

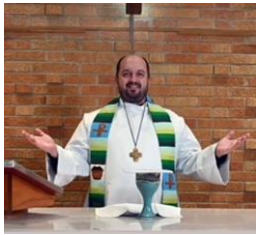


# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA  
*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

May 2026



## A Letter from Pastor Bo May 2026 The Directions of Faith

The month of May will be centered on Christ's Ascension. The first two weeks look forward to it. The final weeks speak to "What now?" Jesus has left the building, yet Jesus remains in the building made, not with human hands, but with human hearts – made by God. Jesus has 'gone away' yet insists we come and stay with him, while he promises to always stay with us. Piggybacking from our April theme, we're looking for Jesus where he said to find him. What direction should we go?

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> – There.** Jesus says he's going away, and you know the way to get where I am going. Thomas asks for further clarification on how to know the way. "I am the Way," Jesus responds. There is a *there* of bliss and peace. The way of Jesus is the way to get there.

**May 10<sup>th</sup> – Here.** Jesus wants to continue in intimate relationship with us always. Jesus promises that an ongoing relationship of love with Christ involves obedience to his commandments. You got that right, Lutherans. Hear the sermon on Saturday (5/9), enjoy Music Sunday on 5/10.

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, Ascension Sunday – Up.** Jesus has ascended to the right hand of the Father and received all authority in heaven and on earth. He leads all things and intercedes for us constantly. If we want to find Jesus, look up in reverence, and find our place at his feet and at his service.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost – Down.** The Spirit has descended from heaven upon us and empowered us for ministry, breaking down barriers between us and liberating us to serve like Christ. If we want to find Jesus, let's get down in the dirt and be empowered by God's Breath of Life.



### 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 May

- May 2 – County Choraliers Concert
- May 10 – Mother's Day Breakfast & Music Sunday
- May 17 – Youth Sunday



## A Letter from Pastor Bo – Continued

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, Holy Trinity/Feast of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth – All Around.** If we want to find the life of God, the face of Christ, the power of the Spirit, look around you. God has designed us to build a loving community which mirrors the eternal community within God from all eternity. Coincidentally, it happens to also be another special day in the church calendar, and we witness an example of loving human community being formed around Christ.

We are better together. Let's continue to serve Christ in each other and in our neighbors.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo

## Food Pantry Report

April 5, 2026

March was a month of extremes. Client visits on specific days were sometimes double the usual visits and other weeks we had days with only twelve families. We cannot offer any explanation so we just keep moving ahead. That being said, we registered 42 new clients in March serving 367 families. We continue to see a decrease in client visits on Tuesdays. But 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. We provided twelve hams to Church of the Advent for their community meal this month. We were also able to provide about 30 pounds of white rice to Hatboro Baptist for use in one of their community meals.

One other significant change in our donations was with Easter hams. We normally have Giant customers donate their ham gift certificates to our pantry. Usually at least 30+ hams are donated. This year we did not receive any. Speculation from our volunteers is that the Giant customers are saving their points for their gas purchases. We were able to offer the clients ham (until depleted), whole roaster chickens, duck or lasagna. Thus we were able to offer all of the clients an Easter meal albeit an unconventional one.

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.

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### Current Needs List

Cereal • Oatmeal • Canned Mixed Vegetables • Canned Carrots • Canned Potatoes •  
Condensed Vegetable Soup • Condensed Chicken Noodle Soup • Chef Boyardee Beefaroni  
• Canned Chunk Light Tuna • Elbow Macaroni

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



Game Night – April 18



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

Lesson Schedule:

May 3 – Woman at the Well

**Final Sunday School**

May 17 – Youth Sunday



Confirmation will meet on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>. We meet from 6:30 – 8 pm, and dinner is included in the class time.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer we will hold two five-day VBS sessions, one in July and one in August. All children ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us, and children entering 7<sup>th</sup> 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 [sjchrised@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrised@gmail.com) to register your kids or to sign up to volunteer!



## ILLUMINATION STATION

July 13-17

9:30 am – 12:00 pm



## ROAD TRIP

August 3-7

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

# CHURCH NEWS



## County Choraliers Concert

The County Choraliers will be holding their spring concert, *We'll Meet Again*, in our sanctuary on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** at **7:30 pm.**



## Music Sunday

Join us **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** for Music Sunday! Our Traditional Choir, Bell Choir, and Band will be performing during the 10:00 worship service.



## Mother's Day Gift Cards

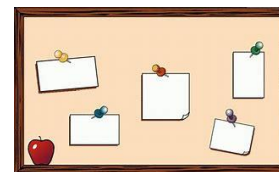
For Mother's Day, the Community Outreach Ministry Team is again requesting \$25 gift cards for A Woman's Place. There will be a table in the Narthex with cards showing the stores which are preferred. Please stop by and pick up a card. *Gift cards need to be returned to church by **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** to ensure delivery to AWP in time for Mother's Day.*  
Thank you!



## Mother's Day Breakfast

St. John's is hosting its annual Mother's Day Breakfast on **May 10, 2026**, beginning at **7:30 am.**

We are looking for volunteers to make dishes. If you are a father, husband, son, or just want to show your appreciation for the wonderful Mothers of St. John's, please sign up! All dishes are welcome, be it baked or bought! Reach out to Alan Diver at [alan.m.divver@gmail.com](mailto:alan.m.divver@gmail.com) or 215-436-0730 to sign up or with any questions.



## Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June Newsletter is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please send any photos, events, notes, or volunteer opportunities to Ashdon at [office@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org).



### Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be on **Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing chapters 27 & 28 of *The Story*. This will be our final meeting before taking a break for the summer and returning in September.



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 May meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**.



Mark your calendars, because St. John's is holding Bingo on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm! Admission is \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door, and includes 12 bingo cards. Join us for 12 games and 3 bonus rounds. If you reserve a table of 8, you get **8 free** bonus cards! Contact Janice Vallone for tickets at 215-480-3823.



### William Tennent House Celebration

William Tennent House is celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church by Rev. William Tennent, Sr. To honor both the Church and its founder, the William Tennent House Association invites you to a special banquet!

Join us on **Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** at Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church in Warminster. The cost is \$50 per person. For more information, please email Wendy Wirsch at [wendy@williamtennenthouse.org](mailto:wendy@williamtennenthouse.org).



### Photo Directory

St. John's is putting together a new directory to reflect our many new members in the last several years. Forms will be attached to your weekly bulletins, please fill them out to indicate what information you would like included. Drop it off in the **marked basket in the Narthex** or give it to **Alan Divver** after service. If you have filled out a form for the directory previously, please **still fill out this form**.

We want to ensure as much of our congregation is included as possible. Please provide information by **Sunday, June 21st, 2026**. Any questions or to provide additional information, please contact Alan Divver at [stjohnsdirectory2026@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsdirectory2026@gmail.com)



### 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 March we have raised over \$19,000! Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

### March 2026 Deficit Update

#### Year-to-Date Financial Status through 3/31/26

Income	\$105,248.81
Expenses	\$105,176.80
<b>Gain</b>	<b>\$72.01</b>

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

## Thank You!

On behalf of the Community Outreach Ministry Team, we wish to thank everyone for your donations of food for the Lenten food pantry drive. It was very successful. Thank you!



# VOLUNTEER



## 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** - 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 Diver. Thank you.

**Gardening Committee** - 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. If you are interested, please contact Linda Nieckoski at [linski509@gmail.com](mailto:linski509@gmail.com) or 215-441-5478.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:pastorbo@sjlch.org)

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: [sjchrised@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrised@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: [office@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org)

Church Website:

[www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org)

### Office Hours:

**Monday-Friday 9 am – 2 pm.**

***Please call the office before coming in.***