

Welcome to worship at
New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

**The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor
Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry
Lindsey Waltermeyer, Grace band leader**

We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!

**All worship can be viewed online at
newhanoverlutheran.org
facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch
and on YouTube.**

**May your worship experience strengthen you
with God's love and grace.**

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Joe, Cara, Hunter and Henry Houseal

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Words and music by Veni Emmanuel, translated by John Mason Neale, arranged by Thomas Helmore. Words and music are in public domain.

Please rise as you are able.

Gathering Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW #256

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Choir *Hurry, Hurry, Shepherds*

*"Hurry, Hurry, Shepherds" Words and music by Anne McNair. Arranged by William McNair.
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Please be seated.

Children's Message

Pastor Scott

First Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

Harry White

A reading from the book of Luke

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Here ends the reading.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Core Team Temple Talk

Sharon Tracey, Rick Hausch, Janet Posta, Josh Young,
Diane Beiler and Pastor Scott

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Lee Wesner, cantor

Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with

water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Message

Pastor Scott

Please rise as you are able.

Song of the Day *Jesus, Messiah*

Grace Band

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing

Chorus:

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing, love so amazing

Chorus

Bridge:

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Chorus

Ending:
Jesus Messiah
Lord of all
Lord of all

*“Jesus, Messiah” Words and music Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves.
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Please be seated.

Holy Baptism

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

I present Margo James Soupik for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God’s faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the
 Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Margo James Soupik and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Please rise as you are able.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

Blessed be God now and forever.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

Blessed be God now and forever.

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God now and forever.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Margo James Soupik, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Margo with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Margo, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Baptism Hymn

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW #595

Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Offertory Message

Choir Anthem

Every Valley

Chancel Choir

“Every Valley” Words and music by Patti Drennan. Words adapted from ISAIAH 40:4-5 by Patti Drennan. © 1999 by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Announcements

Please rise as you are able.

Sending Hymn *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

ELW #250

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Go get'em!!!

Postlude

In Excelsis Deo

Lee Ellis

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Announcements

Today

Congratulations to Margo “Maggie” James Soupik, who will be baptized this morning. Margo’s sponsors are Keith and Lindsey Miller.

Meet the Soupik Family — Jamie, Alyssa, Lainey and Maggie. We are neighbors of the church on Swamp Picnic Road, and have been attending the picnics, worship and J.A.M. Jamie is a carpenter and enjoys hunting, fishing and sports. Alyssa is a teacher and enjoys arts and crafts and reading. Lainey and Maggie attend J.A.M. (Jesus and Me). Their extended family includes two dogs, three cats and fish. We look forward to meeting our new church family and invite you to introduce yourself.

The bulletin is sponsored to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, sister, brother, nephew and in-laws by Nancy Wolfe.

The flowers are sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of Fred Smith by his family.

The Word in Season devotion booklet is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Steve’s mother’s 85th birthday by Steve and Faye Weidner.

Serving Today Head Usher: Todd Rothermel; Ushers: Stacey Rothermel and Nate Ewing; Lector: Harry White; Children’s Sermon: Pastor Scott; Acolyte: Ava Hubley

Serving Next Sunday 9:00 Head Usher: Ron Fegley; Usher: Faye Weidner; Lector: Ron Fegley; Acolyte: Faye Weidner

4:00 Head Usher: Steve Weidner; Ushers: Marty Hauser, George Trowbridge and Rick Solazzo; Lector: Miller Quigley; Children’s Sermon: Nikki Young; Acolyte: London Meeker; Communion Assistants: Donna Kehs and Nikki Young

8:00 Head Usher: Barbar Repa; Ushers: Bill Allen and Brian Flack; Lector: Erica Lucas; Acolyte: Elsa Lucas; Communion Assistants: Carolyn Fleming and Marsha Staub

Altar Guild Serving this Month Deb Solazzo, Barb Eisenhart and Marsha Staub

Check out this year's Christmas Pageant following the worship service this morning in Fellowship Hall. This year's pageant is a *Stellar Christmas* and will include some of the music from VBS in addition to some Christmas music. It will be out of this world!

An Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling Event will be held this afternoon, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Gather your friends and family members for a fun and uplifting time, singing favorite and beloved Christmas carols to our NHELCC homebound members. Carolers will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to plan the routes and pick up the goodie bags prepared at the Advent Social. After caroling, we will return to the church to enjoy some cookies and hot cocoa. Caroling is a wonderful opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer. Contact Director of Music Ministry Patricia Nyce or Jean Moser (610-367-0342) with any questions about the caroling.

The Nursery room is now open. It is located between the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall. Parents are welcome to use the room during worship services as needed. The room provides for a comfortable play area in a joyful environment, toys and books included. The room has access to a changing room and a private nursing room next door.

Update your information NHELCC is preparing a new directory with member names, addresses, phone numbers and family picture. To ensure accuracy, the information we currently have on file is available on Sundays in the Welcome Center and in front of the stage in Fellowship Hall. We ask you to review and update your family's information at one of these locations. If you cannot check your records in person and for you to submit your family photo, contact Nance White at 610-741-7977 or Nance2237@yahoo.com.

Calendar

Worship Service – Today, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online

Food Drop Off – Today, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

Food Delivery Pickup – Today, 10:00 AM, portico

Christmas Pageant – Today, 10:15 AM, room 1
Praise Band Rehearsal – Today, 11:15 AM, sanctuary
Christmas Caroling – Today, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, offsite, room 1
Rejoicing Spirits – Today, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, room 1, Welcome Center and Sanctuary

Prayer Ministry – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary
Cub Scouts – Monday, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, room 1

Walnut Woods Service – Tuesday, 10:00 AM
Boy Scouts – Tuesday, 6:30 PM, room 1

Food Drop Off – Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, kitchen
Food Delivery Pickup – Wednesday, 1:30 PM, portico
Loaves & Fishes Dinner – Wednesday, 5:45 PM
Addiction 12 Step – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, room 32
Brass Ensemble Rehearsal - Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:45 PM, room 15

Altar Guild Set-up – Thursday, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and Welcome Center

Bell Choir Rehearsal – Thursday, 6:15 – 7:30 PM, room 15
Council – Thursday, 7:00 PM, room 33

Worship Service – Next Sunday, 9:00 AM sanctuary and online
Food Drop Off – Next Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen
Praise Band Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 11:15 AM, sanctuary
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Next Sunday, 4:00 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Next Sunday, 8:00 PM

Walnut Woods Christmas Worship/Carol Sing Along for All Ages Join in the festivities with residents at Walnut Woods Apartments on Tuesday, December 19th, at 10:00 AM for a Carol Sing along and Worship. The facility is located at 35 N. Walnut St., Boyertown, PA 19512. Call Pastor Scott if you have any questions at 610-326-1335, ext. 1. Peace and see you there!

Upcoming Events

Sponsors are needed for both Christmas trees in the sanctuary and one tree in the Welcome Center. Sponsors may be individuals, families or groups. You may sponsor one, two or all three trees! If you are interested, contact Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall at 610-326-1335. Thank you in advance for your help to beautify the sanctuary and Welcome Center this Christmas.

Longest Night NHELC is working with St. James Pottstown to host a Longest Night Labyrinth and Prayer Walk on **Thursday, December 21st**. The event will be held at St. James Lutheran Church at 1101 E. Hight St. in Pottstown. The labyrinth will be available from 5 – 9 PM. This is open house style. Come when you can and leave at your will. A labyrinth is a path of prayer and is for all ages. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has no dead ends and there are no choices to make. There is one path to the center. Walking the labyrinth is a prayer one does with the whole body. It provides a three-fold process of experiencing God. More instruction will be provided at the Labyrinth Walk. Other options will be available for those who have difficulty walking the labyrinth.

Ample parking is available at the rear of the church. An elevator and stairs are available for entering the building. Nikki Young will be present during the event. Contact Nikki with any questions.

Live nativity brings the Christmas story to life! You can be a part of the live nativity during the 9:00 AM worship service on Christmas Eve day. Sign up today and witness the Christmas story through the eyes of one of those from biblical past who observed the birth of our Savior. A sign-up sheet is available on the desk in the welcome center. Hurry. There's a limited number of open cast positions.

The NHELC Book Club is reading *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. You are invited to join in the discussion of this book on Tuesday, February 6th, at 6:30 PM at the Plaza Azteca in Greshville. Any questions, contact Sharon Tracey.

Swamp Picnic Committee Soup Sale is Sunday, January 21st, following the morning worship service. Soup can be purchased in

Fellowship Hall or at the kitchen door for drive up service. This year's selections are: vegetable barley, chicken pot pie and ham and bean. The suggested donation is \$9 a quart.

Help Resources

Mental Health and Wellness Millions of people across the nation are affected by mental health conditions. Check out the websites below and the resources they have to offer. NAMI has local centers in both Reading and Lansdale. They offer in-person and online support groups.

Contact Information

NAMI Help Line 1-800-950-6242 and is available Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM ET.

Text "Helpline" to 62640 or if in crisis call or text 988.

PA Addiction Helpline 1-800-662-HELP (4357).

Online live chat offered at 1-717-216-0905 or text

Website References

www.NAMI.org National Alliance on Mental Illness

www.ddap.pa.gov Department Drug and Alcohol Prevention

www.nimh.nih.org National Institute of Mental Health

Grieving/Wellness Online Support

<https://grateful.org/welcome/>

You Can Help

Readers are needed for the Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 31st. A sign-up sheet is available on the desk in the Welcome Center for those who would like to participate in this service.

Thrivent members get free money they can use to help NHELCC programs.

Thrivent Action Teams

Did you know Thrivent members receive free of charge two (2) \$250.00 gifts a year to help our church? For details and help to do this, contact Pastor Scott at psstaub@gmail.com, or call him at 610-326-1335 ext. 1, or logon if you know how to do it alone at

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams>.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

You may also be given free Choice Dollars directly to the church! Simply go onto your account and search for choice dollars at <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>. You can make a personal donation to New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church and Thrivent pays the processing fees. It's that simple!

Again, contact Pastor Scott if you have any questions or need help navigating the sign-ups.

If not a Thrivent member, you may still donate directly to these ministries. Go to newhanoverlutheran.org to donate, serve or learn more about these ministries.

Wanted: Assistant Caretaker for Cemetery Duties consist of taking care of cemetery and church grounds, helping with maintaining equipment and assisting with funerals. If interested in this position, contact Norm Hunsberger at 484-431-3622 or nhunsberger29@gmail.com.

Dreaming of being a TV producer/director? Sign up with Amy to learn how you can produce and direct our weekly worship service. The sessions will be scheduled for two hours at a time so you can learn and practice using the equipment. There are two spots or one family spot available per training session. **A sign-up Genius is available at www.newhanoverlutheran.org.** **All Dates are subject to change.**

Volunteers are needed to help during the church service: Ushers, Lectors, Children's Sermons, Acolytes and Communion Assistants. Contact Faye Weidner at omiweidner@gmail.com or 484-929-5958 if you can help.

Food Ministry

Ham Donation for Christmas Meals Chef Chris is asking for ham donations. Drop the hams off during the office hours of 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We are excited to help with additional meals served to the homeless veterans this year as well as our daily 150

people in need. Please donate a ham if you can. Peace and thank you!

More than 160,000 meals have been delivered! NHELC's Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry is changing lives. And, you can be a part of the team. 1) You can donate food. Drop off your donation on Wednesdays between 1 – 2 PM and Sundays between 9 – 10 AM. **Items most needed include: hamburger, chicken (thighs and breast meat), pasta (ziti, elbows, bowties), cheese (mozzarella, cheddar, parmesan), potatoes, fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas) and eggs.** 2) Donate money through Thrivent Gift Cards. Place monetary donations in the offering plate or mail to the church. 3) Deliver meals. Sign up at <https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/loaves-fishes-food-ministry/>.

Christmas Eve Worship

NHELC offers three worship services on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th. Invite your family and friends to join you in worshipping at NHELC this Christmas Eve.

9:00 AM Service

Features a live nativity

4:00 PM Service

Candlelight Christmas Eve worship

8:00 PM Service

Candlelight Christmas Eve worship

Special music will begin at 7:30 PM

NHELC Grief Share Group to Begin in January

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful process. GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Over 13 weeks, you'll find relief and comfort as you learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate your personal grief process.

Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; how to recognize what's normal in grief; and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

At a weekly GriefShare meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. After that is a small-group discussion for sharing, support, and personal application of what you learned on the video.

You will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating your personal grieving process. We ask for a \$20 registration fee to cover the cost of the book. Scholarships are available.

Please join us: Wednesdays, beginning January 17th – we will have off the week of March 7th and conclude April 17th (Any cancellations due to weather will be added at the end).

Feel free to contact Nikki Young at nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org or by calling the church office (leave a message if I am unavailable) or visit griefshare.org, if you have questions or would like more information. You can register here <http://www.griefshare.org/groups/180046/registrations/new> or speak to Nikki.

Prayer Requests

Long-term: Sarah Bowman, Keeley Staples, Logan Conley, Tina Farrell, Carol Buchholtz Yost

Shut-in: Penny Frymoyer

Grieving: the family and friends of Beverly Kehs (Donna and Charlie Kehs' sister-in-law/sister)

Military: Shawn Dietz, Michael McHugh, Kevin Dugan, Jason Bernhard, Craig Geiser, Patrick Mathias, Steven Kane, William Zearfoss, Will Wilson V, Milton Jack Repa, Megan Fricker, Kyle Woods

Peace for violence in our area and nationally

Toni Rath	Katy Mahon-Miller	Matt Hall
Luann Hanley	Carol Estes	William Trotter
Kathy Kane	Maxwell Girard	Pat Fryer
Jean Renninger	Pr. Kork Moyer	Betty Lou Shadle
Julia Hauck	Tony Mancini	Raul Castro
Amy LeVan	Jeffrey Kunsch	Wilma Lahr
Melissa	Bernadette Phillips	Mary Lou
Doug Weaver	Joan Wagner	Robert Ganovsky
Dorothy Bingaman	Emily Ocelus	Eric & Wendy Hess
Sue Care	Deb Matthews	Marceline
Anne Eshleman	Daniel Johnson	Chris Fatzinger
Hank Droneberg	Pena family	Kim Frain
Jen Perez	Frank D.	Pam Helfrich
Barb & Tom Faust	Andy Van Dyke	Janet
Pam Abbott	Holli Muffler	Louise Karns
Mary Van Dyke	Pr. Jennifer Phelps	Jessica Trout
Denny Smith	Verdie Smith	Mabel Gaugler
Sandy Wesner	Helen Foulke	Carla Hausmann
Joan Price	Rodney Snell	Betty Seroski
Ralph Borneman	Lucille Powell	Virginia Specht
Bill Lowry	Tom Fleagle	Mary Alice Mack
Jeffrey Weems	Joan Scheffey	Arnold Amundsen
Chuck Beck	Diane DeLong	

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

2941 Lutheran Road

Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 AM – 2 PM

Call 610-326-1335 for an appointment

Contact Information

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psstaub@gmail.com

Director of Children, Family & Youth Ministry, Nikki Young

nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org

Church Office Manager, Susan Gutshall

susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org

Director of Music Ministry, Patricia Nyce

patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org

Food Ministry Director, Chris Fatzinger

Cfatzinger@chris-cooks.com

Grace Band Director, Lindsey Waltermyer

goldielw@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director, Barbara Eisenhart

eisenbarb@aol.com

Peer Support Recovery Ministry Team

peersupport@newhanoverlutheran.org

Sexton, Jen Boyer

jcboyer0408@gmail.com

Bookkeeper, Maria Boyer

mariaboyer@comcast.net

Cemetery

Norm Hunsberger, nhunsberger29@gmail.com



Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

Frequently Asked Questions

What do we have to do to become an RIC church?

There are four principal steps to achieving RIC status within the ELCA. They are:

1. Our church explicitly states a welcome to people of “all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” or “LGBTQIA+” and names our commitment to racial equity or anti-racism in our Welcome Statement
2. Be open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) rostered leader
3. Allow LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings to be performed in our sanctuary
4. Make a “meaningful” annual contribution to support the national RIC program

What does this process look like?

Most RIC processes take 1-2 years. During that time there will be:

- One-to-one conversations between the RIC Core Team and congregation members
- Bible studies
- Video discussions
- Open forums

We can then earn the RIC designation when we approve the new Welcome Statement through a congregational vote.

What is a “Welcome Statement?”

A community’s Welcome Statement is a public document created to specifically welcome “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic” (LGBTQIA+) people or “people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions” and a “commitment to racial equity” or “anti-racism.”

Why single out LGBTQIA+ folks and a commitment to anti-racism? Aren’t we already welcoming?

Earning and displaying the RIC designation helps remove the guesswork for those seeking a safe and welcoming congregation. When an LGBTQIA+ Christian enters an RIC church they will know that they are welcome to be themselves and to fully participate in the life of the church.

That is not always the case in many churches. LGBTQIA+ people either assume they are not truly welcome or that they have to take a risk to see if the congregation they visit will let them truly be a part of the church and still be themselves.

When was the RIC program started and why?

Since 1983, the RIC program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church.

What impact will this have on church attendance?

Becoming RIC is not a silver bullet to improve attendance or finances. Many congregations do see growth after becoming RIC, but that is not why we would consider doing it. If we want to become RIC, we should do so because we believe it is what God is calling us to do.

What happens after we become RIC?

We would be added to the ReconcilingWorks list of RIC congregations. People can go to the ReconcilingWorks website to look for RIC congregations in our area and we will show up when folks search for local churches. We can advertise ourselves as a faith community that has done this discernment work and is affirming to LGBTQIA+ people. This might practically look like putting the RIC logo on our signs, in our bulletins, our newsletter, website, etc. We can also publish our Welcome Statement in the bulletin or on the website, etc.

Who can I talk to if I want to learn more or share some thoughts?

The NHELRC RIC Core Team is responsible for setting the schedule of educational opportunities and drafting the Welcome Statement that will be presented to the church council for approval. Then, in turn, the Welcome Statement will be presented to the congregation for approval.

The members of this team are Pastor Scott, Diane Bealer, Rick Hausch, Sharon Tracey, Josh Young, and Janet Psota. Please feel welcome to approach any of these Core Team members with questions or concerns.

How many ELCA organizations are RIC?

Currently, approximately 9% of ELCA organizations and ministries are recognized as RIC. This number includes congregations, seminaries, synods, campus ministries, etc. At the time of this writing there are 1031 RIC organizations and 303 organizations in the process of becoming RIC.

What is the relationship between ReconcilingWorks, the ELCA?

ReconcilingWorks is an independently organized 501(c)(3) organization. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) formally recognizes ReconcilingWorks as an "Independent Lutheran Organization," affirming collaborative work in reaching out to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic people.

ReconcilingWorks advocates for change within the institutional churches to ensure that all rites, sacraments, and ministries of the Church are open to all.

Prayer

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us. Amen.

Send

Be the light...Invite!

How can you tell people that Jesus is coming? Invite them to come to worship with you on Christmas Eve!

Decorate the invitation and give it to a friend or neighbor.



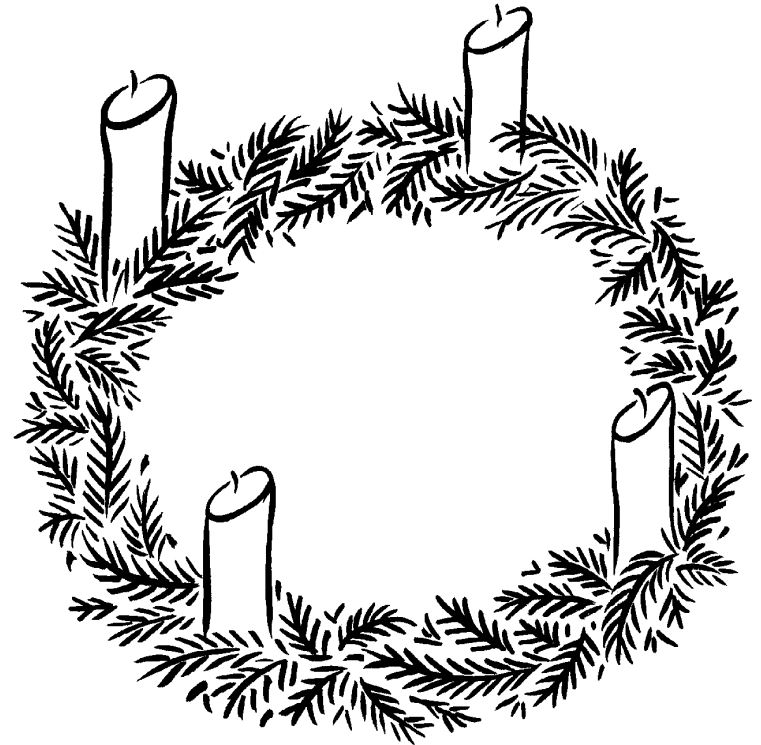
This week

Make candles to share with friends and neighbors.



gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the third Sunday of Advent. While we wait for baby Jesus, we can also tell people about Jesus, just like John the Baptist did!



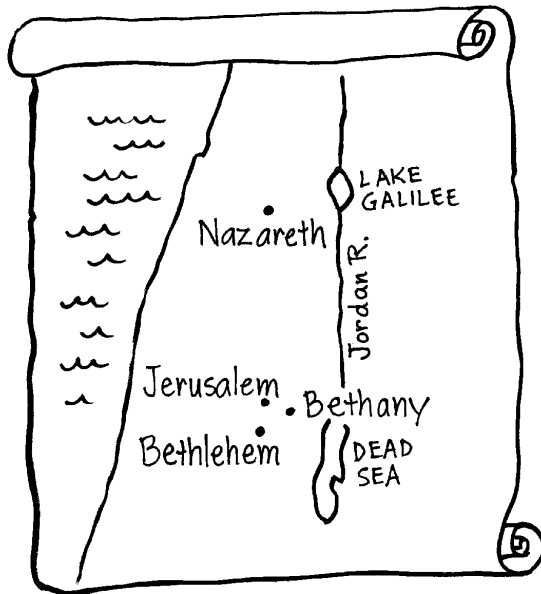
In the Advent wreath above, color three candles, then draw pictures of people who have told you stories about Jesus. Around the outside of the wreath, write the names of people *you* can tell Jesus' stories to.

The light of the world is coming!

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist was born just a few months before Jesus, and they were relatives. John spent most of his adult life in the desert between Jerusalem and the Jordan River baptizing people and telling everyone to get ready for Jesus' coming.

Follow the directions underneath the map to learn more about where John worked, then solve the puzzle to discover what John told people about Jesus.




Draw a  next to Bethlehem.





















Draw John the Baptist next to the Jordan River.

Draw a  next to Jerusalem.

Color the Jordan River blue.

Draw a  near Lake Galilee.

 -----!

J			E	
S		U		
S	I			S
	T		H	E
		L	I	G
H			T	
O			F	T
H		E		W
O	R		L	D

1. Color in all the squares with candles in them.
2. Start at the top left and go across each row, filling in the blanks at the top of the puzzle with the letters.
3. Read John's message!



At home, light three candles to celebrate the third week of Advent.



God, Thanks for people who tell us about Jesus, the light of the world! Amen

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Translated by
John Mason Neale
Arranged by
Thomas Helmore

Words and Music
Veni Emmanuel

VERSE

♩ = 76

Em Bm/D G/B C G/B D G D Bm C



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by Thine
3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

5 Am Em/B Bm Em Am Em/G D/F# Em Bm C D Em D G



Is - ra - el; That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, and cause us in her
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill the whole world with

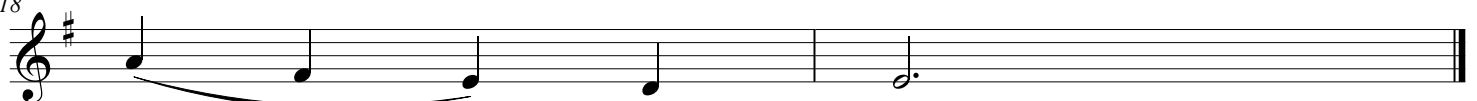
CHORUS

11 C G/B D G D Em Bm G C G/B D Em D/F# G C



God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O
put to flight.
ways to go.
heav - en's peace.

18 Am Em/B Bm Em



Is - - - - - ra - - - - - el!

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924. Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol. Text and music are in public domain.

Jesus Messiah

Words and Music by
Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin,
Ed Cash and Jesse Reeves

VERSE

♩ = 86

B C#m7 B/D#

1. He be - came sin, who knew no sin; that we might be - come His
(2.) bod y the bread, His blood the wine bro - ken and poured out,

E2(no3) B C#m7

right - eous - ness; He hum - bled Him - self, and car - ried the cross.
all for love. The whole earth trem - bled, and the veil was torn.

B/F# E2(no3) B/F# E2(no3)

Love so a - maz - ing, Love so a - maz - ing. Je - sus, Mes - si -
Love so a - maz - ing, Love so a - maz - ing.

CHORUS

B
%

E2(no3)

ah; Name a - bove all names; Bless - ed Re - deem -

B F#sus B

er; Em - man - u - el. The Res - cue for sin - ners,

21 E2(no3) B/D# F#sus

the Ran - som from heav - en; Je - sus, Mes - si - ah, Lord of all.

BRIDGE

26 B C#m11 B/D#

Last time to Coda 1 2

2. His All our hope is in You, all our hope

31 E2(no3) F#sus C#m11 B/D# E2(no3)

is in You; all the glo - ry to You, God, the Light of the

36 F#sus D.S. al Coda

world. Je - sus, Mes - si

ENDING

38 Coda B/G# B/F# F#sus

Je - sus, Mes - si - ah, Lord of all.

41 E2(no3) F#7/E E2 E2(no3) F#7/E E2 F#7/E E2(no3)

The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

47 B

Jesus Loves Me!

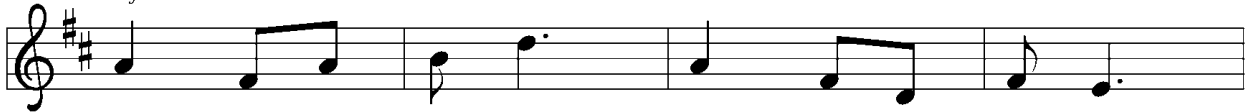


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

"Jesus Loves Me!" Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt. Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868. Text and music are in public domain.

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

"Blessed Be the God of Israel" Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79. Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune. Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.