



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

July 2025



A Letter from Pastor Bo

July 2025

Getting Back to God's Offer of Healing

We can see a "Law and Gospel" theme in the Old Testament readings this month. Law and Gospel is a classing Lutheran understanding of Scripture. God gives us the Law to show us how to live. We say, "No thank you" and mess everything up. God comes to us at rock bottom and offers us forgiveness and grace. We believe and turn to God. God makes us new from the inside out. We begin to be instruments of healing in our broken lives and in this broken world.

July 6th – Naaman, a foreign general from a bad-guy nation, has leprosy. God offers him healing, and at first, he's offended because the methods and terms are not to his liking. But then he submits, is healed, and becomes a worshiper of the God of Israel. In the Gospel of Luke, disciples are sent out in pairs to villages announcing healing and the kingdom of God, and they might be welcomed, or they might be rejected. They definitely will be surprised at who does the welcoming and the rejecting. How do we receive God's messengers of healing and transformation?

July 13th – We meet the prophet Amos. He is from the southern kingdom of Judah, and he's an ordinary working class guy, not a prophet. But God calls him anyway to go up north and proclaim a message of judgment to the apostate kingdom of Israel. He's easily written off as 'not being from around here.' But God's word is still true and works powerfully through Amos. In Luke, Jesus tells a story about a foreign Samaritan who represents God to someone in need much better than the Judean clergy who pass by and don't help.

July 20th – We see the aftermath of rejecting Amos' message of judgment. A famine takes place. Not necessarily a famine of food, but a famine of not hearing and knowing the word of God. What does that look like? It might look like a world that might seem familiar to us. Maybe, like Martha in the reading from Luke, we're distracted by too much. God calls us back to a place of humble listening to the word.

A Letter from Pastor Bo, continued

July 27th – We meet the prophet Hosea, who is quite interesting. His prophecy begins with naming what looks like the utter forsakenness by God of God's people. But Hosea promises that God is not finished with us. We will be restored. Jesus assures us in Luke that all our prayers to that end will be answered. Let's get back to that initial offer of healing that we may not have appreciated at first, but we really need.

Sounds like a good month! I look forward to diving into these texts!



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.

Hatboro Community Cupboard

Most Needed Items

Canned Beets
Canned Baked Beans
Canned Carrots
One-Pound Bags of White Rice
Rice-a-Roni
Hamburger Helper
Jelly
Peanut Butter

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



Important Dates in July

July 14-18 – VBS – Camp Firelight
July 19 – Super Scooper Ice Cream Social



Food Pantry Report

June 13, 2025

May was an unusual month. Attendance from our regular clients was down from April. We served 385 families in May versus 441 in April. However, we registered 25 new families. Our inventory of non-perishable items is down considerably but we were advised that Montgomery County has agreed to allocate \$500,000 again this year to assist the smaller food pantries in purchasing these items. Our deepest appreciation to the Eickhoff family for their assistance in finding Alan's records from last year which allowed us to complete the application for the grant. We will be advised at the end of June if we have been approved and the amount of the grant.

We are also grateful to the Hatboro post office for their Stamp Out Hunger campaign on May 10. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of the community.

We want to give a huge thank you to Redeemer Lutheran Church for their unexpected toilet paper drive. The congregation donated two carloads of toilet paper! We will not have to worry about buying toilet paper for some time.

We are still struggling to get drivers to replace the pick ups at distributions that Alan covered. We are blessed that the summer months bring opportunities to receive additional donations IF we have drivers to pick the food up and bring it back to the pantry. This task is complicated by the fact that summer also brings vacations for our regular drivers and volunteers.

We have been advised that Grocery Outlet has chosen our pantry again this year for their Independence from Hunger campaign. As in the past we will split the donations with Willow Grove Baptist food pantry. The campaign begins June 25 and continues thru July 31. For anyone who does not know how the program works, Grocery Outlet employees prepack bags with \$5 worth of groceries. The shoppers purchase those bags for \$5 when checking out. In return they receive a \$5 gift certificate for their next shopping trip. There is no limit on the number of bags you can purchase. The pantry then has to pick up the daily donations before the store closes for the day. Hatboro Community Cupboard has been assigned Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Putting a plug in for our pantry...if you shop on those days you will be assured that the donations will go to our pantry.

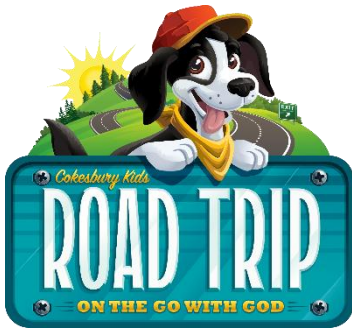
As always, we are grateful for all of the support from our pantry partners, the congregation and the community.

Vacation Bible School

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



Our 5-day VBS is called Camp Firelight. In this program, we will learn to put our trust in God! This is from July 10-14 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.



Our 3-day VBS is called Road Trip. In this program, we will be on the go with God! This one takes place August 5-7 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.

Stay tuned for more information on our website:

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.

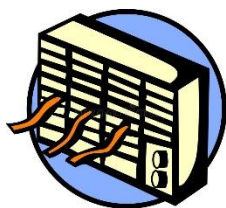
Group Leaders are responsible for taking their group of kids (broken down by age group) from station to station. Group Leaders are with the same group of kids all day. The different age groups are Pre-K & Kindergarten, 1st-3rd Grade, and 4th-6th Grade. We need two adults with each group.

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 complete 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



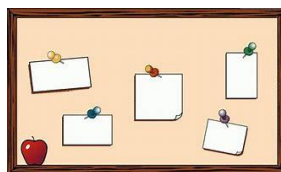
Air Conditioning Fundraiser

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. Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!



Book Club

Come join us at book club! We meet monthly and discuss the book of the month. Each member chooses a book and we rotate through each member. Our next book for book club is "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters. We'll meet on **July 20th at 1 pm** in the church library.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Live Streaming

Can't join us in person? We live stream our services every Sunday on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@SJLCH>. Don't worry about missing out, because the videos will stay on our channel for you to come back to! Thank you to Jess and Jim Yankowski for all you do to make this happen!





A Note from Fellowship Connections

The Fellowship Committee has a new name and new members. Please take note of the new name. The new name is Fellowship Connections. We would like to Welcome our new members and a new leader. Welcome Pat, Donna, Dorothy, and Jennifer. Our new leader is Jaime Cameron. Our committee is looking for innovative ideas, and suggestions to expand our committee members. To find out more please contact Jaime Cameron via email at cameronviteacher02@gmail.com or give a call or send a text to 267-992-2323.



Super Scooper Ice Cream Social

Please mark your calendar for Saturday July 19, 2025, at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about this fun event! There will be ice cream, a craft for the kids, entertainment, and a guessing jar.

To offset the cost, we are reaching out to the congregation for support. We need ice cream cones, marshmallows, chocolate, butterscotch and caramel sauce.

Please feel free to choose your own favorite ice cream toppings to add more flavor to this event! (Please Note No Products with Peanuts). We will be collecting these items from Saturday June 28-Sunday July 13. Donated items can be placed in the box located in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board if you are planning to attend or would like to donate an item. We are looking for volunteers to help with this event as well. Any help with this event is appreciated!

We are looking forward to sharing ice cream and having fun!

Thank you from Fellowship Connections!!



Thank you to everyone that made our first Fun in the Sun Swimsuit Drive a great success! We collected 63 swimsuits of various sizes for both boys and girls as well as swim diapers for babies and toddlers. The total collected was valued at approximately \$1000.00. We dropped off the donations at the Parks & Rec center in Fox Chase last Friday. This will allow many children to swim and receive some relief from the summer heat and a lot of fun! Thank you!

Thank you,
Linda Morrison and Jaime Cameron

Thank you all for the birthday wishes and remembering me. I miss all of my friends at St. John's. I'm well and content in Doylestown.

Jean Dickson

Dear friends,

How can we thank you enough for all the love and support shown to us during Alan's recent illness and after his passing? Words are not adequate to express our sincere appreciation. We are so grateful to Pastor Bo for visiting Alan in the hospital the evening before he died to give him communion. Dear friends, we will never forget your expressions of love – the visits, calls, and cards – so many cards, with notes that touched our hearts and continue to lift us up. Thank you to everyone who attended Alan's memorial service. Our sanctuary was nearly filled and that was such a testament to him. Alan was very thankful that in retirement he found purpose and pleasure volunteering in the Pantry and helping Ken Woods maintain St. John's Property. I'm aware several of you volunteered to continue to do the work Alan loved and that's a real blessing. Most especially, thank you for your many prayers for him and our family. They are a precious gift.

Love,
Linda Eickhoff and Family

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees.

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.

Kids & Family Ministry - Our team works together to plan and execute Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other events for youth and families at St. John's. Please let Abbie Metheny know at sjchrised@gmail.com.

Stewardship Committee - We are looking to bring back our Stewardship Committee. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to the office.

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 Ken Woods 215-290-9246.

Finance Corner

End of May 2025 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 5/31/25	
Income	\$167,071.82
Expenses	\$178,320.33
Deficit	\$11,248.51



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!



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."

Church Staff & Contact Information



Pastor Bo Bannister

Cell: 765-426-0500

Email: pastorbo@sjlch.org

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: sjchrised@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: office@sjlch.org

Church Website:

www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9 am – 2 pm.

Please call the office before coming in.