



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

April 2025



A Letter from Pastor Bo

April 2025

April 2025 – **Anticipating Resurrection.** This month is full of promises and fulfillment in Christ. The prophetic writings beckon us to look forward, which puts some spring in our step as we finish off Lent and the journey to the cross and make it to resurrection and new life with Christ.

There are plenty of opportunities here to invite people to come to church!

April 6th – **Fugetaboutit** – Isaiah tells us to not even bother bringing to mind the awesome things God did in the past, because God is about to do something totally new that will blow us away. Yet we are to take the most precious things we have acquired and put them on Jesus to be buried and resurrected in him.

April 13th – **Palm/Passion Sunday.** We begin with welcoming Jesus to anticipate he reign. We end with Peter weeping and his denial of Christ. What is to come of those tears?

April 17th – **Maundy Thursday** – The reason why our Jewish forebears and cousins avoid leaven on Passover is because they don't have time for the bread to rise in baking. They are going to get out of Egypt ASAP. The Exodus text for today has almost an Advent feel.

April 18th – **Good Friday** – Come and experience the death of Christ for you and for the whole world.

April 19th – **Easter Vigil** – Be among the first to witness the resurrection. And hide Jesus throughout the church afterwards.

April 20th – **Easter Sunday** – The moment we've been waiting for. The world is healed.

April 27th – **Jesus is Lord** – The new world Jesus brings about for us contains no fear, only freedom. Let's walk into that freedom.

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 journey with God.



Important Dates in April

April 6 – Lenten Family Night & Chili Cookoff

April 13 – Palm Sunday & Easter Egg Hunt

April 17 – Maundy Thursday & First Holy Communion

April 20 – Easter Sunday



Food Pantry Report

March 13, 2025

Last month we shared with you some of the surprises. This month the surprise train continued. Again, the weather was a surprise as we saw more snow than we have in several years. We were forced to close on Thursday 2/6 which meant both the day and night shifts were cancelled. Total visits for February were well off the pace of 2024. 305 families were served this year compared to 443 for last year.

Our regular donation stream from Redeemer Lutheran, Church of the Advent, Wilson Senior Center, Warrington Giant and Horsham Giant had several surprises. We got surprise donations from Willow Grove Moose and VFW Lodge #9788 of Horsham. The staff at the Administration Building for Hatboro Horsham School District held a "Souper Bowl" collection for our benefit. The Community Outreach Committee at St. John's Lutheran held a pet product collection for cat and dog items. Grocery Outlet made two substantial donations during the month.

The month ended with a "mixed" surprise. Our newest 50 cubic foot freezer stopped working on Saturday February 28. Luckily, we found it in time and were able to save the contents before the meats thawed. Also, the unit is only a little over four years old so the compressor was replaced under a warranty claim. Sadly, the labor wasn't covered under the claim.

We look forward to things going back to "normal" in terms of our equipment but welcome any and all "surprise" donations.

Hatboro Community Cupboard needs volunteers with an SUV or truck to pick up donations the first Wednesday of every month from Noon-2:00 PM in Lansdale. Some lifting is involved. You do not have to commit to every month to get on the volunteer list. Contact Alan Eickhoff 215-675-1298 if you are interested.

Thank you for your support.

Most Needed Items

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

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

LAST MONTH

Fastnacht Afternoon Talent Show

We had a great time at our annual talent show! Thank you to everyone who shared their songs, monologues, and other talents with us.





Drive Thru Ashes

The front loop saw 45 cars and 54 people to receive ashes to go on their morning commutes on Ash Wednesday.



Lower Bucks Conference Pulpit Swap

On March 16th, eleven pastors in the Lower Bucks Conference of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod swapped pulpits. Pastor Bo preached at Lutheran Church of God's Love in Newtown, and we hosted Pastor Katherine Cartwright Knodel from the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Yardley.



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:

April 6 – The Day Jesus Died

April 13 – The Empty Tomb

April 20 – Easter – *No Sunday School*

April 27 – Planting Flowers



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

Stay tuned for details for our April activity!



Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, **April 13th**, after the 10:00 service.



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



First Holy Communion Classes

Our fourth-grade Sunday School class will meet during the season of Lent to prepare for their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Classes will be held during Sunday School (10 am). Please reach out to Abbie at sichrised@gmail.com if you are interested in signing your child up for classes!

Class Schedule:

March 9 – Class #1

March 23 – Class #2

April 6 – Class #3

April 13 – Baking Bread

April 13 (after the Egg Hunt) – Review with Pastor Bo

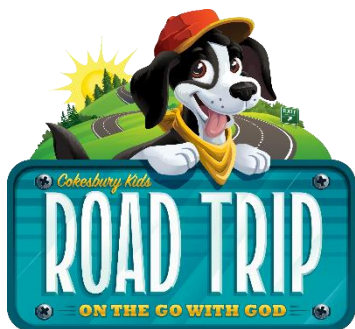
Thursday, April 17 – Students Receive First Holy Communion

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

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



Easter Eggs

Our Easter Egg Hunt is on Palm Sunday this year, and we are looking for help stuffing our eggs! There are bags of 20 eggs in the Narthex under the Hospitality Table. Please return the eggs filled with **wrapped, nut-free candy** by **April 6th**.



There will be Midweek Lenten Services every **Wednesday at 11 am**. The last midweek service will be on April 9th.



Food Collection

Instead of giving up something for Lent, let us bring in a food item for the Hatboro Community Cupboard. Each week in Lent there will be a different theme:

April 5-6: Side Dishes (Knorr, Rice a Roni, Hamburger Helper)

April 12-13: Canned Carrots

The Community Outreach Committee thanks you for your continued response!



Stations of the Crockpots

Lenten Family Night will be Sunday, **April 6th at 5pm**. We are using last year's theme again, Stations of the Crockpots, as this event will double as our Chili Cook Off. We will be giving out prizes for best chili, cornbread, and macaroni & cheese. Start perfecting your recipes now to be sure you're ready for the competition! Sign up on the bulletin board.



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 "Real Americans" by Rachel Khong. We'll meet on **April 13th at 1 pm** in the church library.



Women's Ministry's Ladies Lunch Bunch will return on **Tuesday, April 15th 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.



Easter Dedications

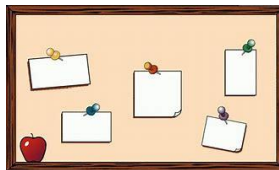
Dedication forms for Easter flowers will be attached to bulletins as well as loose on the Hospitality Table during the season of Lent. Tulips and lilies are \$15 each, and hydrangeas are \$24 each. Hydrangeas will be first come, first served, and flower type and color are not guaranteed. Please return dedication forms and payment by **Palm Sunday, April 13.**



Mother's Day Plant Sale

Before we know it, Spring will be in full bloom. The 75th Anniversary Committee will be sponsoring a fundraising plant sale for Mother's Day. The plants will be outdoor hanging baskets and large patio pots. More information will follow but make a note on your calendars for **May 10th.**

Orders will be taken six weeks prior to that date with pick up on May 10th.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, April 24th at 6 pm**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday & First Holy Communion

April 17th

7 pm Worship

Good Friday – Tenebrae

April 18th

7 pm Worship

Easter Vigil

April 19th

5 pm Worship

Easter Morning

April 20th

7 am Sunrise Service

10 am Worship

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 sjchrisd@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.

Finance Corner

End of February 2025 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 2/28/25	
Income	\$53,757.87
Expenses	\$64,553.80
Deficit	\$10,795.93



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.