

Welcome to worship at
The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Advent
November 30, 2025

The Will to Dream



✦ Vigilant Hope ✦

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

**The Rev. Thomas M. Lang, guest minister
Nicole Young, seminarian minister
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](https://www.facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch)
and on YouTube.**

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

Welcome Statement

You are always welcome at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are a growing community of believers in Jesus Christ, rooted in God's love and guided by Christ's example. We strive to reach out with compassion, offering a place where you can grow in faith, experience God's grace and feel safe and celebrated. At New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, we want you to gather with us at our table. Rooted in our Lutheran faith and belief that we are all children of God and made in God's image, we welcome all people with dignity and love.

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

By this belief, we are committed to intentionally following Jesus' example of unconditional hospitality, love and justice. Here, you are not only included, you are respected. We affirm and value people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, cultures, ages, abilities, body sizes, relationship statuses and economic or immigration statuses. We are committed to the ongoing work toward racial equity and inclusion in all we do. You are invited to fully participate in our worship, sacraments, leadership positions, gatherings, and ministries. In our identities, we are united by the common faith we hold, and recognize we each offer unique gifts and perspectives. We believe that this transforms lives and deepens the faith of our community.

Christ's door is open to all, so is ours.

Close your eyes for a moment and imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph. How do they look? They are unaware that their unborn child will catch onto the prophets' visions and challenge the world to usher in justice, peace and transformation. What are they dreaming for their child? What looks are they getting from those nearby? *(PAUSE)*

Open your eyes. We know the world is not always an easy place to welcome new life. And yet, babies are born every day, and new families are formed. What must those moments have been like for Mary and Joseph searching for a place to be? Now, just like then, exhausted expectant parents, far from home, are searching for safe spaces to settle. What must that be like for displaced families today?

Now, just like then, faithful families trust that somehow each seemingly impossible situation will work out. Mary and Joseph held on to hope when their options seemed to be in short supply. It was a hope that things would get better.

We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love
He came down that we may have love
He came down that we may have love
Hallelujah forevermore

"He Came Down" Text: Cameroon traditional. Music: HE CAME DOWN Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under One License #A-701229.

Please rise as you are able.

Gathering Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ELW #254
Handbell Choir and Organ

Prayer of the Day

Nikki Young

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Carolyn Springer

First Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Barbara Noecker

A reading from the book of Romans

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Here ends the reading.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation *Creator of the Stars of Night* ELW #245
vs. 1

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Pastor Tom Lang

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together;

one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Message

Pastor Tom Lang

A moment of silence for reflection

Please rise as you are able.

Song of the Day *Everlasting God*

Grace Praise Band

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

Pre-Chorus:

Our God, You reign forever

Our Hope, our strong Deliv’rer

Chorus:

You are the everlasting God

The everlasting God

You do not faint

You won’t grow weary

You’re the defender of the weak

You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles

Repeat from the beginning

Pre-Chorus

Chorus 2x

Apostles' Creed

Nikki Young

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Nikki Young

God of our hope, **hear our prayers.**

The Lord's Prayer

Nikki Young

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.**

Peace

Nikki Young

Where two or three of us are gathered, the prophetic Spirit is among us, inspiring our imagination and creating peace in our midst. Greet your fellow travelers now with the peace of Christ, and let these small doses of repair and reconciliation ripple out into a world in need of transformation.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The people give a sign of peace to each other.

Please be seated.

Offertory

Choir Anthem

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Chancel Choir

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel” Words and music by Lee Black and Cindi Ballard. © 2000 Winding Way Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

The offering will be taken at this time.

You can donate to NHELIC’s ministry electronically.

Tithe.ly QR Code



Simply Giving QR Code



Offertory Response

Doxology for Advent



Praise God from whom_ all bless - ings flow. Praise



God_ all crea - tures here be - low. Praise



God a - bove,_ ye heaven- ly host. Praise Fa- ther, Son, and Ho- ly Ghost.

“Doxology for Advent” Words: Thomas Ken, 1674. Music: CAROL, Richard Storrs Willis, 1850. Text and music are in public domain.

The offering is brought forward for a blessing.

Announcements

Nikki Young

Please rise as you are able.

Sending Hymn *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

ELW #802

Charge: A Call to Advocacy

Go forth from this place and notice where hopeful change has taken place and where it is still needed. Raise your voice in praise of hopeful change, and pray for where hope has yet to take root. Consider how your actions and words can contribute toward transformative justice, and peace in your home, school, community, and beyond.

Benediction

Nikki Young

Go out in the world embracing the will to dream and may hope fill you and fuel you for the days ahead.

Postlude

Joyous Praise Unending

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Announcements

Today

We welcome The Rev. Tom Lang to our worship service this morning as part of our 325th anniversary celebration. Pastor Tom served as pastor of NHELCC from March 6, 2006 – May 22, 2016. Join in fellowship to honor Pastor Tom in the multi-purpose room this morning following the worship service.

The flowers are presented to the glory of God and in honoring her beautiful mother, Marguerite J. Nyce on her 97th birthday by Patricia Nyce.

The extra floral arrangement is presented to the glory of God and in honor of Barbara Eisenhart, to thank her for the countless hours she spent over the last year to make the 325th Anniversary of our congregation memorable, by the 325th Anniversary Committee.

The Word in Season devotion booklet is presented to the glory of God; may we harvest acceptance, and give thanks to God for the love of our Lord Jesus that was given to us, by Janet Psota.

Serving Today: Barbara Repa, head usher; Zach Quigley, usher; Barbara Noecker, lector; Carolyn Springer, children's sermon; Noah Waltermeyer, acolyte

Next Sunday: Steve Weidner, head usher, Bryce Manthorne, usher, Ed Becker, lector; Janine Springer, children's sermon; Genesis Garcia, acolyte; Terry Santangelo and Debbie Solazzo, communion assistants

Altar Guild members serving this month: Jean Moser, Jane Johnson, Jo Anne Wirt and Yvonne Peto.

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

Doors leading to fellowship hall and the education wing remain locked during the worship service for the safety of all.

This Week

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, kitchen door

Reception – Today, 10:00 AM, room 14

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) – Today, 10:15 AM, room 1

J.A.M. Choir Rehearsal – Today, 11:00 – 11:15 AM, room 15

KFC (Kids for Christ) Rehearsal – Today, 11:00 AM, sanctuary

Praise Band Rehearsal – Today, 11:20 AM, sanctuary

Prayer Ministry – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary

Cub Scout Pack 367 – Monday, 6:30 – 8:30 AM, rooms 1, 14, 21-24, 33, 34

Scouts BSA Troop 367 – Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:15 PM, room 1

NHELC Book Club – Tuesday, 6:30 WQ Diner, Pottstown

Sunshine Learning Center Board – Tuesday, 7:00 PM, rooms 33-34

Praise Band Rehearsal – Tuesday, 7:00 PM, sanctuary

Food Drop Off – Wednesday, 1:00 – 2:00 PM, kitchen

Food Delivery Pickup – Wednesday, 1:00 PM, kitchen door

Addiction 12 Step – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, rooms 33-34

Chancel Choir – Wednesday, 6:15 PM, room 15

Property – Wednesday, 7:00, room 27

God on Tap – Thursday, 6:00 PM, Main Street Pub, Bally

Handbell Choir Rehearsal – Thursday, 6:15 – 7:30 PM, room 15

Addiction 12 Step – Thursday, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, rooms 33-34

Worship Service – Next Sunday, 9:00 AM, sanctuary and online

Food Drop Off – Next Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, kitchen

Food Delivery Pickup – Next Sunday, 10:00 AM, kitchen door

Reception – Next Sunday, 10:00 AM, room 14

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) – Next Sunday, 10:15 AM, room 1

J.A.M. Choir Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 11 – 11:15 AM, room 15

KFC (Kids for Christ) Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 11:00 AM

Praise Band Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 11:20 AM, sanctuary

Confirmation – Next Sunday, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, room 14

Coventry Singers – Next Sunday, 3:00 PM

NHELC Book Club meets to discuss the book *True Colors* by Kristin Hannah. Join the club for dinner and discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown this Tuesday, December 2nd, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about this event, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.

The December God on Tap is this Thursday, December 4th, at 6:00 PM at Main Street Pub in Bally. The topic of discussion will be “Does God have an agenda for us at birth or does His agenda morph along with our mortal life?” RSVP to Randy Dotterer no later than noon on December 4th by text at 610-306-0621.

Cemetery Decorations If you have fall decorations on your loved ones gravesites in the church cemetery, please remove them by Friday, December 5th, to make way for the Christmas decorations.

Upcoming Events

Angel Tree gifts this year will support children under KenCrest's care (KenCrest.org). NHELCC is sharing love with five families. The gift tags are on the tree as usual, BUT you must sign out the tag in the angel tree journal. All gifts must be logged back in by December 7th so we can be sure to have purchased four gifts for each child. **Bring your donated gift, unwrapped, by December 7th** and place it under the Angel Tree.

Do you like to read? Readers are needed for the Lessons and Carols service on January 4th. Sign up today to reserve your reading in this festive service. A sign-up sheet is on the desk in the Welcome Center.

New Hanover Memorabilia items collected over the years are available in the Welcome Center. You are invited to take home a piece of New Hanover's history; your donations will help our ministries to continue. Souvenirs from the 325th anniversary are also on the table.

History Booklets printed for the 325th Anniversary are available in the Welcome Center. If you didn't get one, pick up a copy today. Please, one booklet per family.

The Rev. Rebecca Knox, former Intern at New Hanover, who will celebrate her 25th Anniversary of Ordination with us that day, will serve as the guest pastor as part of the 325th anniversary celebration.

Share the season with Coventry Singers for a Christmas concert, "Holiday Journeys", at NHELCC on Sunday, December 7th, 3:00 PM.

Advent Social is on Sunday, December 14th, 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Activities include making crafts, playing games and decorating cookies, bags and cards for NHELCC homebound members. Snacks will be served.

Bring a donation of personal care items such as tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Chapstick, lotion, individually wrapped snacks, etc. to be put in the homebound members' December senior bags.

There is a paper sign-up sheet on the desk in the welcome center and also on sign up genius at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAA F4C16-60204971-advent>. To help with planning for this event, sign up by Sunday December 7th.

Join NHEL C at 7:30 PM on Christmas Eve for a special Prelude of Instrumental Music.

Arrive early and experience a selection of refined, thoughtfully curated instrumental works designed to prepare the heart and mind for the solemn beauty of the evening. From elegant arrangements of traditional carols to serene seasonal pieces, the Prelude will offer a moment of quiet reflection and graceful anticipation. We invite you to enjoy this musical offering as we prepare to welcome Christmas with reverence and joy.

The Boyertown Alumni Marching Unit will hold its 21st Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 6th, 7:00 PM at the MStar Church. A free-will offering will be received for the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Light refreshments will be served before the concert. MStar Church is located at 100 Limekiln Road in Bechtelsville.

Help Needed

Mission Service folks need your help! Friends, our church has been helping to feed the hungry at Emmanuel Lutheran Church every month. We discovered their clothes closet needs help. We ask for used, clean, in good condition, warm clothes. Also, hats, gloves, mittens and hoodies are needed too! The ladies at the closet are in need of NEW socks and undergarments. Our junior/senior high Sunday School class decorated a box that is sitting in the welcome center for your donations.

Want to be a member?

Please fill out "Your Voice from the Pew" card, located in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate. Check off "Interest in Church Membership."

Resources

Are you missing a Moments in Time insert? Extra copies are available. Contact Barb Eisenhart, Lee Wesner or Susan Gutshall. Wrappers for the collection are available in the Welcome Center.

Want to keep up with all the latest news from NHELHC? Subscribe to the bi-weekly Constant Contact communication emails. You will receive a weekly announcement on Monday and a worship reminder on Saturday. If you are not already receiving these emails, you can use this QR code and sign up today using a very simple, secure site.



Do you enjoy the praise band songs? Would you like to get to know them better? This [playlist](#) includes over fifty songs that our praise band has done, and more will be added in the future. You will need to download Spotify (it's free!) to listen to the songs.



Peer Support Information The Ferns Peer Run Respite is a local mental health non-profit resource in Montgomery County. The Ferns provides a supportive and calm environment for individuals in need and not able to interact in other available mental health resources. The Ferns is totally peer-supported and allows individuals at the respite the time they may need to recover or seek additional treatment. If you know an individual who may need this service, contact the church and leave a message for the peer support program.

The Peer Support Ministry webpage on the church's website (newhanoverlutheran.org) offers resources for mental health and wellness. Visit the webpage for information.

Mental Health and Wellness Millions of people across the nation are affected by mental health conditions. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has local centers in both Reading and Lansdale. They offer in-person and online support groups. NHELHC has links with helpful information available on our website (newhanoverlutheran.org) or contact NAMI Helpline or PA Addiction Helpline directly.

NAMI Help Line 1-800-950-6242 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

You Can Help

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

Nearly a quarter million meals have been delivered! NHELCC’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 on the offering plate or mail to the church. 3.) Deliver meals. Sign up at <https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/loaves-fishes-food-ministry/>.

Reconciling in Christ Serving All and Loving Unconditionally

In case you want any information, enter this link in your web browser:

<https://newhanoverlutheran.org/reconciling-in-christ/>

or connect using this QR Code.



Additional Information

Facility Use for Meetings or Events Requests All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the church office manager. The request will include the date and time, purpose, amount of people attending,

necessary space and equipment of the meeting or event. Given the information the meeting or event will be posted on the church calendar by the church office manager (only). Providing an announcement for the bulletin, newsletter or social media posting does not constitute a request or guarantee a space.

There is a Facility Use policy, and fees do apply in some cases. In no case will fees be waived. Deposits are required to hold the space, date and time. If the meeting or event is not posted on the church calendar or you do not place a deposit if necessary, you do not have permission to use the space. Contact Susan Gutshall, church office manager at (610) 326-1335, or email her at susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org for requests or information.

Prayer Requests

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

Peace for violence in our area and nationally

Grieving: family and friends of Sarah Bowman and Gerald Eisenhart

Keeley Staples	Logan Conley	Katy Mahon-Miller
Luann Hanley	Carol Estes	William Trotter
Kathy Kane	Maxwell Girard	Pat Fryer
Jean Renninger	Pr. Kork Moyer	Julia Hauck
Tony Mancini	Raul Castro	Amy LeVan
Jeffrey Kunsch	Wilma Lahr	Melissa
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	Pr. Jennifer Phelps	Verdie Smith
Helen Foulke	Carla Hausmann	Joan Price
Ralph Borneman	Lucille Powell	Joan Scheffey
Arnold Amundsen	Chuck Beck	Rich Freed
Joe	Joe	Casey Flack
Penny Frymoyer	Denton Quick	David Helfrich, Sr.
Tara Hauck	Patricia Kemp	Ron Seasholtz
Penny Garber	Hazel LeVan	Lynn Amundsen
David Gottshall	Paul Knauer	Suzanne Dodge
Dave Pollock	Julia Ghazi	Ray Feick
Jennifer, Brendt, Declan & Conor Budnick		Patty Houseal
Steve Morriss	Vicki Mutter	Carol Feick
Josephine Heck	Alice Nester	Debbie Tischendorf
John Sander, Candis Peto, Yvonne Peto		Linda Adams
Dennis and Sandy Rothermel		

The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Call 610-326-1335 for an appointment

Contact Information

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psstaub@gmail.com

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Grace Band Director, Lindsey Waltermyer

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Handbell Choir Director, Barbara Eisenhart

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Peer Support Recovery Ministry Team

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Cemetery, Norm Hunsberger

nhunsberger29@gmail.com

Celebrating 325 Years
1700-2025

NHEL 
neighbors

Still Making History