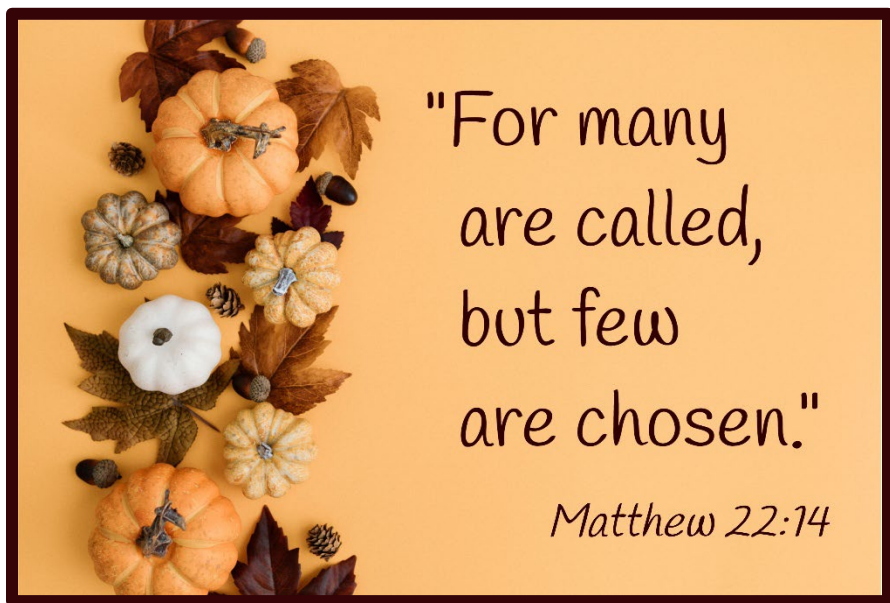


Welcome to worship at
The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026



In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

**Nicole Young, vicar
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 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.

Organ Prelude

Air and Variation

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Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Creating God, redeeming God, welcoming God, loving God, grace-filled God, as people gathered in your love, we celebrate your presence with us here. You make us, you create us, you shape us, you form us. We are yours!

Amen.

Please rise as you are able.

Invocation

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.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

You Servants of God

ELW #825

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Centering Song

How Sweet the Sound

Grace Band

Yea though I walk through the valley
I know that You are always right beside me
And I will fear no evil
You're my rock and my strength
You comfort me

Chorus:

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
I hear You singing over me
I once was lost but now I'm found
And it's a beautiful
Amazing grace how sweet the sound
It covers every part of me
My soul is silent I am found
And it's a beautiful sound
It's a beautiful beautiful sound

Carry me through the waters
Where Your peace clears away all my sorrow
And nothing can separate us from Your love
Oh Your love it will always be

Chorus

Bridge (2x):

You were healing in the pain
You were shelter in the storm
Oh my Jesus, You restore my soul

Chorus

Ending:

It's a beautiful beautiful sound
It's a beautiful beautiful sound

"How Sweet the Sound" Words and music by Ben Calhoun and Josh Calhoun. © 2013 Fair Trade Music Publishing; Fair Trade Tunes. Admin. Essential Music Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

Please be seated.

J.A.M. Choir *Hallelujah Round of Praise* with Chancel Choir

"Hallelujah Round of Praise" Words and music by Mozart. Arr. Austin Lovelace. © 1987 Chorister's Guild. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Children's Message

Lindsey Waltermeyer

First Reading

Isaiah 25:1-9

Scott Geiser

A reading from the book of Isaiah

¹ O Lord, you are my God;

 I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
 plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
 the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
 it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
 cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
 a refuge to the needy in their distress,
 a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
 the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow,
of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the
earth, for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him,
so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23

Scott Geiser

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

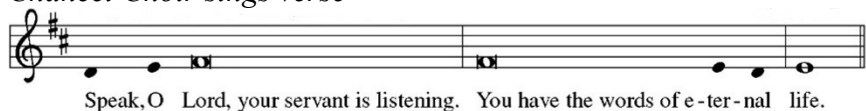
Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation



Chancel Choir sings verse



Congregation repeats alleluia

“Gospel Acclamation” Music: Bob Moore, b. 1962. Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Gospel **Matthew 22:1-14**

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Please be seated.

Message

A moment of silence for reflection

Please rise as you are able.

Song of the Day *O Come to the Altar*

Grace Band

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus:

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ
Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Chorus 2x

Bridge:

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Chorus

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

"O Come to the Altar" Words and music by Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick and Wade Joye. © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing. Admin. Essential Music Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under CCLI License #2329082.

Apostles' Creed

**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

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

**Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken
prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The 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.**

Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with your neighbors.

The people give a sign of peace to each other.

Please be seated.

Offering

Choir Anthem

Clap Your Hands

Chancel Choir

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You can donate to NHELC's ministry electronically.

Tithe.ly QR Code



Simply Giving QR Code



Please rise as you are able.

Offertory Response

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" Text: John W Arthur, 1922-1980. Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927. Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

The offering is brought forward for a blessing.

Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

Stewardship Moment

Sending Hymn *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* ELW #547

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Alleluia! Ellen Jane Lorenz
Based on the hymn tune by Palestrina

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Announcements

Today

The bulletin is sponsored to the glory of God and in celebration of her daughter's 16th birthday. Happy Birthday, Auri! By Daria Cardillo.

The flowers are sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of their grandsons' Ezra and Jonathan's birthdays by Todd and Stacey Rothermel.

The sponsor signup schedule is available on signugenius on the church's website. Click on the link newhanoverlutheran.org/worship_signups_2026 or QR Code to sign up today. Or, contact Church Office Manager Susan Gutshall at 610-326-1335.



Serving Today: Ed Becker, head usher; Donna Kehs and Terry Santangelo, ushers; Scott Geiser, lector; Lindsey Waltermeyer, children's sermon and Richard Garcia, acolyte
Next Sunday: Todd Rothermel, head usher; Steve Weidner and Georgann Geiser, ushers; Bethlyn Bechtel, lector; Nikki Young, children's sermon; Maddie Hansley, acolyte; Terry Santangelo and Erica Lucas, communion assistants

Altar Guild members who are serving this month: Becky Gallagher, Vicki Dotterer and Terry Santangelo

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.

Flutter youth group will be doing a corn maze tonight. We will meet at Wilcox Farms in Boyertown at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$10/person. Bring a flashlight! RSVP in the Band app. See Lindsey Waltermeyer or Hayley Quigley with questions.

Have a pastoral emergency?

Contact Vicar Nikki Young at 267-329-9697.

Due to church staff taking vacations and fulfilling responsibilities that take them outside the church facility, you are encouraged to call and make an appointment before coming to the church. The church office phone number is 610-326-1335.

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

Kids for Christ Band Rehearsal – Today, 10:00 – 10:30 AM, sanctuary

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

J.A.M. Choir Rehearsal – Today, 10:55 – 11:20 AM, room 15

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

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Service – Today, 6:30 PM

Flutter Corn Maze – Today, 6:30 PM, Wilcox Farms

Garden Harvesting and Maintenance – Monday, 7:00 AM, Garden of Hope

Prayer Ministry – Monday, 1:15 PM, sanctuary

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

Finance – Tuesday, 7:00 PM, Zoom

Women's Breakfast – Wednesday, 8:30 AM, Shorty's Sunflower Café, Pottstown

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

Food Delivery Pickup – Wednesday, 10:00 AM, kitchen door

Endowment – Wednesday, 10:30 AM, room 7

First Communion – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, room 1

Addiction 12 Step – Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM, welcome center

Food Ministry – Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Zoom

Chancel Choir – Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:45 PM, room 15

Cub Committee – Wednesday, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, room 7

Property – Wednesday, 7:00 PM, room 4

Garden Harvesting and Maintenance – Thursday, 7:00 AM, Garden of Hope

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

Council – Thursday, 6:30 PM, room 7

Addiction 12 Step – Thursday, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, welcome center

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

Meet and Greet – Saturday, 3:00 – 5:00 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

Kids for Christ Band Rehearsal – Next Sunday, 10:00 – 10:30 AM, sanctuary

J.A.M. – Next Sunday, 10:15 AM, room 1

J.A.M. Choir Rehearsal – Next Sunday 10:55 – 11:20 AM, room 15

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

Confirmation – Next Sunday, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, St. James Pottstown

Rejoicing Spirits – Next Sunday, 2:30 – 4:00 PM, room 1, sanctuary

Women's Breakfast is this Wednesday, 8:30 AM at Shorty's Sunflower Café on North Charlotte Street in Pottstown. Reservations are needed. To reserve your seat, contact Lynn Fegley at 484-300-6281 by Tuesday noon. And don't forget, husbands are invited too.

A First Communion class for kids in second grade and up will be held on Wednesday, October 14th, 6:00 – 7:00 PM in fellowship hall. First Communion will be observed on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026. If your child is ready and would like to participate, contact Vicar Nikki. If the date or time does not work, reach out to Vicar Nikki ASAP.

Upcoming Events

Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 24th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM You can help make the 2026 NHELC Trunk or Treat a great success!

Host a Trunk

Those hosting a trunk must arrive between 4:00 – 4:30 PM to set up. This will be open to the public so plan on having candy/treats for about 200 kids – we have no idea what to expect. The Church will try to have some extra candy on hand. Trunks must stay in place until the event ends.

Please note: To host a trunk you must be affiliated with NHELC, Troop or Pack 367 OR Sunshine Learning Center.

Extra Support

Also, we need volunteers to man the food table(s) and assist with parking. To help, go to the SignUpGenius at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-65815756-2026#.

Seasonal fun for all at the Pumpkin Frolic Sunday, October 25th, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

The annual Pumpkin Frolic will soon be here! This is an enjoyable event for all ages. Come join the fun of pumpkin related activities including pumpkin painting, fall crafts, and games. Participants will be painting pumpkins, not carving them for safety purposes. Pumpkins and paint will be provided. We will close with a light meal consisting of hotdogs and snack foods.

The Pumpkin Frolic is a Thrivent Action team service project so there is no charge; however, **bring some nonperishable food for**

Preston's Pantry at Boyertown Area Multi-Service. A signup sheet is on the desk in the welcome center or sign up online at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-65815756-2026#/)



[66083886-pumpkin](#) or use this QR code. To be sure enough pumpkins will be available, **sign up by Monday, October 19th**. This event will be held in fellowship hall.

“A House Divided and a World on Fire” is the topic of an adult education class on Sundays at 10:15 AM in the Multi-purpose room. The study focuses on lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, exploring his life and theology focusing on the lessons we can use as we live at the intersection of faith and civic life today. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor and theologian living in Nazi Germany, who eventually joined the resistance and was arrested and killed before the end of WWII. This six-week curriculum was compiled by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, an internationally renowned Bonhoeffer scholar and president of the International Bonhoeffer Society – English Language Section. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a partner in distributing this study to congregations, inspiring a deeper conversation and discernment about how we live as disciples.

LEGO Bingo To Benefit the National Youth Gathering Trip

Please note: This is a ticketed event! Come one and come all to our LEGO Bingo on **Saturday, November 7th**, at Sassamansville Fire Company - 1865 Hoffmansville Road.

Doors open	4:00
Kitchen open for food	4:30 – 6:00
Start selling bingo packages	5:30
Bingo begins	6:30

Tickets are \$30 for 20 games. There will be a blackout bingo, raffles and 50/50, all to support our youth. Tickets will be sold in the welcome center or contact the church office. Also, watch for flyers to distribute as well. Come out for fun and to support our youth on this great trip!

LEGO Donations

Also, you can help by donating LEGO sets for our LEGO bingo to allow our youth to raise more funds. Any name-brand LEGO sets are fine. For smaller sets, we will package them together. We have an Amazon wish list to help, but feel free to shop around. If you find a sale – GREAT! If you are really up for an adventure, check Facebook Marketplace. Sets must be NEW and unopened. Any donations can be brought to Vicar Nikki in the church office! Here is the Amazon wish list -

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ION1CNCX00M3?ref=wl_share.

The Zion Choral, an 80-member choir presents a “Hope of Heaven” concert on Sunday, November 1st, at the Trinity EC Church at 3:00 PM. Trinity is located at 250 Sweinhart Road in Boyertown. For more information, go to www.zionchoral.com or follow the choir on Facebook at Facebook@ZionChoral.

“Salute to Our Veterans” concert, sponsored by The Boyertown Rotary Club, will be held on Sunday, November 8th, at 3:00 PM at St John’s Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 8th, at 3:00 PM. Featured will be the Boyertown East West Middle School Show Choir and the keynote speaker, Commander John Greason, U.S. Coast Guard (retired), and Bronze Star recipient. St. John’s is located at 45 North Reading Avenue in Boyertown.

Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ is hosting an organ concert on Sunday, November 8th, at 3:00 PM. Organists featured are Vincent Ryan, minister of music and organist at Advent Lutheran Church in Harleysville, and Philip Crush, music director and organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Perkasie. A welcome reception will follow the concert.

Help Needed

Local families in the Pottstown area need our help. Through the end of October, NHELCC 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 and fellowship hall for the donations. For a list of items most needed, see the latest issue of *New Hanover Highlights*. Thank you for your contributions that will help those in need.

The Food Ministry has the following vacancies:

Volunteer Coordinator – Assigns meal delivery drivers, meal staging support and kitchen help.

Purchasing Agent – This person will purchase produce, kitchen supplies, packaging materials and manage food and meal inventories.

Cooks – Cooks are needed immediately. Jim Davidheiser has committed to preparing meals two days every four weeks and we are looking for at least two other cooks to do the same. Schedules are extremely flexible. Jim will get the new cooks familiar with the kitchen and activities required.

Contact Steve Weidner at foodministry@newhanoverlutheran.org if interested or to learn more. Job descriptions are available.

Reminder

Attention committee and group leaders. Be sure to turn out the lights when leaving the church.

Resources

Want to keep up with all the latest news from NHELC? 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 Vicar Nikki.

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

Help is needed in the church garden. Can you help with harvesting and maintenance on Mondays and/or Thursdays beginning at 7:00 AM? And, if that doesn't fit your schedule, can you pull weeds at your convenience? **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.** Any questions, contact Jim Mack at jimmack203@gmail.com or Steve Weidner at foodministry@newhanoverlutheran.org. Your help is appreciated.

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

Over 300,000 meals have been distributed! 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 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	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	Dorothy Bingaman	Emily Ocelus
Eric & Wendy Hess	Sue Care	Deb Matthews
Marceline	Anne Eshleman	Daniel Johnson
Chris Fatzinger	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	Chuck Beck
Rich Freed	Joe	Joe
Casey Flack	Penny Frymoyer	David Helfrich, Sr.
Tara Hauck	Hazel LeVan	David Gottshall
Paul Knauer	Suzanne Dodge	Dave Pollock
Julia Ghazi	Ray Feick	Steve Morriss
Jennifer, Brendt, Declan & Conor Budnick		Carol Feick

Alice Nester
Janet Linskey
Timmy Fabian
Carolyn and Rodney Snell
Sandy Seasholtz

Linda Adams
James Dawson
Betty Hinrichs

Donna Day
Diane Davidheiser
Judy Moser
Jackson Bernhard

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



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goldielw@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director Barbara Eisenhart

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Sexton Jen Boyer

jcboyer0408@gmail.com

Bookkeeper Dorothy Brower, bookkeeper@newhanoverlutheran.org

Cemetery Caretaker Norm Hunsberger, nhunsberger29@gmail.com

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Sunshine Learning Center Director Stephanie Houck

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We are a Reconciling in Christ Church

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



Generosity Assumptions vs. Reality

People aren't as generous as they used to be:

Giving has exploded in recent years. In 2024 Americans gave \$592.5 billion to charity. In inflation-adjusted numbers, in 1984 they only gave \$207.09 billion. That's more than double.

Well, people don't give to religion like they used to:

Actually, giving to religion grows. In 2024 they gave \$146.54 billion. Back in 1984 it was only \$107.35 billion.

Young people don't know how to be generous:

While the Baby Boom generation gives at high levels (largely because they have the greatest wealth), the Millennial generation has experienced significant growth in giving. They now give at higher levels than Generation X. Younger families give to organizations that they see making an impact in the world. How can your congregation tell the stories of lives changed because of your ministry?

Data from Giving USA annual reports of philanthropy

A short note from Vicar Nikki:

Since we started talking more about stewardship I have heard from many of you and heard some of your stories. New Hanover is a blessing. I see every day what happens when we share our time, talents, gifts and resources. All of that is stewardship and all of that is the ministry of this church. With so much happening this year and next year the ministry here is strong! I am excited to see what the future is for NHELC. As a reminder, the week of Oct 19th you will receive a card that can be mailed in, dropped off our returned during worship on Oct.25th. Please keep prayerfully considering where your "Yes" could be. *Vicar Nikki Young*

BEGINNING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

PRAY ABOUT YOUR GENEROSITY

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

- Romans 8.26

Many practical considerations play a part in determining the way we support organizations we care about: our budget, our bills, our income, our taxes, our investments, our partner's attitudes.

As you consider the next step on your journey of generosity and potentially a gift to this congregation, we invite you to begin it in prayer. Seek God's direction.

At the heart, prayer is conversation with God. For some, prayers sound polished and planned. For others, prayers sound like talking to a best friend. The good news is that the method doesn't matter. The Holy Spirit intercedes no matter how we come before God in prayer.

As you pray, take time to listen. Listen to God speaking in your thoughts. Listen to God speaking through others. Listen to God speaking in Scripture.

If it helps in your prayer journey, feel free to use the following prayer:
God of abundance, you claim me as your own child. How do you call me to respond to that amazing love? How might I take the next step on my journey of generosity, learning to trust that you provide for me daily? Give me clarity and guidance. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

How might God lead you on the next step on your journey of generosity?

At church, God invites us to a feast. We eat a meal together at church called communion. Everyone is welcome.

Draw in some more people in the empty spaces at the meal.

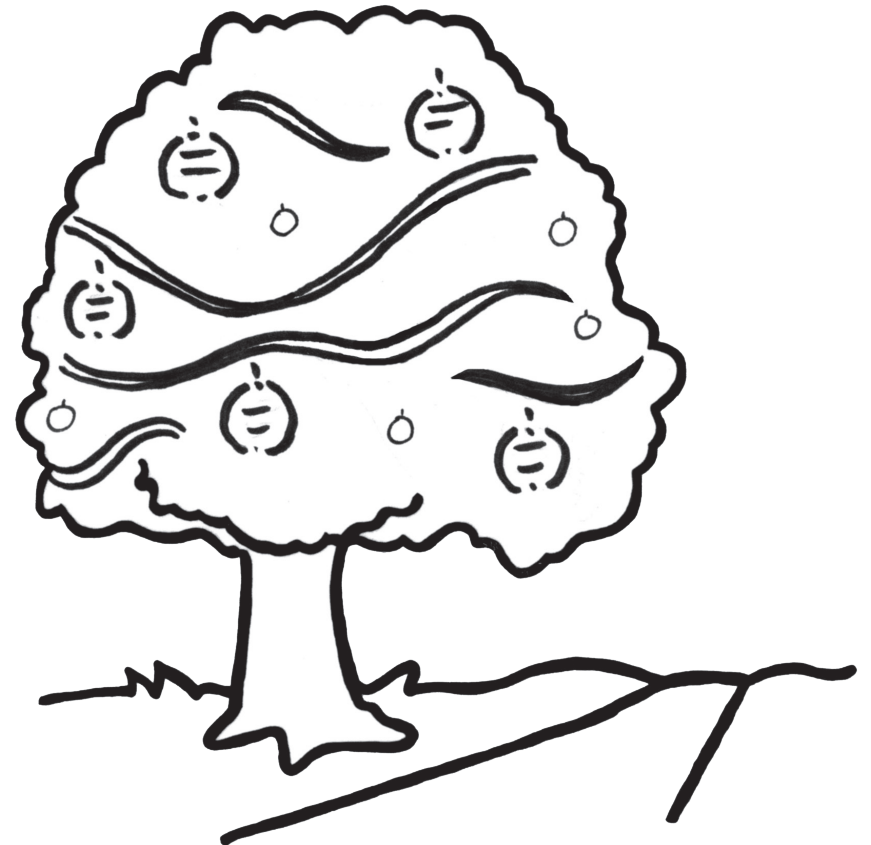


PRE-READER

Pentecost 20

- Today is the **20th Sunday** after Pentecost.
- Pentecost is a season of **growing**.
- God wants us to grow with **God's people**.

God invites all of us to a party. Look! Our Pentecost tree is ready for a party. Color the decorations on the tree. Then add some more!

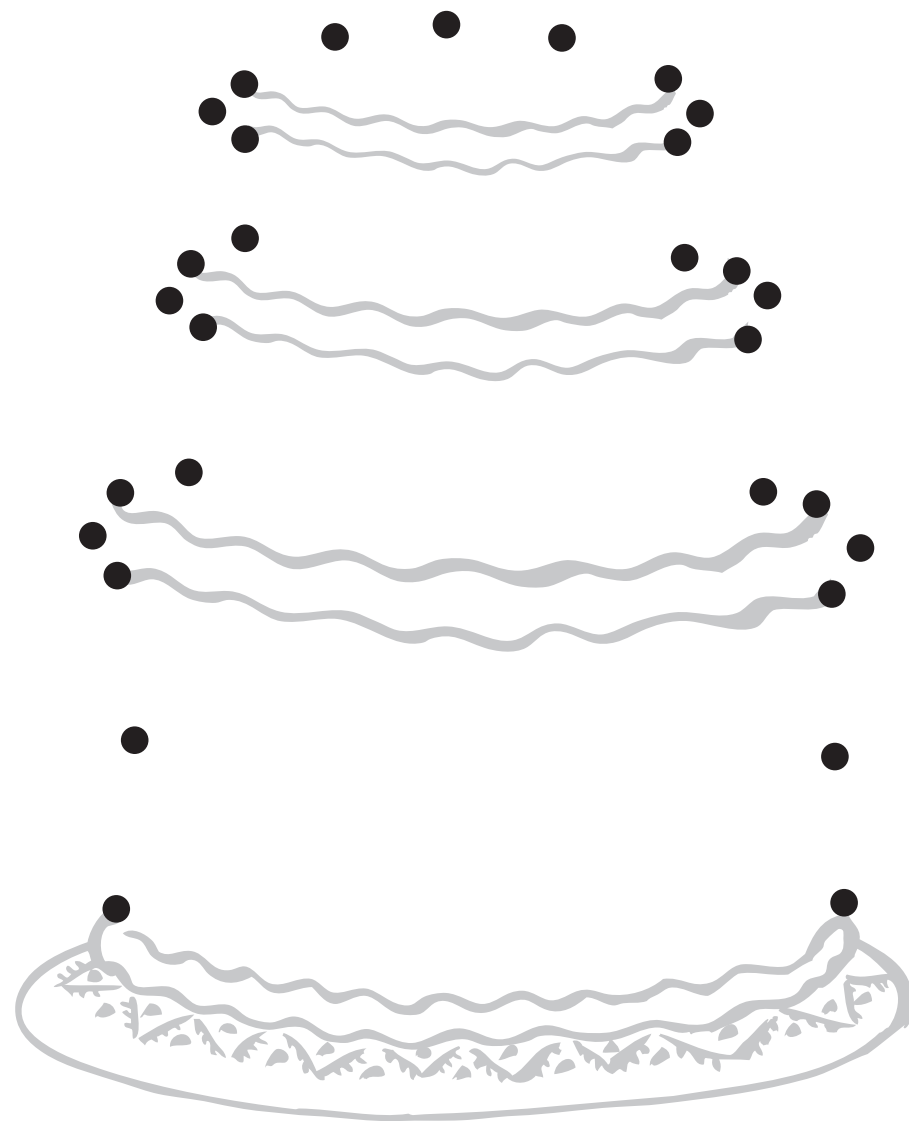




Soon the party was crowded with laughing and dancing people!

God invites us to a party. What do you like to eat at a party?

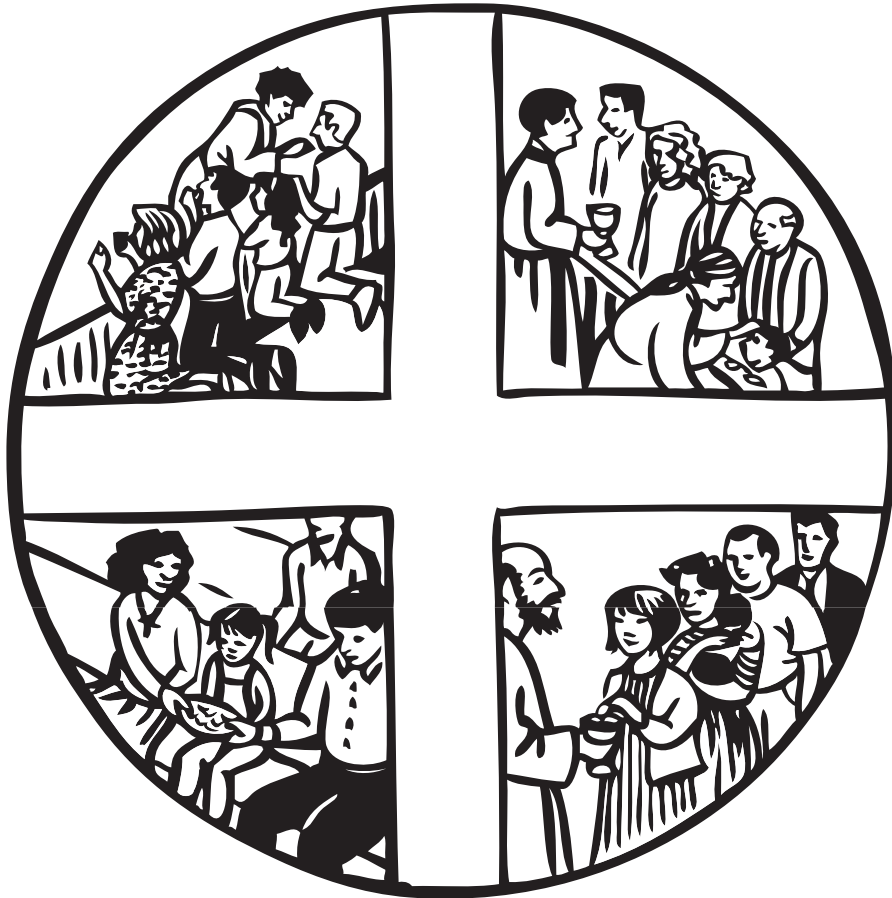
Connect the dots. You will find something everyone likes to eat at a party.



All Are Welcome

Holy Communion is a feast for all of us—friends and strangers. We share bread, wine, and blessings together at the table (altar), sing songs, and pray.

People celebrate Holy Communion many ways. Circle the picture closest to the way your congregation shares this fabulous feast!



READER

Pentecost 20

- Today is the **20th** Sunday after Pentecost.
- At Pentecost the Holy Spirit **rushed in**.
- The Holy Spirit didn't need an invitation to come to the **Pentecost party**.
- During the Pentecost season, we think about the **Holy Spirit**.

Who Will Come to the Banquet?

In today's story, many people hide from the king. God doesn't want us to hide. God wants us to come to the feast. Draw some people hiding in the tree. Draw yourself standing boldly in front of it!



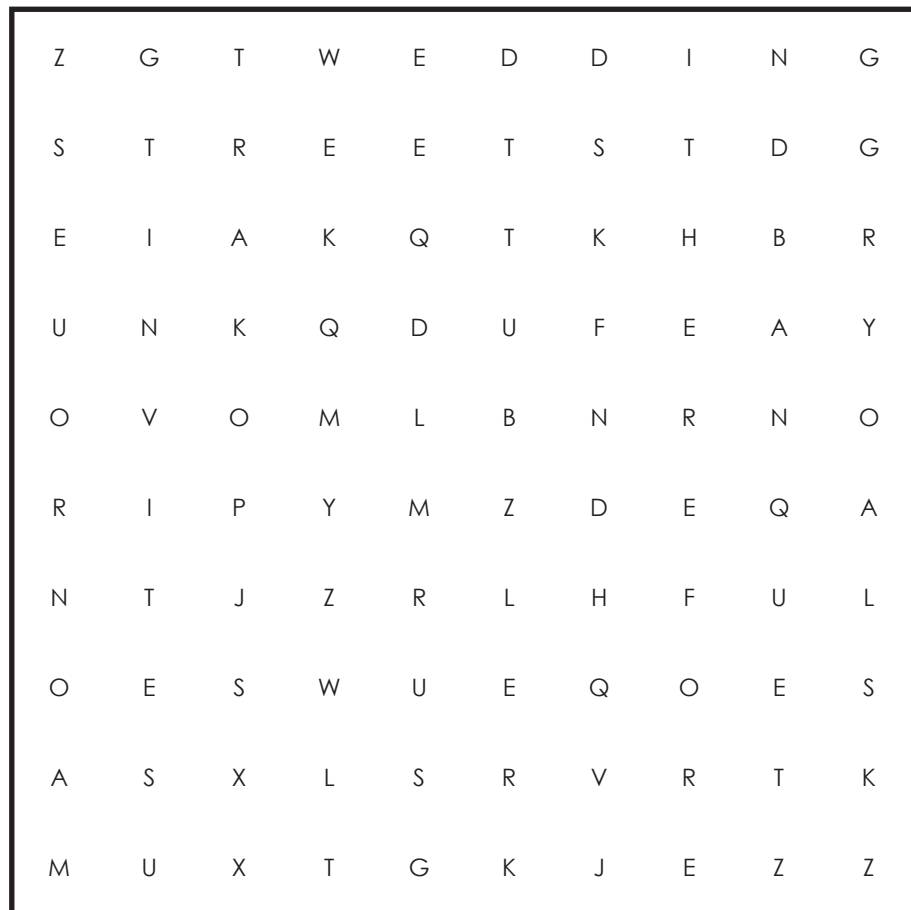
Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.

Memory Verse



Matthew 22:9

The king sent his servants to find people to come to the banquet. Go on a hunt for words from the memory verse.

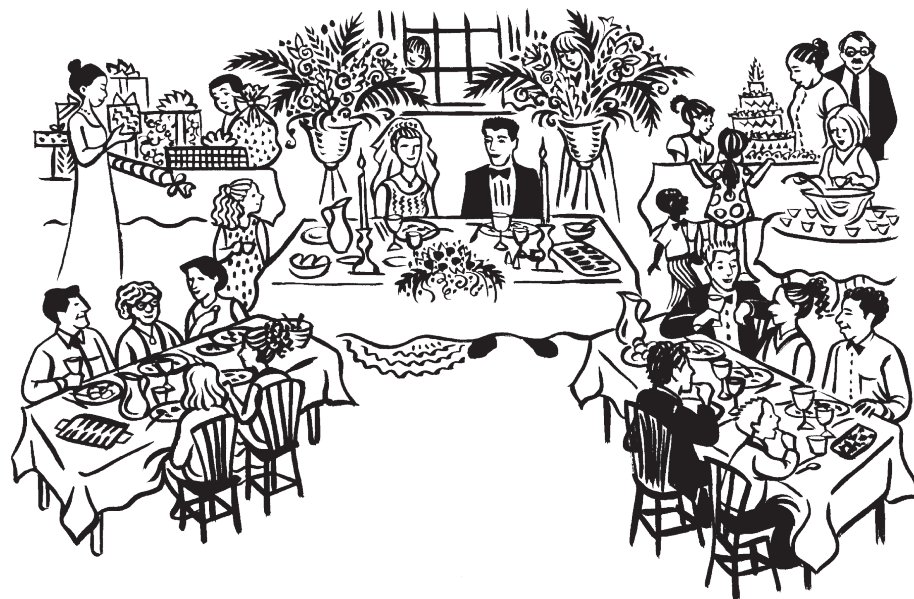


The Fabulous Feast

Matthew 22:1-14

Today's Gospel is about a huge wedding feast. The king invited everyone—even strangers! God is like the king in this story. Each of us is invited to be a wedding guest. Will you go to the party?

Draw yourself at this fabulous feast. Find 3 people who don't feel welcome to join the party and are hiding. How might you help them? How can you tell God is at this party?



You Servants of God



1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-to-rious, of
nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his
loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the
pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

"You Servants of God" Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806. Text and music are in public domain.

How Sweet The Sound

Words and Music by
Ben Calhoun and Josh Calhoun

♩ = 76

Chords: F#m7, D2(no3), A, F#m7, D2(no3)

1. Yea, though I walk through the val - ley, I know that You are al - ways

Chords: A, Esus, F#m7, D2(no3), A, Bm7

right be-side me, and I will fear no e - vil. You're my rock and my strength; You com

Chords: Esus, D, A, E, F#m, E

-fort me. A-maz-ing grace, how sweet the sound I hear You sing-ing o-ver me.

Chords: D, A, E, D, F#m

I once was lost but now I'm found, and it's beau-ti-ful. A-maz-ing grace, how sweet the sound;

Chords: E, Bm, D, E

It cov-ers ev-'ry part of me. My soul is si-lent, I am found, and it's a beau-ti-ful

Chords: D, A, E, F#m, E, D, A, E

sound. It's a beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful sound.

2nd time to Coda

21 2. Car ry me through the wa - ters where Your peace clears a - way all my sor -

24 - row. And noth-ing can sep - a - rate us from Your love, oh Your love, it will al -

- ways be. sound. You were heal-ing in the pain; You were

32 shel - ter in the storm. Hal - le - lu - jah, You re - store my soul. You were

35 lu - jah, You re - store my soul. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound

38 I hear You sing - ing o - ver me. I once was lost but now I'm found.

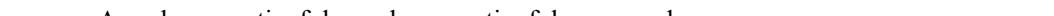
41 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound; It cov - ers ev - 'ry part of me.

43 How Sweet The Sound

D E D A

My soul is si-lent, I am found, and it's a beau-ti-ful sound.

46 

50 

O Come To The Altar

(as published by Elevation Worship)

Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye and Mack Brock

Words and Music by

INTRO

B E B E B

VERSE 1 & 2

1. Are you hurt-
2. Leave be - hind

E B E

- ing and bro - ken with-in, o - ver-whelmed by the weight of your sin?
your re - grets and mis - takes. Come to - day; there's no rea - son to wait.

G#m E B E

Je-sus is call-ing. Have you come to the end of your-self,
Je-sus is call-ing. Bring your sor - rows and trade them for joy;

B E G#m E

1 (1st x only)

do you thirst for a drink from the well? Je-sus is call-ing.
From the ash - es a new life is born. Je-sus is call-ing.

CHORUS

B C#m G#m E B C#m

O come to the al-tar; the Fa-ther's arms are o-pen wide. For-give-ness was bought with

INSTRUMENTAL 1

G#m E B E B E

the pre-cious blood of Je-sus Christ.

CHORUS

2

30 E B C#m G#m E

blood of Je-sus Christ. O come to the al - tar; the Fa-ther's arms are o-pen wide.

INSTRUMENTAL 2

35 B C#m G#m E B G#m

For-give-ness was bought with the pre-cious blood of Je-sus Christ.

BRIDGE

42 E B G#m

Oh, what a Sav - ior, is-n't he won-der - ful; Sing al-le -

49 E B G#m

-lu - ia, Christ is ris-en. Bow down be-fore him, for he is Lord of

56 E B 1 2

all; Sing al-le - lu - ia, Christ is ris-en. Oh, what a

CHORUS

B C#m G#m E B

O come to the al - tar; the Fa-ther's arms are o-pen wide. For-give-ness

INSTRUMENTAL 3

67

C#m G#m E B C#m G#m

was bought with the pre-cious blood of Je-sus Christ.

VERSE 3

73

E B B E

3. Bear your cross as you wait for the crown;

ENDING

80

B A E/G# B E B E

Tell the world of the trea-sure you've found.

86

B

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune. Text © 1964 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.