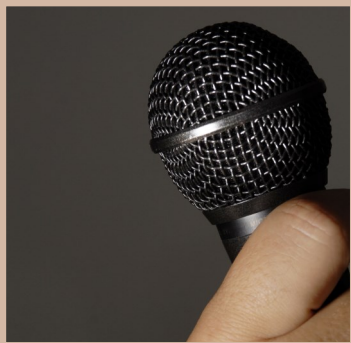


NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Talent Show



Learning Center



Membership



Flutter

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“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” — Carl Bard

325th Anniversary Committee Events



“Cheers to Us”

Sunday, January 26th, (10:15 AM) after the worship service
Fellowship Hall

The New Hanover Lutheran congregation is the only German Lutheran congregation in America to have 325 years of continuous ministry, and the 325th Anniversary Committee is planning a fun event to celebrate!

Fun entertainment! A juggler with a Christian message.

Fun food! Assorted wraps, chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, veggie tray, chips and for dessert...cookies and an ice cream bar!

Fun fellowship! Bring your family and friends to the celebration!

Reservations are needed for the luncheon. **Sign up by Sunday, January 19th.** Forms are available in the Welcome Center. Or go to newhanoverlutheran.org and use SignUp Genius.

A freewill offering will be received.

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New Hanover's Got Talent! Fastnacht Social and Talent Show Sunday, March 2nd, (10:15 AM)

Everyone is blessed with a talent. What's yours? Here's an opportunity to showcase your talent. The event will follow the 9:00 AM worship service and, of course, will include fastnachts!

Do you sing? Like to dance? Play an instrument? Tell stories or jokes? Recite poetry? Do a skit with a friend? If so, see Patricia Nyce or Jayne McHugh to sign up. Folks of all ages are invited to participate. It's a fact that New Hanover's got lots of talent! We can't wait to see yours!



Family Learning Center Update

The Property Committee and Learning Center team have been busy making plans to get the education wing ready for construction sometime after the New Year. Large items have been identified to be claimed to keep or disposed of by being sold, donated, or trashed. The property committee will be moving these items from the education wing on Saturday, January 4th. You may reach out to Jim Gross if you'd like to help move large items.

Donna Kehs will work with volunteers after Christmas to pack items in storage closets and small items in the classrooms. One group of volunteers will box items but will not move any heavy boxes, and another volunteer or two will move the boxes out of the education wing. If you are available on Thursday, January 2nd, and would like to volunteer, reach out to Donna Kehs at 610-212-2673.



Committee and board
2024 annual reports
are due
January 6, 2025
for the Annual Meeting on
February 23, 2025.

You can be a member?

Fill out a yellow card, "Your Voice from the Pew", located in the pew rack and check off "Interest in Church Membership." Then, give the card to Pastor Scott or place the card in the offering plate.

Will you
help others?

NHELIC is collecting non-perishable food items and full-sized personal hygiene items throughout the months of January and February. Donations will be distributed through the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. Collection boxes are located in the welcome center, fellowship hall and multi-purpose room for the donations. Thank you for your contributions that will help those in need.

Here is a list of items that are currently needed at the Cluster.

- ♥ pancake syrup
- ♥ Ramen noodles
- ♥ Chili
- ♥ baking goods
- ♥ spaghetti sauce
- ♥ Spam
- ♥ Toothpaste
- ♥ shelf stable milk
- ♥ canned pasta
- ♥ pork 'n' beans
- ♥ chicken & dumplings
- ♥ canned ham
- ♥ shampoo
- ♥ soap

Reconciling in Christ events scheduled for January



Presentations Available

Recently the RIC team arranged for two presentations. The presentations, “LGBTQIA+ 101” and “Pronouns - Why They Are Important”, are now on the church website under the Reconciling In Christ Journey page. In case you missed the presentations or would like to watch them again, you will find them by entering this link in your web browser: <https://newhanoverlutheran.org/reconciling-in-christ/> or connect using this QR Code.



Bible is used against 2sLGBTQIA+ people. The Rev. Bruce Davidson, a retired pastor in the ELCA, will be leading the presentation. At the end of his presentation questions will be received. We will meet in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. Drinks and snacks will be available.

“Allyship” January 19th

Allyship is an action verb defining the lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency, and accountability with minoritized individuals and/or groups of people with the strategic intentions to become collaborators to promote equity.

We welcome Dr. Dee Singley, (she/they), Director for Disability Services and 504 Coordinator Institute for Student Success at Ursinus College for a Temple Talk during worship on January 19th. Afterwards, during the adult Sunday School hour, Dr. Singley and members of the RIC team will be available for questions and further discussion in Room 33 of the Christian Education Wing.

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

Sunday, January 12th, 10:15 AM
Fellowship Hall

The Bible is often used against 2sLGBTQIA+ people to prove that they are condemned by God, and sometimes to justify discrimination and even violence against them. Most often people point to a few verses scattered throughout scripture to justify this. In this workshop we will examine some of these texts, and explore how to respond when the

Breakfast Fellowship

Women’s Breakfast

Wednesday, January 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, January 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.



Caroling and Future Gatherings



We joyously gathered singing carols and sharing Christmas traditions. Chef Chris made us a fabulous meal and people shared their homemade desserts. Patricia Nyce, our director of music led us in singing holiday carols.

Don't miss our next gathering for decorating Senior Activity Bag Mission on Thursday, January 16, 2025. Join us at noon for lunch in the Fellowship Hall and help prepare activity bags for our friends who cannot travel from their homes. This is a monthly ministry dedicated to communicate and reach out to those members and friends who are travel limited.

The Tuesday, February 25, 2025 Gathering is a presentation by Margaret Renkl, author of "Late Migrations." Come at noon for a lunch followed by the New York Times contributing opinion writer as she delivers an unusual, captivating portrait of a family—and reflections of the cycles of joy and grief that inscribe human lives within the natural world.



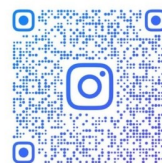
Join us for J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

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.



Fun for all youth in grades 6 – 12

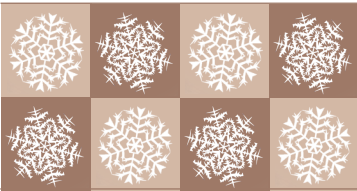
Don't miss out on the great activities Flutter has planned for the new year. Reach out to Lindsey Waltermeyer at Gold-ieLW@gmail.com or 610-772-1915. And, you can follow Flutter on Instagram! Simply scan this QR code.



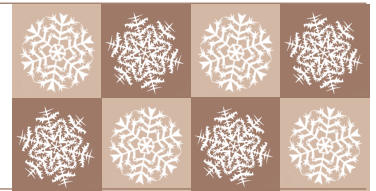
@NHELCLFLUTTER



The cast of NHELCC's 2024 Christmas Pageant, Scuba Christmas



Pastor's Message



325 years and going forward!

One could easily look back at a faith community celebrating 325 years and say, "Well done." That may be true for most; however, not for us. We are proud of all our past accomplishments; but we also like making history.

This past month, we agreed to take on a new ministry initiative that will enable us to make history going forward. The New Hanover Family Learning Center is underway as we speak. The rooms will be refurbished, classes will be advertised and staff hired.

Theologian Howard Thurman said, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." This dream of the Learning Center that became alive was initiated in 2021 during a leadership conference we held after the pandemic, "Thriving Beyond Covid." It

seemed like a distant dream back then; however, slowly the dream became alive, and we are doing it while making history.

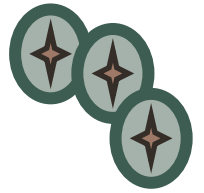
In addition, many of our community members are making other ministries come alive. Our knitting group ministry is making clothing and bedding items for children in treatment and recovery. Our youth have started a new choir, KFC (Kids For Christ). These are all great new dreams made alive!

Throughout the year we will be celebrating both the old and new ministries this great community of faith has completed and initiated. I pray that you find a ministry that makes you come alive and do it. The world will be a better place if we all do what we like with the help of God.

Happy New Year
Pastor Scott



Council Corner



Here are highlights from the December 19th Council meeting.

- ✓ Finance continues to monitor the 2024 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of November 30th of \$71,600.00. Total income at the end of November (92% of the year) was at 106% (offerings at 90%) and expenses were at 95%.
- ✓ The approved 2025 General Fund budget is a deficit budget of ~\$60,000. In order to eliminate the deficit, provide for timely benevolence payments, continue programs, and maintain our staff the Council is strongly encouraging each giving unit to increase giving to the extent possible by 20%. On average across all giving units this equates to \$7/week, \$30/month, or \$361/year. Please consider your giving for 2025. The Council has committed to giving increases by a majority of its members.
- ✓ The Special Congregation Meeting was held on Sunday, December 8th, immediately following the worship service. Congregation approved the 2025 Proposed General Fund Budget as well as the Learning Center initiation/loan approval.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 or other electronic giving).
- ✓ Space utilization - please let Susan Gutshall know if you are planning to use any church space for events and meetings.

Thank you for your gifts

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Angel Tree this year. As always, our congregation is most generous and creative in their gift giving.

A very packed carload of gifts and gift cards was delivered to the Martin Luther School at Gemma Services in Plymouth Meeting. The Martin Luther School provides education and support to grades k-12 students with emotional and behavioral needs. In addition, there is a residential program with sixty current residents.

The staff was thrilled to see us arrive. Amanda from the school explained each resident is provided a personal Christmas bounty. Staff make every attempt to make Christmas morning special. She added the generosity of our congregation is most appreciated. Thank you, one and all, and Merry Christmas!



Toys bring Christmas joy



In addition to the wonderful gifts donated to Gemma, we collected through our friends at the Veterans Coalition of PA 100's of additional gifts. The gifts were donated to our Rejoicing Spirits Christmas Bingo event and Zion UCC. Zion distributed 3,000 gifts this holiday season. Praise be to God for all of your generosity to help children and families in need.

NHELC distributes household goods and hygiene

We culminated our distribution to family ministries of our collected household goods and hygiene products this month. We, along with Veterans Coalition of PA and other non-profits, distributed over \$1,000,000 of products to those in need. The items included paper products, adult and child pull ups, bedding, and personal hygiene products. Thank you to all of our volunteers who collected, packaged and delivered the items this past year. What a blessing our volunteers are!



God on Tap

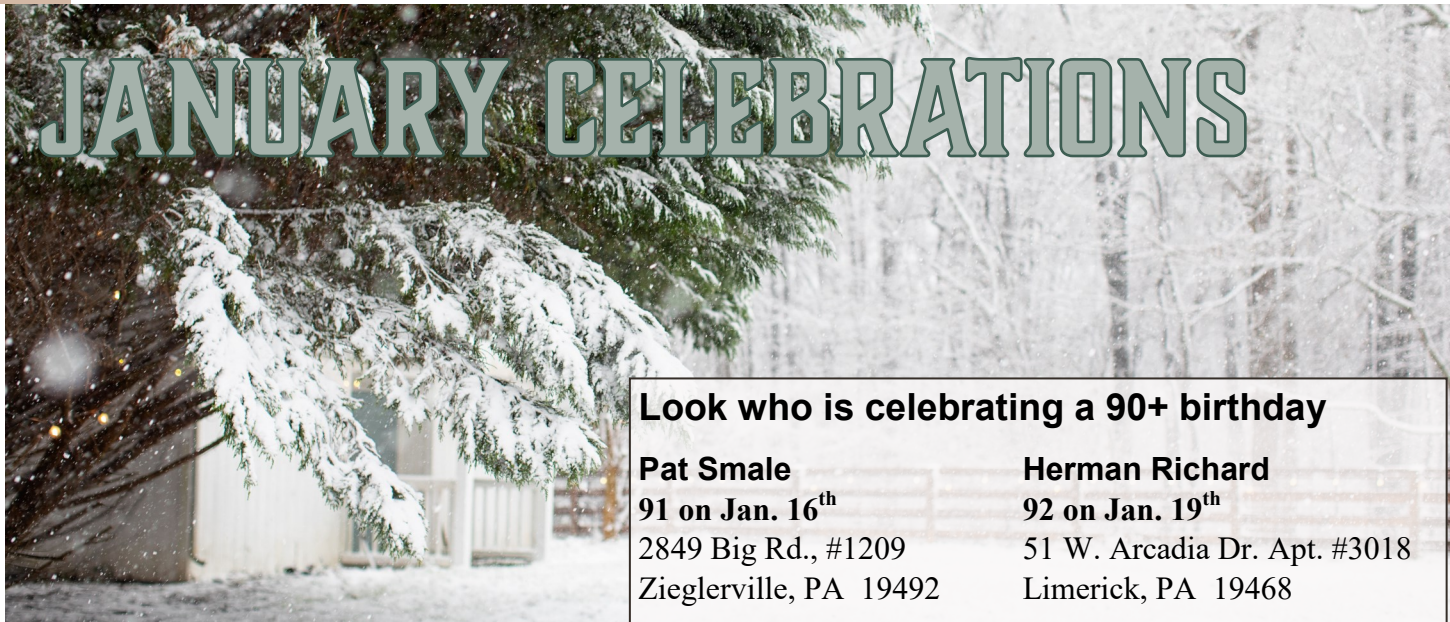
Thursday, January 9th

6:00 PM

Main Street Pub in Bally

We've all been waiting for the return of Jesus. Wouldn't that be amazing? But, what would that look like? How would modern society deal with it? How would they justify it? How would it be authenticated?

Join this discussion at the next God on Tap. For more information, contact Randy Dotterer at 610-306-0621 or rdptw6489@gmail.com.



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

Look who is celebrating a 90+ birthday

Pat Smale

91 on Jan. 16th

2849 Big Rd., #1209

Zieglerville, PA 19492

Herman Richard

92 on Jan. 19th

51 W. Arcadia Dr. Apt. #3018

Limerick, PA 19468

Also celebrating a birthday this month

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Michael Lindenmuth,
Marlene Waller | 21 Christopher Morgan,
Dylan Parker, Mark
Warnquist | 29 Lisa Betz, Phillip Boyer,
Amanda Dodge, Bill
Tracey |
| 4 Jennifer Haraske, Will
Wilson V | 22 Emily Willis | 30 Bruce Forsyth, Torry
Gallagher, Jim Gross,
Colson Martin, Bob
Moyer |
| 5 Alexander McCarthy | 23 Charles McNichol, Olivia
Smith | 31 Carolyn Snell |
| 6 Ryan Foskey, Rachel
Williams | 24 Susan Fretz, Robert Heck,
Jr., Brian Rohrbach, Kath-
leen Smoot, Rick Solazzo | |
| 7 Todd Rothermel, Luke
Sharp, Lillian Stapleton | 26 Wendy Gahler, Denise
Moyer | Anniversaries |
| 8 Robyn Brunner, Tyler
Hibbs, Vivien O'Donnell,
Brennan Schweiger | 27 Justyn Forrest, Jenafer
Mayan, Evan O'Donnell,
Jack Repa, Jeff Smoot | 3 Stern and Erin Nester |
| 9 Ranell Cole, Connie
Norris, Ryan Pinter | 28 Robb Davis, Kevin
Jackmore, Jamie Kurtz,
Esmae Miller | 5 Dave and Dot Pollock |
| 10 Linda Motzer, Avery
Spencer | | 9 Chris and Robin Fatzinger |
| 11 Lynn Fegley, Stern
Nester, Jr., Brad Zuchero | | 11 Jeff Renninger and Rick
Hausch |
| 12 Mel Alting, Kylie Ewing | | 24 Walter and Betty Hinrichs |
| 13 Ashley Allen, Nevada
Grant, Mike Wenerowicz | | |
| 14 Kenny Gahler, Graham
Lindenmuth | | |
| 15 John Zuchero | | |
| 18 Joseph Kern, Pauline
Meeker, Daniel Moser,
Gavin Smith | | |
| 19 Ray Green | | |
| 20 Bill Bauer, Carl Dey,
Matthew McHugh,
Michael Moehring, Keith
Rohrbach | | |

Let's keep in touch

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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.