



St. John's Lutheran Church

Hatboro, PA
Faith – Service – Community

Monthly News & Updates

March 2026



A Letter from Pastor Bo

March 2026

Jumping into Lent

Ash Wednesday, we started Lent. This Lent, we want to learn the wisdom of how life works for a successful life. Most specifically, as Christians, we want to learn the wisdom of the cross from Jesus in order to be successful as lovers of God and neighbor. And that may involve turning conventional wisdom on its head. For Ash Wednesday, instead of making lemonade out of the lemons life gives us, what if we discover that lemons actually give us life? The first week of Lent, we not only grappled with 'not all that glitters is gold,' through Jesus' temptations, we discovered nothing that is truly gold for us is the stuff that glitters.

I may change my mind on some of these before I get there, but this is what I'm thinking:

March 1st – John 3: Nicodemus. The road to hell is paved with good intentions, but what about the road to heaven? Turns out, it's not even paved. No matter our intentions, it's impossible to get there. In Christ, heaven comes to us, allowing us to be 'born from above' right where we are located.

March 8th – John 4: The Woman at the Well. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, but when we give stuff up for Lent, that's not exactly what we want. Sometimes, when it comes to things holding us back from holiness, absence makes the heart... move on. To better and more healthy things.

March 15th – John 9: The Man Born Blind. Which is better, to be safe, or to be sorry? Conventional wisdom says safe, but the wisdom of the cross says it's okay to choose the path of sorrow and loss, in order see life as it really is. You will gain something so much better than safety.



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.

A Letter from Pastor Bo – Continued

March 22nd – John 11: The Raising of Dead Lazarus. You have permission to cry over spilled milk. Don't listen to the naysayers. If Jesus wept, even knowing the resurrection soon to come, it's okay to cry.

March 29th – The Passion. A penny saved... is garbage. We know that now that pennies are going out of circulation. But an even better nugget of wisdom is that all we are and have belongs to God, and to God's love for the world. Your pennies, your life, like Christ's aren't meant to be hoarded, but to be spent, invested, lavishly poured out. Let's kick off holy week and head towards the fruits of resurrection. A penny spent in the right way at the right time could make you a millionaire, or it's moral equivalent in the kingdom of God.

That said, I haven't found much life from these frozen lemons that keep falling from the sky. Come on, Spring!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bo



Important Dates in March

March 1 – New Members Class

March 24 – Trip to the Flyers

March 29 – Palm Sunday

March 29 – Easter Egg Hunt

Food Pantry Report

February 5, 2026

January was a difficult month for the pantry as well as the clients. The weather wreaked havoc on the schedule and operating hours. Due to the extreme cold and significant snow and ice from two back to back storms we were not able to get deliveries as scheduled. We missed two weeks of milk deliveries and multiple bread and dessert donations. We only shut down for one day to allow for snow removal and de-icing of the parking lot. We are following the Hatboro Horsham school district schedule for closings. On the days we were open we gave out the staples that we carry on the shelves but could not provide milk, eggs, bread and many other items due to missed deliveries.

That being said, we registered 13 new families in January serving 341 families. We saw a drop in client visits on Tuesdays in particular due to the extreme cold. Many of our seniors, both clients and volunteers, advised us that they would not come due to their concerns over driving and walking in the cold and icy conditions. The count would have been much higher if we did not have to deal with Mother Nature.

The new refrigerator arrived replacing an old inefficient refrigerator. We also purchased two new shelving units with funds provided by one of our generous donors. We finally completed sorting and storing the December and January donations and installed the new shelving units. We are now in the process of reorganizing the shopping area of the pantry.

We were contacted by one of our neighbors asking if we would want venison to supplement our meat selections. They delivered the meat and it was quickly depleted. Several of our clients really like venison. We will keep that in mind when the next hunting season arrives.

Our need for a substitute team leader is becoming more urgent. Although we have reached out to several of our volunteers we have not been successful in our efforts. We are also in desperate need of volunteers for our Thursday evening shift.

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.



Hatboro Community Cupboard Most Needed Items

Chunk Light Tuna (not
albacore)

Canned Peas

Canned Mixed
Vegetables

Canned Beets

Canned Baked Beans

Condiments (Ketchup,
Mustard, Mayo, etc.)

Shampoo

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

St. John's in the Snow

Although it was a shame to have to move church online, and so many of us are tired of the cold, St. John's did look beautiful under a blanket of white snow!



Burning Palms for Ash Wednesday

The palms we don't give out on Palm Sunday are saved to dry out over the year, and then burned and sifted by our Confirmation Class before Lent begins to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you to Emma Bowman and Riley Fullmer for braving the freezing temperatures this year!



Youth News & Events



Join us for Sunday School! 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:

March 1 – The Last Supper

March 8 – Deserted by All; Pilate's Questions

March 15 – Jesus Dies

March 22 – **No Sunday School** (Youth Sunday)

March 29 – Easter Lesson



Confirmation will meet twice this month, March 8 and March 22. We meet from 6:30 – 8 pm, and dinner is included in the class time.



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

This month's event will be stuffing Easter Eggs on **Saturday, March 28th**.



First Holy Communion Classes

Our fourth-grade Sunday School class will meet during the season of Lent to prepare for their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. Classes will be held during Sunday School (10 am).

Please reach out to Abbie at sichrised@gmail.com if you are interested in signing your child up for classes!

Class Schedule:

March 1 – Class #1

March 8 – Class #2

March 15 – Class #3

March 29 – Baking Bread

March 29 (after the Egg Hunt) – Review with Pastor Bo

Thursday, April 2 – Students Receive First Holy Communion

CHURCH NEWS



New Members Class

The next New Members Class will be on **Sunday, March 1st** after the 10:00 worship service.



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 "The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend" by Katarina Bivald. We'll meet on **Wednesday, March 11th at 7 pm** in the church library. We have also chosen the book for April which will be "Twice" by Mitch Albom (there may be a wait at the library for this one so you can sign up now to get your copy).



Food Collection

The Community Outreach Committee is having a Lenten food drive for the Food Pantry. There are 6 weeks in Lent and we are asking you to bring in a different item each week:

2/28-3/1: canned mixed vegetables & peas

3/7 -8: peanut butter & jelly

3/14-15: small cans baked beans

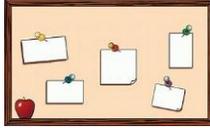
3/21-22: canned chili

3/28-29: chunk light tuna

Remember, sharing is caring.



There will be Midweek Lenten Services every **Wednesday at 11 am.**



Next Newsletter Deadline

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



Trip to the Flyers Game

St. John's is going to the Flyers game on **March 24th**! It is \$85 per person. Please pay by cash, check (made out to St. John's), or venmo to AlanDivver2929

Contact Alan Divver (215-436-0730 or alan.m.divver@gmail.com)



Easter Dedications

Dedication forms for Easter flowers will be attached to bulletins as well as loose on the Hospitality Table during the season of Lent. Tulips and lilies are \$25 each, and hydrangeas are \$35 each. Please return dedication forms and payment by **Wednesday, March 18th**.



Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, **March 29th**, after the 10:00 service.



Faith Explorers

The next Faith Explorers meeting will be on **Thursday, March 26th at 6 pm** in Fellowship Hall.



Gardening Committee Help Needed

It's getting to be that time of year! The garden committee is in need of volunteers to help with the care of gardens. This involves preparing the gardens for the planting of new plants, weeding, watering, maintaining and clearing out dead plants in late fall. We are also looking for someone to care for the two planters at the entrance of the church (planting seasonal flowers, and watering). If you are interested, please contact Linda Nieckoski at linski509@gmail.com or 215-441-5478.

Finance Corner:

January 2026 Deficit Update

Year-to-Date Financial Status through 1/31/26	
Income	\$26,881.11
Expenses	\$30,943.36
Deficit	\$15,113.76**

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



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 October we have raised over \$16,000! Please mark your donations for the air conditioner, and watch our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex!

Coming Soon:



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday & First Holy Communion

April 2nd

7 pm Worship

Good Friday – Tenebrae

April 3rd

7 pm Worship

Easter Vigil

April 4th

7 pm Worship

Easter Morning

April 5th

7 am Sunrise Service

10 am Worship

Thank You!

Dear St. John's, I would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers, all the hugs, all the cards. The people that came to church to celebrate Wilson's life fill my heart with a lot of love. I know Wilson would have been so pleased and as you were leaving he would have been at the door to say goodbye.

Lots of love always,

Jeannette and the Heath & Rinker families

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.

Coffee Hour - Coffee Hour is offered every Sunday following the 10:00 service in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are needed for coffee hour. The teams make coffee and put out snacks, and clean up and put away after. Currently once every 3 weeks until we are able to add an additional team. Contact Marcie Divver. Thank you.

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.

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.



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! Please reach out to the church office if you're interested in joining the Media Team!



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

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.