised@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: office@sjlch.org

Church Website:

www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 am – 2 pm.

Please call the office before coming in.