



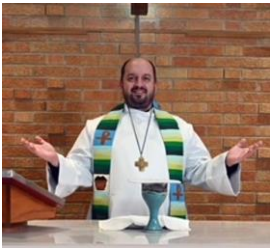
St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

January 2025



A Letter from Pastor Bo

January 2025

January 2025 – Happy New Year! You get to live it as a baptized child of God. This month we will start the year off right by talking about what that means for who we are.

January 5th – **Called.** It's still Christmas at this point – the 12th day. 12 drummers drumming. Drums are a call to action. The texts this day speak of God's gathering and calling of us for God's purposes. God does this without our help; we find ourselves awash in the story of God's liberation of a broken world.

January 12th – **Protected.** This is Baptism of the Lord Sunday, and we find that our baptism into Christ protects us in ways we can hardly comprehend. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you pass through the fire, you will not be burned."

January 19th – **Blessed to be a Blessing.** As God's children, God lavishes grace and blessing on us, sets us high in the heights. We are given gifts with which to bless the world.

January 26th – **Instructed.** – God gives us a pathway for living, a pathway for love and justice, which marks us out as God's beloved community on earth.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



Important Dates in January

January 11 – Taking Down the Greens

January 18 – Pasta Dinner

January 26 – Youth-Led Worship



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.



Food Pantry Report

December 18, 2024

November is a month with heightened gratitude to it. We at the Cupboard are thankful to St. John's Lutheran for their support through the years. The co-sponsoring churches of Church of the Advent, Hatboro Baptist and Redeemer Lutheran all made financial contributions as well as product donations during the month.

We held a donation collection at Warminster Grocery Outlet. Volunteers greeted customers and shared a flyer of our needs and the exact aisle in which to find the items. After the customer purchased the item, volunteers took it and placed it in a nearby vehicle. Several car loads of donations were received across the week end.

On November 23 we also had a major food collection from Cub Pack 17. They had canvassed the streets of Hatboro previously and spent the morning picking up the donation bags. This collection was shared with the pantry at Lehman Methodist.

The simultaneous collections meant another group of volunteers were needed at the Cupboard to sort them. Sorting includes placing items packaged in cardboard containers into plastic storage bins.

Many people from the co-sponsoring organizations contributed to our successful campaign to provide a holiday meal to those who wanted one. Giant of Horsham helped us immensely, providing a huge number of turkeys. We conducted a client sign up to determine level of interest. We were able to provide an entrée and fixings to all those who had signed up plus an additional 25 families. In all, 75 families were given either a turkey, turkey breast or lasagna meal as well as the accompanying fixings. Plus, we had leftover turkeys that we have stored for our Christmas meal campaign.

We are extremely grateful for all the support that we receive not only during the holiday season but throughout the entire year.

Our **most critical needs** right now are:

- Cereal
- Boxed Pasta
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Beef Stew
- Canned Chili
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Black Beans
- Knorr Sides
- Rice a Roni

Additionally, we are looking for donations of metal cabinets to store our inventory. Call Alan at 215-675-1298.

All donations are appreciated, thank you!

LAST MONTH

Hatboro Holiday Parade

St. John's had a float in the Hatboro Holiday Parade again this year. Our band sang Christmas songs, and the rest of our group walked behind and passed out goodies!



Hanging the Greens

We wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of those who helped decorate the sanctuary on Saturday, November 30th. Thanks to the dedicated team of Joe, Jax, Ken, and Ralph who set up the Christmas trees. To all the "greens crew" who made the big task possible: Ashdon, Bruce, Debbie and Karl, Diane, Karen, Keegan and Brigette, Linda and Ruth. We couldn't have done it without you! Many thanks, Trish, Tracy, and Steve.



Advent Family Night

At Advent Family Night this year, we made salt dough ornaments to take home and decorate our trees!



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 6th grade are welcome to join us! Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

Lesson Schedule:

January 5 – **No Sunday School**

January 12 – Who Is Jesus?

January 19 – Serve Others

January 26 – **Youth Sunday**



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

This month, Youth Group will hold their annual Pasta Dinner on Saturday, January 18th at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Stay tuned for more details!



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, October 27, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided. Students should complete their homework before class!



Nursery

The nursery has been relocated to the Library. We are working to staff the nursery each week so that parents can drop their children off before worship, and pick them up after the service. The nursery will be open from 9:50 – 10 minutes after the service ends on Sunday mornings.

In the event that the nursery is not staffed, it is still open for parents to sit with their children if they need a break. There will be signs posted on the door to mark whether the nursery is staffed or not.



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.

CHURCH NEWS



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 Christmas Wedding Guest" by Susan Mallery We'll meet on **January 5th at 4 pm** in the church library.



Taking Down the Greens

Join us on **Saturday, January 11th at 9 am** to take down the greens to prepare for the season of Epiphany. We can use all the help we can get!



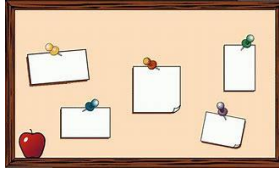
New Members Class

The next New Members Class will be on **Sunday, January 12th** after the 10:00 worship service.



Pasta Dinner

Our youth group will be serving their annual pasta dinner on Saturday, January 18 at 6 pm. Please join us to support our youth group!



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Women's Ministry's Ladies Lunch Bunch will return on **Tuesday, January 21st at 12 noon**. Bring your lunch and drinks, and enjoy a provided dessert. Please sign up to attend on the bulletin board on the ramp to Fellowship Hall.

The Ladies Lunch Bunch meets on the third Tuesday of each month at noon in Fellowship Hall.

ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 16th, at 11:30 am**.

All committee chairs should send their annual reports in to the office (office@sjlch.org) by **Wednesday, January 15th** so they can be included in the Congregational Annual Report ahead of our Annual Meeting.



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, January 23rd at 6 pm**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall.

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees.

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 Alan Eickhoff (215-675-1298) or Ken Woods 215-290-9246.

Nightly Security Checks

We are looking for Volunteers to help perform nightly security checks to follow a set checklist to ensure that all doors are locked, lights are off, and to address any other potential concerns. Please reach out to the office if you are interested.

Thank You!

Dear Christmas Carolers,

Thank you for the nice surprise on Sunday. My family and I enjoyed your lovely Christmas music. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness to bring such joy to a person at this time of year.

God bless you,

Mary Lou McNickle

A few weeks ago was the Hatboro Holiday Parade Outreach. It was the first time the Community Outreach Ministries was "in charge" of this outreach event. We would like to thank Pastor Bo for mentioning it in the weeks prior, St. John's Community Cupboard for its many donations, the Coffee Hour team for helping in setting up and for donations, and all the people who came to set up, serve, and clean up! We couldn't have done it without all of you. We also want to thank you for all the additional food and monetary donations that were made by you. It was a total team effort! We probably served over 150 people with water, coffee, hot chocolate, hot dogs, and snacks.....And of course, the restrooms were a big hit, also!! So again, many, many thanks from the Community Outreach Ministries Team....and we always welcome new members!!

Finance Corner

End of November Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 11/30/24	
Income	\$367,842.88
Expenses	\$423,232.49
Deficit	\$55,389.61



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 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

Media Coordinator: Bob Muller

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.