



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

July 2026



A Letter from Pastor Bo

July 2026

It's Like...

God is difficult to describe. But God still is, and God is working in the world and in our lives. How do we discern and name it? Jesus didn't come and write a theological treatise, but instead told stories, usually starting off by saying, "The kingdom of God is like..." Ponder. Enter in.

July 5th – It's like kids trying to get a response from us. For this Independence Day special sermon that will rock your socks off, God is a kid trying to get our attention. God wants us to dance or God wants us to cry. Both are valid for the time we live in, but what we ought not to be is numb. What makes us numb, and how can the Spirit wake us up to be responsive to God?

July 12th – It's like seeds and soils. Why does God's Word have more of an impact on some times, places, and people than others? Do we have any agency in how that works? Is there anything we can do to make soil more suitable for a fruitful harvest?

July 19th – It's like wheat and weeds growing together. How come it seems like it's hard to tell who's good and bad anymore? Someone might seem like an upstanding, church-going person, but then we find out they aren't trustworthy. Or someone seems like a person you want nothing to do with, but they are an absolute joy and blessing. Why is this, and how are we to live when the world doesn't make sense?

July 26th – It's like a lot of things that seem like not much at first but... Here's the section where Matthew shoved a bunch of small parables together, but the theme is what you just read in bold. Mustard seeds, leaven, hidden treasure, costly pearls, and an assortment of fish. Jesus wants to raise up people who can discern the future and patiently pave the way for its arrival.



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.



Important Dates in July

July 3-7 – VBS:
Illumination Station
July 18 – Ice Cream
Social
July 25 – Moonlight
Memories Car
Show



Food Pantry Report

June 5, 2026

We appear to have settled in to a normal schedule during May. We served 156 families and added 16 new families to our registry. Total visits for the month were 327.

Donations in general continue their downward trend but we continue to receive donations and financial support from our partner churches. The May post office "Stamp Out Hunger" campaign was disappointing. We brought in six volunteers to sort and store the donations but only received a few dozen shopping bags worth of items. We were finished in less than an hour. It may be a sign of the times but we look back on the days when we had bags stacked to the ceiling and had to bring volunteers in for multiple days to sort and store donated items. We have now exhausted our Montgomery County grant. On the bright side, BCOC has resumed some of their Thursday distributions. We were the recipient of more than 30 half hams as well as some chicken and ground beef. We continue to provide bread, bagels, English muffins and desserts to Moreland Towers twice a week. The residents are most appreciative of the donations.

We continue to search for a substitute team leader. Although we have reached out to several of our volunteers, we have not been successful in our efforts.

As always, we are grateful for our dedicated volunteers and all of the organizations that support us in providing food and personal care items for those in need.

Current Needs List

Cereal • Oatmeal • Canned Black Beans • Canned Mixed Vegetables • Canned Potatoes • Condensed Carrots • Baked Beans • Peanut Butter • Jelly • Toilet Paper • Ramen Noodles

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

Horsham Day – June 6



Bingo – June 7



Youth News & Events

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This summer we will hold two five-day VBS sessions, one in July and one in August. All children ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome to join us, and children entering 7th grade and up are welcome to volunteer!

We will also be looking for adult volunteers to lead stations like games, snack, science, and craft, and others to lead the groups from station to station.

Please reach out to Abbie Metheny at sjchrised@gmail.com to register your kids or to sign up to volunteer!



ILLUMINATION STATION

July 13-17

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Parent Program: Thursday, July 16, 6 pm



ROAD TRIP

August 3-7

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Parent Program: Thursday, August 6, 6 pm



Sunday School and Confirmation have concluded for the summer, but join us again in September!

CHURCH NEWS

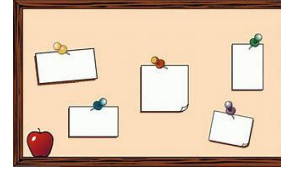
VBS Supplies Needed

Please see the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall to see the supplies we need for Vacation Bible School this summer! The sign-up sheets for our first VBS, Illumination Station, are posted now. Please bring supplies back by **Saturday, July 11th**. They can be dropped off to the Office or to the table outside the Sunday School office.



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. The next book club book is "Atmosphere" by Taylor Jenkins Reid. We'll meet on **Sunday, July 12th at 1 pm** in the church library. Hope to see you there!



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Community Outreach Pet Drive

The Community Outreach Ministry Team will be holding a Furry Friends Drive from **Saturday, June 29 – Sunday, July 19**. We will be collecting wet and dry food for dogs and cats. Treats, toys, collars, food/water bowls, and leashes will also be appreciated. We will be collecting gift cards as well! Please place the gift cards in the Offering plate with the dollar value of the card, and label it as "Community Outreach." Please consider helping our furry friends in our community. All donations will go to local pet rescues and our Community Cupboard at St. John's. There will be boxes in the Narthex for the items. Thank you for your support. All our furry friends thank you with a big bark and meow!



Double Fun Ice Cream Social with a Twist!

The Fellowship Connections will be working with Community Outreach Ministry to collect pet supplies! Come out to the Ice Cream Social on **Saturday July 18 at 6:00pm**. Have some ice cream, listen to great music, crafts for the kids, a guessing jar and donate a pet item! If you are not able to join us for the Ice Cream Social, you are welcome to drop off a gift card in the Offering Plate or place a pet item in the boxes found in the Narthex.



Moonlight Memories Car Show

The 33rd Annual Moonlight Memories Classic Car Show will be held along York Road on **Saturday, July 25th from 5pm till 9:30 pm** in Hatboro, PA.

York Road will be closed for the car show. If you are attending the 5:00 service that day, please plan accordingly.



Council wants to hear from you! Church members are invited to speak to Council every month at the beginning of their meeting. Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Council **does not meet in July**. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, August 19th**.



St. John's Community Garden

Do you like to garden? Enjoy growing your own vegetables? We have a great opportunity for you to participate in nurturing our garden and helping to provide fruits and vegetables to the community and food pantry clients. Planting beds are in place and vegetable or fruit starter plants will be provided by the pantry. We are hoping to get the garden started within the next few weeks. If you are interested in joining us in this fun and worthwhile project, please see any of the pantry team leaders or contact the church office.

Large Print Bulletins Now Available

Large print versions of the weekend bulletins are now available in the Narthex before services.



Take a Seat Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who helped us pay for the new tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised all of the funds needed to cover the costs!



Publicity Committee Photos

Our committee cannot always be at every event. If you attend events at St. John's, please take photos and send them to stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com, so we can put them on our social media accounts! *We want to respect everyone's privacy: If you or your family do not want your pictures posted on social media, please send us an email with your first and last name, and you will be put on our "do not share my picture" list to ensure your privacy.*

Join Us in the Fall!

A number of our programs are taking a break for the summer, but will be back in September!

Bell Choir
Coffee Hour
Confirmation
Faith Explorers
Sunday School
Traditional Choir



Women's Ministry Presents:

Women of the Bible Study

Women's Ministry will be hosting a monthly bible study discussing Women of the Bible.

All are welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning on **Wednesday, September 16th, at 10:30 am** in Fellowship Hall.

Finance Corner



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, and as of the end of May we have raised over **\$21,000!** Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

May 2026 Operating Budget Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status 5/31/26	
Income	\$188,822.54
Expenses	\$175,716.25
Gain	\$13,106.29

This chart does not include donations to the Capital Improvement fund, which is not part of the operating budget.

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees:

Adopt a Highway - We are looking for someone to take over the Adopt-A-Highway program. This would entail organizing volunteers to pick-up trash once in the spring and once in the fall. St. John has adopted the section of York Road from County Line Rd to Bristol Road. Please contact Trish Strauss at 610-517-6471 if you are interested.

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.

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed (continued.)

We need members for the following committees:

Coffee Hour - May 17th was the last coffee hour for the summer. Thank you to all who stopped by for delicious goodies and fellowship! Thank you especially to our teams who worked hard setting up, cleaning up, and baking a lot of the goodies that we all enjoyed!! Our volunteers are awesome and do such a great job! Right now we are down to 3 teams, which means that each month, one of the teams serve twice a month. The ideal schedule is once a month per team, but in order to do that we will need a few more volunteers. Our 'jobs' entail making coffee, putting out snacks, paper goods, and items for the coffee table (cups, sugar, creamer, etc), and putting it away at the end of the hour. I hope that over the summer you will consider joining us, and I'm looking forward to getting together again in the fall! Many hands make light work (and much coffee!). Marcie Divver

Hatboro Community Cupboard – Want to join an exciting team that serves our community?

- **Drivers** - Hatboro Community Cupboard needs volunteers with an SUV or truck to pick up donations the first Wednesday of every month from Noon-2:00 PM in Lansdale. Some heavy lifting is involved. You do not have to commit to every month to get on the volunteer list. Please call the office if you're interested!
- **Volunteers** – We are in need of volunteers for our evening shifts on Monday and Thursday evenings. Please sign up using the link on our website.
- **Team Leader** - We are looking for an individual to join our leadership team. Duties would include a one-hour meeting once a month (usually the fourth Wednesday) to discuss updates and status of all aspects of pantry operations, and filling in for team leaders during vacations. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve the community and work with a great group of volunteers, please reach out to Carol Schlegel at cschlegel9@aol.com.

Head Ushers - Our Usher team is looking for one or two head ushers this year. If you are interested, please see Joe Kircher or reach out to the office for more information!

Kids & Family Ministry - One of our team members is stepping down from the committee, so we're looking for new members! Our team works together to plan and execute Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other events for youth and families at St. John's.

Media Team - 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! Contact the office for more details.

VOLUNTEER



Committee Members Needed (continued.)

We need members for the following committees:

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 the office.

Publicity Committee - The Publicity Committee is looking for skilled members to help maintain our website and social media accounts, as well as volunteers who would be interested in manning a St. John's table at various events. Please reach out to us at stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com if you are interested!

Women's Ministry - Our Women's Ministry program is going to be "Re-imagined." We are looking for volunteers to join our committee to help plan future Women's Ministry activities and events. Please consider volunteering and being part of the future of Women's Ministry at St. John's. If you are interested, please see Carolyn Kircher or Pastor Bo, or email Carolyn Kircher at kirchercj615@verizon.net.

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St. John's Lutheran
Church – Hatboro



@sjlchatboro



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."



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!

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

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: office@sjlch.org

Church Website:

www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org

Publicity Committee Email:

stjohnspublicitycommittee@gmail.com

St. John's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am – 2 pm

Friday *By Appointment Only*

Please call the office before coming in.

Pastor Bo's Office Hours:

Monday-Tuesday 3 pm – 5 pm

Thursday 10 am – 12 pm

Or by appointment