St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates — November 2026



A Letter from Pastor Bo

November 2026

A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall

November's readings leading up to Advent are often filled with warning and judgment. I can't help but notice the big apocalyptic elephant in the room when Jesus teaches us in this manner. If it wasn't needed, Jesus wouldn't have given it. If it wasn't needed for us right now, the Church would say that it was just for then and not for now. But we don't. It is for now. We need to sober up and get our act together, because we may not be spiritually fit to survive a coming reckoning. I know we believe in grace, and grace is what is offered amidst the warning. Grab onto it now!

November 1st – Better Off at the Bottom. This is a good way to start this month. Jesus tells us about the people who don't need to be worried: the poor, the forlorn, the meek, hungry, the pure, the peacemakers, the persecuted. These people aren't blessed for good behavior; they are blessed because Jesus has come to rescue them and put them in beloved community together. This is who the coming world centers around. Who does our world center around?

November 8th – Check Your Oil. The timing of the arrival of the guest of honor – that's not your concern. Your only job is to be ready. You need to be ready of the kingdom's arrival whether it's today or it's a long haul until. Some are wise and are making sure they are charged and fueled up, and some people will be looking foolish and not party-ready. Be ready!

November 15th – An Accounting. The good news is that what God has entrusted us with is more miraculous of a gift than we could ever have imagined – something we discover when we start to use it. The barrier is that we can be afraid to make a difference in this world and in our lives for whatever reason. But this world and our lives don't belong to us. We will be called to account for what we did in it.



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 November

November 1: All Saints Day

November 1: Speed Faith-ing

November 22: Hatboro Holiday Parade

A Letter from Pastor Bo, continued:

November 22nd – Christ in Disguise. Here's where it all comes back home, as we end our year of Matthew. None of these warnings we have been given are meant to incite fear of an angry God, yet sometimes we do need a sharp awakening from spiritual slumber. Don't miss the point – Christ, the greatest gift, our salvation – is found in the people the world loves the least. If we want to know the power of God's love, that's where we start.

November 29th – On Watch. Starting Advent, starting Mark (though towards the end of Mark). Jesus tells us to be watching for his appearing. In this passage, don't focus on secret codes in the words, but on the spiritual character of the watcher.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



Hatboro Community Cupboard Report

October 10, 2026

September was a busy month. We experienced an increase in visits and new client registrations as well. There were a total of 426 visits and 26 new families registered. We served 184 families during the month. This is a significant increase over the 152 families and 308 visits in August.

We have watched our inventory being depleted since the end of the Montgomery County grant but we are blessed to have our dedicated partner churches stepping up to help us restock. We did have to make two large purchases from our distributor during the month as well as several purchases from Giant and Weis Foods. I was shocked when I returned from vacation and found that we were out of spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, eggs and several vegetables. We have slowly been able to build up some inventory but nothing significant. The increase in client visits has put a strain on our efforts to restock but we know that God will provide. He always does. We have been able to take advantage of fresh fruits and vegetables from pop up distributions from Garden of Health and BCOC. MAHN has been able to make a large purchase of meats and has scheduled a special distribution to the pantries on October 13. They are offering limited supplies of chicken, fish, ground beef and pork to the pantries. We are hoping to fill our freezers with this distribution.

We are starting to receive inquiries about the Thanksgiving holiday dinners. The team leaders have a meeting scheduled for October 21 to try to come up with a plan. Last year we did not get our usual donation of turkeys from Giant and had to resort to offering lasagna and whole chickens in place of turkeys. It went over pretty well with the clients since many of them do not know what Thanksgiving represents and do not eat turkey.

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.



Pet Blessing – October 4









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:

November 1 – The Ten Commandments

November 8 – David & Goliath

November 15 – Jonah and the Big Fish

November 22 – Angel Comes to Mary

November 29 – No Sunday School

Kids & Family Ministry Team Members Needed

With the resignation of a few of our members, we are in need of new committee members. Our committee makes decisions and plans the following: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Youth Group, and various other events. Please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sjchrised@gmail.com if you're interested in joining us! We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.



Confirmation will meet on November 15th. We meet from 6:30 – 8 pm, and dinner is included in the class time.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Teaching Sunday School is very easy and fulfilling! The lesson is all planned out for you before you arrive, you just need to read to the children and lead the craft, game, or other activity. We ask that teachers arrive at least 20 minutes before the service starts so they can go over the lesson and ask any questions they might have.

ALL VOLUNTEERS must complete St. John's Mandatory Volunteer Training (available digitally), and ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS must have completed their Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance as well as their Pennsylvania Background Check.

CHURCH NEWS



The Lower Bucks Conference of the SEPA Synod is presenting an evening of Faith & Connection. Join us on **Sunday, November 1st** at Advent Lutheran Church in Richboro, PA to learn to share your faith in grace-filled Christian community. Dinner and dessert will be served at 5:00, and the "Speed Faith-ing" program will begin at 6:00.



Thanksgiving
Food Drive

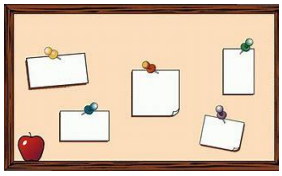
The Community Outreach Ministries committee will be collecting shelf-stable food items, as well as $15 to $25 gift cards to Giant, Acme, and BJ's Wholesale Club. The collection will run from **Saturday, October 31st through Sunday, November 15th**. All donations will be delivered to Grace Lutheran Church in West Philadelphia.



Choir Rehearsals in November will be every Wednesday evening.

Bell Choir: 6:30 pm

Traditional Choir: 7:45 pm



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Women's Ministry Presents:

Women of the Bible Study

Women's Ministry will be hosting a monthly bible study discussing Women of the Bible. All are welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning on **Wednesday, November 18th, at 10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall.



Council wants to hear from you! Church members are invited to speak to Council every month at the beginning of their meeting. Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, November 18th.**



Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be on **Thursday, November 19th at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.



Hatboro Holiday Parade

St. John's will once again open our doors for everyone walking in the parade on **Sunday, November 22nd.** Keep an eye out for a sign-up sheet for volunteers!

We are also planning our involvement in the parade itself. If you're interested in marching with us, please reach out to the office!



Advent Wreath Readers

We are once again asking families or groups of friends to sign up to read short readings and light the candles of the Advent wreath during each service in Advent, beginning **Saturday, November 28th.** There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettia dedication forms will be available attached to the weekly bulletins and in the Narthex beginning this month. Order forms and payment will be due to the office by **Sunday, December 6th.**

Large Print Bulletins Now Available

Large print versions of the weekend bulletins are now available in the Narthex before services.



Publicity Committee Photos

Our committee cannot always be at every event. If you attend events at St. John's, please take photos and send them to stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com, so we can put them on our social media accounts! *We want to respect everyone's privacy: If you or your family do not want your pictures posted on social media, please send us an email with your first and last name, and you will be put on our "do not share my picture" list to ensure your privacy.*

Coming Soon



Christmas Concert

We will be holding a concert on Saturday, **December 5th**! Stay tuned for more details!



Congregational Budget Meeting

We will be holding a meeting to approve the 2026 budget on **Sunday, December 6th**, after the 10:00 worship service. Please attend so we can approve the budget before the New Year! This meeting is in addition to our Annual Meeting in January.

Finance Corner



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 September we have raised over **$60,000!** Please mark your envelopes that your donations are for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

August 2026 Operating Budget Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status 9/30/26	
Income	$308,416.39
Expenses	$303,772.13
Reserve*	$4,646.26

**Now that we have balanced the budget, we need to build a cash reserve in case of emergencies. Any excess funds after paying expenses will be applied to the reserve.*

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



Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees:

Adopt a Highway - We are looking for someone to take over the Adopt-A-Highway program. This would entail organizing volunteers to pick-up trash once in the spring and once in the fall. St. John has adopted the section of York Road from County Line Rd to Bristol Road. Please contact Trish Strauss at 610-517-6471 if you are interested.

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 - Right now we are down to 3 teams, which means that each month, one of the teams serve twice a month. The ideal schedule is once a month per team, but in order to do that we will need a few more volunteers. Our 'jobs' entail making coffee, putting out snacks, paper goods, and items for the coffee table (cups, sugar, creamer, etc), and putting it away at the end of the hour. I hope that over the summer you will consider joining us, and I'm looking forward to getting together again in the fall! Many hands make light work (and much coffee!). Contact the church office if you're interested!



Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees:

Hatboro Community Cupboard – Want to join an exciting team that serves our community?

- **Drivers** - 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 heavy lifting is involved. You do not have to commit to every month to get on the volunteer list. Please call the office if you're interested!
- **Volunteers** – We are in need of volunteers for our evening shifts on Monday and Thursday evenings. Please sign up using the link on our website.
- **Team Leader** - We are looking for an individual to join our leadership team. Duties would include a one-hour meeting once a month (usually the fourth Wednesday) to discuss updates and status of all aspects of pantry operations, and filling in for team leaders during vacations. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve the community and work with a great group of volunteers, please reach out to Carol Schlegel at cschlegel9@aol.com.

Head Ushers - Our Usher team is looking for one or two head ushers this year. If you are interested, please see Joe Kircher or reach out to the office for more information!

Media Team - 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! Contact the office for more details.

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.

Publicity Committee – The Publicity Committee is looking for skilled members to help maintain our website and social media accounts, as well as volunteers who would be interested in manning a St. John's table at various events. Please reach out to us at stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com if you are interested!

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.



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

@sjlchatboro

Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel!

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

Publicity Committee Email: stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com

St. John's Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 am – 2 pm
Friday *By Appointment Only*
Please call the office before coming in.

Pastor Bo's Office Hours:
Monday-Tuesday 3 pm – 5 pm
Thursday 10 am – 12 pm
Or by appointment