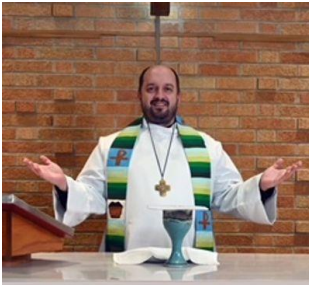




St. John's Lutheran Church
Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

May 2024



A Letter from Pastor Bo

May 2024 – As Above, So Below

Leading up to Trinity Sunday (May 26th) we have a chance to explore each of the persons of the Trinity. So May can be Trinity month. Why this is important: In April, we talked about community, and what kind of community results from the resurrection of Christ. In May, we learn about the community that always exists in God, in whose image we are made, and this is the community we are called to mirror as we bear God's image in the world. As God is essentially a loving community of Three and One, we also form community in which we are unity, but not all the same.

May 5th – The person whom Jesus calls 'Father' is pure love. We know the Father's love through Jesus. We abide in God's love through a relationship with Jesus and doing what love requires in day-to-day situations.

May 12th– The Son of God was with the Father from the beginning, and has taken up flesh to live among us. He is different from the world, and sets apart believers to be separate from the world (in values and practices) and yet in union with one another, according to the character traits and teachings of Christ.

May 19th – Pentecost. The Spirit is given to the disciples, and the Spirit is sent out, representing the Father and the Son, guiding a community of people from diverse backgrounds into unity, reminding the community of who we are and whose we are.

May 26th – Trinity Sunday. Father, Son, and Spirit work together to send us forth on mission to make all humanity and all the world reflect the glory of God.

You don't want to miss a week of May.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



May Important Dates

May 11 – Mother’s Day Flower Pickup

May 12 – Music Sunday

May 19 – Final Sunday School



Food Pantry Current Need

Our **most critical needs** right now are:

- Boxed Pasta
- Chef Boyardee
- Canned Chili
- Canned Beef Stew
- Baked Beans or Pork and Beans
- Canned Chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper

Additionally, we are looking for donations of metal cabinets to store our inventory. Call Alan at 215-675-1298.

All donations are appreciated, thank you!

Food Pantry Report

The month of March has been something of a whirlwind. Our average number of families served per week was 95. Consider that the 2023 weekly average was 81. Numbers of clients has been increasing since last fall.

Despite this increase in demand, we have been blessed with the ability to offer a special holiday meal to any family that was interested. While we had hams, we also had turkey breasts for those who might not want ham. Plus, we had lasagna dinners for those who might not wish to have meat. Engineering all of this took a lot of time and refrigeration space. We thank those of you donated your grocery store gift receipt to collect a ham or a lasagna dinner.

We were called upon once again to offer immediate help to family from a Hatboro-Horsham Elementary school community. We are working to establish a relationship within the district and particularly to connect with the counselors at the schools where need may be the greatest.

Simmons Elementary School in the Hatboro-Horsham District conducted a food drive. Directed by assistant principal, Dr. Robert Campman, the 5th grade classes a few years ago started an annual tradition of conducting a collection which is then shared with the pantry at Lehman Methodist and with us at Hatboro Community Cupboard. This campaign has been deliberately timed for when our needs are great but the donation stream may be slowing in the post-holiday period. Thank you to the students and families of Simmons Elementary.

Also, we are looking for a driver on alternate Tuesdays to share driving to Bensalem to pick up produce at 11:30. This will be during the growing season, most likely June to September. Please contact Alan at 205-675-1298 if you are interested or have questions.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers.

LAST MONTH

Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt was a success! Over 1,000 eggs were filled and placed around the lawn. Thank you to the Ladies Lunch Bunch and our Youth Group for filling all those eggs!



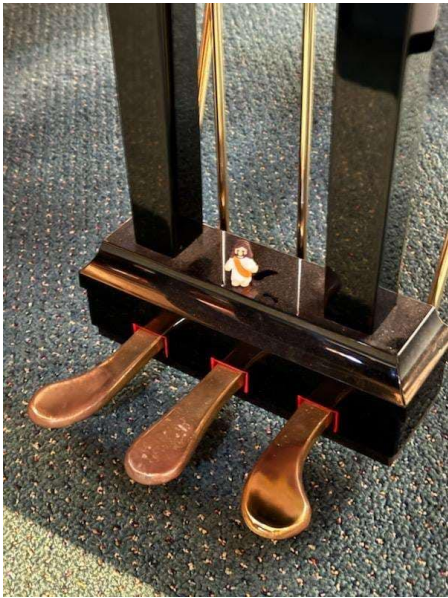
First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Keira Dangler, Tucker Sieracki, and Ryan Sweeney for receiving their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday.



Jesus Is Everywhere!

Pastor Bo's Easter sermon told us that Jesus is everywhere, we just need to look for him, and on Easter morning he really was everywhere! Here are some of our favorite pictures, but you can find more on our social media platforms. And if you brought a Little Jesus home, you can send your photos to office@sjlch.org and we'll add your photos online too!



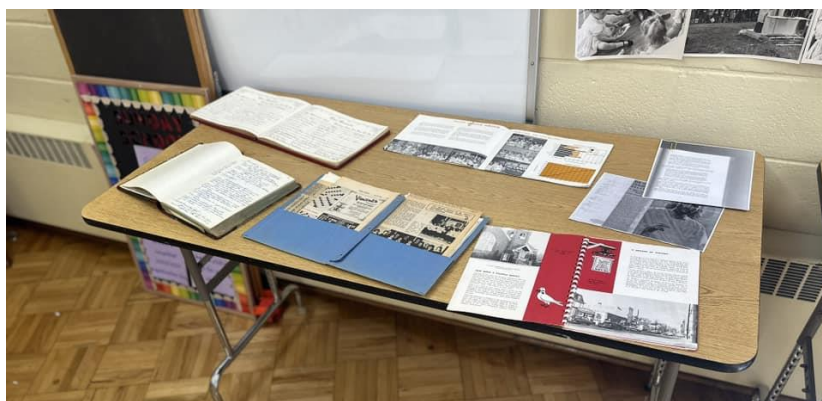
Youth Group Pasta Dinner

Our youth group raised \$500 to put towards next year's activities at their annual pasta dinner this year. They worked hard serving the congregation, and they should be proud to have reached their goal! Thank you to all who came to support them, and to parents for providing pasta and meatballs!



75th Anniversary Kickoff Party

Our kickoff party was a success! We had a great turnout, and it was fun to see St. John's through the decades. Many longtime members attended the party, and we enjoyed our trip down memory lane. Thank you to the 75th Anniversary Committee and Troop 81 B&G for throwing a great event!



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 May Schedule:

May 5 – Sunday School for all ages

May 12 – Music Sunday

May 19 – Last Sunday School; Pre-K, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade get bibles



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.



The final Youth Group of the year will be another cookout offsite on Saturday, May 18 at 6:30 pm. Please bring a side with you. For more information, please contact Abbie Metheny at sichrised@gmail.com.

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



May 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 May:

Thursday, May 2nd
Thursday, May 9th
Thursday, May 16th
Thursday, May 23rd
Thursday, May 30th



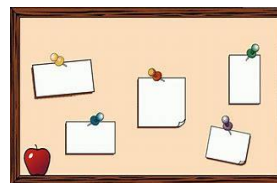
Calling All Class of 2024 Graduates

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. Please submit your grads before **May 15th** so we can spotlight them in the June Newsletter!



Music Sunday

Join us **Sunday, May 12th** for Music Sunday! Our Traditional Choir, Bell Choir, and Monday Night Band will be performing during the 10:00 worship service.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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

VOLUNTEER



Mandatory Volunteer Training

All volunteers who work with youth at St. John's must attend a training on our Child Safety Policy. Please watch your weekly announcements for the next training opportunity.



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on **May 22nd** 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



County Choraliers Concert

The County Choraliers will be holding their spring concert in the sanctuary on **Saturday, May 18th** at 7:30 pm.



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, May 23rd** at **6 pm**. Watch for details in the weekly announcements.

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!



Ice Cream Social

Please join us on **Saturday, July 20th** after the worship service to gather for ice cream and conversation.



Mother's Day Fundraiser Plant Pickup

If you ordered hanging baskets or patio pots through our fundraiser, you can pick those up on Saturday, May 11th from 10 am to 2 pm.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 75th Anniversary Party will be Sunday **September 29th, 2024** from 1-5 pm at the Vereinigung Erzgebirge (VE) Club in Warminster. More information to come. Please let the office know if you plan to attend.



75th Anniversary Fun Facts

1. The new church school building was dedicated on Sunday, November 4, 1956. St. John's was the first church in ministerium history to complete a second building in less than 10 years from its original date.
2. St. John's celebrated its 31st anniversary and burned the mortgage for \$500,000 started in 1964 on April 27, 1980. The church membership was 925 adults and 150 children enrolled in Sunday School.

Answers will be published next month.

Last Month's Trivia Answers:

1. The third building program was started in **January 1963** and completed in **September 1964**. This provided extended educational facilities and a new church sanctuary.
2. A weekly Contemporary Service was added on Saturday nights beginning **January 1, 1969**.
3. The active adult church membership in 1971 was **over 1200 with 450 enrolled in the Church School**.

Coming Soon:

Book Club

Join us in the library on Sunday, June 2nd at 1 pm for book club. This month we will be reading and discussing *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

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.

Finance Corner

March Financial Update

We have closed out the first quarter of 2024 and are still tracking for a \$47,000 deficit this year. Attendance was up slightly in March largely due to Easter occurring in March instead of April as it did last year. General income was down \$3500 due to the Easter holiday collections being posted in April. Our year to date deficit increased to \$17,716 which was less than budgeted only because we have not paid the \$8500 due for the audit. Had that charge been paid we would have been at budget for the deficit for the first quarter. The minor adjustments we have made to reduce expenses were offset by an additional \$2000 in roof repairs. We will continue to review all of our contracts and look for opportunities to reduce expenses but additional income is the primary avenue to reduce the deficit.

Roof Update

Earlier this year we replaced the roof over the church office and library, and we are working to raise the \$53,000 needed. An anonymous donor is matching \$6,000 from funds raised in the month of March. Our final count for the month of March was \$9,334.42. With the match from our anonymous donor, that adds over \$15,000 to our Roof Fund. We appreciate everyone who donated in March, and everyone who will continue to donate to get us to our goal. To give, please mark "Roof Fund" on your physical offering, or select "Roof Campaign" when giving electronically.



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
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