

Welcome to worship at
The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2025

The Will to Dream



✦ Unexpected Joy ✦

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

**The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor
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.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Pastor Scott

We gather together in this place:

prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,

we who dare to imagine a world renewed;

we who dare to dream God's dream.

We sing with Elizabeth and Mary.

Our spirits rejoice in God, our savior!

We bless the God of justice and joy,

who lifts up the lowly and vulnerable.

God's mercy is upon us all,

from generation to generation.

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.

We have come to wonder and praise.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Scott

God of surprises, you interrupt our world with joy and hope

beyond our wildest dreams. When we feel forgotten or despair,

bless us with your holy joy. When our world feels barren, bless us

with the gift of possibility. We pray as people of deep faith,

entrusting ourselves and our world to the holy unknown, brought

to birth in Jesus, our light and life. **Amen.**

Advent Candle Lighting

The Hubley Family

The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But

who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we

imagine it, how we experience it.

We Light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a

new, unknown story to unfold.

We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay

attention to the needs of those around us.

Close your eyes for a moment. Imagine two cousins embracing and sharing life-changing news with one another. One, an older woman, who knew the physical risks of bearing a child late in life. The other, a not-yet-married woman, who was aware of the social stigmas in her society. Yet each chose joy over fear. Imagine the pure joy of this wonderful occasion.

Open your eyes. When Elizabeth shares her surprising news with Mary, her joy doubles upon hearing that Mary is also pregnant. The two women sing of joy as they sense, literally, in their bodies that change is coming.

A joy of defiance that good news perseveres even in the most difficult of circumstances. From Isaiah to Mary and Elizabeth, from biblical times to the present, joy can be found. Joy is not a denial of harm that is happening; it is a refusal to let injustice define all reality.

A joy that moves from personal experience to communal transformation in the song that Elizabeth and Mary proclaimed, and we proclaim today.

A joy our world needs to experience this season, not to hide from what is wrong, but to strengthen God's people to bear a world that is not right.

Today, we also light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty.

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

Interlude:

He came down, He came down, He came down, He came down
He came down, He came down, Hallelujah forevermore

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

Interlude

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

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Here ends the reading.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation *Creator of the Stars of Night* ELW #245
vs. 3

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 Pastor Scott
The holy gospel according to Matthew **Glory to you, O Lord.**

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Message

Pastor Scott

A moment of silence for reflection

Please rise as you are able.

Song of the Day *Mary Did You Know* Grace Praise Band

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would one day walk on water

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would save our sons and daughters

Did you know

That your baby boy

Has come to make you new

This Child that you delivered

Will soon deliver you

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would give sight to the blind man

Mary did you know

That your baby boy Would calm a storm with His hand

Did you know

That your baby boy

Has walked where angels trod

And when you kiss your little baby

You've kissed the face of God

Bridge:

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations
Did you know
That your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding
Is the great I Am

"Mary Did You Know" Words by Buddy Green. Music by Mark Lowry. © 1991, 1993 Rufus Music; Curb Word Music. Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing, CURB; Word Music Publishing. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

Please be seated.

Holy Baptism

Pastor Scott

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 Parker Bian Bealer for baptism.

I present Vanessa Lynn Harrity for baptism.

Parents and sponsors called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Parker and Vanessa baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring Parker and Vanessa to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the
 Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that Parker and Vanessa 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.

Parents and sponsors do you promise to help Parker and Vanessa
grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Parker Bealer and
Vanessa Harrity and pray for them in their new lives 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

Parker Brian Bealer/Vanessa Lynn Harrity, 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 Parker and Vanessa 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.

Parker/Vanessa, 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 Song

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW #595

Prayers of Intercession

Nikki Young

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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

A Star Will Soon Shine

Chancel Choir

Nancy Mest, flute

"A Star Will Soon Shine" © 2003 Harold Flammer Music, a division of Shawnee Press Music. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

The offering will be taken at this time.

You can donate to NHELC's ministry electronically.

Tithe.ly QR Code



Simply Giving QR Code



Please rise as you are able.

Offertory Response *Doxology for Advent*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise
God all creatures here below. Praise
God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy 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.

Please be seated.

Announcements

Pastor Scott

Please rise as you are able.

Sending Hymn *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* ELW #251

Charge: A Call to Advocacy

Pastor Scott

There is joy in centering the voices of those typically unheard. So go forth from this place with ears to hear, and believe the cries of women, immigrants, elders, and all who are vulnerable and silenced. May we be strengthened not just to hear and believe, but to act, for there is no greater joy than ensuing that all God's children need not cry out any longer.

Benediction

Pastor Scott

Go out in the world embracing the will to dream, and may joy wash over you, bringing renewed strength for the days ahead. Go get 'em!

Postlude

In Excelsis Deo

Lee Ellis

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Announcements

Today

We welcome Parker Brian Beller and Vanessa Lynn Harrity, who will be baptized this morning. Parker is the son of Steven and Erica Bealer. Vanessa is the daughter of Curtis and Jessica Harrity.

The bulletin is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Pastor Scott, thanking him from the residents at Walnut Woods for bringing worship, prayers and communion.

The flowers are presented to the glory of God by the 325th Anniversary Committee with heartfelt gratitude to Chef Chris, Sally Sugita and the Fellowship Committee who provided delicious food and warm fellowship for the many anniversary events held this past year.

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: George Trowbridge, head usher; Brian Flack, usher; Faye Weidner, lector; Nicole Ewing, children's sermon; Sadie Hubley, acolyte

Next Sunday: Andy Van Dyke, head usher; Doug and Bette Senne, ushers; Kayleigh Urbassik, lector; Pastor Scott, children's sermon; Charlotte Moser, acolyte

Altar Guild members serving this month: Deb Solazzo, Barb Eisenhart, Corrine Bartholomew and Judy Sloan

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.

A special congregational meeting will be held immediately following the worship service this morning to vote on the 2026 proposed budget. All members are encouraged to attend.

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

Congregational Meeting – Today, 10:00 AM, sanctuary

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

J.A.M. Choir Rehearsal – Today, 10:15 – 10:30 AM, room 15

KFC (Kids for Christ) Rehearsal – Today, 10:15 AM, sanctuary

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

Advent Christmas Crafts – Today, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, room 1

Prayer Ministry – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary

Cub Scout Pack 367 – Monday, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, room 1

Cemetery – Monday, 7:00 PM, room 4

Walnut Woods – Wednesday, 10:00 AM

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

Sunshine Learning Center Board – Tuesday, 7:00 PM, room 33

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

Scout District Roundtable – Wednesday, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, room 1

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

Council – Thursday, 6:30 PM, room 27

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

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Friday, 6:00 – 8 :00 PM, room 1

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

Christmas Pageant – Next Sunday, 10:15 AM, room 1

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, St. James, Limerick

Rejoicing Spirits – Next Sunday, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, room 1 and sanctuary

Upcoming Events

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.

Join NHELC 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.

Help Needed

A sponsor is needed for one Christmas tree. See Barb Eisenhart or contact Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall (610-326-1335) if you would like to sponsor one of the Christmas trees in the sanctuary.

Be Part of Our Live Nativity - We need your help! When: Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM service. We're looking for: Baby Jesus (six months or younger), Mary & Joseph, shepherds, three wise people, a guiding star and angels. Families, kids, and all ages are encouraged to join in this meaningful tradition. Sign up on the sign-up sheet on the desk in the welcome center OR text/call Dee Singley at 610-763-0406. Let's bring the story to life together!

Pottstown Cluster Throughout the months of November, December, January and February, NHELC is collecting non-perishable food items and full-sized personal hygiene items to be distributed to local families through the Pottstown Cluster. Collection boxes are located in the welcome center, fellowship hall, and multi-purpose room for the donations. For a list of items most needed, see the December issue of New Hanover Highlights. Thank you for your contributions that will help those in need.

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.

Thank You

Dear NHELCC,

Thank you for being messengers of God directly and indirectly, especially thru your ministry of encouraging and engaging generations of seminary students in preparation for God-given vocations and ordination. Peace, Rebecca Knox

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 NHELCC? 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. NHELC 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! 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 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

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

2941 Lutheran Road
 Gilbertsville, PA 19525
 Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 AM – 2 PM
 Call 610-326-1335 for an appointment



Contact Information

Pastor, The Rev. Scott Staub, psstaub@gmail.com
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 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
Educational Director, Jena Marinelli
 jena.marinelli@sunshinelc.org
Grace Band Director, Lindsey Waltermeyer
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Evergreen **needles** stay green **all year long**. Evergreen branches make an Advent wreath. They remind us that God loves us **all the time**.

What green things do you see in church today? Draw or write about them here:



Many of us decorate **evergreen trees** at home to get ready for Christmas.

Draw ornaments on this evergreen tree to remind you to get ready for Jesus.

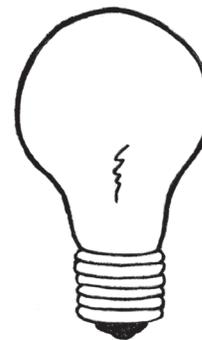
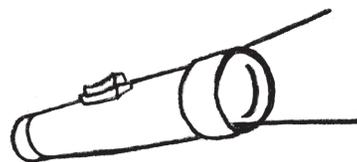


PRE-READER

Advent 3

- During Advent we **wait** for Jesus to come.
- Jesus is the **light of the world**.
- The **candles** in the Advent wreath give us **light**.

Color in each thing that gives us light.

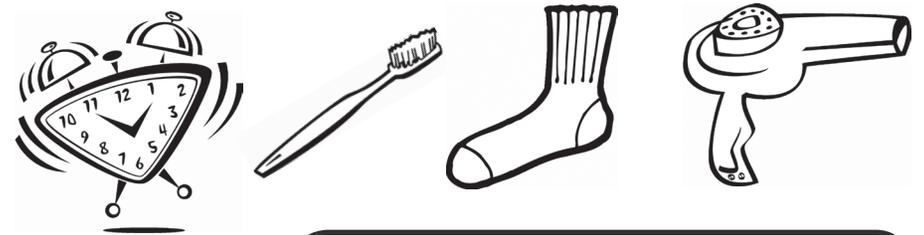




**“Are you listening?!? This is important!
Jesus is coming!”**

John the Baptist told people to **get ready** for Jesus to come. During Advent we get ready for Jesus, too!

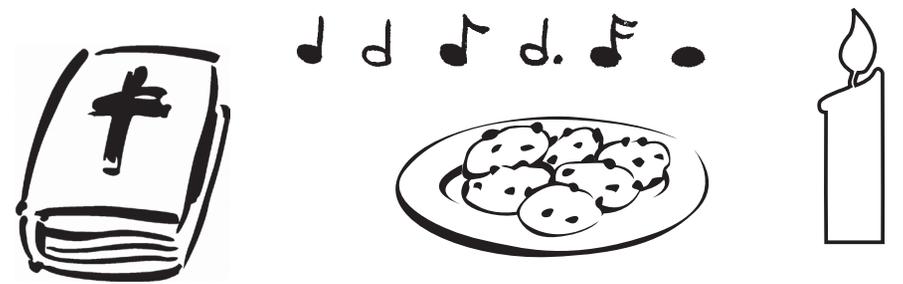
What do you need to get ready in the morning? Circle the things you used today.



What else?



**What do you need to get ready for Jesus?
Circle the things you will do this week.**



What else?



Listen Up!

Listen during worship today and circle any of the words you hear.

Jesus Advent Wait

Coming Prepare Ready

Time Prophet Holy

Light Messenger Miracle

What other words did you hear a lot in church today?



READER

Advent 3

- Today is the **third Sunday** in **Advent**.
- Advent is a time to **wait for Jesus** to come be with us.



Time for Advent!

Use the numbers and letters on the clock to solve the hidden message. The first one is done for you.



A _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

7 10 1 8 5

means _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

6 9 12 2 8 11

Who Is He?

In this story, John the Baptist asks Jesus some questions to find out who he really is. Fill in the blanks to complete this crossword puzzle. (If you need help solving clues, read the story in your Bible, Matthew 11:2-11.)

ACROSS

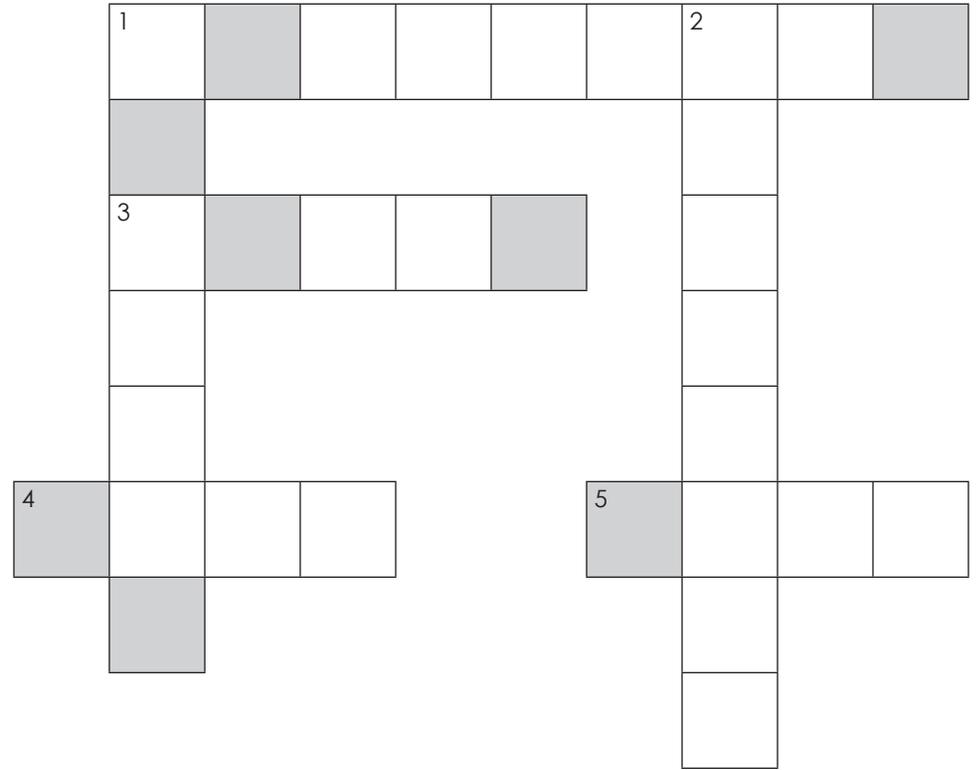
- This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my _____ ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'
- The blind receive their _____, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed.
- Are you the one who is to come, or are we to _____ for another?"
- Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you _____ and see."

DOWN

- When John heard in prison what the _____ was doing, he sent word by his disciples.
- The deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have _____ brought to them."

Look at the letters in the gray boxes. Unscramble these letters to finish this sentence:

Advent means that God will be _____ us!



Look up these verses to fill in the blanks.

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the



Memory Verse

_____ is greater than he. Matthew 11:11

Jesus answered them, "Go and _____ John what you

_____ and see." Matthew 11:4



Look It Up!

When he was in prison, John the Baptist heard about Jesus performing miracles. Look up these stories to read about some of Jesus' miracles. Then sketch something from each miracle in the space below.

Matthew 8:5-13

Matthew 9:20-22

Matthew 9:27-31

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



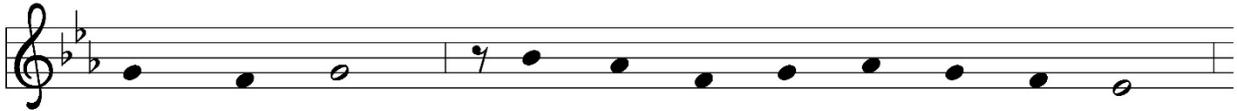
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Text: Psalteriolum Cationum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text and arrangement © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

“Creator of the Stars of Night” Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV. Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund. Admin. by Church Publishing Incorporated and Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Mary Did You Know

Words by
Mark Lowry

Music by
Buddy Greene

VERSE

Chords: Cm, Bb, Fm7

1. Mar y, did you know that your ba - by boy would one day walk on wa -
 (2. Mar y, did you) know that your ba - by boy would give sight to the blind
 (3.) know that your ba - by boy is Lord of all cre - a -

Chords: Gsus, G, Cm, Bb, Fm7

ter? Mar - y, did you know that your ba - by boy would save our sons and daugh-
 man? Mar - y, did you know that your ba - by boy would calm a storm with His
 tion? Mar - y, did you know that your ba - by boy will one day rule the na -

Chords: Gsus, G, Fm7, Bb, Eb, Bb/D

ters? Did you know that your ba - by boy has come to make you new?
 hand? Did you know that your ba - by boy has walked where an - gels trod,
 tions? Did you know that your ba - by boy is heav - en's per - fect Lamb,

Chords: Cm, Gm/Bb, Fm7, Gsus

12 Last time to Coda \oplus

This Child that you de - liv - ered will soon de - liv - er you.
 and when you kiss your lit - tle ba - by you've kissed the face of God?
 and the

INTERLUDE

16 1 2
 G G Cm Cm/B^b Fm11

2. Mar y, did you Oh, Mar - y did you know?

21 Gm7 Cm Cm/B^b Fm11 Gm7

Ooh, Mar - y did you know? Ooh. Ooh, the

BRIDGE

Fm7 B^b/C Cm B^b/C Cm Fm7

blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live a - gain. The

30 B^b/C Cm B^b/C Cm B^b/C Cm Gsus

lame will leap, the dumb will speak the prais - es of the Lamb.

34 G *D.S. al Coda*

3. Oh, Mar - - y, did you

35 Fm7 *Coda* Gsus

sleep - ing Child you're hold - ing is the great

38 G Cm Cm/B^b Fm11 Gm7 Cm Cm/B^b

I Am? Oh, Mar - y. Oh.

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.

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

*“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat.
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