

New Hanover Highlights

A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 2020

The Rev. Scott A. Staub, pastor
2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
(610) 326-1335

newhanoverlutheran.org
facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch



Congregation

A message from Pastor Scott; Lauren begins an exiting career; worship assistants needed

Details on page 2

Trellis for Tomorrow

NHELCC Food Ministry partners with local organization to educate and grow nutritious food for local, at-risk members of the community.

Details on page 3

NHELCC's Food Ministry

The need for NHELCC's Food Ministry continues. Many letters of thanks confirm this act of kindness is greatly appreciated.

Details on page 4

Faith Formation

What will Christian Education look like this fall? First virtual VBS was a success. Registration for confirmation begins.

Details on page 5

Ladies Sew Comfort

Ladies make heart-shaped pillows for cancer patients.

Details on page 6

Prayer Ministry

NHELCC begins a "Prayer Buddy" program, linking members with Sunday school families, reaching out in prayer for one another.

Details on page 6

Camp Falckner 2020

A Love that never ends was this year's theme for youth attending Camp Falckner.

Details on page 7



The Living Stones of NHELCL

“Come to Christ, who is the living Foundation of Rock upon which God builds; though men have spurned him, he is very precious to God who has chosen him above all others. And now you have become living building-stones for God’s use in building his house.”

- 1 Peter 2:4-5

Greetings and pray that you are safe and healthy during these times.

During the past six months we have witnessed many transformations. Shopping in stores has become a safety consideration. Eating inside our favorite restaurants has become a lot more to manage than just the menu. And Church is well, a lot of things.

The vision of “Church” has changed rapidly from the 251-year-old church structure “we used to” worship in, to the very body and souls of us all. The early “Church” (body of Christ) was built upon Jesus and living stones (us) as the foundation. Today, we find much the same as NHELCL is defined not by a historic structure and the oldest graveyard; however, by people serving in ways they never served before.

NHELCL is teaching the Bible virtually to all ages, and we are feeding thousands. NHELCL is helping our neighbors who are struggling to find ways to cope and survive. In the last six months we have truly shrugged off the impression of the community that we are the “old church”, the museum. Instead we are defined not by our history, but, that we are making history!

Each day we find new ways to love our neighbor. Worship is currently in the picnic grove and reaching thousands of others online, as we look at ways to re-enter safely. Your council, staff, committees and volunteers (living stones) are looking at ways to teach, serve, and have fellowship safely.

The day will come when we witness a new “normal.” It is my hope that this recent crisis and our response in loving our neighbors, will change the way we see “Church” as living flesh and blood and not bricks and mortar. Will you join in the “Church” that God envisioned? A living building-stone for God’s house, who makes history.

Peace, Pastor Scott

Good Bye

To My Church Family:

Firstly, I am writing to thank you for welcoming me into the role of Director of Music Ministry. My music education began at New Hanover when I joined choir at age three, and I was so honored to begin my professional career in the place where it all began. So many of you have watched me grow up, from playing baby Jesus, singing duets with Casey, giving sermons on Youth Sunday, and spending time at Camp Falckner. Thank you for giving me a second home and becoming such a happy and comfortable place for me. I am so grateful for the community I found at NHELCL.

At this time, I have relocated to Milford, PA to begin my teaching career. At the end of August, I will start teaching middle and high school orchestra in the Delaware Valley School District. I am sad to be moving away from my family, home, and church, but I am excited to take this step in my professional journey as a music educator.

Again, I thank you all for welcoming me into the position of Director of Music Ministry at NHELCL, as well as supporting me for all these years.

I would be so happy to hear from you!

208 E Harford St. #3
Milford, PA 18337
(215) 688-6080
Laurenflack98@gmail.com

With much love,
Lauren Flack

Worship assistants needed

Grove Services

- ✝ Park cars
- ✝ Hand out the bulletin
- ✝ Collect for Food Ministry
- ✝ Collect offering

Online Services

- ✝ Virtual scripture reader
- ✝ Virtual children’s sermon

For more information or if you would like to help, contact Faye Weidner by email at omiweidner@gmail.com.

Trellis for Tomorrow (T4T)

A Partnership to Feed, Heal, Faith Formation and Mission Service for a Better Future

Trellis for Tomorrow is a 17-year-old organization that develops resilience and compassion in people as a foundation for building sustainable communities. They deliver hands-on programming to youth and adults in organic gardening, food security, and environmental stewardship. Their programs teach concrete life and work skills, foster a more just and localized food system, and improve social and emotional wellbeing.

After some initial meetings between T4T, NHELC Food Ministry group and Pastor Scott, there was a definite feeling that there is considerable alignment between the two organizations, namely in our mutual interest in the following:

- Providing a program for all ages to enhance their understanding of living together in a diverse world of racial and socio-economic differences, and provide sustainable food source education in a Faith based setting
- Increasing the availability of locally grown, fresh, nutrient-dense foods to NHELC Food Ministry, neighbors, and community members in the Greater Gilbertsville/Pottstown area who are struggling with hunger, food insecurity and/or malnourishment
- Providing intergenerational learning opportunities for leadership and food education within NHELC and our neighbors in a Faith based setting
- Providing education and guidance to community members, especially those who are at-risk or facing adverse circumstances,

so they may learn new skills and experience the satisfaction of creating a positive impact on the community

- Utilizing vacant land to create a sustainable and local source of food for the Food Ministry
- Enhancing the environmental sustainability of our region
- Finding creative ways to enable community members to feel they are able to contribute something for what they are receiving
- Partnering with other organizations to provide services and to strengthen our ability to respond to our needs as a community
- Provide local Mission Service projects for all ages
- Practicing Eco-Theology by collecting rain water to irrigate the gardens

As you can see there is a lot more conversation to happen; however, we have the need to source fresh nutritious food for our Food Ministry as it feeds more and more people, enhance our learning on living together in peace for all ages, and provide a local source for intergenerational mission and service projects for all ages. A garden is a great place to start. Didn't the Bible start in the garden?

Look for more updates and how you can become involved.



Camp Falckner this year provided a setting where 16 campers and T4T staff engaged in an afternoon faith based educational session on food sourcing and scarcity. Each Camper received a grow bag complete with rich soil, and three plants along with planting and watering techniques. The campers will harvest the crops in about four-six weeks.

NHELC's Food Ministry

NHELC... we ARE neighbors feeding neighbors. We ARE sharing our blessings. We ARE doing God's work with our hands. We ARE loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Thanks to all of you, we are able to feed our neighbors, with your generous donations of food, money, kind words, time, and energy! Thanks to all of you that shop, donate, prepare, package, inspire, brighten, pray, pack and deliver the meals prepared. You have not only fed people life sustaining meals, you've brightened days, given smiles, warmed hearts, and shared God's love. Thanks to those of you who were fed by our ministry and are now or continuing to 'paying it forward.' We have delivered OVER 10,000 meals!

Some of you may ask, what were those 10,000 + meals? We've made recipes from the church's cookbook. We've prepared recipes from our own recipe boxes and our childhood memories. We built menus based on the chicken, or eggs, or fresh vegetables you donated. Each one of those meals goes out with God's love and the love of our NHELC neighborhood.

Though our list of meal recipients changes, the mission remains the same.

NHELC loves our neighbors. We are neighbors feeding neighbors.

I just wanted to thank you all for tirelessly working to feed our neighbors and continue to bring the light of hope to our members and community. You are true heroes, and we keep you in all of our prayers. Thank you!!

Recipient grateful for love and help

I have been enjoying the meals that NHELC has been delivering to me over the last several months. What a blessing! It's truly helped me through my recovery from hip surgery and two other hospitalizations. And just when I thought things were looking up, then came the corona virus, isolating me, and everyone else. The meal deliveries helped in more ways than food. They brought the love of my church; I met, at a distance, the cheerful delivery volunteers, I've been uplifted by the random cards, notes, and art work that came along with the meals. I wish I could put into words how thankful I am for our church, especially for you and so many volunteers working tirelessly to support our community in so many ways.

I'm happy to tell you that I've been doing better and that I no longer need the meals. I'm still undergoing treatment but I'm working from home and managing pretty well. I know that, sadly, there are many people in our community in need of food. I'm grateful that I am able to do more for myself now and I hope that you will be able to add another family in need.

Please extend my heart felt gratitude to Chris, Sally, and all of the food ministry volunteers. You are all in my prayers every day. God bless you all!

We would like to donate to your food contributions. You are doing a wonderful thing in the community.

Thank you so much for what you are doing. NHELC is blessed to have such a ministry!

We are so proud of the good folk and good cooks of New Hanover Church who are stepping up to the plate to send meals out to those in need. Thank you so much for that very good idea! Take good care of your good workers and be well.



A sample of the many cards received by Food Ministry

Fall and Faith Formation

A prayer found in the ELW book talks about God calling us to ventures unknown, paths untrodden, and asking for God’s guidance and support. That pretty much sums up how we are approaching Fall of 2020. The Christian Education Board is venturing out into uncharted waters while working with NHELIC’s Covid Team. What I can share is a summary of results that was put out in regard to faith formation for the fall. More than 40 responded, most of which we believe came from the Sunday School families. No one expressed a desire for in-person classroom learning this fall. The majority wanted a blend of virtual and non-virtual learning experiences like printed materials and supplies made available to families. If virtual, over half preferred Zoom gatherings. A majority would feel comfortable with some kind of outdoor gathering which would adhere to all safety restrictions. Lastly, when asked what the most

important factors would be in faith formation, mission-related learning was the top runner, followed closely by experiential/spiritual family experiences and some sort of learning leaflet. Crafts and activity sheets were also close to those numbers. So...we have our work cut out for us! I am spending much time looking at different resources that are online adaptable and looking for what may be the best fit for this congregation. I believe we can look at online adult learning experiences as well. We may not have all the details now, but **what we do know** is that the virus will not stop us from learning about our faith this fall! We also know we will need volunteers to help with these “ventures unknown.” Those who are comfortable doing videos, folks to create, pack up “learning kits”, etc. - we will need you! Contact Deacon Carol if you are ready to venture with us! We will keep you all posted!

Camp Compassion recap

NHELIC’s first virtual VBS was launched on June 24th on the church’s webpage, and for the next five weeks families could go online at their convenience and access the weekly sessions - all of which centered on what it means to show compassion for ourselves and others. Very timely! A total of 24 families signed up with 40 children participating. It was a true community VBS with participants from NHELIC and other local churches as well as folks from Selingsgrove, Maine and even Canada! Many thanks to the CE Board for embracing this new way of faith formation. Also, thanks to our “neighbors” from St. James’, Pottstown, St. Luke’s, Gilbertsville, Emmanuel Lutheran, Pottstown and Grace Lutheran, Pottstown: Sharon Smith, Mike Romasco, Pastor Christian, Pastor Mary Ann and Megan Meeker - all of whom lent a helping hand. Also, thumbs up to Scott Geiser our wonderful webmaster, Cara Boyer for her storytelling, Leslie Gates for her wonderful yoga videos, Vicki Mutter for the awesome tee shirts and last but not least, Danny Tamberelli for his video. VBS 2020 was a unique year! May the theme of compassion continue into the coming months.

Confirmation 2020-2021 Registration

Registrations are now being taken for Confirmation classes. Students in 8th and 9th grade are eligible. The format will be a combination of short video lessons and in person outside gatherings for mission, fun and learning. Send name and contact information to pastor@newhanoverlutheran.org or caroldetweiler@comcast.net.

Be nourished



Ladies sew comfort for breast cancer patients

The need for Bosom Buddy pillows by local hospitals to give to their breast cancer patients continues. And, NHELCC's Mission Service gladly stepped up to meet the need. Earlier this year, Mission Service planned a group session to cut, sew and stuff the pillows. Then, the pandemic hit this area and social distancing became normal. But, that didn't stop the group of hardworking ladies, who were determined to provide comfort to women in need.

Ladies of all ages and skill levels contributed to making the heart pillows by washing the fabric, cutting material, sewing embellishments, sewing pieces together and stuffing and hand sewing the openings closed. All was accomplished in the safety of the ladies homes after receiving a tote on their doorstep with supplies.

Despite sheltering in place this special ministry continued thanks to many wonderful volunteers. With about 15 "pillow angels" at work, we ended up with 75 completed pillows with at least 25 more ready to stuff. Phoenixville Breast Care Center has now received 20 of them. Thank you to Vicki Mutter for purchasing the material, to those who donated other materials, to Georgann Geiser who coordinated all the "staging" from one step to the next and to all of the women who were truly "God's hands" with the work they did from start to finish.



Prayer Ministry

Covid 19 cannot keep prayers from flowing. While apart we can pray for a multitude of needs. We recently started a "Prayer Buddy" program in which over 35 NHELCC members have been paired up with over 35 Sunday School families and are praying for them. We would like to build on this. Come be part of a Prayer Ministry Group which would meet to lift up prayers for specific needs. If interested, contact Deacon Carol or Marsha Staub by September 15th if possible. We would love to get this ministry up and going – whether by Zoom or whatever safest way possible. Being an "expert pray-er" is NOT a requirement – just a desire to quietly bring God's love, comfort and hope to wherever needed.

Know someone who needs a prayer shawl?

The person doesn't have to be a member of NHELCC. Contact Pastor Scott or Deacon Carol at the church at (610) 326-1335.

Camp Falckner 2020

*And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. – Micah 6:8*

Tuesday, July 28, 2020
JUSTICE
God invites us to love all Special guests Ryan and Matt from Peer Support Ministry

Wednesday, July 29, 2020
LOVE KINDNESS
All people are individuals Special guest Sr. Seminarian Kevin Tracey, Pastor Scott

Thursday, July 30, 2020
WALK HUMBLY w/GOD
Helping others and earth Special guest Trellis for Tomorrow

Due to the pandemic, Camp Falckner looked and felt different this year. The campers and staff were grateful that camp could take place despite health and safety concerns for all involved as well as their family members. Held in the picnic grove, Camp Falckner began at 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday and till 10:00 PM on Thursday. Although the campers did not get to stay overnight this year, the daytime hours were filled with worship, activities, learning and fun while experiencing God’s love.

Each day opened with worship at the cross in the grove led by Pastor Scott and Lauren Flack. In the afternoon, special guests spoke to the campers based on the theme of the day. Other activities the campers enjoyed included songs, crafts, snacks and games including water balloons to cool off.

On Thursday evening, the congregation was invited to participate in desert from an ice cream truck and then the Galilean Worship service which was held at the church and led by the Senior High group. Music for the service reflected the camp theme of “A love that never ends.” Thanks to Amy Marazas, the service was taped and streamed live over Facebook. The evening activities conclude with campers sharing their camp experience by performing skits. So glad this tradition was able to continue!

Crafting was led by Vicki Mutter. Campers utilized pour paint to make a cross on the top of treasure boxes to represent that they all

are together as campers but each is still an individual. Each camper received their own treasure box with a cross and \$1.00 to encourage them to “Do Justice” by giving back to their community in any way that the spirit guides them.

Camp staff included Pastor Scott, Lauren Flack, Marlene Hansley, Donna Kehs, Vicki Mutter, Nicole Ewing, Kevin Tracey, Nancy Gross, Barbara Repa, Sharon Tracey, Jen Boyer and Vicki Dotterer. Jean Moser assisted with activities and delivered gifts made by campers to church members.

The camp staff sincerely thanks the church covid committee, council, campers, and family members for allowing the “tradition” of NHEL to continue.





Birthdays

- 1 Jane Johnson, Cynthia Mack, Skylar Mathias
- 2 Holli Nuss, Nicole Rohrbach, Jay Smith
- 3 Kristina Lang
- 5 Harry White
- 6 Bryce Manthorne
- 7 Molly Moylan
- 8 Cameron Hauser
- 9 Annabel Bechtel, Chase Haraske, Diane Heffner, Jim Mack
- 10 Kevin Wilson
- 11 Ron Fegley, James Lindenmuth, Erin Magee, Jenna Psota, Beverly Smale, Vickie Trowbridge
- 13 Morgan Hedrick, Cindy King, Carlo Malantonio
- 14 Jason Kunsch, Justin Smoot
- 15 Nathan Beaver, Michelle Pell, Debbie Solazzo
- 16 Nicole Ewing, Emily Gallagher
- 17 Tanner Buchholtz, Patricia Ehst
- 18 David Czarnecki, Matthew Reed
- 20 Bryan Christ, Paxton Moyer
- 21 Taylor King
- 22 Julia Hauck, Cameron Parker, Matthew Rohrbach
- 23 Avery Brunner, John Karns
- 24 Linda Adams, Deb Matthews, Taylor Mickletz
- 25 Janene Anzulewicz, Sheridan Cole, Cheryl Goodwin, Michele Parker
- 26 Ray Bechtel III
- 27 Jim Steber
- 28 Ryan Morrell, Beth Schweiger, Suzanne Weller
- 29 Lester Renninger, Jennifer Yost
- 30 Samantha Allen, Diane Bealer, Kendra Rothermel

Anniversaries

- 2 Jason and Brandy Marino
- 5 Ed and Monique Becker
- 6 Adam and Leslie Gates
- 7 Charles and Christine McNichol
- 8 Jim and Jean Boyer
- 9 Brian and Joan Flack
- 12 Mark and Amy Agnew
David and Bonnie Lynn
- 17 Rodney and Carolyn Snell
- 19 Ronald and Joan Comtois
Randy and Rochelle Morrell
- 20 Carl and Marcia Dey
- 22 Dieter and Wendy Gahler
- 24 Brent and Sally Sugita
- 28 Kenneth and Linda Motzer

Card Shower

Thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of Robert Erb, who passed away on August 17th.

Also, prayers and well wishes are extended to Gladys Renninger, who recently had surgery and Shirley Silcox, who was hospitalized.

If you would like to send cards, here are their addresses.



Eleanor Erb, Gary Erb and family
2085 Farmington Avenue
Boyertown, PA 19512

Gladys Renninger
2849 Big Road Apt. 4203
Zieglerville, PA 19492

Shirley Silcox
401 Stuben Drive
Elverson, PA 19520

Congregation Council

Officers

Steve Eisenhart, president
Sally Sugita, vice-president
Barbara Repa, secretary
Andy Van Dyke, treasurer
Scott Geiser, financial secretary

Members

Robin Fatzinger
Nevada Grant
Jim Gross
Marty Hauser
Amy Hoffman
Vicki Mutter

New Hanover Lutheran Church
2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 304
Boyertown, PA

Address Service Requested



Exciting things are happening at New Hanover Lutheran Church

Trellis for Tomorrow

Food Ministry

Christian Education in a Changing World

Pillows for Cancer Patients

Prayer Ministry

Camp Falckner



Mission Statement

The mission of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church is to utilize the dedication of our church family, the strengths of our programs, the resources of our facilities, and history of our congregation to serve as a beacon of worship, welcome, peace, and support for our community.

Vision Statement

The vision of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church is to love our neighbors as ourselves, and live and serve as an example of God's Grace for our community and our world.