

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

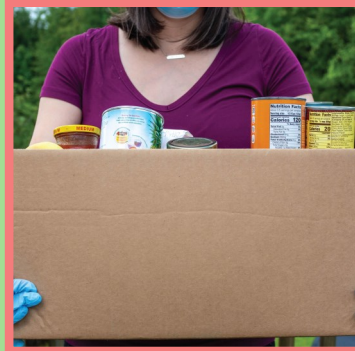
A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Debt Retirement



Everybody's Birthday



Food Collection



Daughters Gathering

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“The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God.”



- Author unknown

AVEL Systems Paid OFF!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

AVEL Debt Retirement Party

Sunday, April 28th, after worship

Look Inside

Organizing/Downsizing	p. 2
Everybody's Birthday	p. 2
Breakfast Fellowship	p. 3
325 Anniversary	p. 3
Hoagie Fundraiser	p. 3
Pottstown Cluster	p. 3
Pentecost Geraniums	p. 4
Gathering of Daughters	p. 4
Kids' Camp	p. 4
Children's Mission	p. 5
QR Donation Codes	p. 5
Council Highlights	p. 5
Pastor's Message	p. 6
Celebrations	p. 7
Contact Information	p. 8
Geranium Order Form	Insert
Crop Hunger Walk	Insert

The Sanctuary Audio/Visual/Electrical systems are paid off! Thank you for everyone who contributed to the sound/visual/electrical enhancements to our worship space. The project improved the safety and modernized our historic sanctuary's electrical system. In addition, we enhanced our sound system, as well as adding a visual system and control area to bring state of the art streaming capabilities.

The project was made possible by your monetary donations. However, the worship and church property committees along with crucial volunteers made the project economically feasible. Without you and the volunteers, this dream may not have occurred. So, we thank everyone for their generosity.

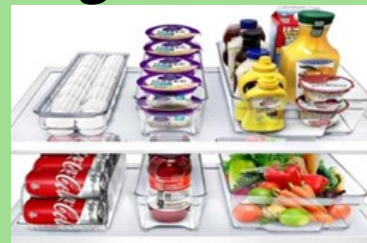
Join everyone on Sunday, April 28th, after worship for cake and refreshments in the fellowship hall.

The capital campaign is still active as we have approximately \$60,000 to pay off for our heating and air-conditioning upgrades to our facility. These crucial upgrades have provided year-round comfortable environments for worship, ministries, choirs, bands, and education for all ages. In addition, our building is host to many organizations that serve our community. Please consider supporting this campaign.

NHELC GATHERING

Organizing and Downsizing for All Ages!

Thursday, April 11th, Noon - 3 PM



Key Note Speakers



Paula Mayewski
Streamline Specialist
M.Ed. Counselor Education



Emily Mayewski
Streamline Specialist/Designer
AS in Interior Design
B.S. in Human Development

Is downsizing in your future? Paula and Emily's downsizing service is here for you from start to finish. Are you planning on retiring to your week-end abode or dream destination? Are you looking at a senior living community, a smaller residence, or moving in with your adult child? Are you trying to keep afloat with children and career? If any of these scenarios sounds like you, Home Stream can tailor a plan to meet your downsizing and organizing needs. They take care of it all, from deciding what you want to keep for your new living space to the pre moving day arrangements as well as a full in-home organization and sustainability plan in your new home. You can rest assured that your downsizing and organization experience will allow you to feel right at home, right away! For more

information, check out their website, <https://homestreamspace.com/about-us/>.

Lunch (free will offering), fellowship, raffle prizes and ideas to help you and your loved ones! Please bring a desert to share.



Sign-up in the Welcome Center or at https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/13574DC05A5CCE4CFAF6-nhelc#.



Everybody's Birthday Party

Sunday, April 14th, 2 - 4 PM



Join your church family for a fun afternoon to celebrate everyone's birthday. We will play games, have cake and ice cream and assemble birthday bags. The decorated bags will be distributed to the children of the families who are served by the Pottstown Cluster food pantry. Attendees are asked to bring any of the following items to be

placed in the bags: cake mixes, frosting, birthday candles, **small** packs of birthday plates and napkins (only **unisex** plates and napkins, please). This is a Thrivent Action Team event. You will be able sign up online on the Sign-Up Genius or on the sheet in the welcome center. Any questions, contact Jo Anne Wirt at 610-327-0529.

Breakfast Fellowship

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 13th, 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.

Woman's Breakfast

Wednesday, April 10th, 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.

Get ready for a celebration!

Most church congregations in America can't claim to be around anywhere close to three hundred years, but here at New Hanover we are about to observe *three hundred twenty-five* years of worship. However, to be ready for that celebration we need volunteers – for the Observance Committee and the Historical Research and Archives Committee, which were the teams that prepared and directed the three hundredth in the year 2000. And, we can't delay. It starts even before the beginning of 2025. We need to plan for anniversary related events and special services. For example, those of us who were around here in 2000 should recall that our committee put out a special publication titled, "Moments in Time." We are planning to publish a new edition of that, with some updates and new topics. If you're interested in working with all these preparations, contact Lee Wesner at 215-806-1807, or lwesner@comcast.net. We are beginning to have meetings now! **Don't miss out!**

Scout hoagie sale fundraiser is back

Saturday, April 27th, 10:30 - 11 AM

Choose from Italian or Turkey hoagies. The Italian hoagies consist of ham, salami, provolone cheese, lettuce, and tomatoes. The turkey hoagies include turkey, provolone cheese, lettuce, and tomatoes. Onions may be requested, and pepper spread is also available on the side by request. The cost is \$7 each for either Italian or Turkey hoagies. The proceeds will help the Scouts defray their cost of attending summer camp and other Scouting activities, after a 10% goodwill donation to NHELHC.

Orders can be picked up at the church between 10:30 and 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 27th. **The deadline to order is Sunday, April 14th.** An order form can be found on the desk in the welcome center. Also, orders may be placed online at 367hoagies.com. You may pay when the hoagies are picked up.

Help neighbors with donations



NHELHC is collecting non-perishable food items and full-sized personal hygiene items throughout the months of April, May and June. Donations will be distributed through the Pottstown Cluster. Drop off your donation in any of the collection boxes located in the welcome center, fellowship hall and multi-purpose room. Thank you for your contributions that will help those in need.

Decorate for Pentecost with a geranium

Sunday, May 19th

You can help decorate the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday by sponsoring a red geranium. Suggested donation is \$5.50 for a single geranium and \$20.00 for a 10” pot containing three geraniums. Order forms are available in this newsletter and on the desk in the Welcome Center. Complete and return the form along with your donation either in the church offering basket or mail it to the church by April 28th. Your geranium may be picked up following the 9:00 AM service on Pentecost, May 19th.

And, don't forget to wear something red on Pentecost Sunday.



Gathering of Daughters

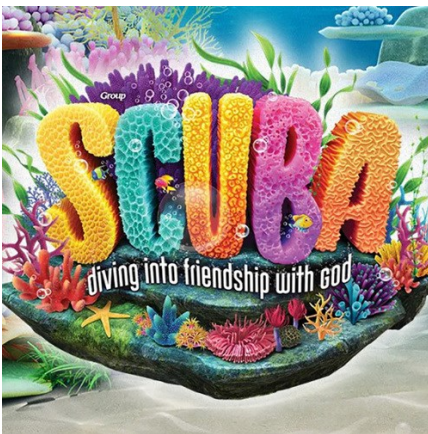
Sunday, May 5th, Noon

In honor of Mother's Day, ladies and daughters are invited for a Cinco de Mayo themed lunch and fellowship. We will have a taco bar, macaroni and cheese, applesauce and desserts. Come for a fun afternoon of Cinco de Mayo themed activities and crafts. There will be a sign up sheet on the desk in the welcome center or you can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-48742324-gathering>. **Reservations are due by Sunday, April 28th.** There is no charge for attending but everyone is asked to participate in the service project by bringing diapers and/or baby wipes to be distributed to local families in need through the Boyertown Area Multi-Service.

If you have any questions about this event, contact Jean Moser at 610-367-0342.

Sign up now for 2024 Scuba Kids Camp

June 17th – 21st, 9:00 AM - Noon



Kids will dive into friendship with God at this year's Kids Camp! Sign-ups are now open for our 2024 Scuba Kids Camp. Kids' Camp will be a fun time to sing and dance, do crafts, hear stories, have snacks and play games! Campers should be pre-k – Rising 5th graders.

Adult and youth helpers are also needed to make this camp a success. Rising 6th graders and up can be Junior Counselors.

Whether you're signing up for Camp or to serve as a volunteer, you can sign up at vbspro.events/p/8afc23 or go to the information desk for blank sign up forms.

Got a gathering idea?

NHELCC is hosting information and/or project events every other month. If you have an idea for a gathering in the fall, contact Pastor Scott at 610-326-1335 or at psstaub@gmail.com.



Together
in Christ

NHELK GATHERING

Children's Mission Project

Thursday, June 13th, Noon - 3 PM

Come join in a mission project to help children. Participants will gather for lunch (free will offering) and fellowship then create pillow casings and blankets for children with cancer and those in disaster relief shelters.

Please bring a desert to share.

Now you can donate using a QR code

NHELK offers a new electronic giving method (in addition to the current Simply Giving platform) that allows users to give via ACH and Credit/Debit Cards without the need to maintain a Tithe.ly account. Simply point your smartphone camera at the QR code and follow the link. Select the fund you want to donate to, fill out your payment info, and you're done! It's that easy! Use Tithe.ly when grabbing some food on a Sunday morning from Chef Chris or pay for a church dinner reservation electronically!

For Simply Giving users, there's no need to change to Tithe.ly. Simply Giving **is not** going away. Using Tithe.ly provides a more streamlined giving platform for "spot" donations (although recurring giving is supported).

For your convenience, QR codes for Tithe.ly and Simply Giving are below.

Tithe.ly QR Code

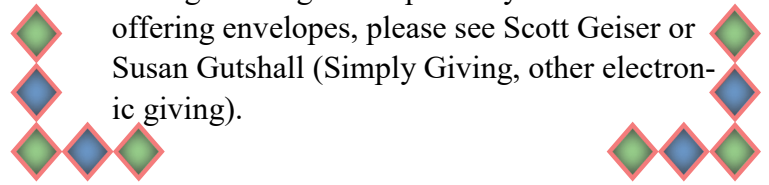


Simply Giving QR Code



Council Corner

- ◆ The AVEL capital campaign has been fulfilled! The financial goal to cover all AVEL costs has been reached. Council extends a big THANK YOU to all who contributed.
- ◆ NHELK is adding a new electronic giving method (additive to the current Simply Giving platform) that allows for users to give via ACH and Credit/Debit Cards without the need to maintain a Tithe.ly account.
- ◆ If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
- ◆ Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes, please see Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving).



Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.

— Madeleine L'Engle
The Rock That Is Higher

Pastor's Message

It's hard to carry the cross, with the world on your shoulders!

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

It's crazy to think we can live a life as Jesus lived when we try to hold the world on our shoulders. One of our recent gospel readings encouraged us to pick up the cross and follow me! It's hard to stoop over to pick up anything when you are carrying the load of the world on your shoulders. That can only happen when we drop the world so to speak and focus on the things that matter in life to make this world, our nation, our community, our families, ourselves better.

I mean it was one short month ago the world was totally focused on the romance of a billionaire performer and arguably an ok tight end in football (OK, I am an Eagles Fan). Seriously! When we let stuff like that into our lives, the world has just gotten heavier, and the cross is further from our reach. And don't get me started on performers and athletes renegotiating their \$400 million plus contracts! I mean if anyone wants to reach out and ask them to join our church, and speak monthly, well, then maybe it's ok.

Politics, don't get me started about the swamp, there has been no lack of sexual abuse, slavery and all kinds of abuse and thievery in the halls of our political offices and courts, including the white house since the beginning of our country, and yet we squabble over the constitution. We argue over state and national rights when our neighbors are suffering. No wonder Jesus remarks give unto Caesar what is Caesars. Even Jesus knew better. The political swamp like our swamp next to church never drains! Come on!

And just when we thought we had enough of the royal family, they are back in the news. Alleged photo shopped photos? Who cares and who has the time to compare the lighting and the patterns on the shorts of the children around their mother to see if it's real. For all those people, here is some clear accurate non-altered advice, "Who cares?" The royal family are people, and I love them as Gods creation, however, whether they are faking photos, who cares. Like our swamp, they are not going away. Pass the caviar.

The world you see just gets heavier. I often wondered how Jesus spent three years wandering around in a small country, and why Rome the cruel oppressors didn't care about thousands of people traveling across the country? They obviously didn't see him as a threat. And then I had this, Epiphany (OK, its Lent at publication). It is simple, Jesus wasn't taking their money, he wasn't running for office, he wasn't doing anything to stop the corrupt Roman world. He wasn't interested in the swamp of Rome; he was travelling along with his hoard to save Gods people. It was like a Jesus-Palozza tour.

Along the way, he touched people's lives by healing them, feeding them, loving them. Telling them who had ears to listen, and even if they didn't, he gave them hearing; however, he told them of a wonderful world, a different world awaiting them. He told them about a God that loved them so much that God didn't want their money, their curtesy, their bodies, God just wanted them to know that they were loved.

When we embrace this essence of Christianity, that God loves us freely, we have what Martin Luther called "The Freedom of a Christian." Meaning that when we, like the people waving frantically their palms and realizing that the Messiah has come for our salvation, we recognize that the world has less to offer than God. When we realize we have nothing to owe this world, and we have

nothing to do to earn Gods love and forgiveness, then, and only then can we shed the world and pick up the cross.

The cross meaning, our ability to love others. The ability to give to others that need it. Without the world on our shoulders, we can build ministries

that include all and teach people how to live and love one another. We can start our own Jesus-Palozza! Go Get'em.

Peace, Pastor Scott



April Celebrations



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Hazel LeVan, who will celebrate her 91st birthday on April 25th. For those who would like to send Hazel a birthday greeting, here is her address. 35 North Walnut St. Apt. 214 Boyertown, PA 19512-1031

Also celebrating a birthday in April

- 1 Daulton Moyer, Connor Smale, Debra Smale
- 2 Cameron Gorman, Kelly Hennessey, Barry Spencer
- 3 Ruth Bauer
- 4 Carter Allen, David Grant, Samantha Wurst
- 5 Ryan Black, Katrina Clark
- 6 Christopher Clark, Carol Feick, Craig Moser, Gary Moser, Sharon Robbins
- 7 Ronald Comtois, Alexa Moser, Kathy Taylor
- 8 Jordan Becker, Jennifer Boyer, Carl Eisenhart, Jamie Holiday
- 9 Jason Crunetti, Christian Schweizer, Jaime Scott, Maggie Soupik
- 10 Scott Dotterer, Carol Dugan, Ursula Gamler, Eric Meeker
- 11 Graham Beaver, Jess Davis, Michelle Kehs
- 12 Brian Eisenhart, Genesis Garcia, Sadie Hubley, Rodney Snell
- 13 Kadence Fox, Diana Hazel, Mandy Hamilton, Adam Helmer, Natalie Meeker
- 14 Amanda Hoffman, Phyllis O'Boyle, Hayley Quigley
- 15 Carl Dey, Cody Eichenlaub, Gwen Grant, Dustin Smale
- 16 Lisa Caputo, Sue Care, David Helmer
- 17 Andrew Dubbs, Dwight Marazas, Joshua Nimmerichter, Andrew Rothermel, Nance White
- 18 Michael Lambert, Charlotte Lindenmuth
- 19 Timothy Dinsmore, Jeffrey Magee, Hannah Waltermeyer
- 20 Justin Gallagher, Cathy Gehringer, Marty Herold, Karter Lehigh, Tim Mutter
- 21 Allison Bowman, Jim Boyer, Alexia Campbell, Ashley Mutter
- 22 Rick Becker, Kelly Hauser, Amanda Rojas, Sandra Yanisko
- 23 Tara Hauck
- 24 Stephanie Ray
- 25 Ralph Borneman, Molly Woods, Shyla Wright
- 26 Madison Bowman, Erin Eisenhart
- 27 Zachary Foskey, Joshua Heck, Noah Waltermeyer


- 28 Jenn Dell'Alba
- 29 James Brandt

Anniversaries

- 10 Raymond and Teri Bechtel
- 12 Ed and Tina Phillips
- 13 Rick and Deb Becker
- 16 Rick Garcia and Ligia Ayala
- 23 Matthew and Donna Landis
- 25 Robert and Jenn Cavalari
- 26 Ken and Patricia Grzywacz
- 29 Tom and Jayne McHugh
- 30 Ryan and Stephanie Fegley Bill and Sandy Wilson

Life and light

Easter is the assurance that no matter how hopeless and dark things appear, God is alive and actively working. Our heavenly Father births life out of death, transforms brokenness into wholeness and shines light into darkness.



Who me? Yes you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading God's people. But God always knows what God's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has a person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther.

"When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. God is the King of quiet providence, and God invites you and me to partner with God in God's work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When God's people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. God always has a person. God had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story God has you."

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Call for an appointment.

610-326-1335
newhanoverlutheran.org
facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch

Staff

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psstaub@gmail.com
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Church Office Manager, Susan Gutshall
susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org
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namron29@comcast.net

Council

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President Todd Rothermel
Food Ministry, Garden of Hope, Personnel
Vice-president Marty Hauser
Secretary Steve Eisenhart
History & Archives, Memorial Fund, Worship & Music
Treasurer Edward Becker
Audit, Finance, Stewardship
Financial Secretary Scott Geiser
Fellowship, Mission Service, Picnic Grove
Monique Becker
Peer Support Ministry
Jim Gross
Building Fund, Cemetery, Property
Yvonne Peto
Christian Education, Flutter
Nance White
Constitution, Mutual Ministry
Jeff Wise
Endowment

Geraniums for Pentecost, May 19, 2024

Red geraniums will adorn the sanctuary on Pentecost, May 19, when two youth of the congregation will be confirmed in their faith. Please indicate below how you desire your sponsorship to appear in the bulletin. This form along with your payment is due in the church office by **Sunday, April 28, 2024**.

Name _____

Suggested donation: \$5.50 for a single geranium Qty. _____ @ \$ 5.50 = _____

\$20.00 for a 10" pot containing 3 geranium plants Qty. _____ @ \$20.00 = _____

PLEASE PRINT

Amount Enclosed _____

In Memory/Honor of _____ by _____
(circle one)

In Memory/Honor of _____ by _____
(circle one)

Place this form along with your donation in an envelope (available on the desk in the Welcome Center) and return to the church office or place in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to NHELCC.

Order deadline is April 28, 2024.

Please pick up your geraniums immediately after the 9:00 AM service on May 19, 2024.

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Pottstown

CROP

HUNGER WALK

and fun run

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

supporting

Pottstown Cluster
OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Nourishing Lives. Strengthening Families.



walk, run, create a team or donate!

pottstowncluster.org/pottstowncrophungerwalk2024

About

Join a 1-mile or 5K walk or fun run as an individual or create your own team! It is free to join and all ages are welcome!

Impact

The Pottstown CROP Hunger Walk and Fun Run raises awareness and funds for local and global food security. The walk supports the mission of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities and local food security.

SUNDAY

MAY 5, 2024

2PM

1-MILE OR 5K

AT THE HILL

SCHOOL

QUESTIONS? email: communications@pottstowncluster.org
or call 610-970-5995