



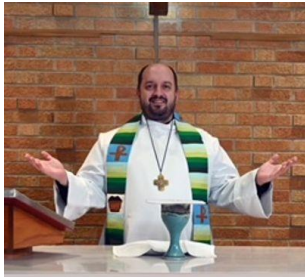
St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

March 2024



A Letter from Pastor Bo

March 2024 – Embodying Our Relationship with God

Grace and Peace! Wishing you a meaningfully somber, yet still joyous, Lenten journey! (That seems better than 'Happy Lent!') In meditating on the progression of scriptural texts in March, which is the back half of Lent, into Holy Week, ending on Easter Sunday, I get a picture of a human body. This means a

lot, as it coincides with what I sense the Spirit saying lately, something along the lines of making sure that we live out our relationship with God with our whole, embodied selves. The Lenten journey and the resurrection give us a framework for doing just that.

March 3rd – EARS. This week, we go over the Ten Commandments. It starts with the words “God said.” When God speaks, we listen. We take in God’s instructions, because life is found in them.

March 10th – EYES. We do not follow the way of life. We turn away and choose the way that brings death. But in Numbers 21, God gives us a gift, and by turning our eyes upon that gift, we receive healing. Appropriate for this day, as this is the day we begin to see more daylight in the evenings. Yay!

March 17th, St. Patrick’s Day! – HEART. Following a written code is something that does not have the power to change us. God makes a new covenant with us. Not one where we listen to stern words from a mountain blazing with fire, but one where we listen to the God of love deep within us. Snakes will be driven out of us this day, in keeping with the Irish saint.

March 24th – TONGUE. We know the truth and grace of God. We are direct recipients of God’s love, members of God’s covenant. We have helpful things to say, maybe even just as we invite people to Easter and/or Holy Week services. But how do we speak as servants of God. We will learn, yes, we will learn.

March 28th, Maundy Thursday– STOMACH. We very literally take in God’s covenant when we partake of Christ in bread and wine. Join our newest communicants in diving into the mysteries of Holy Communion.

March 31st, Easter – FEET. Jesus isn’t in the tomb. Where can we find him? Go out into the world. You will see him there. Am I going to do another chairs sermon? I have no clue. I can’t imagine what a part 3 would look like, but I know the best stories come in threes. We’ll see!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



March Important Dates

March 10 – Stations of the Crockpots
(Chili Cookoff)

March 24 – Palm Sunday Easter Egg
Hunt

March 28 – Maundy Thursday, First
Holy Communion Celebration

March 31 – Easter Sunday

Food Pantry Current Need

The following items are dangerously low
in supply right now:

- Boxed Pasta
- Toilet Paper
- Canned Chili
- Canned Beef Stew
- Baked Beans
- Toilet Paper



Food Pantry Report

This has not been an easy month. As the holiday motivated stream of donations starts to slow, the number of families seeking support has not slowed. In fact, our numbers are increasing dramatically. This seems to be typical of the pantries in our area.

The only week in January that saw a “typical” number of client visits was the week that we had to close one day due to the snow. The other three weeks saw us have growing numbers. We added 24 new families in the month. Our total number of visits for the month was 448 as compared to 315 for 2023.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support and prayers.

LAST MONTH

Fastnacht Afternoon

Our annual Fastnacht Afternoon Talent Show was a great success! We had some wonderfully talented acts, a great turnout, and good donuts!



Drive-Thru Ashes

Every year on Ash Wednesday, a team from St. John's wakes up early and bundles up to watch the sun rise over Hatboro and offer drive-thru ashes for the morning commute. We see many people, not only from St. John's, but in our larger community as well. This year we saw 50 people, one of our largest turnouts. Join us next year!



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 March Schedule:

March 3 – The Last Supper

March 10 – Jesus is Betrayed

March 17 – The Day Jesus Died

March 24 – The Empty Tomb



Youth Group will meet on Saturday, **March 23rd** in Fellowship Hall to stuff Easter Eggs for the Egg Hunt, and again the following morning to place them in the lawn.



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

Our First Holy Communion Classes started for our fourth-grade class in February, and the schedule for the remaining classes is below. Students are reminded to bring their folders with them to class, and to bring their banners with them on Palm Sunday.

Sunday, March 3rd – Class

Sunday, March 17th – Class

Sunday, March 24th – Baking Bread

Sunday, March 24th (After Egg Hunt) – Meeting with Pastor Bo

Thursday, March 28th – First Holy Communion & Reception

CHURCH NEWS



March 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:

Wednesday, March 6th
Wednesday, March 13th
Wednesday, March 20th
Wednesday, March 27th



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.

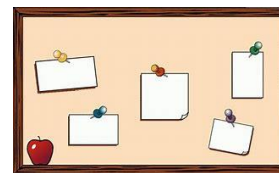


Community Outreach Pet Drive

The Community Outreach Ministry will be holding a Pet Drive until Sunday, March 10th. We will be collecting wet and dry food for dogs and cats. Treats, toys, collars, and leashes will also be appreciated.

Please consider helping our furry friends in our community. All donations will go to local pet rescues or our Community Cupboard at St. John's. There will be boxes in the Narthex for the items.

Thank you for your support.



Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April Newsletter is **March 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, March 19th** 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, March 21st 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 **March 27th** 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



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday & First Holy Communion

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



Reader Openings

We still have openings available for readers on Good Friday. Please contact the office if you'd like to read!

If you'd like to read at other services, please contact the office. Readers are scheduled quarterly on a first come, first serve basis. If you'd like to be included on the emails, please let us know!

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!



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. Who conceived the idea of establishing St. John's Lutheran Church in 1948? (**Hint:** Mary Bachman mentioned his name on Sunday, December 3rd at the Congregational Meeting.)
2. What was the name of the first pastor called to St. John's?
3. When was our church building built?

Answers will be published next month.

Have fun facts or trivia questions about St. John's? Please let us know by placing the information in the collection plate, and we will share it in next month's newsletter!



Coming Soon!

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 11th**.

Orders will be taken six weeks prior to that date with pick up on May 11th.

Coming Soon:

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.

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.

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!

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 will be provided. Please come support our scouts!



Thank you so very much for the prayers, cards, flowers and well wishes of my St. John's family during my recent surgery and recuperation. I'm so very thankful to you all.

Love, Ruth DiEva

Thank you to our outgoing council members for serving our congregation: Harry Betz, Christine Casey, Linda Morrison, and Trish Strauss.

Thank you to Denise and Harry Betz for all that you've done for St. John's over the years. We are so happy for you in your new journey, but you will be missed!



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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