

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Prepare for Christmas this Advent Season

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Celebrate the birth of Christ Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 PM Live Nativity Worship & 8:00 PM Traditional Worship

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Congregational Meeting

A special congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8th, immediately following the worship service. There are two agenda items for the congregation to vote.

1. Approval of the 2025 Proposed General Fund Budget. The Congregation Council reviewed this budget at its November meeting and recommends its approval.
2. Approval to secure up to \$680,000 loan amount to initiate the Learning Center Ministry. The Council has been significantly involved in the Learning Center planning process and recommends approval to proceed.

Copies of the budget are available on the church's website at www.newhanoverlutheran.org, in the Welcome Center and in the information box located under the portico next to the Sunday School Wing/Office door.



Christmas Carol Gathering Social

Thursday, December 12th
Noon – 2:00 PM

All are invited to a Christmas gathering social at NHELC in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a delicious luncheon (suggested donation of \$7.00) and friendly fellowship followed by a Christmas Carol singing. We ask that you bring cookies or a holiday dessert to share! A sign-up sheet is available on the desk in the welcome center to help with planning this event; reservations for the luncheon are due December 8th.



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15th
10:15 AM

Come support our children and enjoy our 2024 Christmas Pageant, Scuba Christmas. Regular J.A.M. will not be held that day. Bring cookies or a snack to share. Drinks will be provided. We cannot wait to see you there!



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 15th
1 – 3 PM

Gather your friends and family for a fun and uplifting time, singing favorite and beloved Christmas carols to our NHELC homebound members as well as those in senior facilities. 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 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.



Wednesday, December 18th
7:00 PM

This year, NHELC will be hosting a community-wide Blue Christmas service. Blue Christmas is meant to be a quieter and more reflective service. Maybe you are not feeling the holiday spirit this year, perhaps you are grieving, or you just want to take some time to get away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and reflect. Then, join us on Wednesday, December 18th, for the Blue Christmas service. December 18th is also the Loaves and Fishes monthly meal, so you can come at 5:45 for dinner and fellowship before attending the service in the sanctuary. If you have any questions about the Blue Christmas service, contact Nikki Young.



Flutter holds Christmas event

Flutter is having a Christmas Lock-in at the church beginning on Friday, December 6th, at 7:00 PM until Saturday, December 7th, at 9:00 AM. There will be games (with prizes!), yummy treats, and some service projects. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend. Look for an email with more details.

Want to be on the email list? Contact Lindsey Waltermeyer to be added: GoldieLW@gmail.com or 610-772-1915.

You can follow Flutter on Instagram! Simply scan the QR code below.

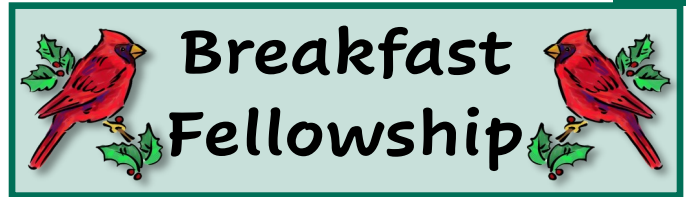


“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.”
—Unknown

The Weary World Rejoices!



Come join us each Sunday at 10:15 AM for an Advent Group Bible Study in room 33. Each week we meet to share and discuss holiday traditions, Bible passages and how each of us cope with living in the promise of peace and hope, even though we witness this world we live in. This study is a safe place to come to share, listen and/or just hang. So come join us this Advent.



Women’s Breakfast

Wednesday, December 11th, 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, December 14th, 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.



Angel Tree

Angel Tree gifts are due **Sunday, December 8th**. Bring your **unwrapped** gifts to church and place them around the Christmas Tree in the welcome center. Thank you for your help in bringing smiles to the youth at Gemma Services this Christmas.



Book Club has new location

The NHELC Book Club is reading *All the Colors of Dark* by Chris Witaker. All are welcome to join the Book Club on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 6:30 PM for dinner and book discussion. Readers will meet at Barrel and Ale (**please note the new location**), 961 North Reading Avenue in Boyertown. If you have any questions about this event, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.



Readers needed for the Lessons & Carols service

Sunday, December 29th, 9:00 AM

Sign up at the desk in the welcome center.



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

If you are new or have not attended before, consider joining us for 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. Please note – there will be no J.A.M. on December 29th.



Send pictures

The pictorial directory will not be complete without pictures of members, classes and group activities. If you haven't submitted your family picture, the committee requests you send a picture to Nance White at Nanc2237@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

And, committee chairs, class leaders and event coordinators, lets share the life of the church in the new directory. Send Nance some pictures to include in the directory.

Thanks to everyone for the help and support for the new pictorial directory.

New sewing ministry provides winter hats

TLC Sewing, NHELHC's new sewing ministry, has just completed 20 polar Fleece winter hats and 24

knit winter hats for the homeless and chemo patients. Congratulations ladies!! The next workshop will be in January. Stay tuned.



Submit your 2024 report

Committee and board reports for 2024 are due in the church office by Monday, January 6, 2025.





Pastor's Message

Christmas Majestical



On my recent trip to Australia/New Zealand I learned a new word, Majestical. This word was introduced to me from my tour guide, Tim Reed. Admittedly not a recognized word in the English language; however, nevertheless, a perfect word to describe the awesome nature of Australia and the beauty of New Zealand.

The word was introduced into our vernacular by the actor Sam Neill in the movie Hunt for the Wilderpeople. A story of a boy and his uncle finding their way in an unbelievably beautiful setting. In some ways our Christmas story we share also is Majestical. A child born as a king, a savior to overcome all evil by utilizing peace and love as weapons.

No matter how you spin it, this story is Majestical, an unbelievable message of hope and promise that brings us joy. Year after year, we march as Nut-

cracker soldiers in this parade of the Christmas season. I find it unbelievable that joy and hope never seem to diminish; however, are only strengthened when war and doubt seem to prevail.

This year I pray that you also find this season as a reason to share this majestical story. The story of a boy, who is sent to save a world during a time of occupation and strife. A boy who becomes a man who wanders through the wilderness of politics and war, armed only with peace and love. And yet, today we still carry that message and offer to others the hope, peace and love this boy, Jesus has won. Majestically changing the world!

Peace and Merry Majestical Christmas to you my friends,

Pastor Scott



Council Corner



Here are highlights from the November 21st Council meeting.

1. Finance continues to monitor the 2024 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of October 31 of **\$62,000.00**. Total income at the end of October (83% of the year) was at 93% (offerings at 85%) and expenses were at 87%.
2. Special Congregation Meeting to be held on Sunday, December 8th, immediately following the worship service. Please plan to attend. Agenda items include the 2025 Budget approval and the Learning Center initiation/loan approval. The Council recommends the approval of both agenda items.
3. The election of new members to the 2025 Congregation Council will take place at the congregational meeting on February 23, 2025. If you are interested in serving, please notify any present member of council.
4. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
5. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes please see Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving).
6. Space utilization - please let Susan Gutshall know if you are planning to use any church space for events and meetings.

♥♥♥ Thank You ♥♥♥ Your generosity makes a difference



Scouts hold food drive

Troop and Pack 367 Scouts and families made the 2024 Scouting for Food drive another success. For the third consecutive year, we collected more than a ton of food! This translates to 2,352 items weighing 2,653 pounds.

Our sizable donation to Preston’s Pantry was made possible thanks to the combined efforts of so many Pack and Troop 367 Scouts and families, who generously gave nearly 280 total hours of service over two weekends. This incredible effort will make a direct impact on families in need in our community. Through the Multi-Service of Boyertown, Preston’s Pantry gives food to upwards of 50 families every week.

Let’s keep our streak going in 2025!



“The more you recognize and express gratitude for the things you have, the more things you will have to express gratitude for.” —Zig Ziglar

Yoga class donates to food ministry

Thank you to all who came out for our fall yoga classes! Your donations raised \$320 for the food ministry!

With gratitude,
Leslie Gates

Donations distributed through Pottstown Cluster

A special thank you to all who so generously contributed to the Pottstown Cluster collection boxes. This year, approximately 400 pounds of nonperishable food items and personal care items were taken to the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities where these items were distributed to those in need. Thanks again for participating in this outreach program!



Reconciling in Christ presentations

“Taking a closer look: What the Bible does and doesn’t say about homosexuality”

January 12th, 10:15 AM

Fellowship Hall

The Rev. Bruce Davidson, a retired pastor in the ELCA, will lead the presentation.

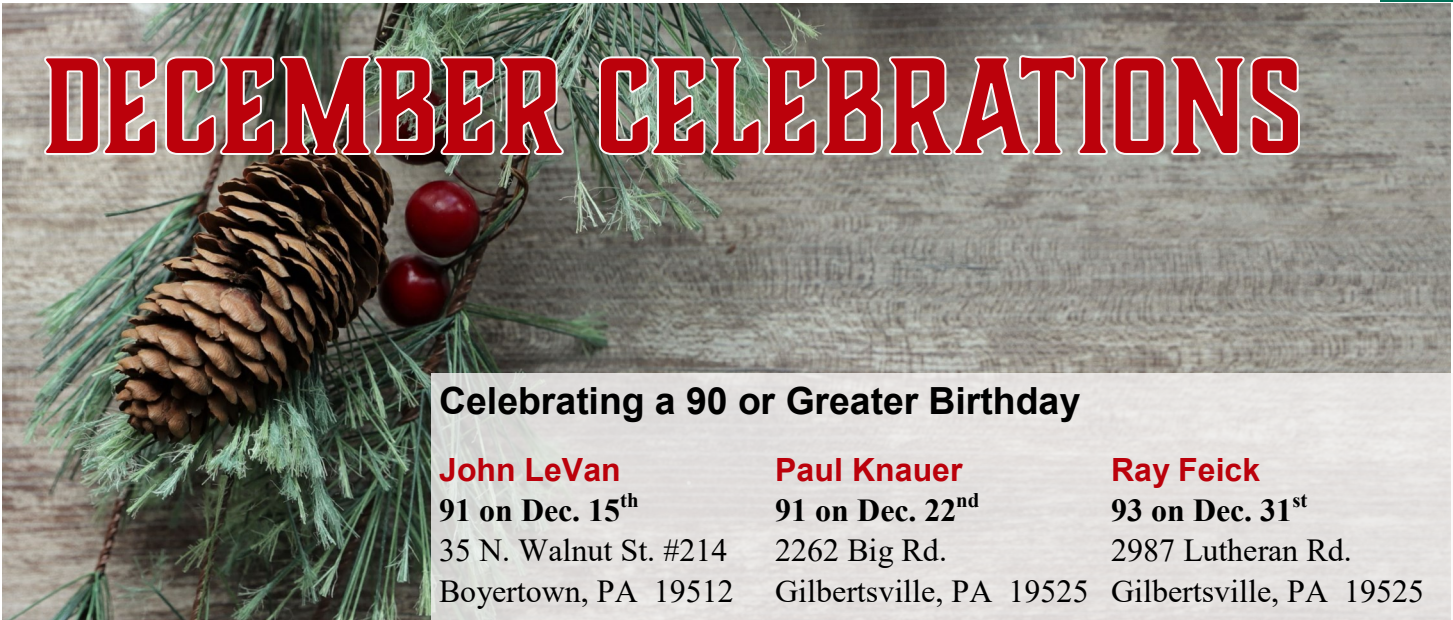
“Allyship”

January 19th

Temple Talk during worship with continued discussion after the service in room 33

Dr. Dee Singley, (she/they), Director for Disability Services and 504 Coordinator Institute for Student Success at Ursinus College will talk about building relationships based on trust, consistency and accountability with minoritized individuals and/or groups.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Celebrating a 90 or Greater Birthday

John LeVan
91 on Dec. 15th
35 N. Walnut St. #214
Boyertown, PA 19512

Paul Knauer
91 on Dec. 22nd
2262 Big Rd.
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Ray Feick
93 on Dec. 31st
2987 Lutheran Rd.
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Also celebrating a birthday this month

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Kathy Kane, Michael Wirt | 15 Denise Gaugler, Ayva Wojnarek |
| 2 Chris Fatzinger, Elfriede Ilik, Rochelle Morrell, Doug Senne | 16 William Boys |
| 3 Thomas Hennessey | 17 Carl Asti, Rachelle Kunsch |
| 4 Daniel Dinsmore, Bill Kingsepp, Samme Marazas | 18 Bree Hennessey, Jonathan Mayan, Stacey Shirk |
| 5 Alec Domenick, Daniel Smale | 19 Domenic Capone |
| 6 Nancy Gross, David Lynn, Camryn Urbassik | 20 Scott Ehling, Jeffrey Moser |
| 7 Becky Gallagher, Chase Sharp, Nathan Smoot | 21 Justin Duncan, Joe Houseal, Landon Woods |
| 8 Peter Wurst | 22 Brittney Agliano, Michael Norris |
| 9 Ryan Fegley, Jayne McHugh, Yvonne Peto | 23 Norman Hunsberger, Virginia Specht |
| 10 Doris Callow | 24 Tom Kehs |
| 11 Rachel Clark, Kendra Holiday, John Nuss | 25 Natalie Weller, Johnathan White, Nicholas White |
| 12 Ryan McNichol | 26 Barbara Eisenhart |
| 13 Shannya Wentzel, Roger Yost | 27 Jeffrey Antonuk, Darlene Medlar, Lucille Miller |
| 14 Joelle Ammarell, Peyton Comtois, Angela Kirn, Lois O'Dell, Raymond Velazquez, Michelle Williams | 28 Beth Yost |
| | 29 Julia Camp, Andrew Zuchero |
| | 30 Deb Becker, Joanne Evans, Joan Flack, Jennifer McCarthy, Helen Weaver |
| | 31 Joseph Allen |

Anniversaries

- 12 Mike and Sheri Wenerowicz
- 14 David and Bonnie Eichenlaub
- 25 John and Hazel LeVan
- 27 Zachary and Madison Mayan
- 28 Terry and Roxanne Hersh
- 30 Richard and Emily Willis
- 31 Bob and Elfriede Ilik



Community concerts celebrate the holiday



The Boyertown Alumni Marching Unit

Saturday, December 7th, 7:00 PM

MStar Church

100 Limekiln Road, Bechtelsville

Light refreshments will be available following the concert. A free-will offering for Boyertown Area Multi-Service will be received.

The Director's Big Band

Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 14th, 7:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

45 North Reading Avenue, Boyertown

For more information, go to stjohnsboyertown.org.

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.



Council



Staff

Pastor Scott Staub

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

Pastor

The Rev. Scott Staub

Director of Children, Family & Youth Ministry

Seminarian Minister

Nikki Young

Church Office Manager

Susan Gutshall

Director of Music Ministry

Patricia Nyce

Food Ministry Director

Chris Fatzinger

Grace Band Director

Lindsey Waltermyer

Bell Choir Director

Barbara Eisenhart

Sexton

Jen Boyer

Bookkeeper

Maria Boyer

Cemetery

Norm Hunsberger

