

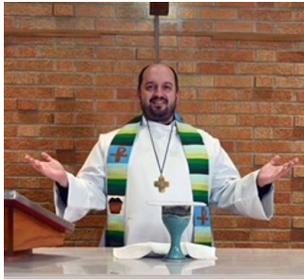


St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

February 2024



A Letter from Pastor Bo

February 2024 – A God Who's Bigger

Grace and Peace! Is this newsletter catching you in a moment of winter hibernation? All good! But Easter's coming early, and before you know it! Which means Lent is also starting early – Valentine's Day! Looking at the texts for February, it seems we ought to be reflecting just on how big and mysterious and magnanimous God is. We can't fit God in a box! God seems to

do whatever God wants to do, and it's always surprising, especially in the area of grace and mercy and how much God is working in people we least expect.

February 4th – "Have you not known? Have you not heard?" Thus begins the famous passage from Isaiah 40, a monologue meant to blow us away with just how God is so much bigger than our understanding. We may encounter situations where it's difficult to know where God is, but we can count on the fact that God is strengthening us, and giving us 'wings like eagles.' Not sure what our favorite team is going to be doing this week before the Super Bowl, but in the big scheme of things, we can be sure of God's presence and empowerment for us!

February 11th, Transfiguration – Apparently, Jesus can shine. And apparently, Elijah is going to leave this world in a fiery chariot and fiery horses taking him up to heaven. Let's take up his prophetic mantle, and not limit God by our own imaginations, but expect even greater things from God.

February 14th, Valentine's Ash Wednesday – God is holy. Let us heed the call to contrition and repentance, specifically of acting as though our own agenda is more important than God's. Let's surrender ourselves to God's bigger story, that of reconciliation and grace.

February 18th – While God is big, and there is an unpredictability to God, we see God, after the flood, promising limits on God we can count on. God is going to have forbearance with humanity and creation always, and is not going to destroy the creation. God's commitment to and patience with all of us is bigger than we can imagine.

February 25th – God invites Abraham's family to participate in God's vastness. Abraham's family is going to be a blessing to all the families of the earth. We are recipients of that promise, and we get to continue to work in trust to see its ultimate fulfillment.

During this shortest month of the year, let's 'leap' into a much bigger world with a much bigger God.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



February Important Dates

February 4 – Fastnacht Afternoon
February 14 – Ash Wednesday – Lent Begins
February 25 – Annual Congregational Meeting

Food Pantry Current Need

- Chunk Light Tuna
- Boxed Pasta
- Canned Fruit (especially peaches)
- Manwich
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Baked Beans
- Canned Black Beans
- Pancake Mix
- Rice-a-Roni



Food Pantry Report

We need help. Our Thursday night team serving clients is in desperate need of volunteers. Arrive time is 5:30PM to help get ready, clients arrive for 6:00PM and we close at 7:50PM. Some clean up follows as we end the week. Please contact Alan Eickhoff alan_eickhoff@yahoo.com (215-675-1298) or Carol Schlegel cschlegel9@aol.com (215- 485-7810).

Also, we need help on Monday nights. This is a set up night so lifting may be involved. It too starts at 5:30PM and we try to end by 7:30PM. Clients do not come on Mondays. Please use the above contact information if you can help.

Do you get Nutrisystem or other products in really large styrofoam containers? We need these for putting out our meat selections. Generally, these are 8” or more in depth and have a lid. If you or your neighbor have any, please drop them off anytime the Cupboard is open (see above nights; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10:00AM until 12:45PM)

We are extremely grateful for all the regular donors and holiday donors that have contributed this past December. We received monetary donations to restock our shelves. We received product donations as well for the same purpose. And, we got holiday meal items so that we were able to provide 86 turkeys and fixings. Any client who wished a holiday meal was able to receive one.

We served 367 families in December of 2023, the highest since 2021 for the month. Additionally, 140 bags were provided to families claiming 5 members or more. That totals 507 bags of basic food items in addition to personal care items, pet food, snack items, bread, desserts, produce, meat, milk and eggs.

We are working on our end of year summary report now. As always, we are very thankful for your prayers and support.

Christmas Eve Kids' Service

Our 5:00 Christmas Eve service was more kid-friendly, and worshipers of all ages enjoyed the fun videos and Christmassy parodies of contemporary songs. We had a small craft for the kids, and they got to play jingle bells along with one of the songs. Thank you to our youth readers as well! The church was full of smiles and laughter!



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 February Schedule:

February 4

February 11

February 18

February 25



Youth Group

Youth Group will meet on Saturday, **February 17th at 6 pm**. More details to come.



Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, **March 24th**, after the 10:00 service.



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.



First Holy Communion Classes

With Lent approaching, we will once again hold First Holy Communion classes for all of our 4th graders. We have changed our curriculum this year, and there will only be 3 classes, plus the meeting with Pastor Bo. The schedule is as follows:

February 18th – Class #1

March 10th – Class #2

March 24th – Baking Bread in Sunday School

March 24th (after the Egg Hunt) – Meeting with Pastor Bo

Thursday, March 28th – Students Receive First Holy Communion

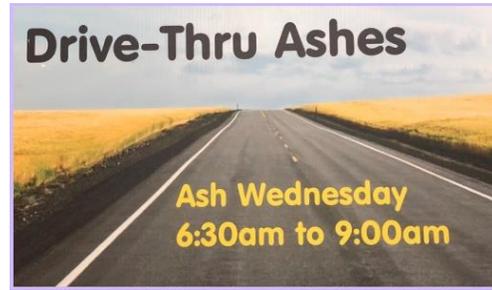
CHURCH NEWS



February 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 January:

- Thursday, February 1st
- Wednesday, February 7th
- Thursday, February 15th
- Thursday, February 22nd
- Thursday, February 29th



Ash Wednesday this year will be on **Wednesday, February 14th**, and we will once again offer Drive-Thru Ashes in the loop out front. We will be out there from 6:30 am – 9 am.

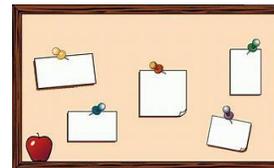


Fastnacht Afternoon

Yes! It is time again for fun and donuts! And to usher in the season, please join us on **Sunday, February 4th at 2 pm** for an afternoon filled with plenty of fun and entertainment, and of course Donuts! There is a Talent sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, and you can sign up to attend on your yellow attendance cards.



Ash Wednesday is on **February 14th**, and we will offer an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



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, February 20th** 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, February 22nd at 6 pm.** We will meet at the Break Time Diner (formerly Country House Diner) on York Road.



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **February 21st** 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

ANNUAL MEETING



This year's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 25th** at 11:30 am.



There will be Midweek Lenten Services every **Wednesday at 11 am**, starting on **February 21st.**

Coming Soon:



Stations of the Crockpots

Lenten Family Night will be Sunday, **March 10th at 5pm**. We are using last year's theme again, Stations of the Crockpots, as this event will double as our Chili Cook Off. Start perfecting your chili and cornbread recipes now to be sure you're ready for the competition! Sign up on the bulletin board.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday

March 28th

7 pm Worship

Good Friday – Tenebrae

March 29th

7 pm Worship

Easter Vigil

March 30th

5 pm Worship

Easter Morning

March 31st

7 am Sunrise Service

10 am Worship



The Community Outreach Ministry Team would like to thank the Congregation for their generous support for the Giving Tree. We collected over \$1300 in gift cards and gifts for A Woman's Place, The Breathing Room, and the Valley Youth House. The recipients were very happy and grateful for the support that St. John's continues to give to them. Thank you, St. John's!



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



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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



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