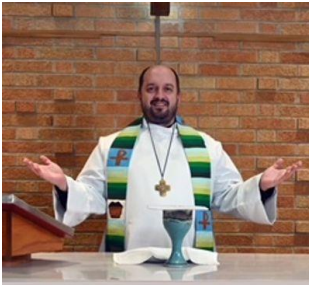




St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

April 2024



A Letter from Pastor Bo

April 2024 – Better Together

Christ is Risen! (If you're reading this past March 31st, that is. Or really, he's risen even if it's still Lent.) That's all fine and dandy, but what does that mean? Why do we have this thing called church, and what significance does the resurrection have for the way we do life together. Our texts in April guide us on the journey of new life together.

April 7th – A loving community. We'll see from Acts how the early Christians held things in common and took care of each other, and how doubting Thomas needed to be brought in to make the circle complete.

April 14th – An accepting community. On the road to Emmaus, the disciples realize that the stranger in their midst is, in fact, Jesus.

April 21st – A community centered on growing in Christ. Peter explains in Acts that this new community has Christ as the cornerstone, which is the only foundation worth building on.

April 28th – A place where everyone belongs at every stage of their journey with God. Philip runs to the chariot and strikes up a conversation with the Ethiopian eunuch. The boundaries continue to expand.

We're better together!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



April Important Dates

April 10 – Mandatory Volunteer Training

April 13 – Pasta Dinner

April 14 – 75th Anniversary Kickoff Party

Food Pantry Current Need

Our most critical needs right now are:

- BOXED PASTA
- Canned Fruit
- Baked Beans
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Kidney Beans
- Canned Carrots
- Toilet Paper

Additionally We Need:

- Canned Meat (Chicken, Spam)
- Beef Stew
- Chili
- Canned Pinto Beans
- Canned Black Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Shampoo
- Bar Soap



Food Pantry Report

This has been a month of surprises, most of which have been good ones. A lot of people were surprised to see snow fall for the first time in two years and that forced the Cupboard to close on a Tuesday which is our busiest day of the week.

The first full week of February saw us hit a new record for numbers of families served in a week's time. Serving 120 families easily surpassed the previous record of 111 families served in a week's time.

We added 24 new families to list of registered families during the month.

We were able to receive unexpected donations from Garden of Health in North Wales. This included much needed cereal and allowed us to restock the shelves following setting the attendance record.

Redeemer Lutheran participated in The Outreach Program where they packed fortified pasta with tomato basil sauce dinners. Each package was meant to serve 6 and 36 packages were in a case. They were well received by our clients and by the end of the month we had received 10 cases (360 meals) from them. A huge effort and a generous gift.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

LAST MONTH

Goodbye Harry & Denise

This month we said goodbye to good friends Harry and Denise Betz. We held a small luncheon in their honor before they left. They've been here for over 25 years, and have given much of their time and talent throughout those years. They will be missed!



Stations of the Crockpots

Despite the small turnout, we had a great time at our annual Chili Cookoff and Lenten Family Night! After eating and voting, we did a Stations of the Cross themed photo scavenger hunt.

Thank you to Sean McGowan and Karen Kearns for your chili, to Lisa Fritz and Shannon O'Neill for your cornbread, and to Sean Bobbie and Christine Brinkworth for your mac and cheese! And thank you to everyone who brought everything else!



Youth News & Events



Sunday School is back! Bring your child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10 am. We are offering classes for two different age groups:

Preschool/Kindergarten, and 1st-6th grades. Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

The April Schedule:

There will be Sunday School every Sunday in April.



We can't have Sunday School without our teachers! We'd love to have enough volunteers so that the commitment is only one Sunday a month. We are looking for teachers for a Preschool/Kindergarten class, and a class for our 1st-6th graders.

Our lessons are so easy and fun to teach that one Sunday last year, one of our students ran the class, so we know you can do it! If you're interested, please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sichrised@gmail.com.



Spring Flower Delivery

This month our Sunday School kiddos are getting ready for their spring community outreach. On April 21 they are going to be planting flowers and then delivering them to the community on April 28. If it rains on April 28, we will deliver on May 5.

If you have a wagon that can be borrowed for April 28 to assist with delivering the flowers please let Abbie Metheny know. Thank you!



Pasta Dinner

Youth Group will be holding their annual Pasta Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, April 13th after the 5:00 service. Youth Group and their parents will be asked to provide pasta, meatballs, and sauce. Please stay tuned for more details.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is back! We will have 2 Vacation Bible Schools this year.



Our 5-day VBS will be called Start the Party. In this program, we will celebrate the good news of Jesus! This is from July 8-12 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.



Our 3-day VBS is called Camp Firelight. In this program, we will learn to put our trust in God! This one takes place August 6-8 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, and on the website as well:

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 attend 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



April Choir Schedule

Bell choir will meet at 6:30 pm and the Traditional Choir will meet at 7:45 pm on the following dates in April:

- Thursday, April 4th
- Thursday, April 11th
- Thursday, April 18th
- Thursday, April 25th



Designer Bag Bingo

St. John's is the new charter for BSA Troop 81. The parents of that troop will be holding a designer bag bingo on **Saturday, April 6th** at 7 pm at the Pennypack Township Building. More details are available on the flyers posted throughout the church. Please come support our scouts!

All-Committee Meeting

We are asking all committee chairpersons to join us on **Wednesday, April 3rd** for our All-Committee meeting. If you are unable to make it, please ask another committee member to attend so we can be sure all of our groups are represented!



Mandatory Volunteer Training

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 10th** at 6:30 pm, when the Kids & Family Ministry Team will be leading a training opportunity for anyone who volunteers with youth at St. John's. They will go over our Child Safety Manual. This training is mandatory to work with our youth. If this date doesn't work for you, we can try to find a time for another meeting. Food will be provided.



Youth Group Pasta Dinner

Our Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be on **Saturday, April 13th** at 6 pm, directly following the 5:00 service. Please come out in support of our youth group!



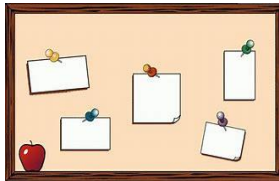
Ladies' Lunch Bunch

Our Women's Ministry Committee invites you to their first meeting in their new format, Ladies' Lunch Bunch. They will meet on **Tuesday, April 16th** at noon in Fellowship Hall. 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.



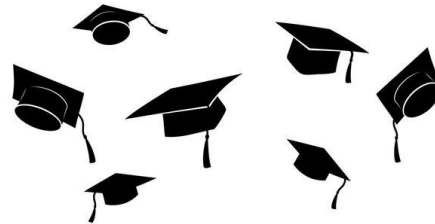
Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, April 25th at 6 pm**. We will meet at the Break Time Diner (formerly Country House Diner) on York Road.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Calling All Class of 2024 Graduates

We would love to share in your achievement! If you are (or know someone who is) graduating from high school, college, or completing any other programs, please let us celebrate with you! Please submit names of 2024 grads to the office so we can celebrate as a church family. You can write it on your yellow attendance cards, or you can always email or call the office directly.



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **April 24th at Lancer's Diner** for breakfast. We meet at **9:00**, but you can come as early as 8:45 and everyone gets a separate check. All men, any age, are welcome! Questions? Email me at: jimhowatjr@gmail.com

75th Anniversary Celebrations

St. John's turns 75 this year! To celebrate, we will be holding activities from April through September. Check the newsletter every month for trivia questions, and check back in the following month for the answers!



75th Anniversary Kickoff Party

Please join us on **April 14th** after Sunday worship to celebrate with food, fun games, and other activities. Please mark on your yellow attendance card or let the office know if you plan to attend.

The festivities will be held inside.

We can't wait to see you!



Mother's Day Fundraiser

Daffodils are blooming and the trees are in bud. We're almost ready to begin outdoor beautifying. What better way to start than with hanging baskets and patio pots!

The 75th Anniversary Committee will begin taking orders April 1st for this fundraiser.

You won't want to miss a perfect opportunity for yourselves and for Mother's Day gifts. The plants will be available for pickup May 11th.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 75th Anniversary Party will be Sunday **September 29th, 2024** at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge (VE) Club. More information to come. Please let the office know if you plan to attend.



75th Anniversary Trivia

1. When was our current sanctuary built?
2. When was the Saturday night service added?
3. What would you guess our adult church membership and Sunday Church School enrollment was in 1971?

Answers will be published next month.

Last Month's Answers:

1. **The Reverend Charles Brobst of St. Paul's Church in Telford** conceived the idea of establishing St. John's Lutheran Church in 1948
2. **The Reverend Orval Hartman** was the first pastor called to St. John's. He was called as a Mission Developer in January 1949 and with 68 Charter Members, St. John's was organized by the Norristown Conference of the Ministerium of PA on April 24, 1949.
3. When was our church building built? The first building program was started in **1950** with the completion and dedication on **December 21, 1952**. At that time there were 225 confirmed members and 260 enrolled in the Sunday Church school. The second building program was begun in **1954** to construct and Educational Building with the completion and dedication in **November 1956**.

Coming Soon:

Music Sunday

Join us Sunday, May 12th for Music Sunday!

Joseph & Mary

Our very own Bob Evans has been working tirelessly on a musical, and we will see it later this year! Please stay tuned for more details.



To Carol and Joe Wolf – Thank you for delivering the beautiful altar flowers. It really picked me up. From, June Crippen.

Welcome!

Welcome new member Dustin Errickson! We're glad you've joined our St. John's family!



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."

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.

Church Staff & Contact Information



Pastor Bo Bannister
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 Fax: (215) 675-9487
Church Email: office@sjlch.org
Church Website: www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org