

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Member Recognition



Soup Sale



Pictorial Directory



Food Ministry

More Opportunities Explore Opportunities Explore Opportunities Explore Opp

“Don’t let me ever think, dear God, that I was anything but the instrument for your story — just like the typewriter was mine.”

—Flannery O’Connor

Recognizing New Members & Church Council Members

Sunday, February 11th

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The festive day begins with the 9:00 AM Jazz Worship in the sanctuary with joyful live Jazz music. Immediately following is the annual congregational meeting and dinner in the fellowship hall. At the annual meeting, confirmed members will elect new council members, once again vote on accepting the revised constitution passed at our December Congregational Meeting (per ELCA Synodical law), and accept the annual report.

A congregational dinner will be held at approximately 11:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall in honor of the new members who joined in 2023, and recognizing those Council members whose term has ended. The dinner theme is Mardi Gras, the final celebration before Lent begins. A Mardi Gras feast will be served by Chef Chris, and our fantastic Fellowship committee. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dessert to share, and join in the Spirit of the celebration as we will be entertained by more Jazz music.

Dinner reservations can be made online at our signup section of newhanoverlutheran.org, or forms will be available in the welcome center. Complete the signup reservation online or fill out the form and drop it in the basket on the desk in the Welcome Center by Sunday, February 4th.

Annual reports are due by **Monday, January 8, 2024** for the Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, February 11, 2024**.

Are you struggling with grief?

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful process. To help grievers through the process, New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELCH) will begin a 13-week program called GriefShare.

GriefShare is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Participants will find relief and comfort as they learn what to expect in the days ahead and how to navigate their personal grief process. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, GriefShare will teach helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger and regret; how to cope with life and relationship changes; how to recognize what's normal in grief; and what to do when feeling stuck or hopeless.

What to expect

At a weekly GriefShare meeting, participants will view a video featuring respected counselors, teachers and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics. Then, participants will gather into small

groups for sharing, support and personal application of what they learned on the video.



GriefShare participants will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process. To cover the cost of the book, we ask for a \$20 registration fee. Scholarships are available.

Schedule

Wednesdays, beginning January 17th

10:00 – 11:30 AM, room 33

No class on March 6th

April 17th is the last class. Any cancellations due to weather will be added at the end.

Information/Registration

For more information, visit griefshare.org.

Questions and/or to register, contact Nikki Young at nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org or by calling the church office (leave a message if Nikki is unavailable). Or, register online at <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/180046/registrations/new>.

Youth kick off new year at church

Flutter will hold a lock-in at the church Friday, January 12th, starting at 7:00 PM, to Saturday, January 13th, ending at 9:30 AM. All youth in 6th - 12th grades are invited! Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, a snack to share, and a favorite game. This is always a fun event! See Lindsey Waltermeyer or Jen Boyer for more information.

Escape the winter chill with hot soup

Sunday, January 21st

The Swamp Picnic Committee is hosting their annual Soup Sale following the morning worship service on January 21st. Vegetable barley, chicken pot pie and ham and bean soup are the selections available for purchase. Pick up your soup in Fellowship Hall or drive up to the kitchen door for service. The suggested donation is \$9 a quart.



Fellowship Breakfast

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 13th and February 10th

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.

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, January 10th and February 14th

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.

Can you help?

The Food Ministry Board is seeking help from the congregation with their ministry. The volunteers for the positions listed below are not required to participate in board functions, nor will be assigned other Food Ministry related tasks.

Social Media Assistance

Do you have social media skills to post the Food Ministry Board's good works and needs/desires? We anticipate this role to take two - four hours per month.

Meeting Scribe

A volunteer is needed to take meeting notes. We anticipate this role to take two and a half - three hours per month. The board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

If you would like to assist the Food Ministry Board, contact Steve Weidner at stieven.weidner@gmail.com.

God on Tap

Come to dinner at Main Street in Bally on Thursday, January 4th, at 6:00 PM. The discussion topic this month is, "multi-generational church families and friends AND newcomers. WHY? Come and find out! For more information, email Randy Dotterer at RDPTW6489@Gmail.com or call/text him at 610-306-0621.



NHELCL Book Club

The NHELCL Book Club is reading *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. You are invited to join in the discussion of this book on Tuesday, February 6th, at 6:30 PM at the Plaza Azteca in Greshville. Any questions, contact Sharon Tracey.



Camp Falckner 2024

July 22nd - 25th

Save the date! Camp Falckner, an overnight camp in the picnic grove, will be held Monday, July 22nd, - Thursday, July 25th. All youth who will have finished 5th - 12th grade by the end of the school year are welcome to attend. Registration information will be coming this spring. Questions? Reach out to Lindsey Waltermeyer.



Don't be left out – NHELC wants you in the new pictorial directory

Do you struggle putting a name with a face on Sunday? Do you have the latest contact information for your church family or committee members?

Council has determined now is the time for a new pictorial directory, including member names, addresses, phone numbers and family pictures. To ensure we have everyone's full and latest information, a committee was formed to gather all this information. Information on file at the church is available on Sunday mornings, both in the Wel-

come Center and in Fellowship Hall, in front of the stage. Take a few minutes to verify and update your family information. Or, if you cannot attend Sunday morning services, contact Nance White at Nance2237@yahoo.com or 610-741-7977. If your family information is not verified, a member of the committee will contact you.

To help with the cost of this project, families are asked to submit a family photo to Nance. The directory will be prepared by a local photographer and printer.

If you would like to help with this project, such as calling, visiting or photographing families, committees, classes, etc. contact Nance.

Council Corner

1. Council nominations are open! We are looking for at least two – three folks to replace outgoing Council members whose terms have expired. Please see any current Council member if you have any interest in supporting the business and spiritual side of NHELC and joining the Council.
2. Results from the December 10th Special Congregational Meeting:
 - 73 total member votes were collected:
 - ✓ 73 “yes” votes to approve the 2024 budget.
 - ✓ 72 “yes” votes and 1 “no” vote on the first ratification of the Constitution changes.
3. Council reviewed and approved of the 2022 budget audit documents (no issues were found).
4. The 2023 budget deficit (\$100,000+) is still a concern of the Council. Please consider increasing your giving for 2024.
5. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes (you are using Simply Giving or other electronic giving means) please contact Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall before the end of the year.



Mardi Gras To be, or not be



Dictionaries will tell you, Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday”, reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual Lenten sacrifices and fasting of the Lenten season. Fasting, Ughh! In our local culture, and definitely our church announcements, you know every event must have desserts, optional are the three sides, and two main dishes. What can I say Chef Chris is a health nut!

Did someone say “Fasnachts”? So, maybe we don’t fast as religious traditions go, and we don’t change our eating habits; however, there are some ways to change oneself, or not, in preparation as we travel from the season of Epiphany to Lent. Well, there you go, that change word again.

Change, or the lack there of, has been a factor that divides churches, communities and even countries; however, as we celebrate the journey of our savior from birth to the cross, it is all in the celebration of the changes Jesus made to the world, religion and each of our lives. From the celebration of Christmas we hold dear the incarnation of God.

Sister Ilia Delio explains this strange phenomenon of Christian belief that separates us from all other major religions, “The Christian message is that

God has become flesh [*sarx* in Greek or “matter”]—not a part of God or one aspect of God but the whole infinite, eternal God Creator has become matter. The claim—God has become flesh—is so radical that it is virtually unthinkable and illogical. Christianity is the most radical of all world religions because it takes matter seriously as the home of divinity.” (Ilia Delio, “Christogenesis by Any Other Name?,” *New Creation*, Center for Christogenesis, October 12, 2020) That’s us, radical crazy Lutheran Christians who celebrate the birth, the life and the death of our God, who chose to be human like us, and who loves and chooses us for eternal life.

So maybe the sacrifice(s) we make in Lent are not so radical as to just believe that our God, loves us so much that we don’t have to change to please God; however, just be who we are? We don’t have to pretend to be some super human being who is not broken or whole. We, in this season of preparation for the rest of our eternal life may find peace in being who we are. And that, may be the most radical sacrifice we ever can make, accepting and being who we are, and accepting others as they are, the perfect children of God’s family.

Peace, and hey!, pass the Fasnachts! Pastor Scott



NHELC helps kids celebrate Christmas

The Mission Service folks would like to thank you with all their hearts! You never let them down! Once again, you donated hundreds of gifts for the Angel Tree, making Christmas brighter for the kids at Gemma Services (Martin Luther School).



Loaves & Fishes/Garden of Hope Story Update



NHELC is a cornerstone of the Gilbertsville/ Boyertown neighborhoods and remains dedicated to providing essential services for community members in need. While initially imagined as volunteer run resource to address food scarcity, the *Garden of Hope/Loaves & Fishes Food* ministries have evolved into a multi-partner endeavor and an agricultural expression of NHELC's deep and continuing commitment to serve the needs of the local community.

The overarching mission of NHELC is to utilize the dedication of our church family, the strengths of our programs, the resources of our facilities, partnerships and history of our congregation to serve as a beacon of worship, welcome, peace, and support for our community. In alignment with this call to action, NHELC recognized the crucial need for agricultural development within broader contexts of hunger, environmental stewardship and community development.

NHELC's *Loaves & Fishes/Garden of Hope* ministries seeks to address and positively impact the following issues:

- Establishment of cost-effective food sourcing for the church's food ministry meals program and local food deserts
- Productively utilize church-owned, vacant land to increase the environmental sustainability and fight hunger of the local area
- Create a community engagement and service option for youth, individuals classified as at-risk, participants in NHELC recovery programs
- Create partnerships to utilize respective strengths to optimize and efficiently serve the community

NHELC set out to tackle the challenge of addressing these issues. In spring of 2020, the *Loaves & Fishes* food ministry began as an immediate response to food scarcity challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; since January 2020, nearing 100,000 fresh nutrient-rich **meals have been** provided to homebound geriatrics, persons with low or no income, and individuals in mental/substance recovery. NHELC's *Garden of Hope* project is the direct product of *Loaves & Fishes*' efficacy and establishes a reliable food source for continued expansion. Hands-on agricultural development is the next step towards developing resilient food systems within the local community, adding five acres of field crops in 2023, and determining an expansion of the vegetable garden in 2024.

NHELC recognizes the practice of fostering mutually beneficial relationships with external organizations as a critical step in ensuring the *Garden of Hope/Loaves & Fishes* project's implementation and sustainability. In partnership with Trellis for Tomorrow, NHELC is a participant in the *Food For All* raised bed garden program. Crucial to garden construction and initial planting, Trellis for Tomorrow will provide continuing guidance, agricultural training and youth programming as the project moves through its first year.

Through these collaborations, NHELC is home to a 4,000 square foot garden surrounded by 5,000 square feet of permanent deer fencing. On April 9, 2020, over twenty raised beds were planted with high yield vegetables crops such as lettuce, potatoes, beets, carrots and more. Additional plans are currently in development, with MCCD, for a solar powered water conservation and irrigation system (planned 2024), four active beehive stations (Active 2023), Multifunctional Riparian Buffer (Completed 2022), and field crops in another un-

used field owned by the church (completed 2023). The *Garden of Hope* project is committed to the purposeful cultivation of NHELC’s environmental resources (vacant land, existing soil, rainwater collection) to promote meaningful stewardship and foster a sustainable, educational resource for local schools and organizations, community service location, positive impact on individuals and food systems within the local community, and partnerships.

While 100% of garden production will go directly to fighting hunger in the local community, anticipated harvest is only one component of the *Garden of Hope* project overarching mission. NHELC and partner organizations will offer a variety of robust volunteer and youth programming designed to provide impactful community support through hands-on engagement and continuing education. Hands on seminars in vegetable garden management for the community have begun.

Additionally, NHELC’s Peer Recovery Support Program (PRS) will be integrated into the volunteer management of all garden aspects. Participants in the PRS ministry will have the opportunity to learn new skills and experience the satisfaction of contributing to the betterment of their community as part of their personal journey to recovery from mental health issues/substance abuse.

NHELC’s *Garden of Hope* project has the well-planned potential, PA Agriculture grant funding, congregational support and collaborative guidance of engaged partner organizations to alter local food landscapes and accessibility networks, create new and sustainable agricultural infrastructures and initiate the dynamic transformation of the local community. By feeding the hungry, teaching those who want to learn, and offering the invaluable agricultural experience of cultivating a garden, we can inspire hope that creates lasting, positive change.



NHELC Worship Opportunities

January 7th
**Baptism of Our Lord/
Communion** – 9 AM
January 14th
**Epiphany/ Children’s
Choir** – 9 AM

January 16th
**Walnut Woods (Boyertown) New Year’s
Worship** – 10 AM

January 21st
Epiphany Worship/Bell Choir – 9 AM

January 28th
Scout Sunday Worship – 9 AM

February 4th
Epiphany Worship/Communion – 9 AM

February 11th
Jazz Worship/Brass Ensemble – 9 AM

February 14th
Ash Wednesday Worship – 12 & 7 PM

February 18th
Lent 1 Worship/Bell Choir – 9 AM
Rejoicing Spirits Worship – 3 PM

February 20th
Walnut Woods (Boyertown) Lenten Worship – 10 AM

February 21st
Wednesday Lenten Prayer Worship – 7 PM

February 25th
Lent 2 Worship – 9 AM

February 28th
Wednesday Lenten Prayer Worship – 7 PM

Keep in Touch

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
610-326-1335
newhanoverlutheran.org
facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch

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



Winter Celebrations

Happy Birthday to the following members, who will be celebrating their 90th or greater birthday in January and February. Their addresses are listed below for those who would like to send birthday greetings.

Harold Smale

Harold celebrates his 92nd birthday on January 12th
326 Rosedale Drive
Pottstown, PA 19464

Patricia Smale

Patricia celebrates her 90th birthday on January 16th
326 Rosedale Drive
Pottstown, PA 19464

Herman Richard

Herman celebrates his 91st birthday on January 19th
51 W. Arcadia Dr. Apt. 3018
Limerick, PA 19468

Louise Karns

Louise celebrates her 93rd birthday on February 27th
846 Oak Crest Road
Pottstown, PA 19464-2816

And, we extend a happy birthday to the following who will celebrate birthdays this winter too.

January

- 1 Michael Lindenmuth,
Marlene Waller
- 4 Jennifer Haraske, Will
Wilson V

- 5 Alexander McCarthy
- 6 Ryan Foskey, Herbert
Vandergrift, Rachel
Williams
- 7 Todd Rothermel, Luke
Sharp, Lillian Stapleton
- 8 Robyn Brunner, Tyler
Hibbs, Vivien O'Donnell,
Brennan Schweiger
- 9 Ranell Cole, Connie
Norris, Ryan Pinter
- 10 Linda Motzer, Avery
Spencer
- 11 Lynn Fegley, Stern Nester,
Jr., Brad Zuchero
- 12 Mel Alting, Kylie Ewing
- 13 Ashley Allen, Nevada
Grant, Mike Wenerowicz
- 14 Kenny Gahler, Graham
Lindenmuth
- 15 Candace Shepherd, John
Zuchero
- 18 Joseph Kern, Pauline
Meeker, Daniel Moser,
Gavin Smith
- 19 Ray Green, Michael
Norris
- 20 Bill Bauer, Carl Dey,
Matthew McHugh,
Michael Moehring, Keith
Rohrbach
- 21 Christopher Morgan,
Dylan Parker, Mark
Warnquist
- 22 Emily Willis
- 23 Charles McNichol, Olivia
Smith
- 24 Susan Fretz, Robert Heck,
Jr., Brian Rohrbach,
Kathleen Smoot, Rick
Solazzo
- 26 Wendy Gahler, Denise
Moyer
- 27 Justyn Forrest, Jenafer
Mayan, Evan O'Donnell,

- Jack Repa, Jeff Smoot
- 28 Robb Davis, Kevin
Jackmore, Jamie Kurtz,
Esmae Miller
- 29 Phillip Boyer, Amanda
Dodge, Bill Tracey
- 30 Bruce Forsyth, Torry
Gallagher, James Gross,
Jr., Colson Martin, Bob
Moyer
- 31 Carolyn Snell

February

- 1 Cathy Crowther, Nathan
Domenick, Kathy Jo
Hoffman
- 2 Kyle Trout, Michael
Urbassik
- 3 Charlene Forsyth, Pat
Fryer
- 5 Michael Artim, Vicki
Beaver, Lois Biehl, Taylor
Pell
- 6 Bill Morrison, Jeffrey
Smith
- 7 Bill Borneman, Lauren
Haraske
- 8 Jillian Grzywacz, Adelina
Hubley, Jacob Moylan,
Charlotte Moser, Jacob
Moylan
- 9 Taylor Capone, Richard
Garcia, Madison
Shellenberger
- 10 Brooke Hedrick, Ethan
Kunsch, Amy Sauers,
Alexis Urbassik
- 11 Patricia Buchanan,
Christopher Wiley
- 12 Gwenn Johnson, Austin
Weidner
- 13 Corrine Bartholomew,
Graham Herold, Sue
Lowry
- 14 Ally Davis

- 15 Aidan Brunner
- 16 Zach Quigley, Chris Reinke
- 17 Doug Taylor
- 18 Matt Davis, Raymond Hibbs, Stacey Rothermel
- 21 Angela Ehling, Christine McNichol
- 23 Julie Frederick, Katie Hennessey, Carlie Schweizer
- 24 Harry Grant, Ava Hubley, Pam Law, Janet Leas, Hadley Mornhineway, Wyatt Wurst
- 26 Sullivan Miller, Romy Mulvihill, Darlene Smith
- 27 Russell Biehl
- 28 Bethann Ritter



Winter Anniversaries

Happy anniversary to the following couples, celebrating their anniversary this winter.

February

January

- 3 Stern and Erin Nester
- 5 Dave and Dot Pollock
- 9 Chris and Robin Fatzinger
- 24 Walter and Betty Hinrichs

- 1 Ndabezinhle Masuku & Christina Deredza
- Ronald and Anita Rath
- 13 Marty and Kelly Hauser
- 27 Bill and Sue Lowry
- Zach and Hayley Quigley



Holiday Gathering Cheers!



The first Gathering for 2023 was filled with holiday cheer, great food and helping hands. We celebrated the season with a great holiday meal created by Chef Chris and followed by carols led by our very own Director of Music Patricia Nyce. To cap off the event, we gave with hearts content by collaborating and creating day care packages for the Pottstown Warming Center, and collected and distributed blankets, sleeping cots and toiletry items. Thank you to the Gathering Team for creating a great day of mission and fellowship!

The next Gathering will be February 8th at Noon to 2 PM. We will have a meal followed by a presentation of creating your “Care for your Loved Ones Package.” In times of critical need, our loved ones are often scrambling to locate our medication lists, insurance information, advanced medical directives and even our wills. What if you had all of that in one spot to show your love for them in helping us? Join us for the February Gathering to learn how. All are invited! Sign up will be online or in the welcome center.



If you want more information on how to join the gathering team, contact Pastor Scott at psstaub@gmail.com. Peace and see you there!



Christmas Pageant



Here are some pictures from the *Stellar Christmas* pageant on December 17th. The program followed the theme from June's Kid's Camp program, offering music from both Kid's Camp and traditional Christmas music.



Reconciling in Christ

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a program of Reconciling Works, an independent Lutheran organization that works collaboratively with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The purpose of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program.

The RIC program is not a certification or a designation of the ELCA. It is a voluntary program that congregations can choose to participate in. Congregations that participate in the RIC program are listed on the Reconciling Works website and are provided with resources to help them become more welcoming and inclusive communities.

Three years ago the idea was brought to council by members of the congregation after learning about RIC. Council prayerfully considered and approved that we embark on the journey to explore and learn about RIC. Then Covid hit and the journey was paused before it ever really started. We are back in full force at New Hanover and have assembled a RIC core team that includes Pastor Scott, Sharon Tracey, Rick Hausch, Janet Psota, Josh Young and Diane Bealer. If you have an interest in joining the core team, we'd love to have you! Let Pastor Scott or anyone one of us know.

The RIC journey will include educational opportunities and discussion. Members of the core team will be available to answer questions and look for your guidance with one to one discussions that we plan to begin in the new year. We will not be able to talk one to one with all of you, but if you'd like to be included in a one to one discussion, let any of us know.

Our RIC journey does not have a specific timetable. When we feel that we are ready to move forward with a formal vote on becoming a RIC affiliate there will be a meeting for approval from the congregation.

Please pray for NHELCC and our journey together.

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us. Amen.