



# **NEW HANOVER**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **Annual Report**

**2020**

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**We love our neighbors  
with healing and feeding them!**

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### **Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, February 28, 2021  
11 AM via Zoom**

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# New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



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[newhanoverlutheran.org](http://newhanoverlutheran.org)

[facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch](https://facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch)

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## Our Mission

The mission of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church is to utilize the dedication of our church family, the strengths of our programs, the resources of our facilities, and history of our congregation to serve as a beacon of worship, welcome, peace, and support for our community.

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## Our Vision

The vision of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church is to love our neighbors as ourselves, and live and serve as an example of God's Grace for our community and our world.

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## Agenda

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Presentation of the 2020 Annual Report
- IV. New Business  
Open Period of Discussion
- V. The Lord's Prayer and Benediction
- VI. Adjourn Meeting

# 2020 Congregation Council

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## Officers

Steven Eisenhart, president  
Sally Sugita, vice-president  
Barbara Repa, secretary  
Andrew Van Dyke, treasurer  
Scott Geiser, financial secretary

Robin Fatzinger  
Nevada Grant  
James Gross  
D. Martin Hauser  
Amy Hoffman  
Vicki Mutter  
Donald Wirt (1/1/20 – 7/31/20)

## Congregational Meeting Minutes

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### Annual Congregational Meeting February 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm by Vice President Sally Sugita.

Pastor Scott Staub opened with a prayer.

A Power Point Presentation on the County's plan to repair the bridge on Lutheran Road was viewed and explained. The project requires that the congregation sell the right-of-way on its property to Montgomery County so that work may proceed on the bridge. The cost of this right-of-way would be \$5,000.00. Bryce Manthorne made a motion to sell the right-of-way; Harry White seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The 2019 Annual Report was presented for approval. Norman Hunsberger made a motion to approve it; Jim Boyer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Recognition of New Members and Staff occurred.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Repa  
Congregation Council Secretary

### Congregational Budget Meeting Minutes

Sunday, December 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 am (via ZOOM) by Vice President Sally Sugita.

Pastor Scott Staub opened with a prayer.

Council Treasurer, Andy Van Dyke presented the 2021 Budget. It was noted that ballots need to be mailed or dropped off at church by December 27, 2020.

Bryce Manthorne motioned for approval of budget; Scott Geiser seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 am and closed the Lord's Prayer.

Following December 27, the ballots were counted with the following results:

54 – In favor  
4 – Not in favor

The 2021 budget was passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Repa  
Congregation Council Secretary

# Pastor's Report

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“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” – Philippians 1:2-5

**I THANK GOD FOR YOU!** As I reflect on my second year as your pastor, I simply thank God. It continues to be a humbling honor to serve as pastor of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, honoring our traditions and leading to create new essential ministries even in the time of this pandemic. This report was written on February 1st, 2021, and we are in the midst of a growing Coronavirus Pandemic for a year now. While essential ministries and some activities resumed since March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at this time, we have suspended worship and non-essential activities at the building off and on, and currently for the past fourteen weeks. Given the record number of deaths and infections recently, we are unsure as to when our doors will open fully again. However, while the building is closed, the church is not closed, never was, and if we keep our Spirit and Faith in our ever loving God, never will be! I am most grateful for the people of New Hanover who have and continue to be the church in their daily life.

You have embraced and represented greatly our 2020 theme of Loving our Neighbor. In recent history, I believe no one could remember a time when our gracious love was needed more, and then a time witnessed by greater responses of love for neighbor. Our worship team, Loaves and Fishes Food ministry, Peer Support Recovery ministry along with all of our great volunteers and supporters took on the challenge “We will not be a museum; however, we will make history.” And we did! I thank God every day for calling me to New Hanover to serve side by side with you in growing our love of neighbors by healing and feeding them.

However, at the time of this report, in addition to all the great ministries we are accomplishing and the tremendous Acts of Revolutionary Love we begin, I can't wait for our community to gather for worship face to face, laugh, sing, dance and rejoice together. It is a pure gift to celebrate God's gifts of grace with this community, and I look forward

to joining together in our worship of a God who is with us.

**I thank God for the New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church Council and the Covid Action Team** who have led this congregation with tremendous passion, wisdom, and dedication during this pandemic. I am grateful for the leadership provided by:

Church Council: Steve Eisenhart, Robin Fatzinger, Sally Sugita, Nevada Grant, Barbara Repa, Jim Gross, Andy Van Dyke, Marty Hauser, Scott Geiser, Amy Hoffman, Vicki Mutter, and Donald Wirt.

Covid Action Team: Steve Eisenhart, Rosalie Lisa, Bryce Manthorne, Jim Gross, Faye and Steve Weidner, Scott Geiser, Andy Van Dyke

**I thank God for the New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff** which has grown with the addition of the Loaves and Fishes Food ministry (Chris Fatzinger, Interim Director), Peer Support ministry (Ryan Schweiger, Supervisor of Peer Support Specialists, Matthew Deery, Peer Support Specialist), Worship Videographer (Amy Marazas) and Grant Writers (Kate Schaffer, Donna Searchfield). While the Peer Support Recovery ministry was scheduled to happen, the other positions became essential due to the pandemic and what being a church has become. Their contributions are invaluable in providing love and healing to our neighbors, expanding our presence in worship and ministry, and gaining valuable support for new and existing ministries.

In addition, I wish to thank the existing staff and how they repurposed their talents to adapt to the changing definition of what a church is and can be. Many of the staff have created new talents, and increased their skills which enhance worship and communication. In each area, we have found new ways to be a church in a safe and effective manner.

**I Thank God for our Worship Team** who have met the challenge since March 15, 2020 together with the Covid Action team and council to safely and effectively bring worship each week. Together we witnessed the transition from divided congregational settings into one blended cohesive

praise of God, reaching over 500 people per week on average with peaks of over 2,000.

The teams transformed the worship setting from a stone building to drive-in venues in our facility parking lot and picnic grove. In addition, through our Multi Media teams, worship was safely communicated into vehicles via FM transmission, into our homes by social media and through our personal devices. All culminating in 2020 with a Virtual and Live Nativity Drive-in Christmas Eve service worshiped in our parking lot, and viewed live and virtually at home.

**We can all thank God for the volunteer ministry** for Drive-in, virtual and sanctuary worship services. The unselfish volunteers who make the following ministries happen: parking lot and Picnic Grove worship ushers, worship and event sound teams, home deliveries of gift bags, food ministry cooks, packagers, and drivers, food ministry food and money donors, faith formation activity bags handouts, special event deliveries, rock garden community event, property maintenance, gardening, funerals, burials, baptisms, and weddings. So many others the list is endless...we have many other boards, committees, and ministry teams that provide leadership...many of them have prepared annual reports. Please take the time to read them, and most importantly support them with your prayers.

A special thank you to the property committee for executing the heating and air conditioning renovations during this pandemic. A much needed project to enhance our growing use of the facility by our growing ministries. I encourage you to support this project this coming year.

The Mutual Ministry Committee has been another source of support for me this past year. I wish to thank them for meeting in the parking lot, picnic grove and virtually to help guide me in the needs of my ministry and our community. Enabling myself and you, to grow spiritually and purposefully together.

All of this, during a pandemic, which required strategic planning, timely and safe execution. I am amazed at the compassion, love and dedication people have for their neighbor.

**REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR** The past year has been focused on several areas of ministry.

All of these ministry areas are ongoing – and none of these are accomplished in isolation or certainly not by one individual. I am grateful for all those who continue to share the journey with me in these and many other areas of mission and ministry. Evidenced by the following ministries of which I have had the privilege to serve on and with.

The Loaves and Fishes Food Ministry, initially a vision of a few people that involved a church and broader community. It was established to supply a few emergency meals, the ministry has grown to deliver over 100 people per day nutritious meals, and elicited the support of over 80 volunteers, and has become one of our major ministries.

The Peer Support Recovery Ministry has become a valuable asset for our faith and the greater New Hanover area community. The peer ministers have provided support to many during this pandemic and have helped save lives. Their integration with other programs have provided community projects, education to our youth, wellness education, and even provided miniature horses for our family and Christmas Eve events!

The Worship Team, and I mean team, has provided meaningful and praiseful worship in the face of adversity and challenges that we, as a community, never faced in the past 100 years. Each week the team sought to evaluate the safety of all together with the abilities we have to provide worship. The team was in constant transition in evaluating locations and essential personnel; however, each challenge was met and executed with praise and glory to God.

In the past year we also changed the way we worshipped with the Rejoicing Spirits Community. We recorded a virtual worship video and shared with all area Rejoicers to enjoy. In addition, the team safely traveled several times in a caravan to the homes of the quarantined Rejoicers giving them their first social contact in many months. All capped off with Caroling and gift giving at ten different sites over the course of an afternoon. Soli Gloria Deo!

In each ministry, the resulting inclusion and involvement of our NHELCC family and New Hanover area community was astounding and powerful given the pandemic restrictions. We are growing in our love for neighbor and our purpose and meaning as what is “the church or body of Christ” in our community. Our inability to be inside has

**I am amazed at the compassion, love and dedication people have for their neighbor.**

grown our focus on loving our neighbors on the outside of our walls. Truly being “church” in challenging and difficult times.

**LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.** I will be focusing on the ways in which we stay connected and cared for as a congregation, and growing in our love for neighbors during the current pandemic, and looking forward to when it is over. As I mentioned before, the buildings may be closed; however, we never did or will stop being a Church. I am inspired by the current response to creating Revolutions of Love in sharing the Gospel and good news in ourselves, our families, home and neighborhoods. In this way when the pandemic is over, the world will be a better place. Inspiring also are some of our new initiatives for 2021.

**The Garden of Hope** is a partnership with Trellis for Tomorrow, a non profit organization for growing nutritious foods along with development of young adult and family education. We are a Partner Site within their Food For All raised bed garden program, providing nutritious crops to supplement our Loaves and Fishes ministry, supplying other community food programs, and providing mission and education opportunities for our youth, and all ages. I am excited with this opportunity to be with you, outdoors, in serving our community in a safe environment.

Worship planning will continue to evolve and be evaluated for safety and effectiveness. During this pandemic, 2021 will prove to be an opportunity for

us to evaluate ways in which we can be inclusive of all means and methods of worship within whichever setting is safe at the present. We witnessed great growth in the number of people participating in worship this past year in providing virtual and live streaming of our worship, like never before. I believe we have the talent to continue to grow and provide meaningful worship and our message of loving our neighbor to those present and those abroad.

Evaluating staff functions will be a constant, I believe, in the future. This past year emphasized the need to stay current and contemporary to the needs of our faith community and beyond. We must evaluate what are the needs of our community and how best to allocate our resources of time, talent and money. And I wish to thank you all for all you have done in your Generosity.

I am excited for us all to be thinking about new ways we can grow into leadership, listen and respond to the Spirit’s calling, and serve the world that God so loves. But most importantly, worship the God who, in Jesus Christ, brings healing, justice and love for the whole world. Worship the God, who in the resurrection of Christ, brings hope. Worship the God who, even in the midst of the world’s pain and separation, **is making all things new.**

Peace, Pastor Scott

## Membership Statistical Report

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### New Member Received

**Kathy Campos**, February 20, 2020

**James and Diane Davidheiser**, February 20, 2020

**Adam and Meghan Hubley** and baptized children **Ava, Sadie and Adelina** February 20, 2020

**Peter and Caitlin Miller** and baptized child **Esmee**, February 20, 2020

**William Morrison**, February 20, 2020

**Andrew and Autumn Wojnarik** and baptized child **Alaina**, February 20, 2020

**Joshua and Nicole Young** and baptized child **Samuel**, February 20, 2020

**Richard and Deborah Becker**, August 20, 2020

**Candis Peto**, August 20, 2020

**Susan Fretz**, September 17, 2020

**Ricardo Garcia and Ayla Ligia** and baptized children **Emmily Salas, Genesis Garcia and Richard Garcia**, September 17, 2020

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Welcome to NHELCC

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## New Member Received by Baptism

**Jamison Andrew Rothermel**, September 20, 2020, son of Andrew and Kendra (Heck) Rothermel

## Confirmation on May 31, 2020

**Adam Kenneth Becker**  
**Cara Janelle Boyer**  
**Matthew Robert Cavalari**  
**Kelsie Lynne Rohrbach**  
**Chase William Sharp**  
**Gavin Somers Smith**

## Marriages

**Jeffery Ellwanger\*** and **Lynsie Stofflet\***  
 May 2, 2020  
**Gerald Kenny\*** and **Tonya Brumbach**  
 September 19, 2020  
**Tahj Perera\*** and **Deja Branford\***  
 November 8, 2020

## Funerals

**Harold Einsig\***, January 30, 2020  
**Robert Robinson, Jr.\***, February 5, 2020  
**Suzanne Wentzel**, February 6, 2020  
**Ethel Angstadt\***, February 21, 2020  
**Eleanor Garber\***, February 27, 2020  
**Janice Warnquist**, April 3, 2020  
**Marcy Marks\***, May 12, 2020  
**Betty Dowd\***, May 13, 2020

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**Gone but not forgotten**

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**Robert Erb**, August 28, 2020  
**Darlene Reilley\***, September 24, 2020  
**Barbara Johnson**, October 23, 2020  
**Veleen Hipple\***, November 7, 2020  
**Robert Gerhart\***, November 13, 2020  
**John Karns**, November 14, 2020  
**Edna Lightcap**, December 4, 2020

\* denotes non-member

## Members Removed per Death (not listed under funeral)

**Curtis Moyer, Jr.** April 16, 2020  
**William Kleman**, July 21, 2020  
**Shirley Silcox**, August 27, 2020  
**Margaret Geiges**, December 30, 2020

## Members Removed per Request

**William and Joanne Boyd**, April 16, 2020  
**Richard and Loretta Czarnecki**, April 16, 2020  
**Drew Eddinger**, April 16, 2020  
**Scott Ehling**, April 16, 2020  
**Linda Hinrichs**, April 16, 2020  
**Danelle Knepp**, April 16, 2020  
**Christopher and Connie MacLuckie**, April 16, 2020  
**Susan Mickletz**, April 16, 2020  
**Thomas Murray**, April 16, 2020  
**Michael Norris**, April 16, 2020  
**Michelle Pell** (baptized child), April 16, 2020  
**Tammy Rogers**, April 16, 2020  
**Lynn Toub**, April 16, 2020  
**Paul Warnquist**, April 16, 2020  
**Deborah Winkler**, April 16, 2020

## Membership Review

	Baptized	Confirmed
2011	1128	831
2012	1115	813
2013	988	726
2014	972	710
2015	970	714
2016	971	718
2017	969	714
2018	969	707
2019	980	717
2020	980	714

## Average Weekly Attendance\*

2011	234
2012	209
2013	197
2014	188
2015	167
2016	157
2017	152
2018	154
2019	163
2020	126

\* Average weekly video and live streamed worship averages over 250 and has reached over 1,500 viewers.

# Deacon's Report

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”*

## *Introduction to Ecclesiastes 3*

“...And Then There is “Pandemic Time”

### **The Pre-Pandemic Season:**

2020 started innocently enough. Life in a new year began to unfold. As usual I worked with my two committees, Christian Education and Mission Service, engaged in planning programs and keeping communications going. I filled those early bliss-filled days with...

- Planning for two Gift Sundays in January and February, those special Sundays when different generations gathered for music, faith formation and of course food and fellowship!
- The fun of helping teach the catechism class and learning about life from some wonderful young people.
- Preparing for and leading our Mid-Week Study class, the most gracious, insightful and caring group of students a teacher could wish for. Their faith-talk blessed the rest of my Thursday, each and every week.
- Planning, preparation for and overseeing the annual Women's Retreat in February along with Trinity, Lansdale was such a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day. The love and compassion these women show towards each other, even when they have may never met each other prior to the weekend, always amazes me. And that is doubled by the love shown to us by the Sisters at St. Francis.
- Working with Leslie Gates on a new, exciting venture as winter began – a “tying together” of spirituality, wellness and wholeness. We were so fortunate to have her come on board to offer yoga/mindfulness meditation classes. She and I had previously discussed how our spirituality is nurtured and fed in so many ways such as with what she had to offer. Her passion and gift were apparently wanted as the class filled up in no time! She ministered so incredibly well as winter months were upon us - I was extremely grateful for that.
- Beginning to work on coordinating with a wonderful group of volunteers who stepped up to make more pillows for breast surgery patients. It was a fantastic outpouring of offers to help!
- Starting to plan for our First Communion instruction as well as our 2020 VBS program
- Working with the Pastor on our Lent and Lunch devotional program which we first started in 2019 and were looking forward to continuing in 2020. Two of them were held, with a really nice group in attendance.
- Beginning to “vision” with Marsha Staub what a Prayer Ministry program could look like here. I was very excited she wanted to lift up this all important piece of our spiritual lives.
- Attending the monthly Women's Breakfast. Can't beat that warm fellowship, even at that time of day!

### **Then came March 12.**

When Pastor, Susan and I left here that afternoon after rapidly making many phone calls to begin cancelling events, I had no idea what we were stepping into. Ministry was about to be turned upside-down...

### **“The Season of Shutdown”**

For all who worked in the church, both professionally and voluntarily, how we did “church-work” dramatically changed. As it became apparent that this was to be a much longer than expected journey we all had to adapt, whether we worked with worship, faith formation or administration. New Hanover stepped up to the plate. Worship creatively continued. A new essential ministry – feeding those in need – was born. And I, as Deacon and Director of Christian Education, had to figure out how to keep faith formation going in some



way, shape or form. It was a whole new learning adventure. During those initial months, working from home, I spent my days....

- Looking, looking, looking!!! My main task was to find ways to learn virtually. As the days went by publishers began to offer more resources so I was soon able to provide our Sunday School families with weekly online lessons. I also got a chance to dust off creative writing skills and develop some additional learning opportunities for special times like Holy Week and Easter. I offered other kinds of helps like passing along ideas of available children's and parenting books.
- Communicating. That was key since we no longer saw each other in person. This called for many emails, texts and phone calls with staff, volunteers and just folks I wanted to check in on. I helped with the "congregational calling" and made some new acquaintances! Our Sunday School family mailing list was updated. I sent cards to first communion students and graduates. It just was that need to keep staying connected!
- Zooming! I slowly began to become a little more tech savvy (trust me, that left for a wide-open learning field). There were Zoom meetings with staff, committees and colleagues. "Attending" Webinars also became a way of life, ranging from ways to do both online and offline faith formation sharing to ways to pastorally care for your congregation. I found myself being very grateful for technology!
- Stretching out of the comfort zone. I had to figure out how to do VBS virtually when we realized even that was going to be impacted by this virus. I was blessed with a publisher quickly rising to the need of most churches, who developed some wonderful material – and by the fact that our neighboring Lutheran churches wanted to partner up with us! Suddenly things started falling into place....
- Working with a "Pillow Angel." Georgann Geiser stepped in and kept pillow production going. She graciously became the "pillow headquarters" for the various volunteers who were all a part of this project, who dropped off and picked up supplies as needed there on Moyer Rd. With her dedicated guidance and her expert help we ended up having over 70 pil-

lows to be distributed! Thank you my "pillow ladies" for lending your cutting, sewing and stuffing hands! Many women are feeling your "healing touch."

- Birthing a new ministry. Unable to start a prayer ministry as planned, I developed the idea of partnering up each Sunday School family with a "Prayer Buddy" – a member who didn't have kids in Sunday School. I tried to match up folks whose paths didn't often cross in church. So the great search was on for "prayers"!

### **The Season of "New Normal"**

On June 29 I came back into my office. It was strange at first. I wandered into classrooms which stood as if frozen in time, everything still reflecting March 8, the last Sunday we all met together. And still, almost a year later, the halls are eerily silent. And waiting for the "great return." But ministry has needed to go on. The last half of year brought some new challenges, but some blessings as well! In that time I was gifted with chances to....

- Work with a truly fun way of doing VBS. I sure missed the kids and adults, but I was grateful to know that we celebrated "Compassion Camp" with new friends, new ways of learning about God's love and even watched acts of compassion continue after the five weeks of online lessons were done. I was grateful for a chance to share some of that story as part of the sermon on August 2. I hope the chance to collaborate is carried over into this year's program however that may look!
- Figure out how to keep forming faith. And to keep folks somewhat connected. I worked with some others to help develop a questionnaire for our Sunday School families to see what they wanted. I knew going into it many were exhausted from doing so much computer time and that wasn't what was desired. Most of all they just missed seeing each other. So much of my time over the fall and coming into winter was spent in developing materials and resources for "Faith Formation Bags To Go." We had two successful outdoor events – a "Socially Distanced and Masked Fall Fest" in October and an "Advent Drive-By." The CE Board and I were SO pleased at the wonderful turnout. It was like having mini-family reun-

ions. To see everyone's faces, masked as they were, was just so needed! We even got to have a little bit of normalcy by honoring our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders with their Bibles and our last year's Sunday School staff with gifts.

- Bring our Mid-Week Study ladies together on a beautiful October afternoon. We sat on folding chairs under the portico, 6 feet apart and masked. And we laughed at how strange that was. But it didn't matter, we were together again!
- Uplift prayer. In addition to our Prayer Buddies we now have a Prayer Chain. I approached our Thursday morning group to see if they would be willing to become the NHELCC Prayer Chain, which they all willingly said "Yes" to. We started getting requests almost immediately after we started up. As of this writing we have over 30 people we are praying for. What a humbling experience. Last but not least, prayers can be more than words. Our prayer shawl ministry has continued despite Covid. And one of our knitters, Jean Moser has been wonderful in working with me to create some very special prayer items made for some very special young children. Thank you Jean!
- Continue learning through webinars and Zoom offerings as how to minister to churches during this unprecedented time
- Communicate. Then communicate some more! Figuring out how to get the word out about events, resources etc. has become key to all of our planning. Not everyone being online makes it more complex. More time than ever is being spent on emails, texts and phone calls whether it's connecting with families, keeping on the same page with committees and council or just checking in with folks to see how they are doing. There is time spent keeping bulletin announcements current, along with monthly newsletter articles and council reports. We now have our One-Call which vastly helps. Throughout it all, I have been very grateful for Scott Geiser who graciously helped set up a new Faith Formation page on our website so we can get even more resources and information out to folks. 2020 was the year to use words to get the Word out!

- Be a very small part of a very big ministry. In late spring until about mid-October I had the chance to do some volunteer work with the new food ministry. My husband and I had a standing "Sunday morning date" to help collect the donated food and bring it back into the church to store and distribute. I had the chance to genuinely see "God's Work, Our Hands" in action. Wow. Words cannot express enough thanks for all that Chris and the volunteers have done to keep God's children fed during these difficult times. And donors – couldn't be doing it without them. We are blessed by ALL of our "Kitchen angels"!

**And speaking of thanks...**this crazy year would have been far worse without the deep dedication and commitment to so many who helped keep faith, church and community at the forefront. I am especially indebted to my Christian Education Board who served this past year: Barbara Repa, Scott and Georgann Geiser, Vicki Mutter, Carolyn Fleming, Amy Marazas, Megan Meeker and Suzanne Weller. They pitched in wherever and however needed. They kept me lifted up in my ministry. They were creative and determined to not let this virus keep us from being a learning community. When this is all over they are all getting enormous hugs! I am also grateful for Rosalie Lisa and the Mission Service Committee who, too, kept our outreach going, even in these "socially distanced" times. I deeply appreciate other volunteers who stepped up to the plate to keep us all connected – our Prayer Buddies and Prayer Chain folks. Last but not least, I'm blessed to be part of a staff that deeply cares for this congregation's safety, well-being and spiritual nurture. They all were willing to step up to serve, in new ways, because they knew that it was important to keep "feeding" our church family during these trying times.

### **A New Season.....**

So what did I learn from this crazy, mixed-up year? I learned that that despite the darkness, the unknowing, the fears, the frustration...there were blessings. There were needed reminders of what is truly important in life. I learned that....

- Slowing down made more room for one-on-one interactions. For more conversation and learning about one another.
- Compassion and empathy came forth more easily during this time. And it's something

that needs to stay in the forefront going into the future. I did much more trying to “put my self in someone else’s shoes”: Like those of our parents who were and still are feeling all the stress from family life, work life, adjusting to school scenarios, and living in front of computers. Like those who lived alone and were cut off from basic human connections. And like the shoes of children and youth whose lives were uprooted and changed around. May I continue to put on all those shoes, even if sometimes they don’t seem to fit.

- And this was the biggie....that what it all boils down to... was and is that the heart of all we hold dear is the “having of one another.” The community. The being with each other. I think, what not only I, but so many others here, have mourned most is the not being together. The not seeing each other, listening to each other, hugging each other, not sharing meals around Fellowship Hall tables, or even more importantly around the life-giving spiritual meal of the Lord’s Supper. I will strive to nev-

er again take for granted the gift of my church family nor my personal family. I end now with something I shared in my last council report. I shared how after two weeks of self-quarantining with the rest of our immediate family we were finally able to have both of our children, their spouses and our grandchildren all together, *inside* our home for Christmas. That hadn’t happened since the shutting down in March. My son texted me later that night and told me that when he was putting my four year old grandson, Henry, to bed a little earlier, he asked him what had been his favorite part of the day. Henry replied right away, “It wasn’t opening the presents Daddy, it was that we could all eat together again!” Out of the mouth of a pre-schooler. His words grabbed my heart. Gave me hope. And I could feel a new and healing season to come.....for all of us.

Peace and blessings,  
Deacon Carol

## Handbell Choir Director’s Report

The year 2020 for the Handbell Choir began like every other year with fun, hard work, and service to the music ministry of NHELC. The choir played for the prelude on February 23 at both services. And then mid-March, the Handbell Choir program came to a halt. COVID-19 hit, the church was closed, and all practices were put on hold. Since COVID got worse in the following months instead of better, Council suspended the program indefinitely.

During the suspension, pre-recorded selections by the Handbell Choir from prior years were incorporated into the services that were posted on the church’s website and Facebook. Thank you to Priscilla Landis, Director of Music, for her diligence in securing copyright permissions to permit the streaming of these musical selections.

In October, the Handbell Choir was permitted to resume as long as all precautions established by the CDC and New Hanover’s COVID team were followed. Consequently, the choir of eleven ringers was divided into two ensembles of six - seven ring-

ers. This allowed for the required physical distancing and each ensemble practiced on a different day and time. The two ensembles along with a few handbell solos by Barbara Eisenhart, have provided musical selections for five worship services since the beginning of November.

Due to the COVID virus, the “music on the move” ministry in 2020 was discontinued. It is our hope that some day we again will be able to present programs for residents at area senior living facilities.

In May we thanked and bid farewell to Amanda Dodge who headed to Maine for college in August. She was in the bell choir for three and a half years and is greatly missed. Thank you, Amanda!

There are twelve members in the Handbell Choir. I would like to thank each of the following persons for their flexibility and dedication during this year of challenge and learning new ways to “make it work.” They all bring a spirit of joy and enthusiasm to their ensembles. We have a lot of fun! A big thank you

is extended to Vicki Dotterer, Lynn Fegley, Ben Fowler, LuAnne Fowler, Wayne Fowler, Marlene Hansley, Brenda Hunsberger, Donna Kehs, Jean Moser, Barbara Noecker, Marsha Staub, and this fall we welcomed Carolyn Springer.

The Handbell Choir looks forward to the day when we may all ring together as one choir!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Eisenhart  
Handbell Choir Director



In 2020, NHELCC said "Good bye" to a beloved Director of Music Ministry Priscilla Landis.



Worship services evolved in style and format. Transforming into a blended service, the congregation is inspired weekly by the musical talents of GRACE Band Leader Richard Thomas.



## Audit Committee Report

Don Wirt, chairman

The Audit Committee includes the following auditors as its members serving a three year term. The following auditing action was taken during the month of February 2020 and included the auditing of the following accounts for years 2017, 2018, and 2019. Auditors were assigned to perform the audits as follows:

Don Wirt, chairperson - Mission Service

Bill Allen - Cemetery

Vicki Beaver – Prepared a list of records needed for the audit of the General Fund just when the pandemic closed in person meetings at the church.

Ed Becker – Picnic Grove

Jim Gross – Memorial Fund and Building Fund

Scott Geiser

Steve Weidner – Christian Education

The auditors completed the auditing of the various treasuries of NHELCC. The General Fund will be au-

dated as soon the Treasurer provides the necessary documents to complete an audit.

We are pleased to report that no omissions were found in the completed audits and the results show the records are fairly stated. We thank our treasurers for their fine record keeping and the care taken to manage our treasuries.

The committee will begin assembling the results in a form which can be presented to the congregation.

We are planning to complete the audits of all treasuries for the 2020 financial activities in the coming months.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Wirt

# 2019 Audited Annual Reports

## Building Fund

Balance January 1, 2019		\$43,226.44
Deposits in Transit from General Fund, December 31, 2018		—
<b>Total Balance from January 1, 2019</b>		<b>\$43,226.44</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations/Offerings	10,516.57	
Deposits in Transit from General Fund December 31, 2019	5,082.00	
MMR Account Interest	<u>22.54</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$15,621.11</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>\$58,847.55</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bookkeeping Corrections	20.00	
Church Exterior Fascia Refurbishment	14,675.00	
Fellowship Hall Audio System	609.72	
Fire Detection System Upgrade	8,550.00	
Church Signage Project	967.76	
Church Lock Re-keying	<u>515.00</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$25,337.48</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019</b>		<b>\$33,510.07</b>

## Cemetery Fund

<b>Balance December 31, 2018</b>		<b>\$6,540.74</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Interest—Invesco Trust Fund	3,805.04	
Offerings	1,735.00	
Donations—Badman, Peck, Moyer, Hunsberger	640.00	
Sale of Lots	2,500.00	
Simply Giving	1,848.33	
Foundations	1,456.00	
Grave Opening	<u>1,050.00</u>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$13,034.37</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>\$19,575.11</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Labor	9,356.64	
Perpetual Care Account	1,250.00	
Gas & Oil & Filters	1,281.96	
Repairs and Parts	647.44	
Concrete	898.00	
Stamps	11.00	
Spigot Repairs in Cemetery	57.03	
New Tractor	2,352.25	
Flowers & Hardware to Repair Stones	137.91	

Tools	97.67	
New Check Charge	26.78	
Grass Seed	24.66	
Grave Opening	<u>500.00</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$16,641.34</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019</b>		<b>\$2,933.77</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
<b>Trust Fund at Oppenheimer Value As December 31, 2019</b>		<b>\$98,923.28</b>

### Christian Education Fund

<b>Balance January 1, 2019</b>		<b>\$9,931.72</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Camp Falckner Income	825.00	
Christian Education Envelope	4,573.00	
Mid-week Study Group Income	84.00	
Simply Giving	587.00	
SS Offering	1,670.94	
Vacation Bible School Income	495.00	
VBS Service Project	<u>400.13</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$8,635.07</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>\$18,566.79</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Adult Education	258.34	
Book Order	180.00	
Camp Falckner Expense	1,194.13	
Catechetical Curriculum	155.85	
First Communion	436.82	
GIFT Sunday	457.56	
Lenten Lunch	46.61	
Library	27.32	
Mid-week Study Group Expense	117.90	
Special Events	162.34	
Sunday School	1,356.01	
Supplies	448.95	
Teacher Appreciation	288.47	
Third Grade Bibles	194.30	
Vacation Bible School Expense	1,194.36	
Women's Retreat	<u>180.00</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$6,698.96</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019</b>		<b>\$11,867.83</b>

## Memorial Fund

<b>Balance January 1, 2019</b>		<b>\$38,654.61</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Contributions	10,860.00	
Interest	<u>3.64</u>	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$10,863.64</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>\$49,518.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Piano	2,964.00	
Nursery Equipment	498.14	
Refrigerator and Freezer	2,738.00	
Handbells	1,869.50	
Additional Handbell	380.00	
Bank Charge	<u>5.20</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$8,454.84</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019</b>		<b>\$41,063.41</b>

## Mission Service Fund

<b>Balance January 1, 2019</b>		<b>\$5,743.62</b>
<b>Income</b>		
ELCA Good Gifts	210.00	
Garden Table	19.10	
Living Gifts Fair	3,009.00	
Mission Offering Envelopes	1,053.00	
Redner's Register Tapes	132.59	
Rejoicing Spirits	392.00	
Simply Giving	490.00	
Swamp Picnic Yard Sale	<u>1,250.00</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$6,555.69</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>		<b>\$12,299.31</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Homeless Ministry	264.86	
Living Gifts Fair	773.95	
Prayer Shawls	84.90	
Social Ministry	<u>647.20</u>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,770.91</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019</b>		<b>\$10,528.40</b>

## Picnic Grove Fund

<b>Balance January 1, 2019</b>	<b>\$20,070.87</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Loaves and Fishes Dinner Donations	1,323.00
Picnic Grove Rental	250.00
Soup Fundraiser	700.00
Spaghetti Supper	1,495.00
Pancake Breakfast	0.00
Great Swamp Picnic	8,615.00
Monetary Gifts	45.00
December 2018 Loaves and Fishes	<u>160.00</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$12,588.00</b>
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$32,658.87</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Soup Sale	0.00
Loaves and Fishes	606.96
Spaghetti Supper	982.12
Pancake Breakfast	0.00
Swamp Picnic	6,075.41
Mowing	786.51
Electric	678.59
Septic Maintenance/Drain	835.00
Water Testing & Treatment	272.50
Fire Extinguishers	55.00
Youth (FLUTTER) Donation	200.00
New Checks	31.02
Grove Supplies/Maintenance	1,859.18
Stamps	11.00
Thumb Drive	<u>10.59</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,403.88</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2019</b>	<b>\$20,254.99</b>
<b>American Funds Account</b>	
<b>Mark Levorgood's Eagle Project</b>	
Balance January 1, 2019	\$5,768.87
Balance December 31, 2019	\$6,771.44



Rejoicing Spirits  
worshippers know  
they were not  
forgotten.



After nearly eight months of not worshipping together due to the pandemic, members of the Rejoicing Spirits Worship Team - Donna Kehs, Todd and Stacey Rothermel and Pastor Scott and Marsha Staub - visited residents at four of the participating homes.



# Building Fund Report

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Officer:

Scott Repa, secretary/treasurer

Jim Gross, council liaison

The mission of the NHEL C Building Fund is to identify and finance the capital needs of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church in partnership with the standing committees of the congregation and congregational council. During 2020 only one project, the completion of the automation and keyless entry system for the office entrance doors, was financed through building fund. With the initiation of designated giving efforts in support of upgrading the HVAC systems in our multipurpose room/education wing and planned replacement of deteriorating doors/windows in the facility it is expected that building fund reserves will be called upon in the coming year.

The NHEL C Building Fund is thankful for the financial support it receives from the congregation, allowing it to fund the preservation and enhancement of church facilities. We are also grateful for the support of the many people who work tirelessly throughout the year to execute the repair and maintenance of our building and grounds. As we participate in the many activities that take place at NHEL C throughout the year the benefits the church facilities provide to the congregation and the surrounding community are readily apparent. It is a privilege to be caretakers of this platform from which to carry God's word and work into the world.

Submitted by Scott Repa

# Christian Education Board Report

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Board Members:

Barbara Repa, president

Scott Geiser, treasurer

Carolyn Fleming, Sunday School coordinator

Vicki Mutter, board member

Georgann Geiser, board member

Amy Marazas, board member

Megan Meeker, board member

Deacon Carol Detweiler, D.C.E., staff resource person

Mission Statement: "Through our teaching and learning ministries we are called to uplift and share God's Word, inviting all persons to hear, engage, and live out the Good News."

The purpose of the Christian Education Board is to implement and coordinate the education programs of the church. The Board is accountable to the Church Council.

The Board:

- Thanks the congregation for supporting the Sunday School programs through weekly giving and the quarterly envelopes.

- Thanks the Sunday morning financial and Attendance Crew: Gary Moser, Ryan Waltermeyer, and Brian Hansley.
- Planned and hosted two Gift Sundays in January and February.
- Purchased 3 new rocking chairs for the nursery and a rolling car using memorial funds.
- Conducted mid-year reviews for the catechism students on February 5, 2020.
- Supported the annual Women's Retreat in February led by Deacon Carol Detweiler. We had a fantastic and fun group of NHEL C and Trinity Lutheran women.
- Greeted members and handed out homemade crosses to our Sunday School students during the Palm Sunday drive by blessing. Big thanks to Vicki Mutter for making the crosses.
- Congratulations to the Confirmation class who were confirmed on May 31<sup>st</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> graders

who received their First Holy Communion on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

- Planned and hosted a virtual Vacation Bible School, Camp Compassion, for 5 Wednesdays that start in June. Twenty-two families/34 children from surrounding churches and communities enjoyed learning about God online and safe at home.
- Thanks Marlene Hansley, Donna Kehs, Vicki Mutter, and the rest of the staff who once again planned and co-directed a successful day camping experience in July for our youth at Camp Falckner.
- Planned and hosted our first Faith Formation gathering in October in the church parking lot to kick off Sunday School activities and cele-

brate fall. Third graders received their Bibles and Sunday School teachers received a Thank You gift.

- Planned and hosted a drive by in December for families to receive their yearly Christmas ornament, snacks, and Faith Formation information.
- We thank Scott Geiser and Carol Detweiler for designing a new Faith Formation page for the church website.

The Board wishes to thank Deacon Carol Detweiler for her innovative programming and continued leadership!!

Submitted by Barbara Repa

## Constitution Committee Report

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Member: Donald Wirt, chairperson

The following are some of the projects and objectives accomplished this year.

The larger task this year and still in progress is the revision/updating of our Church Constitution and By-laws. Our current document was last revised and published in 2014. Over the past several years there have been numerous additions recommended by the ELCA. Our current goal is to update our document to be more consistent with the ELCA recommended constitution for ELCA Churches. The activities to accomplish this goal were curtailed in March due to the pandemic.

The Committee conducted two review sessions of the proposed revisions to the constitution on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. The sessions were announced in the bulletin and invited interested members to join the sessions.

Chapters 1 through and including Chapter 11 were reviewed in late 2019.

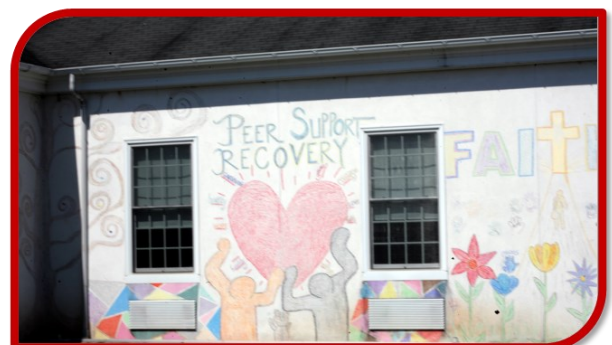
Participants from Brush with the Law, a non-profit foundation and residents from local recovery houses whom NHELIC has been supporting, teamed up to create this chalk mural depicting the peace, hope and love shared through NHELIC's Peer Support Ministry.

A third session was held in late January 2020 at which the remainder of the proposed revisions were reviewed.

The Congregation Council has a few decisions to be made throughout the chapters reviewed, to determine if further change is required, where there is suggested ELCA wording that is different than our current constitution. The activity will resume in 2021.

Submitted,

Donald Wirt, chairperson



# Endowment Committee Report

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Chairperson: Don Wirt, Allen Care, Bryce Manthorne, and Herman Richard

The committee continues its work of formulating a new policy structure and content of an expanded policy to guide the church in managing the NHELTC Trust Fund.

The committee's task is to develop a document to guide the congregation in the management of the gifts generously contributed by inspired members to leave a legacy for ministry at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. In addition, the committee will encourage and attract current giving, manage with Congregational Council oversight, the committee will manage current funds, income and investment opportunities to ensure long term stability and growth to support the mission of our church community.

The committee submitted the first draft document to the Congregation Council at the end of this year for their review and comment. The Endowment

Committee recommended that if they are satisfied with the document, to approve it as a Continuing Resolution so it can be tried and tested before incorporating it into the Constitution revisions. The Constitution revisions project most likely will be picked up in 2021 and could take the better part of the year to prepare them for Synod review/ approval and then to the congregation for approval and adoption. The Council could also decide to have a legal review performed before including it in the Constitution revisions.

As a Continuing Resolution, the document can be revised as determined by council. The main purpose is to have something they can use now.

Submitted by,

Donald Wirt

# Evangelism Committee Report

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Members: Donald Wirt, chairperson, Vicki Mutter, Marlene Hansley, Jean Moser and Michael Lindenmuth

The committee, the year of the pandemic, had a relatively speaking short year for in-person meetings. The Pastor and Staff were very supportive in helping us accomplish the evangelism. The Pastor continued to meet prospective new members. We know our COVID worship team was also responsible for members attending on-line services and outdoor services held in the picnic grove or parking lot at the church.

Despite the pandemic we can still celebrate and welcome our new members.

**Candis Elaine Peto**, August 20, 2020

**Susan Fretz**, September 17, 2020

**Richard Leon, Jr. and Deborah Lynn Becker**, August 20, 2020

**Ricardo Garcia and Ayla Ligia** and baptized children **Emmily Salas, Genesis Garcia and Richard Garcia**, September 17, 2020.

I know we haven't had the opportunity for most of us to meet and greet our new members in person. This is something for us to look forward to in the months to come.

We also celebrate one of our newest and youngest member, Jamison Andrew Rothermel, son of Andrew and Kendra (Heck) Rothermel was baptized on September 20, 2020 at a worship service in the picnic grove. Our church family is growing.

Another first for NHELCC, we saw our confirmands, Adam Kenneth Becker, Cara Janelle Boyer, Matthew Robert Cavalari, Kelsie Lynne Rohrbach, Chase William Sharp, and Gavin Somers Smith being confirmed in an outdoor service in the parking lot. To them we extend our congratulations and look forward to properly greeting them when we return to in-person worship.

The following were some of the projects and objectives accomplished this year.

- Marsha Staub continued to manage the electronic messaging on our sign at Swamp Pike. This was one external reminder to the community that NHELCC was continuing our worship services and the sign served as our invitation to them to join us. Thank you Marsha.
- In 2019, an opportunity to do a township wide advertisement arose when we were approached by the township with an opportunity to purchase space on a New Hanover Township map that will be going to all township residents, and new residents moving into the township over the next three years. This map will reach over 6500 homes in our immediate community.

The map was to be distributed in the spring of 2020. The map project completion was delayed in 2020 and was not distributed. We have been reassured the project will be completed and maps distributed in the near future.

- Information racks were purchased to display information about the church, our Christian Education programs and services, information about our various programs like scouting, and church history. They are placed in the Welcome Center and the Christian Education wing.

We thank the staff for their assistance and support of our committee work.

As we look forward to 2021, we hope to continue our programs renewed or revived from 2019 and expand our outreach to our members and our community. We invite you to join us. We normally meet monthly and our meetings generally last about 60-90 minutes. If you are interested or you have ideas, please contact any of the committee members.

Submitted by Donald S. Wirt

## Memorial Fund Board Report

### Committee Members

Andy Van Dyke, president

Jo Anne Wirt, secretary/treasurer

Don Wirt

The Memorial Fund serves the congregation by providing a holding account for contributions donated to NHELCC in the memory of a church member. We acknowledge all contributions following the death of a loved one and apprise the family of the contributors. During this time, we also help determine the family's intention as to how they would like the church to use the contributions. These requests are submitted to the Congregation Council for approval.

In 2020, the Memorial Fund received \$6085.00 in contributions in memory of church members.

This year Fair Linen for the Altar was purchased. Furniture for the nursery to be used during Sunday School classes and during church services was purchased. These purchases were made with contributions that were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of loved ones. Contributions were transferred to the Food Ministry and to the General Fund as requested by family members.

Submitted by Jo Anne Wirt

The Loaves and Fishes Food Ministry provides nutritious meals to more than 100 meals per day.



# Mission Service/Social Ministry Report

*“Transforming lives through mission and service. Empowering the people of God to fulfill the church’s mission of promoting love, justice, freedom, and peace by communally responding in organized ways to individual, societal, and global needs.”*

*Committee members: Carol Detweiler, staff contact, Vicki Mutter, council liaison, Rosalie Lisa, chairperson, Scott Geiser, treasurer, Georgann Geiser, Donna Kehs, Barbara Noecker, Marlene Hunsley and Barbara Repa, who recently joined us.*

✱ **We thank God for the responsiveness and generosity** of our congregation in regards to this year’s Virtual Angel Tree. Donations of over 150 Angel Tree gifts were delivered to Gemma, (previously Silver Springs Martin Luther School) and The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. In addition, JoAnne Wirt and Vicki Mutter sought Thrivent monies to provide additional gifts to the Cluster during this pandemic season.

✱ Our gratitude to Georgann Geiser for overseeing and organizing volunteers to safely and at a distance to help her cut, stuff, and sew pillows. These pink, heart shaped pillows are distributed to area hospitals for patients to use for physical and spiritual comfort following breast cancer surgery.

✱ A winter knitting group (Jean Moser, Rosalie Lisa, Lily Hoffman, and Brenda Hunsberger) knitted Prayer Shawls to be distributed to provide warmth and comfort to those experiencing illness or hardships. Lucille Powell contributes her artwork for this project. This group was interrupted due to the pandemic, although individuals continued to knit shawls on their own. Gratitude to Carol Detweiler for overseeing the distribution of the Prayer Shawls.

Quite often completed shawls appear--- thank you everyone who prayerfully knits for us!

Lily Hoffman oversaw a knitting class via zoom. Thank you, Lily for sharing your creativity and time.

✱ Gratitude to Vicki Mutter for the enthusiasm and love that she pours into the Kindness Garden. Many congregants are involved with painting the rocks with uplifting messages and Bible verses and placing them in the Kindness Garden which surrounds the sign in the parking lot.

✱ Our group oversaw the distribution of Benevolence Monies to Boyertown Multi-Service, Pottstown Cluster, J Walkers, Boyertown Salvation Army.

✱ Hundreds of pounds of food items and household needs were collected and donated to Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Gratitude to Barbara Noecker for overseeing this project.

✱ Paper Retriever is available for recycling paper goods. Monies collected support our committee projects.

✱ Redners tape collections are counted and taken to Redners. Monies support our committee projects.

✱ Lay Ministers provide visits and communication with shut ins. Vicki Mutter along with other congregants regularly visit members who are shut in when able, although Covid 19 restrictions have made this challenging at times this year.

✱ Swamp Picnic yard sale was cancelled this year due to Covid 19 restrictions.

✱ Christian Grief Books are provided to our congregants or family members of congregants who are mourning the loss of loved ones. They are mailed four times in the first year to offer support from our church to those in their journey of grief.

**A special thanks goes to Georgann Geiser for her faithful service to the Mission Services/Social Ministry committee. Georgann is stepping down after many years of involvement with us and we thank her and wish her the best in new endeavors.**

We meet the fourth Monday of every other month. We welcome new members, new ideas, projects--- PLEASE join us as a member or to initiate a project or help with our committee.

We look forward to continuing our ministries in 2021 with the Lord's guidance.

Gods work, Our hands.

Rosalie Lisa



Over 150 gifts were collected for the Angel Tree program.

## Picnic Grove Board Report

Sally Sugita, chairperson/Council liaison  
Barbara Noecker, secretary  
Lisa Caputo, treasurer (January – June)  
Kelly Hauser, treasurer (July – December)  
Chris Fatzinger                      Jim Gross  
Georgann Geiser                      Marty Hauser  
Scott Geiser                              Rick Hausch  
Nancy Gross                              Jeff Renninger

The Picnic Grove is an historical extension of our church ministry and is available for use by church members and affiliated organizations. We continue to partner with the Fellowship committee to provide opportunities for fellowship both at the picnic grove and the church to include our members and our neighbors.

Following are highlights and events during 2020:

- The annual Soup Sale was held on February 1, 2020 and offered beef vegetable, ham and bean and chicken pot pie soups. We sold over 150 quarts of soup.
- Our next big events would have been the annual Spaghetti Dinner in March and The Great Swamp Picnic in August as well as possibly a few smaller events in between. However, March added a new word to our conversations – COVID-19! Everything was cancelled, put on hold or readjusted to safely meet the current guidelines for gathering.
- During the summer and into the fall the picnic grove was a-buzz with activity nearly every day or evening. In early July drive-in worship services were moved from the church parking lot to the picnic grove to provide more shade for the worship participants and those in their cars. This arrangement continued through October.

- During the week various committees and groups met at the picnic grove; this included the NHEL C Cub Pack and Boy Scouts, the Peer Support Recovery Ministry, the NA group and other committee meetings. Marlene Hansley and Donna Kehs found a way to continue with Camp Falckner during the challenging period and were able to provide our youth the opportunity to have fellowship, Bible study, worship, crafts and other activities in an informal and casual setting.
- When non-essential businesses and schools shut down in March, Chris Fatzinger and Sally Sugita jumped into action to provide meals for our neighbors and shut-in members. They asked the congregation for donations of various food items. Numerous volunteers helped with food preparation, boxing the food to be delivered and delivering these boxes to homes from Sanatoga to Gilbertsville to Fleetwood and Topton. By the end of 2020, over 20,000 meals had been delivered!
- Our last event was the Potato Filling Sale on November 21 in which we had 33 orders for a 5 lb. pan of filling.

Maintaining the grove and its facilities throughout the year requires an ongoing commitment from committee members and other volunteers. They oversee grove rentals, leaf raking, picking up sticks and provide maintenance to the buildings and equipment. The NHEL C Cub Pack and Boy Scout Troop have also helped with grove upkeep.

Submitted by

Barbara Noecker, secretary

# Property Committee Report

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The Property Committee oversees and directs all of the cleaning, maintenance and improvements to the church buildings and grounds, as well as the Church's Insurance Program. The committee is especially grateful to Thomas Faust who continues to look after and care for our building in his role as Facility Maintenance Supervisor. We are blessed to have the team of James and Catherine Trotter serving as our sextons. Their wide-ranging capabilities in the field of janitorial service continues to keep our building looking its best.

With the pandemic rages on, 2020 was an unusual year as far as Property goes, due to limited facility usage and access. While the number of projects was curtailed, the most important items were addressed. They include:

- ◆ Revisions to and improvement of parking lot lighting. The switch to LED's will eliminate difficult maintenance and reduce electric costs. Thanks to Steve Eisenhart and Ron Hedrick for spearheading and completing this project.
- ◆ Completion of electronic code lock system. This has eliminated problems with door keys and who has them to a great extent. Thanks to Steve Eisenhart for completing this project.
- ◆ COVID building protections. Hand sanitizer stations and plastic protection barriers were purchased to be used in keeping everyone safe.
- ◆ The HVAC/Boiler project kicked off. With limited building usage it was the perfect time

to begin the work on this project that was three years in the planning. Phase one, which included replacing the current boiler which is almost 50 years old, with two smaller units, and installing an electric water heater for usage in the summer when the boilers are down, was completed. The new installation will improve reliability, save energy, and is an investment for decades to come. While the entire committee was essential in the decisions and planning, special thanks to Steve Eisenhart and Marty Hauser for their efforts over multiple years. I would also like to thank the congregation for their financial support and encourage additional donations to this project as we move on to the Air Conditioning upgrades.

The 2020 Property Committee members include: Steven Eisenhart, Ronald Fegley, Jim Gross, D. Martin Hauser, Ronald Hedrick, Norman Hunsberger, Gary Moser and James Trotter. If anyone has ideas or concerns about Property issues or would like to join the team, please contact any of the above members. Meetings had been held regularly the first Monday of the month prior to COVID 19 and are expected to resume soon. Please join us!

Respectfully,

Jim Gross

# Scouting Chartered Organization Representative Report

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Chartered Organization Representative: Scott Repa  
Cub Scout Cubmaster: Andrew Heizmann  
Cub Scout Pack Committee Chair: Andy Van Dyke  
Troop 367B Scoutmaster: Joe Schell  
Troop 367G Scoutmaster: Jon Mahr  
Troop 367B/367G Committee Chair: Seth Berger

2020 became a year vastly different from what had

been envisioned in the early plans of NHELIC's Pack 367 and Scouts BSA Troops 367B and 367G. Heading into the year, our three scouting units had planned a full slate of traditional Scouting activities. However, following the enactment of COVID restrictions in March, all units were forced to take a pause and reassess how the mission of Scouting could continue within the new, and ever changing, boundaries of "COVID life."

Following an initial operational pause, the Pack and Troops developed programming utilizing a combination of virtual and outdoor environments. Both Cubs and Scouts BSA were able to shift meeting activities to outdoor/socially distanced formats utilizing the NHELIC picnic grove, church grounds, and other venues throughout the year. Scouts BSA boy and girl units continued to meet outdoors weekly on Tuesday nights through even the late fall and winter months. While summer camp and weekend camping activities were curtailed, the boys and girls of Troops 367B/G did manage to work in weekends of camping in October and November at Resica Falls Scout Reservation and Musser Scout Reservation following the relaxing of restrictions. In the face of adversity, Scouts of all NHELIC 367 scouting units participated in service, learning, and recreational opportunities as they carried out their mission to live the principles of the Scout Oath and Law as part of the Continental District, Cradle of Liberty Council, of the Boy Scouts of America.

Rank advancement activities for our Scouts continued through the year. In March, 12 Scouts--

Franky Calcagni, Elise Schell, Grant Pope, Jason Atkins, Jason Grimm, Nathan Bechtel, Rhylan Becky, Avery Keeling, Belle Mahr, Ben Gabel, Domenic Capone, and Mason Artim-- earned their Arrow of Light, the highest award of the Cub Scout program. Female Scouts of Troop 367G moved forward on their paths toward earning the Eagle rank in their first full year of organization. The male Scouts of Troop 367B continued their own journeys toward Eagle, with four Scouts-- Matt Reitenbaugh, Nick Kulhawy, Zander Schell, and Reece Leotta—achieving this honor.

In a year fraught with unprecedented challenges, Scouting remained a vitally important component of NHELIC's outreach, serving to help develop strength of character and values in young adults in our community. As Scouts we strive to represent the best of both Scouting and the congregation of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church in all our actions and activities. Moving forward into 2021, the Scouts of New Hanover Pack and Troops 367B/G would like to thank the congregation for its continued support of Scouting.

## Stewardship Committee Report

Chairperson: Donald Wirt

This year, the year of the pandemic, was a challenging year in so many aspects of our church life and activity. This makes it difficult to report on our progress and accomplishments. With all church services being suspended and no one being able to worship in person, many normal activities and routines were changed. Attending church and placing an envelope into the offering plate just wasn't possible. Expenses continued, salaries for staff needed to be paid and new experiences of different types of expenses impacted the on-going need for contributions to sustain the operation of the church.

The pastor on numerous occasions spoke about the stewardship of our time, talent and financial giving in new and different ways. Members were encouraged to mail or drop off offerings to the church. Simply Giving, an on-line giving, was emphasized. Outdoor services offered collection points to drop off offerings after the drive in services were over. Our membership responded very well to this change.

We saw an increase in the number of members selecting Simply Giving and an increase in contributions through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from IRAs. The QCD is a method of making a contribution directly to a church without being taxed.

Sharing time and talents was also challenged by the creation of new areas where members' time commitment and new and different talents were needed. A Food Ministry was created to address the feeding of members of our community in need was implemented.

Hopefully, we will see a normalcy restored in this 2021 and church life will again be something we can share and enjoy.

If you are interested in serving on a committee that cultivates growth of our many gifts and blessings, please consider serving on the Stewardship Committee.

Submitted by,

Donald Wirt



# Worship & Music Committee Report

The Worship and Music Committee plans and coordinates all of New Hanover's worship services as well as oversees the recruitment and training of all of the volunteers who participate in worship. These volunteers include greeters, ushers, acolytes, crucifers, worship assistants, cantors, communion assistants, children's sermon presenters, and sound system operators. The committee also supports the GRACE and Rejoicing Spirits planning teams as well as the Altar Guild. If you would like to volunteer for one or more of these positions, please ask. Training is provided and no prior experience is necessary – all you need is the willingness to serve. Thank you to those who already do!

The COVID-19 pandemic changed much of what is listed above thanks to the cancellation of in-person worship services. While the committee did not meet as a group after March, Pastor Scott, Barbara Eisenhart, Priscilla Landis and Richard Thomas continued to make sure that our worship services were conducted in good order and made safe for those in the building. From March 15 to May 24, the worship services were pre-recorded and made available through social media and the church's website. Worship was held outside (in the parking lot from May 31 to July 4, in the picnic grove from July 11 to September 27, and again in the parking lot from October 4 to 25) with the congregation in their cars, listening to the service broadcast on the radio by an FM transmitter. For each of these outdoor services, the cars were positioned so that the pastor and musicians were visible, making it feel a little more personal. November 1 was the first service in the sanctuary since March, but the following week we returned to pre-recorded services due to a rise in COVID cases. As of this writing, it is unclear when the congregation will be able to return to in-person worship.

Despite the worship challenges that the pandemic brought, we were still able to gather for the festivals of the church year and milestone events in the life of our congregation. On Pentecost Sunday (May 31), six young people were confirmed in front of a congregation of over 200. During the service on June 27, Priscilla Landis, our Director of Music Ministries, was honored during her last service with us prior to retirement. Representatives of the Congregation Council and adult, children's and handbell choirs made remarks and presented her with gifts. She is missed, but we are grateful for the time that she served among us and

we wish her well in her retirement. On July 5, we welcomed Lauren Flack to the church staff as the Interim Director of Music Ministry, but said good bye to her the following month so that she might pursue her teaching career in northern Pennsylvania. Brian Tracey also joined the church staff on July 5 as the Interim Organist/Pianist and was with us until the end of October when he relocated to another state for business. On Christmas Eve, the congregation again gathered in the parking lot for worship and a live nativity, complete with live animals. Our historic church building, accented with two lighted Christmas trees and numerous sidewalk luminaries, made a beautiful backdrop for the service.

In addition to those mentioned above, the following people are to be commended for their efforts to enhance and make possible our worship services during the pandemic:

Audio/Video – Kevin Brunner, Amy Marazas, Scott Repa, Andrew Rothermel, and Andrew Van Dyke

Hymn Soloists – Carolyn Fleming and Sue Lowry  
Handbell Choir – Barbara Eisenhart (director) provided videos of anthems from this and past years that were inserted into the weekly service.

Website Coordination – Scott Geiser

People of all ages are welcome to be involved in the workings of the Worship and Music Committee. When we are able, we will resume our regular meeting schedule of the second Thursday of each month. Please join us! The 2020 members included: Barbara Eisenhart, Steven Eisenhart, Carol Estes, Nicole Ewing, Carolyn Fleming, and Faye Weidner. Staff members included: Pastor Scott Staub, Priscilla Landis and Richard Thomas

Those in leadership positions assisting the committee include:

Chairperson – Steven Eisenhart

Acolytes and Crucifers – Norman Hunsberger

Altar Guild – Barbara Eisenhart

Worship Assistant Coordinator – Faye Weidner

GRACE Planning Team – Sharon Tracey and Nicole Ewing

Rejoicing Spirits – Donna Kehs

Respectfully submitted,

Steven C. Eisenhart

# Altar Guild Report

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The purpose of the Altar Guild is to provide for the care of the altar, paraments, communion ware, baptismal ware, candles, flowers, confirmation gowns, and to decorate the worship space for special festivals in the church year. The Altar Guild works on teams and serves for one month at a time. The duties of the Altar Guild are vital for each worship service, and the members work closely with the pastor in preparing for all regular and special worship services plus festivals and special observances. These include Ash Wednesday, Mid-week Lenten services, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Blessing of the Fields, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Harvest Home, All Saints' Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Throughout a typical year, members also prepare for baptisms and funeral/memorial services when needed. But, 2020 was not a typical year, and fulfilling these responsibilities was a challenge.

The Altar Guild met one time, on February 17. In 2020, members faithfully fulfilled their duties for all Sunday services up until March 15, the Third Sunday in Lent, when the COVID-19 virus forced the closure of the church building and ended indoor worship. When video-taping of services for the website and Facebook began, the altar area continued to be prepared and decorated according to the Sundays in the Church year. However, this was completed by only a few essential members because of the shut-down.

In January, three new members were welcomed to the Guild: Vicki Dotterer, Lynn Fegley, and Nancy Wolfe. Thank you is extended to each of them

and to the following for their service in 2020: Sue Care, Barbara Eisenhart, Carol Estes, Becky Gallagher, Nancy Gross, Brenda Hunsberger, Barbara Johnson, Jane Johnson, Jean Moser, Susan Norris, Debbie Solazzo, and Marsha Staub. Kathy Taylor resigned at the end of 2019 after ten years of dedicated service. It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Barbara Johnson in October. Barbara always had a smile for everyone and was willing to help in her kind, gentle way. She is missed by all.

Greatly appreciated was the help of those who assisted the Altar Guild throughout the year: Dee Berger, Carl Eisenhart, Steven Eisenhart, Jim Gross, Rick Hausch, Betty Karver, Gary Moser, Jeff Renninger, Keith Renninger, Rick Solazzo, and Pastor Scott Staub. Thanks is also extended to Tina Phillips for providing the beautiful altar flower arrangements each week.

One new Fair Linen and two Corporals were purchased in February. Gift money given in honor of Ruth Wirt's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was used to make the purchase. A second Fair Linen was purchased with undesignated Memorial Fund monies. These items will be dedicated in 2021 and then will replace the worn linens currently in use.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Eisenhart

# 2021 Spending Plan

Account	2020	2021
<b>Regular General Fund Income</b>		
Regular Envelope Offering	270,000	223,500
Regular Simply Giving Offering	100,000	134,000
Regular Loose Offering Plate Offering	9,000	5,000
Trust Fund Interest Income	21,000	15,000
Thrivent Choice	7,500	5,000
Miscellaneous Income	5,000	2,500
<b>Total Regular Income</b>	<b>412,500</b>	<b>385,000</b>
<b>Other General Fund Income</b>		
2020 Paycheck Protection Grant		50,200
Fuel Oil Contributions	11,000	11,000
Bulletin Contributions	1,200	1,200
Flower Contributions	4,000	4,000
Facility Gratuity	5,000	5,000
Fellowship Activities	4,000	4,000
<b>Total Other General Fund Income</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>25,200</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>437,700</b>	<b>410,200</b>
<b>Benevolence Expenditures</b>		
SEPA Synod Benevolence	20,625	19,250
Other Agencies	20,625	19,250
Pastor's Discretionary Benevolence	500	500
<b>Total Benevolence Expenses</b>	<b>41,750</b>	<b>39,000</b>
<b>Payroll &amp; Related Expenses</b>		
Pastor Salary/Housing	78,000	81,120
Pastor Social Security/Medicare Taxes	5,967	6,206
<b>Total Defined Compensation</b>	<b>83,967</b>	<b>87,326</b>
Pastor Health Insurance	28,092	29,304
Pastor's Pension & Benefits Contribution	12,511	13,012
<b>Total Pastoral Compensation</b>	<b>124,570</b>	<b>129,641</b>
Supply pastor Gratuity	1,925	1,925
Supply Organist Gratuity	800	800
Director of Christian Education Salary	37,221	37,705
Director of Music Ministry Salary	25,302	25,631
Office Manager Salary	34,687	35,138
Bell Choir Director Salary	5,279	5,348
GRACE Worship Leader Salary	4,434	8,983
Bookkeeper Salary	3,697	3,745
Facility Maintenance Wages	6,000	6,000
Mowers' Wages	3,500	3,500
Staff Social Security/Medicare Taxes	9,189	9,643
Pastoral Automobile & Travel Expenses	4,000	4,000
Other Pastoral Professional Expenses	1,500	1,500
Pastoral Continuing Education	700	700

<b>Account</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>Payroll &amp; Related Expenses - continued</i>		
Staff Mileage	500	500
Staff Continuing Education	1,050	1,050
Synod Assembly/Convocation	1,000	1,000
State Background Checks	500	500
Workers' Compensation Insurance	1,700	1,500
Payroll Processing	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Payroll &amp; Related Expense</b>	<b>270,604</b>	<b>281,859</b>
<b>Property Expenses</b>		
Fuel Oil	16,000	11,340
Propane		800
Electric	9,000	8,500
Trash/Recycle	600	600
Telephone	2,200	2,200
Sewer	1,200	1,200
Grounds Maintenance	200	
General Maintenance	5,000	12,000
Janitorial Services	28,000	28,000
Janitor Supplies	1,500	2,000
Additional Recurring Janitorial Services	6,000	
Equipment Rental	750	750
Fire Alarm Contract	1,300	1,300
Water Testing		1,350
Snow Removal	2,500	2,500
Fire/Liability Insurance	13,000	13,500
Food Service License	80	100
<b>Total Property Expenses</b>	<b>87,330</b>	<b>86,140</b>
<b>Office Equipment Expenses</b>		
Copier Leases	6,500	6,500
Equipment Maintenance/Supplies	500	500
Equipment Purchase	4,500	4,500
Email/Internet Subscription	1,200	1,200
Professional IT/Network Support	2,500	2,500
Office Supplies/Bulletins	3,000	4,000
Simply Giving Fees	1,500	2,500
One Call (Auto-Messaging Software)	650	900
CDM+ (Membership Management Software)	900	1,400
Office 365 Subscription	500	1,200
Postage	2,000	2,000
Bank Deposit Box	70	70
Miscellaneous	--	81
<b>Total Office Equipment Expenses</b>	<b>23,820</b>	<b>27,351</b>
<b>Total Property &amp; Equipment Expenses</b>	<b>111,150</b>	<b>113,491</b>

<b>Account</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>		
Advertising	500	500
Fellowship Expenses	3,500	3,500
Historical Research/Archives Committee	250	250
Memorial Fund Supplies	50	50
Evangelism Committee	500	500
Stewardship Offering Envelopes	1,000	1,000
Word in Season	500	1,500
Other Expenses	396	500
Worship/Music		
Choir Music/Supplies	700	700
Handbell Music/Supplies	400	400
Copyright License	700	1,400
Guest Musician Gratuity	500	500
Video Services		9,000
Organ Maintenance	700	1,000
Piano Maintenance	500	750
Handbell Maintenance	-	-
Supplies	1,000	1,000
Altar Flowers	2,000	2,000
Altar Guild	1,000	1,500
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>14,196</b>	<b>26,050</b>

## **Peer Support Ministry Budget**

### **Income**

Peer Support Ministry Contributions	7,500
Peer Support Ministry Grants	15,000

### **Expenditures**

Peer Support Compensation	10,500
Professional Counseling Insurance Cost	2,500
Peer Support Facility Costs (to General Fund)	4,500
Peer Support Supplies, Food, Zoom Costs	5,000

**Total Peer Support Ministry** **22,500**

## **Food Ministry Budget**

### **Income**

Food Ministry Contributions	40,824
Food Ministry Grants	20,000

### **Expenditures**

Food & Supplies	25,824
Food Ministry Director Compensation	35,000

**Total Food Ministry** **60,824**