November 2023 NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Hot Roast Beef Dinner

Saturday, November 11th, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

The Swamp Picnic Hot Roast Beef Dinner is back for its second year. Enjoy a delicious meal of hot roast beef with gravy on white bread, homemade potato filling, green beans, pepper cabbage, applesauce, dessert and a drink. You can eat in or get your meal to go.

The cost for a meal is: Adult, \$16; Senior, \$14; 6 to 10 years old, \$8 and children 5 and younger eat free.

You **MUST** make a reservation for your meal(s) **by noon on Sunday**, **November 5th**. Reserve your meal(s) online at <u>http://</u> www.newhanoverlutheran.org, fill out an order slip at church or call

the church office at 610-326-1335.

Calling all bakers!

Consider making and donating a cake or pie for the Hot Roast Beef Dinner. Our bakers provided an amazing selection of delicious baked goods for the Great Swamp Picnic and we would love to offer a yummy selection at this dinner. Donation drop off times will be announced. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Special Congregational Meeting Notice: Sunday, December 10th, 10:00 AM

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church is requesting all "Voting Members" to attend a special congregational meeting on December 10th immediately following the worship in the Sanctuary, located at 2941 Lutheran Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.

The official agenda is to vote and adopt the following documents:

- 1. CONSTITUTION for NEW HANOVER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2023
- 2. 2024 New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church Budget

No other items may be voted upon or brought up for discussion per the current constitution.

Copies of the "CONSTITUTION for NEW HANOVER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 2023" will be available to all who elect to receive their correspondence by email via an attached document, physical copies will be available in the Welcome Center on the information desk, and in the publication bin located outside under the Office entrance portico.

To educate all, two in-person forums to discuss constitutional changes with the congregation will be held November 19th and 26th, 2023 following worship.

The church budget forums & location of the budget document will be announced later.

We thank the Constitution Committee for their hard work in developing this revised constitution over the past two years to bring us into accordance with the current ELCA Model for Congregation Constitutions. We also thank the Finance committee for their tireless efforts in developing a budget that reflects our current and proposed ministries serving our neighbors, and all the committees who submitted their proposed budgets with discernment and the help of the Holy Spirit.

God on Tap

Thursday, November 2nd 6:00 PM

Come to dinner and join in the discussion on **Paying It Forward** at the **PC Pub in Pennsburg**. For more information, email Randy Dotterer at <u>RDPT-</u> <u>W6489@Gmail.com</u> or call/text him at 610-306-0621. God on Tap meets the first Thursday of the month.

Come to the Loaves & Fishes mid-week dinner

Wednesday, November 15th 5:45 PM in Fellowship Hall

Community Thanksgiving Day Worship

Celebrate Thanksgiving with those you are thankful for sharing your life. Invite them to join you for a community service at NHELC on Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, November 23rd**, **9:00 AM.** A community choir will sing "Thanksgiving Canon" arranged by Anna Laura Page with Rashell Williams on the flute.

Join us for J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

If you are new or have not attended J.A.M., check out what we offer at J.A.M. on Sunday mornings. J.A.M. runs from 10:15-11:15 and is for all ages. If you have any questions, contact Nikki Young at 610-326-1335 or nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org.

Pie fundraiser helps scouts

Pack & Troop 367 are offering the Frecon Farms Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser. Pies may be purchased at \$18/each: Pumpkin, Apple Lidded top, Apple Crumb top and Tart Cherry and \$20/each: Bourbon Pecan Apple, Rum Pecan, Apple Cherry. Also, you can donate a pie to Multi-Service (\$18) for their Thanksgiving dinner bags.

Scouts will earn \$4/pie which may be used for summer camp, dues, camping trips and other Scouting activities. A sign up sheet is on the desk in the welcome center or go online at https://tinyurl.com/367pies23. Orders are due by Sunday, November 5th, if using the sign up sheet or Tuesday, November 7th, if signing up online. Checks are made payable to NHELC-Troop 367. Pies may be picked up Sara Dawson's home at 2872 Marietta Way, Gilbertsville, on Tuesday, November 21st, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. Any questions, contact Sara Dawson at <u>saraedawson@yahoo.com</u> or 610-585-3491.

Breakfast Fellowship

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, November 8th, 8:30 AM Shorty's Sunflower Café 1494 North Charlotte Street

Women meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Reservations are required. To reserve your seat, contact Sandy Wesner at 215-679-9021 by Tuesday noon before the breakfast.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 11th, 8:00 AM Brookside Family Restaurant 1338 North Charlotte Street

Men meet the second Saturday of the month. No reservations required. For more information, contact Ron Fegley at 484-300-3025.

Donate a turkey

Turkeys are needed for Thanksgiving meals prepared by the Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry. Drop off your donation at the church kitchen on Wednesdays between 1 - 2 PM and Sundays between 9 - 10 AM.





Advent Social Sunday, December 10th, 2 – 4 PM

Ring in the holiday season and bring the entire family to the annual Advent Social. Activities include making crafts, playing games and decorating cookies, bags and cards for NHELC homebound members. Snacks will be served.

Bring a donation of personal care items such as tissues, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Chapstick, lotion, individually wrapped snacks, etc. to fill the bags for homebound members. Sign up on the signup genius (<u>https://www.signupgenius.com/</u> go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-45586827-advent)

or the paper signup on the desk in the welcome center by **Sunday, December 3rd**, if you are planning to attend so event planners can prepare for the activities. The cookies, bags and cards will be given to homebound members by the carolers on December 17th. Any questions about the Advent Social, contact Jean Moser at 610-367-0342.



Israel-Hamas war and what you can do

Read a letter from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton on the Israel-Hamas war and find resources on what you can do. Go to <u>www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8207?</u> <u>ga=2.254669647.617604050.1698256585-</u> <u>514560073.1697465562</u>

"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude." —G.K. Chesterton

Can you help NHELC?

Thrivent members get free money they can use to help NHELC programs. Donate through the Thrivent Action Teams and Thrivent Choice Dollars.

Thrivent Action Teams

Did you know Thrivent members receive free of charge two (2) \$250.00 gifts a year to help our church? With your gifts, you can help Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry, Garden of Hope with plants and supplies, FLUTTER (Youth) activities and Community Family Events. Your \$250 will go a long way in offsetting cost to defray the rising costs of food and supplies for our events and feeding ministry. With your free generosity we may continue to love others with our gifts of nutritious food and wellness. All you do is sign up and create an Action Team event. For details and help to do this, contact Pastor Scott at psstaub@gmail.com, or call him at 610-326–1335 ext. 1, or logon if you know how to do it alone at https://www.thrivent.com/ about-us/membership/thrivent-actionteams.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

You may also be given free Choice Dollars directly to the church! Simply go onto your account and search for choice dollars at <u>https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/</u> <u>membership/thrivent-choice</u>. You can make a personal donation to New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church and Thrivent pays the processing fees. It's that simple!

Again, contact Pastor Scott if you have any questions or need help navigating the signups.

If not a Thrivent member, you may still donate directly to these ministries. Go to newhanoverlutheran.org to donate, serve or learn more about these ministries.



Help to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas with poinsettias. The Altar Guild will order plants in 6.5" pots with five blooms. The suggested donation is \$11.00 per plant. Plants may be sponsored in memory of (for someone who has passed away) or in honor of (someone who is living). The sponsored plants will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

To sponsor one or more plants, complete a Poinsettia Order form and return the form along with payment (checks made payable to NHELC) to the church. Be sure to include the number of plants you would like. Also, be sure to mark the order form if you will pick up your plants or if you wish to have the plant given to a homebound member. Plants may be picked up AFTER the 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. If you are unable to pick up your poinsettia at that time, call or text Barb Eisenhart at 610-316 -5909.

For your convenience, an order form is included in this newsletter. Additional forms are available on the desk in the welcome center or call the church office for a form. Forms and payment should be mailed to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or dropped off at the mail slot by the fellowship hall entrance. Orders are due by November 26, 2023.



Book Club

The NHELC Book Club is reading The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride. You are invited to join the discussion of this book on Tuesday, December 5th, at 6:30 PM at the Plaza Azteca in Greshville. Any questions, contact Sharon Tracey.

Food Ministry seeks help

The Food Ministry continues to grow, serving on average 812 meals per week to our neighbors in need. Because of this growth we are identifying ways to expand our kitchen and food distribution capabilities, increase the size of our garden, building relationships with other organizations with similar missions and considering adding a position to assist with the day-to-day logistics. Below are some of the Food Ministry tasks and tasks where we need more help.

- 1. Recording meeting minutes (2nd Wednesday each month): About 2.5 hours per month. This person would NOT need to be part of the committee.
- 2. Searching and applying for grants: Computer skills and some perseverance will be required. Time commitment varies.
- 3. Logistics (multiple opportunities): Assist with day-today food acquisition, kitchen maintenance coordination, tracking expenses, and more. 8 - 10 hours per week.
- 4. Volunteer coordination: Assist with the scheduling of volunteers and tasks. Time commitments: **Garden**: varies by season (see #6) **Kitchen**: 1 - 2 hours per week
- 5. Volunteer time for food preparation (assist Chef Chris): 4 - 6 hours per week.
- 6. Volunteer time in the garden (seasonal garden prep, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, prep for winter): Provide whatever time you can.
- 7. Volunteer for food delivery: About 1 hour per week.
- 8. Join our vibrant committee and help lead our growth and direction: Time commitment varies based on role and assigned tasks. Two hours minimum for monthly meeting.

Consider joining this amazing team and help serve our neighbors with life sustaining food. If interested in learning more about what the Food Ministry does and how you might help, contact Steve Weidner at Stieven.Weidner@gmail.com or call (610) 287-5055 (please leave a message).

Council Corner

- The Council agreed and approved covering Nikki Young's seminary candidacy application fee (\$1,300). The Council is supportive of Nikki's desire to begin her path toward becoming an ordained person in the Lutheran church!
- The Council, on behalf of the Congregation, extends a sincere "Thank You" to all of the staff at NHELC for their dedication and services to our ministries.
- The Council and Food Ministry board express a "Thank You" to Jim Davidheiser for his temporary chef responsibilities for our Loaves & Fishes ministry while Chef Chris Fatzinger is on medical leave for six-eight weeks recovering from recent surgery. Please pray for a speedy recovery for Chris!
- The 2024 Annual Budget planning process is underway. Any/all committees should be considering their needs for 2024, and all boards should be preparing their 2024 budgets. Please work with the Finance Committee representation in providing the necessary information to complete the budget.
- The Council has been working with the Constitution Committee throughout 2023 on amendments suggested by the ELCA. Information on the changes and ratification process will be coming soon from the Constitution Committee.

- The Council approved the fee necessary (\$1,500) to request a township zoning variance for an NHELC Family Center (pre-school) to operate on church property. Further approvals required from Council regarding the Family Center will be determined once more details are provided.
- The Council continues working on reducing expenses to the General Fund:
 - Pastor's health insurance savings (due to Pastor's decisions) - savings will be \$3,078.42 for 2023 and will be \$12,313.68 for 2024. This will be recurring savings for future years;
 - Property/Liability insurance review and change by Property Committee saving more than \$5,000 annually with added benefits;
 - Video/audio production cost reduction given the new system is up and running with more volunteers;
 - Endowment Committee recommendation with Council approval (4% of total Endowment Fund amount annually will provide future contributions to the General Fund;
 - * Jim Davidheiser volunteering (Thank you Jim!!) during Chef Chris' medical leave saving Food Ministry between \$4,700 -\$6,300 in 2023 (dependent on Chris' recovery and return).

2023 Christmas Pageant will be stellar



Sunday, December 17th, 10:15 AM

The 2023 Christmas Pageant requires just one rehearsal, which will be held during JAM on Sunday, December 10th, 10:15-11:15. Contact Nikki Young if your child would like to participate. Older kids and youth are needed to read and we have plenty of parts for the younger ones. This year's pageant is a *Stellar Christmas* and will include some of the music from VBS in addition to some Christmas music. It will be out of this world!

Thanksgiving – Simply Said, Rarely Understood

When we mention Thanksgiving to someone, immediately I believe we go the holiday. And why not, it is a tradition in almost every household no matter what faith, race, or gender. It is a universal celebration based on turkey, one's fav dish, and yummy pies. All accompanied by high school rivalry and professional sport events, along with turkey induced naps and hangovers.

Yes, Thanksgiving is a celebration simply said. However, sometimes other traditions sneak their way into the meals and blasting TV binge attendance. Like, Thanksgiving. Yes, giving thanks for what we have and are given or have received. Some gatherings are challenged for each to mention a specific thing they are grateful, both the large, and you know, those seated at the small table off to the side. Other gatherings are challenged just to find one person brave enough to pray before the others (my job as usually, gratefully). And then there are other traditions both old and new.

My wife Marsha, always seeking those who are left out, will center our Thanksgiving on her brother Tom. Tom recently was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). An uncurable progressive degenerative disease that acts quickly. Upon witnessing his demise over the past several months since his diagnosis, Marsha decided that the greatest way to show God our thankfulness was to include Tom, in whatever location or mode that is possible. Traditions have been put aside to get to the basic meaning of thanksgiving, that is the blessings of people and gifts we been blessed with.

At so many times when I meet with grieving families and/or stare at empty seats at our family gatherings, it is with a heavy heart that I reflect on the gifts of people that God has given us that are no longer with us. And I believe it is critical for us to be thankful for our family and friends who love and care for us, as well as those saints who have gone before us. So this Thanksgiving, will truly be a celebration of thanksgiving, a celebration of those whom God has given us.

My prayer for you all, is to whatever way you celebrate Thanksgiving, is that it may be powerful and with a joyful heart in whatever manner you thank God. Thanking God for the blessings that you receive. I thank God for you in my life.

Peace, Pastor Scott



An Old-Fashioned Christmas Caroling Event!

Sunday, December 17th, 1 – 3 PM

Gather your friends and family members for a fun and uplifting time, singing favorite and beloved Christmas carols to our NHELC homebound members. Carolers will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to plan the routes and pick up the goodie bags prepared at the Advent Social. After caroling, we will return to the church to enjoy some cookies and hot cocoa. Caroling is a wonderful opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer. Contact Director of Music Ministry Patricia Nyce or Jean Moser (610-367-0342) with any questions about the caroling.



November Celebrations

Jean Buckley

Betty Karver

Doris Gross

2849 Big Road Apt. 4022

Zieglerville, PA 19492

637 Highland Street

Boyertown, PA 19512

163 Eisenhower Drive

Boyertown, PA 19512

Seniors Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Jean Buckley, Betty Karver, Doris Gross, Fay Feick and Sarah Bowman. Jean will celebrate her 93rd birthday on November 4th; Betty will celebrate her 98th birthday on November 7th; Doris will celebrate her 97th birthday on November 12th; Fay will celebrate her 90th birthday on November 18th and Sarah will celebrate her 92nd birthday on November 28th. If you would like to send birthday greetings to these ladies, here are their addresses.

Also Celebrating a Birthday

- 1 Barbara Boys, Mary Lang, Jeff Wise
- 2 Adam Becker, Delores Eidle, Nathan Psota, Gladys Renninger, Shirley Renninger, John Scherer
- 3 Thom Heck, Paul Yanisko
- 4 Austin Holiday, Scott Repa
- 5 Madelyn Artim, Emily Fowler, Justin Green, Sheri Wenerowicz
- 7 William Dugan, Brandy Marino
- 8 Chance Allen, Jean Renninger
- 9 Wendy Helmer, Jared Miller, Tammi Wiley
- 10 Marty Hauser
- 11 Karen Rohrbach
- 12 Debra Black, Andrew Dodge, Rick Garcia, Bill Lowry, Hannah Phillips, Olivia Wiley
- 14 Roxanne Hersh, Joshua Lynn
- 15 Kaylene Jackmore, Wendy Schiavo
- 16 Skylar Harrington, Kelly Smale
- 17 Lyndsay Camp, Jenn Cavalari, Brooke

Dowlatow, Susie Moyer, Elizabeth Phillips, Miller Quigley, Joan Scheffey, Jim Yochem

- 18 Janet Burkhart
- 20 Barbara Repa, Sharon Wise, Emma Wurst
- 21 Diane Laverty
- 22 Benjamin Helmer
- 23 Stephen Repa
- 24 Amy Hoffman, Rebecca Wabish
- 25 Vivian Speca
- 26 Robert Cavalari, Jr., Barbara Faust
- 28 Jan Bechtel, Kathy
 Borneman, Alyssa Dodge,
 Jared Dubbs, Ethan
 Hauser, Sharon Tracey,

Fay Feick

2987 Lutheran Road Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Sarah Bowman

2849 Big Road Apt. 107 Zieglerville, PA 19492

Aaron Wesner

- 29 Joseph Allen, Karalyn Forsyth
- 30 Betty Hedrick, David Mayan

Anniversaries

- 2 Tim and Amy Hoffman
- 11 Ronald and Suzanne Weller
- 12 Mike and Natalie Lindenmuth
- 13 Pat and Erica Lucas
- 16 George and Stacy Trowbridge
- 18 Scott and Georgann Geiser Steve and Faye Weidner
- 19 Roger and Beth Yost

Keep in Touch

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

2941 Lutheran Road Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Gilbertsville, PA 19

610-326-1335

newhanoverlutheran.org facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Call for an appointment.

Mental Health and Wellness

By Marlene Hansley, MSN, RN

Millions of people across the nation are affected by mental health conditions. In 2021, about one in five adults in the United States experienced mental illness (NAMI.org). Understanding mental health is important to individuals to access appropriate services to provide treatment as needed. Mental health conditions have an impact on individuals physically, socially, and financially.

NHELC has provided Peer Support Ministry access over the past few years supported through grant money and donations. The support ministry has gone through some changes. Currently the ministry is pursuing some partnerships in the community for outreach to those seeking assistance with mental health issues both immediate and long-term. Organizations such as the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) offer a help line and crisis center and the National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH) offers educational resources and assistance. Pennsylvania offers a 24hour addiction line and suicide help. The people manning these lines are individuals trained in crisis management. The numbers will be added to the church website and links to both NAMI, the National Institute for Mental Health, and the PA addiction line in the future.

What can you do for yourself in these times when you feel pressured, saddened? Take time to check out the websites for the organizations mentioned above and the resources they have to offer. NAMI has local centers in both Reading and Lansdale. They offer in-person and online support groups.

Contact Information

NAMI Help Line 1-800-950-6242 and is available Monday - Friday 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM ET. Text "Helpline" to 62640 or if in crisis call or text 988.

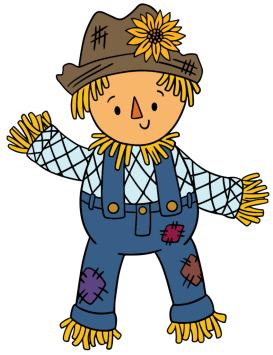
PA Addiction Helpline 1-800-662-HELP (4357). Online live chat offered at 1-717-216-0905 or text

Website References

www.NAMI.org National Alliance on Mental Illness www.ddap.pa.gov Department Drug and Alcohol Prevention www.nimh.nih.org National Institute of Mental Health

Grieving/Wellness Online Support

https://grateful.org/welcome/



Our disarming God

Jesus rides a donkey. We want the eagle. The Holy Spirit descends as a dove. We want to take up swords. Jesus takes up a cross. We want the roaring lion. God comes as a slaughtered lamb. We keep trying to arm God. God keeps trying to disarm us.

We want the war horse.

-Rev. Benjamin Cremer (via Twitter)

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Orders due by November 26, 2023



Please indicate below how you desire the names to appear on the sponsor page in the Christmas Eve bulletins. This form along with your payment is due in the church office by **Sunday, November 26, 2023.**

| ("In memory of" if deceased; "In honor of" if living) | <u>PLEASE PRINT</u> |
|---|---|
| In memory/honor of:(Circle One) | by |
| In memory/honor of:(Circle One) | by |
| In memory/honor of: (Circle One) | by |
| Cost per 5 bloom, 6.5" potted plant is \$11.00. Amount E | Enclosed \$ |
| Place this form along with your payment in an envelope an Please make checks payable to NHELC . Order deadline is | |
| (Check one) I will pick up my poinsettia(s) Please delive | er to a homebound member |
| Plants may be nicked up after the 8:00 PM Christmas Eve | service. If you are unable to nick up your plants at that |

Plants may be picked up after the 8:00 PM Christmas Eve service. If you are unable to pick up your plants at that time, please call or text Barbara Eisenhart at 610-316-5909.

NHELC Worship Dates

November 5th All Saints Communion Worship – 9 AM

November 12th Veteran Recognition/Children's Choir – 9 AM

November 19th Chosen 300 Feeding Ministry Worship – 9 AM Rejoicing Spirits Worship – 3 PM

November 21st Walnut Woods Thanksgiving Worship – 10 AM

November 23rd Community Thanksgiving Day Worship – 9 AM

November 26th Christ the King/Brass & Choirs/Baptism – 9 AM

December 3rd Advent 1 Communion Worship – 9 AM December 10th

Advent 2 Worship/Bell Choir - 9 AM

December 17th Advent 3 Worship/Children's Choir – 9 AM Rejoicing Spirits Worship – 3 PM

December 19th Walnut Woods Worship/Carols – 10 AM

December 24th Advent 4 Worship/Bell Choir – 9 AM Christmas Eve Candlelight/Carols – 4 & 8 PM

December 31st Lessons and Carols Worship – 9 AM