



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA

Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

February 2025



A Letter from Pastor Bo

February 2025

February 2025 – February looks to be a fun time for worship at St. John's. We have an unusually late Lent this year (Ash Wednesday is March 5th), which means we have an extended season in February of looking at Epiphany-themed texts. Looking at February, it's basically all of life in a nutshell. I'll explain:

February 2nd – **Beginning** – We have something special for this Groundhog Day – the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. 40 days after Christmas, we celebrate the dedication of the infant Jesus to God. The same love and promises overshadowing this event also are present at the beginning of our lives at birth and at baptism. What does that mean for us?

February 9th – **Confirmation/New Beginning** – In these texts, Isaiah, Paul, and Peter all have a 'come to Jesus' moment where they are convicted of sin, forgiven, and commissioned for a special service. This happens when we personally exercise faith and claim the sacramental promises for ourselves.

February 16th – **Growth** – These texts teach us how to grow as learners and disciples. There are ways to not grow and ways of godly growth. This is something to learn throughout our lives.

February 23rd – **Making Peace** – At the end of our days, we need to make peace with the fact that not all has gone well, according to plan, but God still is working out a plan regardless. Joseph and Jesus teach us to forgive our enemies and to see God's mercy at work even in the difficult seasons. This week teaches us something about how to end well.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



Important Dates in February

February 16 – Annual Congregational Meeting



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.



Food Pantry Report

January 15, 2025

December 2024 proved to be a successful ending for the year. Through the efforts of many individuals and organizations we were able to assure all of our clients who wished a holiday meal that they could have one. A total of 85 clients were given a choice. 56 selected a turkey or turkey breast and 26 selected a ham. All 85 of them were shoppers at the extra area which we called "fixings". That allowed them to supplement their selections to more than just an entrée.

Because of the positioning of Christmas on a Wednesday we closed for that entire week. This was a totally new experience for us and our clients. Signage was posted well in advance so that clients would be able to make plans. The distribution of the holiday meals took place the week prior to Christmas week. That became one of our busiest weeks in recent memory as 114 families were served that week. Normal hours were resumed the following except for being closed on New Year's Day.

Due to the closure the overall attendance was down this year. Numbers of family coming were 60 fewer for the month. The total number of families attending in December 2024 was 306. Of these, 11 were new registrants.

We are very thankful for all those who remembered the folks facing food insecurity and made donations to the Cupboard. Bless you all for your support.

Most Needed Items

Pasta Sauce
White Rice
Canned Potatoes
Beef Stew
Rice a Roni
Baked Beans
Hamburger Helper
Jelly
Peanut Butter
Apple Juice

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

LAST MONTH

Music Sunday

Thank you to all of our performers for sharing your gifts with us!



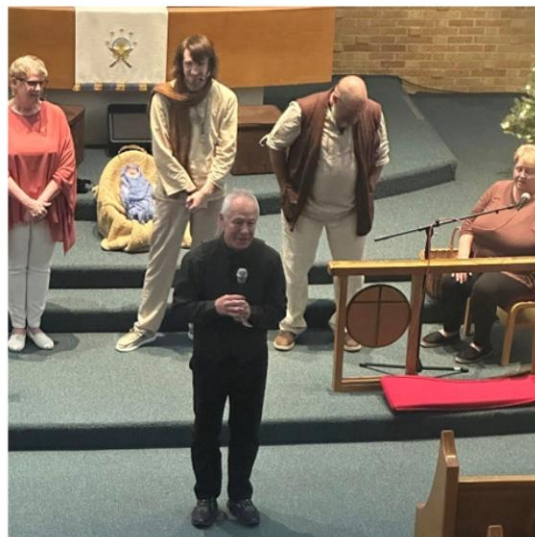
Santa Visit

Santa came to visit St. John's! He came to Sunday School and took pictures with our kids.



Joseph & Mary Musical

Our talented cast and crew put on an original musical written by our own Bob Evans this December. The musical follows the lives of Joseph and Mary.



Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve was beautiful! Thank you to all who came out to the three services.



Youth News & Events



Sunday School is back! Bring your child to Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10 am. All kids ages 3 (and potty trained) through 6th grade are welcome to join us! Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to help teach the younger kids!

Lesson Schedule:

February 2 – How to Pray
February 9 – Jesus at the Temple
February 16 – Jesus Walks on Water
February 23 – Jesus Feeds 5,000



Youth Group is held on the third Saturday of every month at 6:30 pm, from September – May.

This month, Youth Group will hold their annual Pasta Dinner on Saturday, February 15th.



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

Our next Confirmation class will be on Sunday, February 23, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided. Students should complete their homework before class!



Nursery

The nursery has been relocated to the Library. We are working to staff the nursery each week so that parents can drop their children off before worship, and pick them up after the service. The nursery will be open from 9:50 – 10 minutes after the service ends on Sunday mornings.

In the event that the nursery is not staffed, it is still open for parents to sit with their children if they need a break. There will be signs posted on the door to mark whether the nursery is staffed or not.



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.

CHURCH NEWS



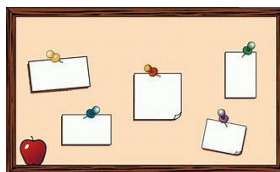
Book Club

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 "Go as a River" by Shelly Read. We'll meet on **February 2nd at 1 pm** in the church library.



Women's Ministry's Ladies Lunch Bunch will return on **Tuesday, February 18th at 12 noon**. 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.

The Ladies Lunch Bunch meets on the third Tuesday of each month at noon in Fellowship Hall.



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Faith Explorers

The Faith Explorers small group will meet on **Thursday, February 20th at 6 pm**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall.



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 16th, at 11:30 am**.

Cub Scout Food Drive

Cub Scout Pack 17 will be holding a food drive on **Saturday, February 15th from 9am-12pm** here at **St. John's**. The needed items are cereal, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, baked beans, spaghetti sauce, canned chili, and canned beef stew. Donations support the Hatboro Community Cupboard. For more information, call Shannon O'Neill at 215-219-4371.



Community Outreach Pet Drive

The Community Outreach Committee will be holding a Furry Friends Drive from Saturday, February 15th through Sunday, March 2nd. We will be collecting wet and dry food for dogs and cats. Treats, toys, collars, food/water bowls and leashes will also be appreciated. Please consider helping our furry friends in our community. All donations will go to local pet rescues or the Hatboro Community Cupboard here 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! The Community Outreach Ministry Team thanks St. John's for all the support throughout the year! If you have any questions, please see Jaime Cameron or send an email to cameronviteacher02@gmail.com, or call 267-992-2323.



Troop 81 Eagle Scout Highlight

St. John's is sponsoring Scout Troop 81, and we want to highlight one of our Eagle Scouts! Congratulations to Ethan Campman on earning his Eagle Scout rank. The presentation of his award was done at a Court of Honor on January 4, 2025. Ethan is a sophomore at William Tennent High School. As a student there he participates in Madrigal singers, Jazz Band and also runs Cross Country, Winter Track and Spring Track. He serves as the Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 81B. Ethan's Eagle Project combined his three passions in life, Scouts, music and running. He collected used musical instruments for donation to Simmons Elementary School. He had a 5K race to raise funds to refurbish the instruments as well as purchase music for beginning students. Congratulations, Ethan!

Thank You!

Thank You!!! The Community Outreach Ministries Committee again would like to thank the Congregation for their generous contributions and their support of the Christmas Giving Tree. The Breathing Room, A Woman's Place, and the Valley Youth House in Warminster are all extremely grateful for St. John's generosity. You are helping a great number of people of all ages. We collected a little over \$1000 in gift cards and gifts which were distributed to the organizations of your choice. Many, many thanks. The Community Outreach Ministries Committee

VOLUNTEER



Nightly Security Checks

We are looking for Volunteers to help perform nightly security checks to follow a set checklist to ensure that all doors are locked, lights are off, and to address any other potential concerns. Please reach out to the office if you are interested.

Committee Members Needed

We need members for the following committees.

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.

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 Alan Eickhoff (215-675-1298) or Ken Woods 215-290-9246.

Finance Corner

End of 2024 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 12/31/24	
Income	\$434,730.98
Expenses	\$471,309.60
Deficit	\$36,578.62



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."

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

Media Coordinator: Bob Muller

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.