



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

August 2025



A Letter from Pastor Bo

August 2025

Love and Judgment, but Love Wins in the End

This month gives us great insight into the prophetic voice within the scriptures. Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah demonstrate the deep passion of God's love for us, and try to awaken our awareness of our need for God.

August 3rd – Hosea 11 shares intimate language about God's parental love for God's people. God taught us to walk, raised us from when we were wee ones. God asks, "How can I possibly let you be destroyed?" even if that would be the natural consequences. "Nope, can't let it happen," God says.

August 10th – Now we meet Isaiah, the powerful prophet, whose book has the most chapters of any book in the Bible except for the Psalms. Isaiah admonishes God's people for seeking refuge under the cover of religious piety. Sin and injustice cannot hide. But God offers a conversation. "Let's talk. Let's make a deal. I can offer you absolute forgiveness for everything, if you would just turn back to me."

August 17th – Foreshadowing Jesus, Isaiah tells a parable. Israel is a vineyard that God has taken care of. Why isn't it yielding the kind of fruit God wants? Whose fault is that? What should be done?

August 24th – We meet the prophet Jeremiah, whose book is the longest in the Bible (third-longest in terms of chapters, but these chapters are pretty long). We are called to receive prophetic words, and hopefully the weeks thus far have thoroughly shaken us up and brought us closer to God. But we also have prophetic words to give, and that can be scary. Jeremiah's call gives us courage to do so.



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 August

August 5-7 – VBS –
Road Trip
August 17 –
Backpack Supplies
Due

A Letter from Pastor Bo, continued

August 31st – Israel has done what no nation tends to do. Change its god. So much preaching material is contained in Jeremiah 2.13: “My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.”

Put on your listening ears, and allow the Holy Spirit to soften your heart. Be renewed in Jesus Christ!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo

Food Pantry Report

July 13, 2025

June was another unusual month with considerable ups and downs with client visits. We served 318 families in June which is down from our May number of 385. We registered 10 new families during the month. Although our inventory is declining, we were blessed with the news that we have been approved for a grant of \$8500 from July 1 to December 31, 2025. It could not have come at a better time!

We want to give another huge thank you to Grocery Outlet for their continued support of our pantry. Their Independence from Hunger campaign began on June 24. We are assigned Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for pick-ups of donations from their customers. These donations have really helped us to provide additional food items including snacks and beverages that we do not normally stock. They also fill the gap while we complete the paperwork required to begin using the grant funds.

We are extremely thankful for the support we receive from Redeemer and Advent. During our power outage Advent was able to take fifteen hams from our freezer to be used for their community dinners. Once the power was restored, we began restocking with meats from other sources such as Garden of Health, Rolling Harvest and Bucks County Opportunity Council.

Although we have added two new drivers to the schedule, we had one retire so the search continues for more volunteer drivers.

As always, we are grateful for all of the support from our pantry partners, the congregation and the community.



Hatboro Community Cupboard Most Needed Items

Cereal
Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken, Spam)
Canned Mixed Vegetables
Canned Peaches
Canned Beets
Canned Carrots
1-lb Bags of White Rice
Boxed Pasta (Rigatoni, Ziti, Penne, etc.)
Mac & Cheese
Peanut Butter
Jelly

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

LAST MONTH

Vacation Bible School Day 1

On Monday, we learned that we can trust God to go with us by reading a story about Jacob. Jacob went on a long journey, and stopped to sleep with a rock as his pillow! He dreamed about a staircase to heaven, with angels ascending and descending the steps. He woke up and took his rock pillow and set it as a pillar for God's house! We built temples out of our pillow blocks, made rock candy in science, ate teddy graham angels in snack, made dream pillows in craft, and did an obstacle course in games!



Vacation Bible School Day 2

On Tuesday, we learned that we can trust God to lead the way! We read about Ruth choosing to stay with her mother-in-law Naomi after the death of her husband. We did a 3-legged race in games, made campfires in craft, and ate dirt-dessert in snack!



Vacation Bible School Day 3

On Wednesday, we learned that we can trust God to share wisdom! We read the story about young Jesus sharing wisdom at the temple. We played a game of hiding a Jesus figure and trying to find him, because Mary and Joseph didn't know where Jesus was for days before they found him in the temple! We made bubble paintings in science, built campfires in snack, and tie-dyed our camp shirts in craft.



Vacation Bible School Day 4

On Thursday, we learned that we can trust God to give us peace! We read a story about Jesus calming a storm just by telling it to "Be still!" We made storms in a bottle in science, and ate clementine boats on jell-o seas in snack! In craft, we made paper plate boats and seas, as well as campfire sun-catchers.



Vacation Bible School Day 5

On Friday, we learned that we can trust God to spark joy! We read a story from Acts about Phillip sharing the good news about Jesus with a man from Ethiopia he met on a road, and after reading from Isaiah together, Phillip baptizes him! We made our own Oobleck in science, had chariot races in games, ate some pretzel and grape trees with cookie acorns in snack, and made some chariots and mosaic crosses in craft! We had such a fun week, and that is all thanks to our volunteers who came out and made it happen! We hope to see you at our next session in August!

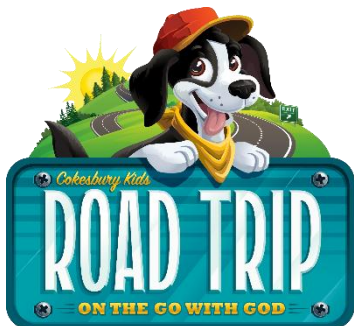


Youth News & Events



We are inviting all students entering 7th or 8th grade this fall, or those in high school who would like to be confirmed, to join our confirmation class this fall! We will have a meeting for parents (and students) on **Sunday, August 24th**. Please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sjchrised@gmail.com if you know a child who would be interested in joining us!

Vacation Bible School



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.

More information is available on our website:

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, 1st-3rd Grade, and 4th-6th 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 7th 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



Backpack and School Supplies

Beginning Saturday, August 2nd and continuing through Sunday, August 17th, we will be collecting gift cards and school supplies for the Back To School Challenge. We will be supporting the Breathing Room, which helps families affected by cancer, and Valley Youth House in Warminster, which gives youth between the ages of 13 and 19, a safe place to live. All items must be returned by Sunday, August 17th.

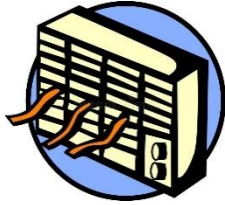
Gift Cards should be sent to the Church Office or put in an envelope and placed in the offering plate. The other supplies may be dropped off at the Church during Church service on Saturdays and Sundays, or Church office hours.

Thank you!

The Community Outreach Ministries Committee

The following items are needed by both places:

- \$15 or \$20 gift cards to Walmart, Target, or Amazon (Please label whether they go to Valley Youth or the Breathing Room)
 - 1, 3, and 5 subject notebooks
 - Composition books (different colors)
- Markers (washable, dry erase, highlighters, sharpies)
 - Folders (characters or solid colors)
- Lunch boxes and backpacks (for teens and tweens)
- Zippered pencil cases, pens, pencils, erasers, colored pencils
 - 1 and 2 inch binders and dividers
- Looseleaf paper, graph paper, graphing notebooks
 - Lined 3x5 index cards, post-its, glue sticks
 - Ear buds compatible with Chromebooks
 - Protractors, rulers



Air Conditioning Fundraiser

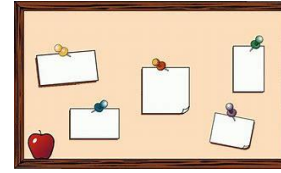
We are anticipating that we will need to replace the sanctuary's air conditioner next year, and it's time to get a head start on fundraising! We are aiming to raise \$100,000. Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!



A Note from Fellowship Connections

Fellowship Connections Committee would like to give some Loud Shoutouts!!! Did you miss the Super Scooper Ice Cream Event? No worries here is an overview of the Event!! Big Thanks to Pacitti Brothers Ice Cream and Hotdogs for donating ice cream toppings, coupons, plasticware and menus!! Please stop by the store at 105 N York Rd and say Hello and get an ice cream and a hot dog! Big Thanks to Tom for providing his wonderful music!! Thanks to our generous congregation for donating ice cream supplies!! Thank You to Church Council for serving the wonderful ice cream and water ice!! Thanks to All the committee members for all their help!!!

Congratulations to Declan Mulherin, the Winner of the Guessing Jar Contest!! As always Fellowship Connections appreciates the continued support throughout the year!! Stay Tuned for more events throughout the year!



Next Newsletter Deadline

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

LIVE ((▶))

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!



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 "My Magnolia Summer" by Victoria Benton Frank. We'll meet on **August 17th at 1 pm** in the church library.

Coming Soon:



Brad Fox Memorial Concert

Join us on **Sunday, September 7th 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!

Returning in September:

The following programs will return in September:

Coffee Hour

Faith Explorers

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Music Programs

Sunday School



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.

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.

Finance Corner

End of June 2025 Deficit Update

| Year-to-Date Financial Status through 6/30/25 | |
|--|--------------|
| Income | \$186,137.98 |
| Expenses | \$206,404.80 |
| Deficit | \$20,266.87 |



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

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn

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.