

**Three Hundred Twenty-fifth
Anniversary
Celebration Service**



*Celebrating 325 years – still making history
1700-2025*

**November 2, 2025
3:00 p.m.**

**The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania**

Welcome to the Three Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebration Service

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we gather in thanksgiving to celebrate three hundred twenty-five years of God's steadfast love and faithfulness to the New Hanover Lutheran congregation. Through seasons of joy and challenge, God has sustained this community in Word and Sacrament, in prayer and service, and in the shared life of faith.

We give thanks for the generations who have gone before us—who planted seeds of faith, built this fellowship, and witnessed to the Gospel in their time. We rejoice in the ministry we share today, and we look with hope to the future God continues to unfold among us.

As we worship, may the Holy Spirit renew our hearts, strengthen our faith, and send us forth as witnesses to Christ's love in the world.

Welcome, one and all, in the name of Jesus Christ—our foundation, our Savior, and our hope from generation to generation.

**Three Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary of
The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania**

1700-2025

**Festival Service of Holy Communion
Celebrating 325 Years – Still Making History**

November 2, 2025

3:00 PM

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We kindly ask everyone to maintain a spirit of reverence and remain silent during the Prelude, allowing for a time of reflection and worship for all.

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PRELUDE

“Rise, Ye Children of Salvation”

- Falckner/Boeringer

Carolyn Fleming, soprano; Steven Eisenhart, organ – New Hanover members

Rise, O children of salvation,
all who cleave to Christ the head!
Wake, awake, O mighty nation,
ere the foe on Zion tread;
He draws nigh and would defy
all the hosts of God Most High.
Sound the call to arms again;
Alleluia! Amen!

Fighting, we shall be victorious
by the blood of Christ our Lord;
on our foreheads, bright and glorious,
shines the witness of his word;
spear and shield on battlefield,
his great name; we cannot yield.
Sound the call to arms again;
Alleluia! Amen!

Saints and martyrs long before us
firmly on this ground have stood,
See their banner waving o’er us,
Conqu’ors through the Savior’s blood.
Ground we hold, whereon of old
Fought the faithful and the bold.
Sound the call to arms again;
Alleluia! Amen!

When his servants stand before him,
each receiving his reward;
when his saints in light adore him,
giving glory to the Lord;
“Victory!” our song shall be,
like the thunder of the sea.
Sound the call to arms again;
Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

“We Thank Thee, O God”

- Bach/Hebble

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Bruce Tonkin, organ – former New Hanover Director of Music Ministry

“Introduction, Chorale, and Improvisation on ELLIOTT”

- Bowman/Stuempfle/arr. B. Tonkin

R. Leland Wesner, Jr., bass – New Hanover member

Bruce Tonkin, organ – former New Hanover Director of Music Ministry

God, whose Word like seed was planted
by your saints in virgin soil,
now, in this new day we thank you
for the harvest of their toil.
“Alleluia! Alleluia!”
is our song of praise to you!

Grant us vision reaching forward
to a future yet unclear.
Give us strength to match your calling;
hope that conquers doubt and fear.
“Alleluia! Alleluia!”
be the song that fills our days.

“Allegro”

- Vivaldi/arr. Drummond/Wolff

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Thomas McHugh, Jr., James Dugan; trumpets – New Hanover members

Patricia Nyce, organ – New Hanover Director of Music Ministry



WELCOME

- The Reverend Scott Staub

Pastor, New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

*(*those who are able may stand)*

*ALL GOD’S CHILDREN GATHER

Miller Quigley: Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered, I am there in the midst of them.”

Pastor Matt Finney, Dean, Upper Montgomery Conference:

We, celebrating all of God’s children and creation, gather today in the name of the + Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen. We are all God’s children.**

Pastor Matt Finney: We, welcoming to all of God’s children and creation, gather in this place, at this time, as the people of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church have gathered through the years.

Congregation: **We gather to give thanks and celebrate!**

Pastor Matt Finney: We gather as the early saints of our congregation gathered to worship reconciled in a mighty and

gracious God. The first members of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church came to a strange new world, deeply hoping and desiring to worship their Lord, Jesus Christ, in freedom.

Congregation: **We gather to worship and praise Jesus Christ!**

Pastor Matt Finney: We, gather as the early saints of our congregation gathered to celebrate and give thanks for God’s blessings. On this piece of creation, three hundred twenty-five years ago, those saints gathered in an area that they named New Hanover, a name given in honor of the town in Germany from which they came. With thankful hearts, they gathered under the leadership of Pastor Daniel Falckner in a “small, rude hut without adornment or ornamentation.”

Congregation: **We gather to remember and give thanks to God.**

Pastor Matt Finney: We are all able to gather and celebrate this day, because they gathered regularly, gave sacrificially, worked faithfully, and prayed fervently. In the first years of this congregation, people walked barefoot for miles to gather for worship, putting on their precious shoes at the well before entering the church building. Worshipers forded dangerous streams, traveled almost impassable roads, warded off attacks, often risking their lives to gather for worship. Through the years, the saints of New Hanover have gathered in freedom to worship Jesus, in log cabins, in schoolhouses, in barns, and in the current stone sanctuary, and today, welcoming all of God’s children.

Congregation: **We gather to praise the faithfulness of God to God’s people.**

Miller Quigley: Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered, I am there in the midst of them.”

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Praise to the Lord” ELW 858

Thomas McHugh, Jr., James Dugan; trumpets – New Hanover members
Patricia Nyce, organ – New Hanover Director of Music Ministry

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

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(Please be seated.)

ALL GOD'S PEOPLE WORSHIP WITH PRAISE

Scott Geiser: Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg preached on this text from 1 Kings 9 in 1768 at the dedication of our current sanctuary. “I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built and put my name there forever: my eyes and my heart will be there for all time.”

At the dedication of the current sanctuary, Pastor Henry Muhlenberg read Psalm 100:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness.

Congregation: **Come into his presence with singing!**

Scott Geiser: Know that the Lord is God. It is God that made us, and we are God's children.

Congregation: **We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Scott Geiser: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

Congregation: **Give thanks to God, bless God's name!**

Scott Geiser: For the Lord is good,

Congregation: **God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations!**

Pastor Carl Filer: The first German Lutheran worship services conducted in Pennsylvania were held in June 1694 by a band of forty immigrants, six of whom were said to be theological students. English worship services were begun at the same time. The chaplain of the group, Pastor Heinrich Bernhard Koester, continued to hold worship services regularly. Next was Daniel Falckner. Daniel Falckner returned to Germany between 1694 and 1699 where he encouraged immigration to the New World and was ordained into the Lutheran ministry.

Pastor John Fritch: Upon his return to Pennsylvania, Pastor Falckner gathered the German Lutheran immigrants living in and around New Hanover for worship. They were first gathered for Christian worship in a small hut, constructed by 1703. They worshiped there until a log cabin was built in 1721. Then, in 1747, a third log structure was erected which replaced the earlier church buildings. The fourth church building, which still stands, was begun in 1767 and completed in 1768. With God's help this congregation has continued to faithfully gather for worship. Despite numerous fires and costly property damage, these saints have courageously and sacrificially rebuilt God's house.

HANDBELL QUINTET "Gentle Praises" - arr. Eithun

New Hanover members – Ben Fowler, LuAnne Fowler, Carolyn Springer,
Barbara Eisenhart, Wayne Fowler

Patricia Nyce, piano - Director of Music Ministry

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***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor Thomas Lang: O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your Church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in this congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and help us to continue the work and hope of Jesus Christ. Knit us together in the communion of saints, and make our fellowship an example to all people, not only to those who believe, but also to those who do not yet know you, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray in your name, trusting in your almighty power.

Congregation: **Amen.**

***PRAISE SONG “Forever”**

- Tomlin

GRACE Praise Band

Give thanks to the Lord, Our God and King,
His love endures forever;
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever, sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm
His love endures forever;
For the life that's been reborn His love endures forever;
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise.

Chorus:

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong
Forever God is with us, forever, forever.

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever;
And by the grace of God we will carry on,
His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise

Chorus 2x

(Please be seated.)

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN LEARN

Samuel Young: Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

Nicole Young: From the beginning, children have been a special focus of the mission and ministry of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our original charter proclaims we are a “school,” in addition to a place of worship. As soon as the early worshipers were assured of having a church building, they also took steps to provide a schoolhouse. The records show that by 1743, a school was in existence, and that by 1749, the congregation had secured a second schoolhouse. In the early years, nearly all the assistants and regular pastors, up to and including the sons of Pastor Henry Muhlenberg, taught school at least part time. Pastors served as teachers. Organists were also schoolmasters. Teachers served as catechists. And, some teachers went into the ordained ministry. In the early years and today, the school and the church are woven into one ministry.

Pastor Henry Muhlenberg, believing that the future language of this land would be English, encouraged the learning of the English language. The first catechumen confirmed at New Hanover by Pastor Muhlenberg received her instruction in English. Down through the years, our unique heritage and ministry have been nurturing faith in Jesus Christ to children. As early as 1853, a Union Sunday School was begun with Falkner Swamp United Church of Christ. Classes were held at the local schoolhouse. Our present Sunday School was begun in 1887, and the first Vacation Bible School was held in 1946. In 1950, the congregation built its first structure dedicated to Christian education, providing a home for the local community's first public Kindergarten class. Continuing to flourish, in 2000, we witnessed the addition of a Christian Education wing.

Today, November 2, 2025, in our newly renovated Christian Education Center, we celebrate the continuing education of

all ages through our Jesus and Me classes (JAM), our youth group FLUTTER, Summer Kids Camp (VBS), Camp Falckner, and the opening of the Sunshine Learning Center providing preschool, childcare, and summer day camps for our community.

ANTHEM “What an Awesome God” - Smith/Wickham/Mullins
KFC (Kids for Christ) Praise Band and
JAM (Jesus and Me) Choir

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CHILDREN’S MESSAGE - The Reverend Bryan J. Penman
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

***THE GOSPEL Luke 6:20-31** - The Reverend Bryan J. Penman
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Bishop Penman: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Congregation: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁰ Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they
exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of

Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Bishop Penman: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

THE SERMON

- The Reverend Bryan J. Penman
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

(Meditation on the message: a time to ponder anew.)

ALL GOD’S CHILDREN WITNESS

***THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

GREETINGS

The Reverend Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- Barbara Eisenhart, Chairperson
Three Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary Committee

John K. Fetterman, United States Senator
The State of Pennsylvania

- Todd Rothermel, President
New Hanover Lutheran Congregation Council

*THE PRAYERS

Jayne McHugh: Most gracious and loving God, your Word like seed was planted in this congregation. Through the years your Spirit has nurtured and nourished our common life. Those seeds of faith have sprouted and grown. We praise you and thank you for all people whose faith has been initiated by baptism in this community, all whose faith lives have been nourished at your holy table, and all who have feasted on your Word of life, and for those who are yet to come. We thank you that through the years you have continued to raise faithful leaders for your church from our midst. Encourage us to ponder anew, seek others, and welcome them into our community and into your glory. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: **Your mercy is great.**

Jayne McHugh: Lord Jesus, you sent your followers to all nations to make disciples. We thank you for the mission zeal of this congregation over the past three hundred twenty-five years planting our daughter congregations: St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyertown; Trinity Lutheran Church, Bechtelsville; Emmanuel and Grace Lutheran churches, Pottstown; and the partnerships in ministry shared over the years with Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe; St. Michael Lutheran Church, Philadelphia; Old Zion Lutheran Church, Spring City; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sassamansville; St. Luke Lutheran Church, Zieglerville; and Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic. Inspire us to share the good news, with all people, in all places, at all times. Hear us, O God.

Congregation: **Your mercy is great.**

Marsha Staub: Loving God, we thank you for the witness of Christian service and mission through this congregation over the past three hundred twenty-five years. We thank you that this congregation has provided prayers, mental and physical healing, benevolence, gifts, sustaining meals, fresh produce, and clothing to those in need. We thank you for the generosity of people who shared your resources with those

less fortunate. Strengthen us that we might continue to extend that helping hand and support.

Hear us, O God.

Congregation: **Your mercy is great.**

Marsha Staub: We thank you for the saints of this community of faith; our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. We thank you for their faithfulness, their perseverance, their sacrifice, their courage, and their witness in Christian living. May the history of Christian faith and purpose that we create now become living examples of the Christian life and faith for your children in our midst and those to come.

Hear us, O God.

Congregation: **Your mercy is great.**

***THE PEACE**

(This text is the “motto” given to the congregation by Pastor Henry Muhlenberg upon the dedication of the current sanctuary.)

Jayne McHugh: “Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace to this house!” And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you.” (Luke 10:5, 6) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

(Please share a sign of peace with your neighbor.)

(Please be seated.)

THE OFFERING *The loose offering collected will be given to the Bishop’s Fund.*

ANTHEM “God is Our Refuge”

- Pote

Combined Choir

Choirs participating with the New Hanover Lutheran choir:
Christ Lutheran Church of Niantic, Barto
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown
Grace Lutheran Church, Pottstown
St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown
Little Zion Lutheran Church, Telford

Thomas McHugh, Jr., James Dugan; trumpets – New Hanover members
Patricia Nyce, piano – New Hanover Director of Music Ministry

*THE OFFERTORY and CONFESSIONAL HYMN



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

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*GOD FEEDS HIS CHILDREN

Bishop Penman: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Bishop Penman: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Penman: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

Congregation: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Bishop Penman: In his abundant love, God has created us. In Holy Baptism God makes us God's children and gives to us God's sustaining Spirit. Through the years, God has guided and blessed this community of faith. God has blessed this congregation with faithful pastors, gifted lay leaders, committee members, and an abundance of resources for ministry.

But most of all, our gracious God has given to us the gift of God's Son, our Lord, the power of His life, death, and resurrection. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and the hosts of heaven, we join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Bishop Penman: O God before time, O God at the end, we delight
in the splendor of your universe. Daily we laud your
continuing creation, and we give thanks for all the
homelands of your Reformation people.
We glorify you, now and forever.

Congregation: **We glorify you, now and forever.**

Bishop Penman: O God of the covenant, O God of the church,
we hear you speaking to centuries of your people. We come
as your children to this table, and we give thanks for your
presence among Lutheran congregations around the world.
We praise you, now and forever.

Congregation: **We praise you, now and forever.**

Bishop Penman: You gave us Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul,
Luther and Melanchthon, Henry Muhlenberg, Elizabeth
Fedde, and three hundred twenty-five years of faithfully
called ministers of word, sacrament, and service leaders.
You gave us those who shared their gifts of the spirit,
Katharina Luther the homemaker, Cranach the artist, Bach
the musician, Nicolai the hymnwriter, Nommensen the
missionary, Kierkegaard the philosopher, Bonhoeffer the

martyr, Hammarskjöld the statesman, and countless other servants of the Reformation.

We bless you, now and forever.

Congregation: **We bless you, now and forever.**

Bishop Penman: You came as Jesus, our wisdom, our guide, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free, dying for sin, and alive for the life of the world.

We worship you, now and forever.

Congregation: **We worship you, now and forever.**

Bishop Penman: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God before time, O God at the end, Father, Son, and Spirit, we laud you, Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of truth. Glory and praise, blessing and worship, honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever.

Congregation: **Amen.**

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***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

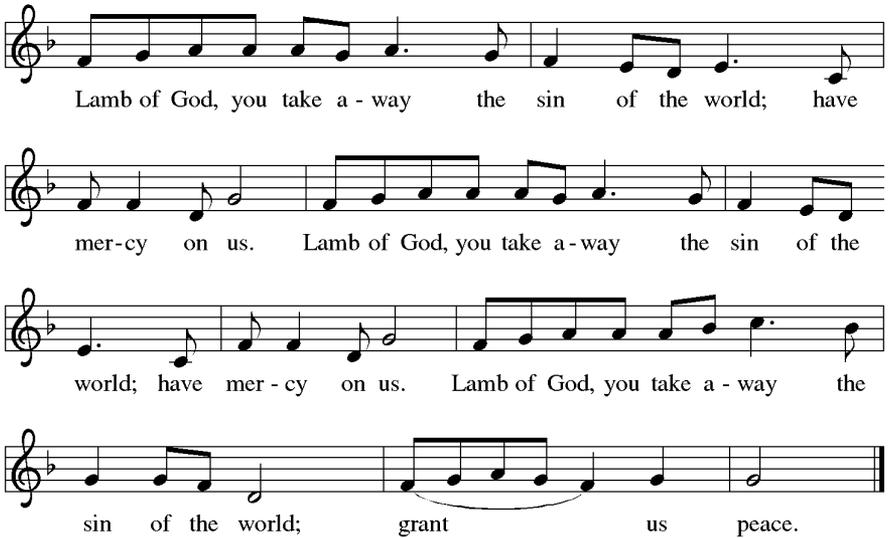
Bishop Penman: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Congregation: **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.**

Bishop Penman: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

(Please be seated.)

THE COMMUNION SONG “Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. This is the Lord’s Table, open to everyone. The usher will direct you when to come forward. Communion glasses are found on the stand at the front of the line to your right. Take an empty glass if you are choosing to commune with wine, or a pre-filled glass (with grape juice) if you will be communing with grape juice. Receive your bread from the Bishop, gluten-free bread from the plate, and the wine, or blessing over the grape juice from the lay assistant. There are two wine stations, so please, choose the open station. Persons not communing may receive a personal blessing (simply keep your hands down at your sides or folded across your heart).

Communion Assistant: The body of Christ, given for you.

Communicant: **Amen.**

Communion Assistant: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communicant: **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Please maintain a reverent silence during Communion, allowing this sacred moment to be one of reflection and prayer.

Communion Music

- GRACE Praise Band

“O Come to the Altar”

- Brown/Brock/Furtick/Joye

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“How Great is Our God”

- Tomlin/Cash/Reeves

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“Faithful”

- Tomlin

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*THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Bishop Penman: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: **Amen.**

*THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Bishop Penman: Gracious God, your strong presence has blessed the people of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church for three hundred twenty-five years. We pray now that your holy presence, given to us in your body and blood, may bring comfort and healing, forgiveness, and strength to your children who gather here today. Make us one, united in our commitment to serve you in our day and time, united with faith in our Lord Jesus, and united with your Church throughout the world. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Congregation: **Amen.**

GOD'S CHILDREN SENT TO SERVE

*THE BENEDICTION

Combined Choir

- arr. R. Leland Wesner, Jr.

Member, New Hanover Lutheran Church

*RECESSIONAL HYMN "God of the Ages"

Thomas McHugh, Jr., James Dugan; trumpets – New Hanover members
Deborah Matthews, organ

Parish Musician at Christ Lutheran Church of Niantic, Barto
Former Director of Music at New Hanover Lutheran Church

God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
thy true religion in our hearts increase;
thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

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*THE DISMISSAL

Pastor Scott Staub: Go in God's peace and live and serve as God's children.

Go plant the church and sow the seeds of faith.

Go into God's future and serve the living Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Scott Staub: Go get 'em.

(Please be seated.)

POSTLUDE

“Toccata from Symphony No. 5”

-Widor

Public Domain

Brian Tracey, organ – New Hanover member

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Three Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary booklets are available. Pick one up in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall on your way to the dinner. Please, one per family!

Participating in Today's Service

The Reverend Bryan J. Penman
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

The Reverend Scott A. Staub
Pastor, New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Readers: Miller Quigley – New Hanover member

The Reverend Matthew Finney
Dean, Upper Montgomery Conference

Scott Geiser – New Hanover member

The Reverend Carl Filer
Former Student Assistant at New Hanover
Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown

The Reverend John Fritch
Former Student Assistant at New Hanover

The Reverend Thomas Lang
Former Pastor at New Hanover

Samuel Young – New Hanover member

Nicole Young
Director of Children, Family and Youth at New Hanover

Jayne McHugh – New Hanover member

Marsha Staub – New Hanover member

Organists: Steven Eisenhart - New Hanover member
Bruce Tonkin
Former New Hanover Director of Music Ministry
Patricia Nyce
Current New Hanover Director of Music Ministry
Deborah Matthews
Former New Hanover Director of Music Ministry
Brian Tracey - New Hanover member

Trumpets: James Dugan, Thomas McHugh, Jr.
New Hanover members

Soloists: Carolyn Fleming, R. Leland Wesner, Jr.
New Hanover members

GRACE Band: New Hanover members
Lindsey Waltermyer, keyboard – Director
Vocalists - Monique Becker; Bethlyn Bechtel; Nicole
Ewing; Drums - Josh Young; Bass - Hank Droneberg

Kids for Christ (KFC) Praise Band: New Hanover members
Lindsey Waltermyer, keyboard – Director
Vocalists - Madelyn Artim; Genesis Garcia; Madison
Hansley; Sadie Hubley; Alexa Moser; Miller Quigley;
Landon Woods; Drums - Sam Young

Jesus and Me (JAM) Children’s Choir: Patricia Nyce, Director
New Hanover members
Lindsey Waltermyer, keyboard; Kylie Ewing, Richard
Garcia, Carolina Hansley, Collins Quigley, Tanner
Quigley, Carly Soupik, Lainey Soupik, Aubrey Woods,
Caleb Woods

Handbell Quintet: New Hanover members
Barbara Eisenhart, Ben Fowler, LuAnne Fowler, Wayne
Fowler, Carolyn Springer

New Hanover members

Acolyte: London Meeker

Crucifer: Genesis Garcia

Ushers: Stieven Weidner James Gross, Jr.
Georgann Geiser Terry Santangelo

Congregations Participating in Combined Choir

Christ Lutheran Church of Niantic, Barto
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown
Grace Lutheran Church, Pottstown
Little Zion Lutheran Church, Telford
New Hanover Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville
St. James Lutheran Church, Pottstown

The Reverend Bryan J. Penman

Bryan J. Penman earned his Master of Divinity with a concentration in Metro Urban Studies from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary) in 2012. He was called to serve as Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, in 2013, where he faithfully ministered until his election as Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod in 2024.

In addition to his parish work, Bishop Penman joined the synod staff in 2022 as a Director of Evangelical Mission, focusing on congregational vitality. He chaired the synod's Vitality Team, playing a crucial role in developing and sustaining vital ministries throughout the synod.

Originally from Virginia, Bishop Penman grew up as a lifelong Lutheran at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Stafford, Virginia. His formative years in the Virginia Synod's youth ministry programs inspired him to attend Lenoir-Rhyne University, an ELCA institution in Hickory, North Carolina, where he graduated with a degree in English and Religious Studies in 2004.

Before discerning a call to ministry, Bishop Penman worked with his mother in real estate, where they built an award-winning business. Bishop Penman currently resides in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, with his devoted husband, Matt, and their adopted son.

New Hanover Lutheran Church Staff

The Reverend Scott A. Staub, Pastor
Nicole Young, Director of Children, Family and Youth
Susan Gutshall, Church Office Manager
Patricia Nyce, Director of Music Ministry
Lindsey Waltermeyer, GRACE Band Director
Barbara Eisenhart, Handbell Choir Director
Chris Fatzinger, Food Ministry Director
Jena Marinelli, Educational Director
Jennifer Boyer, Sexton
Norman Hunsberger, Cemetery Caretaker

New Hanover Lutheran Congregation Council

Todd Rothermel, President
D. Martin Hauser, Vice-President
Monique Becker, Secretary
Edward Becker, Treasurer
Scott Geiser, Financial Secretary
Scott Staub, Pastor
Nicole Young, ad hoc
James Mack
Yvonne Peto
Andrew Van Dyke

Three Hundred Twenty-fifth Anniversary Committee

Barbara Eisenhart, Chairperson	Jane Manthorne
Patricia Berger	Jayne McHugh
Steven Eisenhart	Amanda Schlick
Ligia Garcia	Pastor Scott Staub
Ricardo Garcia	Sharon Tracey
Leslie Gates	R. Leland Wesner, Jr.
	Nicole Young

A Brief History of the Congregation

The story of the New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church is a story about a community of people and their God rather than about a building. From 1694-1700, many Lutherans, largely from the Palatinate region of Germany, came to the new world to escape religious persecution. Upon reaching the new world, many of these new arrivals made their way up the Schuylkill River Valley and settled in an area which they named “New Hanover” in honor of the city and province of Hannover, Germany, from which many of them had come.

About the same time, Daniel Falckner, a German theological student, came to America as an agent for the Frankfort Land Company. His work gave him opportunity to come in close contact with the new settlers. Realizing that one does not live by bread alone and looking upon these hundreds of new settlers as sheep without a shepherd, Falckner, who had been ordained as a minister of the Gospel while on a visit to Germany shortly before 1700, ministered with Word and the Sacraments to these scattered Lutherans between the Schuylkill River and the present Pennsburg, and organized them into a congregation.

Following in Falckner’s footsteps was a procession of ministers, mostly “circuit” pastors, who served several congregations at the same time. One of these was Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, who answered a call to America from his native Germany in 1742. He preached his first sermon in America at New Hanover on November 28 of that year. His call included New Hanover, Providence (Trappe), and Philadelphia (St. Michael’s). Under Muhlenberg’s guidance, the congregation at New Hanover grew and prospered. He was also instrumental in organizing the congregations in the area into a synod (regional organization), the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

In 1768, after having worshiped in three log structures, the congregation dedicated its new stone building which continues to serve to this day.

During the Revolutionary War, in the autumn of 1777, the Continental Army, led by General George Washington, retreated before the oncoming British. They carried with them their wounded

from the battle at Brandywine. As the army moved north of the Schuylkill River, encampments were established from Pottsgrove to Towamencin, and the church at New Hanover became a temporary hospital.

In 1777-1778, The Rev. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, son of Henry, served the New Hanover congregation. He later entered civil life and served both in the Continental Congress and the first Congress of the United States, where he became the first Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In the years following, the congregation prospered and was served by a number of able pastors. Extensive growth brought about a major building program in the 1950s. The Memorial Parish House was dedicated in 1951, and the Parish House Annex was dedicated in 1957. In June 1971, fire destroyed the Annex. It was rebuilt in less than a year and rededicated in 1972.

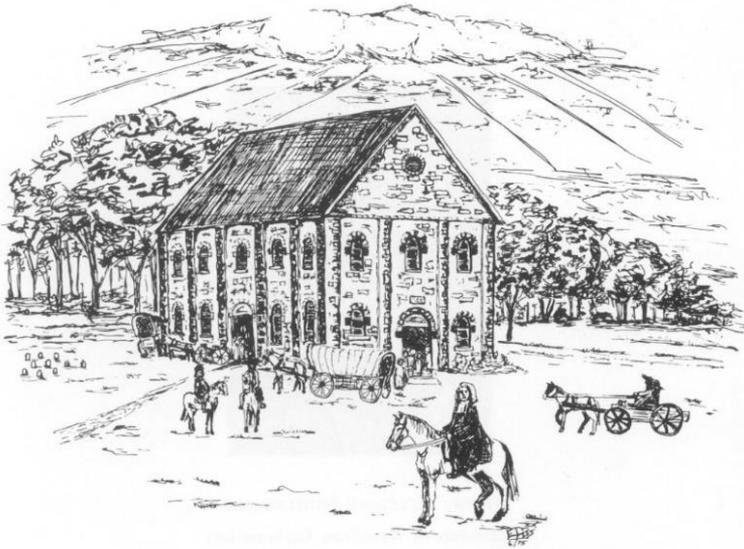
A Christian Education wing was built in 2000. The facility and its surrounding thirty-nine acres provide the foundation for vast ministries for all generations doing God's work. The community showed no greater courage than our perseverance during the 2020 pandemic continuing to provide worship, mission and to create new ministries. Utilizing all thirty-nine acres, our picnic grove provided a place of safety and gathering during the pandemic where worship, youth camps, scout organizations, and ministries could flourish and provide healing for our community in safety.

Our kitchen witnessed the creation of a food ministry, Loaves & Fishes, which provide up to 150 meals per day. Barren land was transformed into the Garden of Hope which grows and donates over 6,000 pounds of vegetables and fruit. Our fields have been planted to provide eleven acres of hay and silage for neighboring farms, in addition to a flood remediation forest.

A new ministry of Peer Support was initiated to provide healing for the suffering community. The congregation found ways to continue worship using our parking lot to provide FM transmitted drive-in worship services. The picnic grove provided outdoor worship services, and the major installation of an audio/visual system in the

historic sanctuary provided online steaming capability, transmitting our worship to all the world.

New Hanover's history shows evidence of God's continuing grace, and its ability to sustain Christ's mission. It was given a significant role in the birth of the Lutheran Church in America as well as the birth of the nation itself. It has been blessed with volunteers, ministers of word, sacrament and service who enthusiastically answered the call to "go forth," and whose work has nurtured growth while keeping its tradition as a "family church who welcomes all to its table."



Celebrating 325 Years
1700-2025

**NHEL C** 
neighbors

Still Making History