



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

*Faith – Service – Community*

Monthly News & Updates

June 2025



## A Letter from Pastor Bo

June 2025

Wow. I did not plan this, but I see it. June has a nice chiasm of readings. A chiasm is where there is a pattern of statements or stories that goes like this:

A

B

C

B

A

It could be any number of items, but the important thing is that the beginning and end match, and middle sections according to the pattern, and the heart of the matter is found in the middle. It's called a chiasm because the Greek letter X is called chi, and you can see that the pattern looks like the left half of an X. (You can also diagram it with any half of an X.) Scholars find it all over the Bible.

I look at June and here's what I see.

A. June 1 – Ascension of Jesus

B. June 8 – Wind, Fire, Spirit at Pentecost

C. June 15 – Trinity

B. June 22 – Wind, Fire, Spirit for Elijah

A. June 29 – Ascension of Elijah

This will be fun to explore our relationship to Jesus, the Spirit, and one another in light of our Trinitarian God. The last two weeks have us going back to our Summer and Fall journey through the Old Testament. Two years ago, we journeyed through the time before Israel's kings (Genesis through Ruth). Last year we went over the time of Israel's first kings (Samuel, Kings, and some Wisdom Literature associated with King Solomon.) This year is all about the prophets, starting with guy who is credited with kicking off the major prophetic movement, Elijah. There were prophets in Israel before Elijah and Elisha, but the prophets

### **A Letter from Pastor Bo, continued**

who have books named after them come after these two, and Elijah and Elisha set the tone for prophets as bearers of the message of social justice and fidelity to Israel's God. We will journey through a lot of those prophetic books this summer and fall.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



#### **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 June**

June 7 – Hawks Day

June 8 – Confirmation

June 29 – BucksMont Pride Festival



## Food Pantry Report

May 9, 2025

It is with a heavy heart that I prepare this report for the food pantry. Our beloved Alan has been called home and we all miss him dearly. The pantry was so important to him and I know he would want us to continue on with our mission to serve the families suffering with food insecurity. We can never replace him but we will do our best to make him proud.

We took possession of the new freezer in April. It was a challenge getting it into the pantry and we are extremely grateful to Darren, Jaret and CJ from the property committee as well as Chad from our Thursday night crew who labored for over three hours to get it into the pantry and then into the fridge/freezer room. This is a huge benefit and we cannot forget to thank our generous donor for providing the funds to make the purchase. What a welcome addition it is.

Attendance in April was up. We served 441 families which is an increase over last year. Thanks to Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church for providing more than 20 hams and Giant Foods for contributing 25 hams and 15 lasagnas for our Easter dinner distribution. These were supplemented by numerous donors that stopped by and dropped off hams as well. Due to these efforts we were able to provide 106 Easter dinners to our clients. Everyone who wanted a dinner was given a choice of ham, turkey, lasagna or duck. Yes, duck! It is a Ukrainian favorite.

After our distribution to the clients we were able to provide 14 hams to Church of the Advent for their Easter community dinner.

At the end of April we were blessed to receive Church of the Advent's food donation match consisting of 186 jars of peanut butter, 114 cans of potatoes, and 570 packages of Ramen noodle soup.

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

Carol Schlegel

### Most Needed Items

Cereal  
Canned Beets  
Canned Baked Beans  
Canned Carrots  
1 lb Bags of White Rice  
Rice a Roni  
Hamburger Helper  
Jelly  
Peanut Butter  
Tomato Soup

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



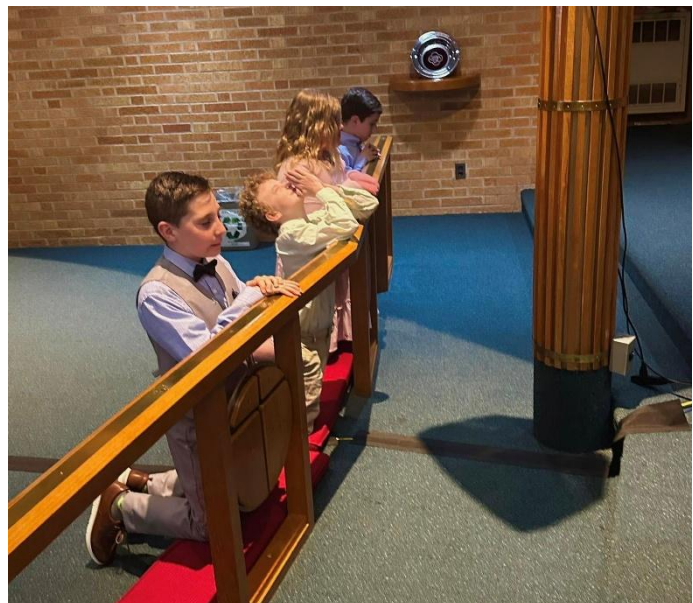
# LAST MONTH

## First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the students who received their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday: Brielle Ball, Dylan DiMeo, Cullen Larkin, and Christian Webekind!

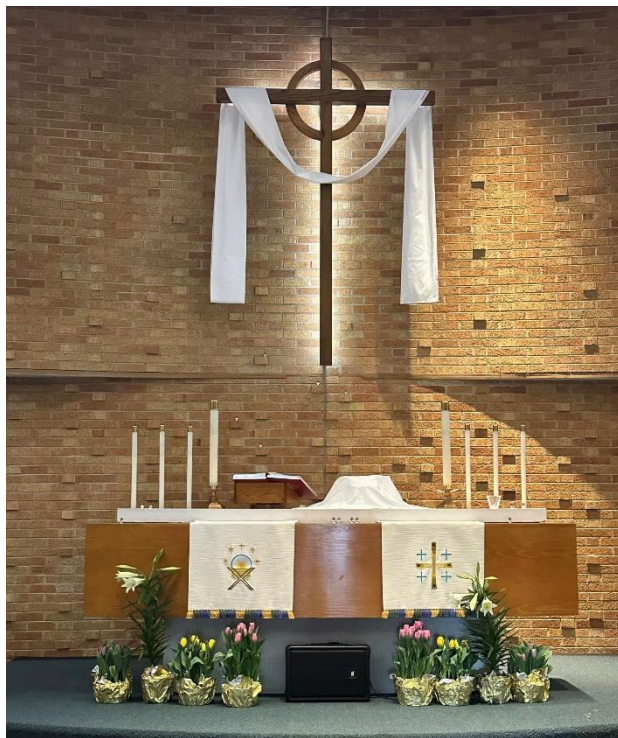
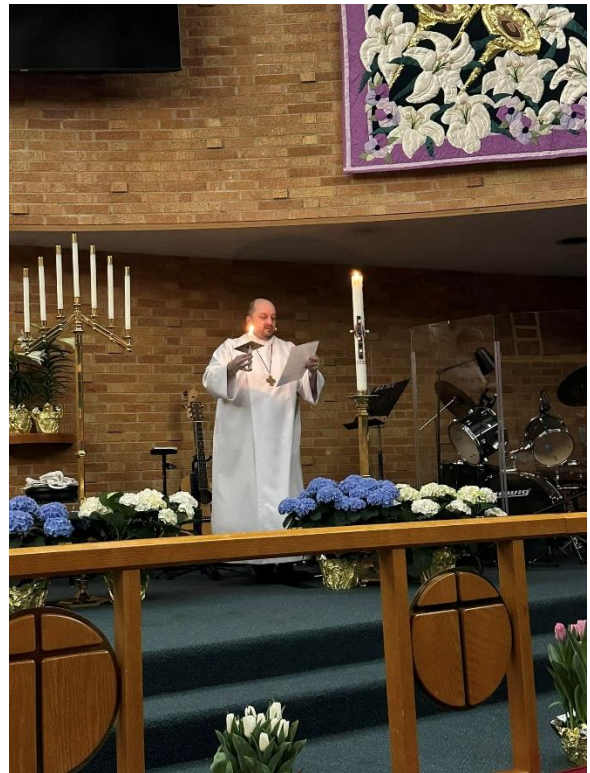
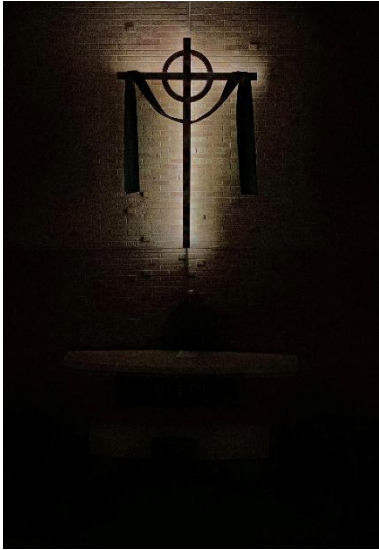


From left to right: Cullen Larkin, Brielle Ball, Pastor Bo, Christian Webekind, Dylan DiMeo





## Holy Week



## Youth News & Events



Sunday School is out for the summer, but we will be back for Rally Day on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!



### Children's Library

If parents do not want to use the staffed nursery, but their child needs a break from worship, they are welcome to use the Children's Library, located beside the Sunday School office.

The library will also be open after worship each week. Parents are welcome to sign out books on the clipboard, and bring them back when finished.



**Confirmation Classes will be held on the fourth Sunday of every month, at 6:30 pm, from September – May.**

Our final Confirmation class will be on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Food will be provided. Students should complete their homework before class!

We will hold a banquet for our confirmands and their families on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

The Confirmation service will be Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> during our regular 10:00 service.

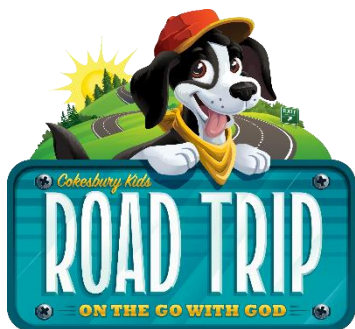


## Vacation Bible School

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](http://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, 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up are welcome to join us as a helping hand! They can help with groups or stations.

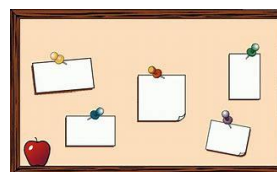
**ALL VOLUNTEERS must complete St. John's Mandatory Volunteer Training, and ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS must have completed their Pennsylvania Child Abuse Clearance as well as their Pennsylvania Background Check. Links are on the VBS page on our website.**

# CHURCH NEWS



## Hawks Day

St. John's will have a booth at Hawks Day on Saturday, **June 7th from 11-5** at Hawks Field (273 Lower State Road, North Wales)! Stop by and see us, and let the office know if you'd like to take a shift at the table!



## Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June Newsletter is **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please send any events, notes, or volunteer opportunities to Ashdon at [office@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org).



## Fun in the Sun Swimsuit Drive

The Community Outreach Ministry is collecting **new bathing suits** for children who live in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Department needs swimsuit donations so children without suits can swim in the city pools. The need is greater for teens and infant sizes, but all will be accepted. Please return the swimsuits by Sunday **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.



## 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 Briar Club" by Kate Quinn. We'll meet on June 22nd at 1 pm in the church library.





### **Congratulations Class of 2025!**

We are so proud of all of the members of our church family graduating this spring!

Strat Bannister – Pennridge High School, heading to St. Olaf's College

Melissa Beadling – Central Bucks West, heading to Hofstra University

April Eickhoff – James Madison University

Jane Fisher – Perkiomen Valley High School, heading to Temple University

Ryan Killenbeck – University of New York – Binghamton

Chloe Kircher – Pennridge High School

Sarah Kircher – Penn State

Sarah Kummery – Quakertown High School

Penny Lane McPeak – Upper Moreland Middle School

Claire Pisanick – Millersville University

Jack Pisanick – Montgomery County Community College

Congratulations from St. John's!



### **BucksMont Pride Fest**

For the second year in a row, St. John's will have a table at our local pride festival! Join us on **Sunday, June 29th from 12-5** at the Abington Arts Center (515 Meetinghouse Road, Jenkintown), and let the office know if you'd like to take a shift at the table!



### **A Note from the Gardening Committee**

Spring has Sprung!!

Thank you to everyone on the garden committee for planting the pansies in spring and most recently the summer flowers.

It's wonderful to be greeted by flowers as you pass the memorial and other gardens, the entrances, and the courtyard with the container plants.

This ongoing project of beauty would not be possible without the dedication of Alan Eickhoff. He made sure the plants were ordered, the mulch was laid and the lawn was mowed. We will miss him very much and appreciated everything he did for our church and all the many things he taught us.



### **Community Outreach Ministry Team**

The Community Outreach Ministries Committee thanks our Congregation for again being supportive for our Outreach Projects. In February we collected for our Furry Friends Project. During Lent we supported our Community Cupboard with weekly donations that were greatly appreciated by the St. John's Community Cupboard.

For Mother's Day we again collected gift cards for A Woman's Place.

Thanks to the generosity of St. John's congregation, 33 gift cards for Mother's Day were delivered to A Woman's Place on Monday, May 5th. The staff at AWP wanted the congregation to know that this thoughtfulness is always appreciated by their clients.

This summer we have a new project coming up, along with our regular Back to School Backpacks and School Supplies project. This year we will be working with Grace Lutheran, our sister Church in Philadelphia and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation in a swimsuit drive. This project will go until June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Backpacks and School supplies collections will again be in the early part of August.

Thank you again for all your support and we always welcome new members and new ideas!

The Community Outreach Ministries Committee



### **Plant Sale Update**

Thanks to all those who participated in the Fellowship Committee plant sale fundraiser. The flowers were beautiful, the weather was cooperative, and the profit was \$587.

Thanks again!

**LIVE** ((🎥))

### **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!

# 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 [sichrised@gmail.com](mailto:sichrised@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 April 2025 Deficit Update

| Year-to-Date Financial Status<br>through 4/30/25 |              |
|--|--------------|
| Income   | \$135,836.33 |
| Expenses   | \$140,976.20 |
| Deficit  | \$5,139.87   |





## 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](http://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](mailto:pastorbo@sjlch.org)

Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth

Director of Christian Education: Abbie Metheny

Email: [sjchrised@gmail.com](mailto:sjchrised@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Ashdon Bobbie

Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn

Church Office: (215) 675-2031

Church Email: [office@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org)

Church Website:

[www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org](http://www.stjohnslutheranhatboro.org)

### Office Hours:

**Monday-Friday 9 am – 2 pm.**

***Please call the office before coming in.***