

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Lenten Schedule



Spaghetti Dinner



Children's Day



Kids Camp

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2025 Lenten Theme

The Hardest Part

Hurt we carry

Hope we find

Joy and sorrow. Love and loss. Big wins and even bigger failures. We cling tightly to the beautiful moments, but then the phone rings, a diagnosis drops, or some creeping ache reminds us that everything—*everything*—is so much more fragile than we'd like to admit. Life can be too much. And Lent is the season where we sit in that heaviness. For 40 days, we stop pretending things will suddenly get better and face the truth: life is fragile, and so are we.

So, let's do *this* hard part together. Let's sit with the ache and the fragile parts we'd rather avoid, and trust that hope is somewhere nearby, waiting for us to notice. Because when we stay with the hard part, something else happens: the good part begins to unfold, slowly but surely.

Lenten Opportunities

Sunday Adult Lenten Group Discussion Forums

Round table – Room 14, 10:15 AM

Lenten Dinners

Wednesdays March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9, 5:30 PM
Soup, Sandwiches & Chef's Choice

Continue on page 2.

Continue from page 1.

Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5, Noon & 7:00 PM

Midweek Lenten Worship

Holden Evening Prayer in Sanctuary

Wednesdays March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9

6:30 PM

Watch the Wednesday Evening Services on

YouTube or **Facebook**

Download the following file to follow along with the service... **Holden Evening Prayer Booklet**

Sunday Lenten Worship

March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 9:00 AM

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday – Communion

April 13, 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday – Communion

April 17, 7:00 PM

Good Friday

April 18, 7:00 PM

Easter Worship – Communion

April 20, 9:00 AM

Youth learn about homelessness

March 22nd – March 23rd

This year, New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELCL) is hosting Box City, a homeless experience and lock-in for our youth and youth within the SEPA Synod. Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up for dinner on Saturday,

March 22nd, and to help with a simple continental-type breakfast on Sunday, March 23rd. Also, helpers are needed for some overnight security as well. If you can help, reach out to Nikki Young.



Midweek Lenten Dinner & Worship

Come join us each Wednesday beginning March 12th at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall for Good Food & Fellowship. A Holden Evening Prayer Worship will begin at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 15th

4:00 – 7:00 PM

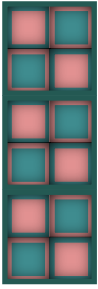
NHELCL's annual **all-you-can-eat** Spaghetti Dinner will soon be here! Enjoy all the spaghetti with homemade meatballs, homemade sauce, homemade Italian bread, salad and beverage you want. Be sure to save room for ice cream and Pizzelle for dessert. **BYOB**

- Adults - \$16.00
- Seniors (65 and older) - \$12.00
- Children (7-12) - \$8.00
- Children (6 & younger) – free

The Spaghetti Dinner is a fundraising event to help maintain the picnic grove and support youth activities. No reservations required.

Buon appetito.





Celebrate the children Children's Day Sunday, March 16th

Since the congregation's forming in 1700, NHELCC has been blessed to have families with children from generation to generation. This year, the 325th Anniversary Committee wants to highlight our children on Children's Day, March 16th. Our younger-aged children will take part in leading the service and providing special music. Parents, bring your children to church on this day to receive a special blessing and so the congregation can give thanks for these young ones who are the future of our church. Following the service, there will be a light reception. This day is in addition to Youth Sunday which is being planned by our older youth on March 30th. Come and celebrate the future leaders of NHELCC!

Breakfast Fellowship

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 8th, 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, March 12th, 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.

Donations help local families

Throughout the month of March, NHELCC is collecting non-perishable items for distribution to local families through the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Top ten items needed to help fill the shelves are listed below.

Food

Apple juice • Canned soup • Crackers • Pancake mix and syrup • Rice • Instant mashed potatoes • Jell-O and pudding mixes • Oatmeal • Coffee and tea bags • Peanut butter and jelly

Non-Food

Laundry detergent • Paper towels • Deodorant (women and men) • Toilet paper • Shampoo and conditioner • Bar soap (unscented) • Diapers (size 4T, 5T and 6T) • Toothpaste and toothbrushes • Feminine hygiene products • Dish soap

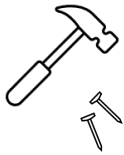
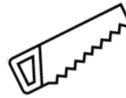
Also, sugar-free, sodium-free and low-fat items for those with dietary restrictions are greatly appreciated. Please do not bring items with an expiration date already expired, home-canned items or medicines. These items cannot be accepted. Items may be dropped off at the church. Collection boxes are located in the Welcome Center, Fellowship Hall and Multi-purpose Room.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!



Construction has begun

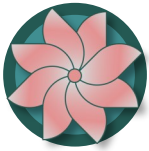
Construction of the learning center is on track for an early spring completion. Demolition is completed, rough plumbing and concrete floor for the new bathrooms are done. New walls are up.



You can expect to see great progress through March.



Any construction questions should be directed to Steve Eisenhart, Jim Gross or Donna Kehs.



NHELC returns to the garden

Its Spring and the garden is ready for planting! We are excited with the changes this year and looking forward to helping feed the hungry. The upcoming events anyone can help! Please come with Spirit.



Garden Prep Day

Saturday, March 29th, 9:00 AM



Rain Date for Prep

Saturday, April 5th, 9:00 AM



Planting

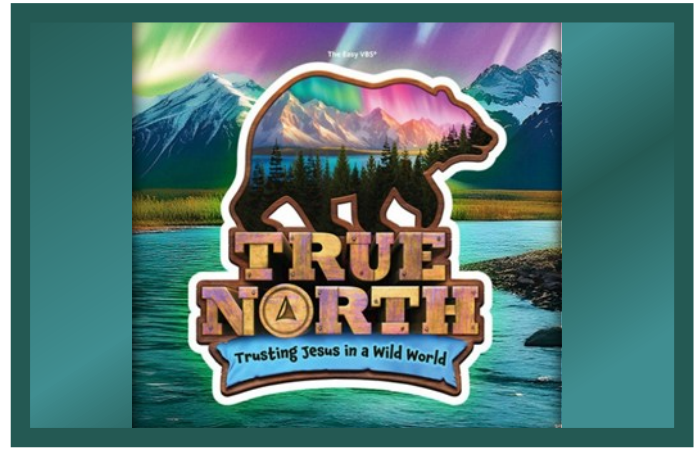
Saturday, April 12th, 9:00 AM



March Gathering

Thursday, March 27th, Noon

The March Gathering will focus on helping people accept an Alzheimer’s diagnosis and continue to live well. Rebecca Chopp, author of *Still Me*, offers a live-streamed presentation on this subject. Lunch will be available prior to the presentation. Participants are encouraged to bring a desert to share.

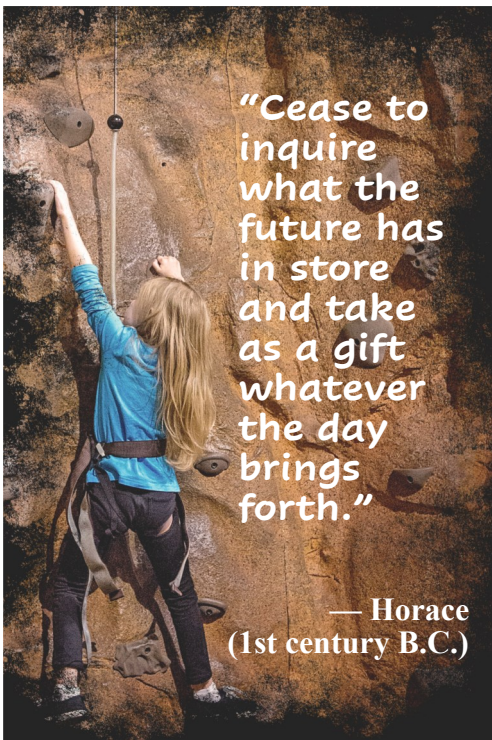


Kids Camp Registration is NOW OPEN

We are heading North for Kids Camp this year! The NHELC True North Kids Camp will be June 16th – June 20th from 9:00 AM – noon. Potty trained preschoolers – rising 5th graders are welcome to attend. Youth headed to 6th grade and up are welcome to be junior counselors. Register and/or sign up to volunteer NOW! Go to <https://vbspro.events/p/35b361>.

Calling all youth in grades 6 – 12

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



Reconciling in Christ hosts town hall meeting

Tuesday, April 22nd

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) team has scheduled a virtual Town Hall for Tuesday, April 22nd, at 7:00 PM. A location at the church will be designate for members who don't want to attend virtually. A four member panel, representing Lutheran churches in our area that have gone through the RIC journey, will be telling us about their RIC experiences and you will have the opportunity to ask them questions.

The participants are:

Pastor Daniel Eisenberg
Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Mayfair (Philadelphia)

Pastor Keith Anderson
Pastor of Upper Dublin Lutheran Church (Ambler)

Stephanie Jacob
member of the RIC core team at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church

Lee Shannon
member of the RIC core team at Trinity Lutheran Church, Kutztown

More information will be shared soon.

The RIC team is looking forward to this event and hopes you will plan to join them!

Calling all readers

The NHEL C Book Club is reading *Echo of Old Books* by Barbara Davis. We will be meeting at Peppe's Pizza and Grill, 2485 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville on Tuesday, April 1st, at 6:30 PM. Join the club for an evening of fellowship and fun! If you have any questions about this event, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.



Update from the 325th Anniversary Committee

Coloring Book

The 325th Anniversary Committee has made available a coloring book and crayons for "kids from one to ninety-two" who like to color. The book makes a nice keepsake as it contains some historical facts about the church.

Moments in Time

Also, the committee is providing a wrapper in which you may place your copies of Moments in Time. All of these items are in the Welcome Center on top of the display case near the photo display panels. If you are missing any Moments in Time inserts, you may contact Susan in the church office or see Lee Wesner or Barbara Eisenhart.

Order Easter lilies today



Help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20th, by purchasing lilies. A suggested donation per plant is \$11.00. Simply fill out the form included in this newsletter, indicating how many plants you wish to sponsor and how they should be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin. Also, indicate if you will be picking up your plant(s) or if you wish for them to be delivered to homebound members. Plants may be picked up **after the 9:00 AM Easter service**. Place the completed form along with your payment (checks payable to NHEL C) in an envelope and then place in the offering plate, or in the mail slot at the Fellowship Hall door, or mail to the church office. Forms and donation are due by **March 30, 2025**.

Advent Social

NHELC kicked-off the Advent season with a social on December 1st. Participants enjoyed making gingerbread houses and Advent chains, decorating cookies, playing holiday themed games and of course having snacks.



The Advent Social was a Thrivent service project so participants brought items to include in the December senior bags delivered to the homebound and those living in senior living facilities.

Braving the snow

Many of our Sunday school families came to church on February 9th in spite of the icy weather. The youth made and packaged two hundred apie cake muffins to be distributed to folks in our church's meal ministry.



Our youth learned of putting others first. Service is the heart of our church.



Council Corner



The following items were discussed at the February 20th Council meeting.



- ✚ Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of January 31 of \$13,500. Total income at the end of January (8.3% of the year) was at 7.9% and expenses were at 8.3%.
- ✚ The recently 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 a month, or \$361/year. Please consider your giving in 2025. The Council has committed to giving increases by a majority of its members.
- ✚ The 2025 Council will have eight Councilmembers out of twelve expected positions. Council members may be appointed by the standing Council at any time of the year to 1, 2 or 3 year terms. If you have interest in serving as a Councilmember please talk to any current Councilmember.
- ✚ The Council has approved the creation of a new standing board - the Learning Center Board. This board will have oversight of the operations of the Learning Center and report to the Council. The new board will organize, finalize the job description, and begin the Learning Center initiation process immediately.
- ✚ The Council approved and welcomed new members at the February Council meeting: Kyle and Dee Singley, and daughters Alivia and Cady
James Dawson
Carolyn Springer
- ✚ 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).
- ✚ Space utilization - please let Susan Gutshall know if you are planning to use any church space for events and meetings.



Spreading Christmas cheer



Thanks to everyone who donated gifts through NHELCC's Angel Tree last fall. Here are some facts provided by Gemma Services, showing how a combined effort with others helped to brighten the lives of their students.

Nearly 100 families enjoyed a special Thanksgiving meal thanks to donations of "Everything but the Turkey" gift bags this fall.

Volunteers wrapped **600+ gifts**, stuffed, **60 stockings** and adorned the stair railing of the children's residence with **more than 125 large stuffed animals**.

500+ youth and families who participate in Gemma's programs received presents and gift cards.

More than 185 friends, both individuals and groups, supported Gemma's annual holiday gift collection.



Pastor's Message

I – We



I know right away, some will say, oh my, here we go again with pronouns. However, I believe we need to hear these pronouns because we use them everyday and they are important in the daily language of a Christian, and the world for that matter. And you may ask, why?

Everything begins with I. I was created by God in God's image, and I am a beautiful child of God. If we begin our day believing this statement, then I believe it makes ourselves and the world a better place. One small contribution to the things we can change contributes to the good of all. "I" then moves towards "We."

So why do we need the pronoun "We"? Well the word Christian itself is defined as a "Follower of Christ." There are of course many other interpretations however this is the base meaning and thus there are least two of you if you profess to be a Christian (Jesus and You). Then there is the meaning of Christianity as the Body of Christ. One body, many parts equals "We."

Thus We, is a good term to use when describing who a Christian is, as there is always two or more. So I like the use of the pronouns, I and We. For they describe what I am, what the church is and what the world is all about. We are One body, with many parts.

Those many parts make the "We", and as Christians we are directed to loved one another by Christ. So while we believe different things about a lot of things, We are in this thing called Christianity together. And together, with the help of God, We can do immeasurably more than we could conceivably imagine doing by ourselves (Ephesians 3:20), I believe.

The year may witness many changes in the world and our community; however, together we can still bring Christ's love to those who need it. It may require doing things different. However, it all starts with the changes we make with "I" and "We."

Peace be with you,
Pastor Scott

Spring Gathering

of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Upper Montgomery Conference SEPA Synod

Saturday, March 29th, 9 – Noon, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg

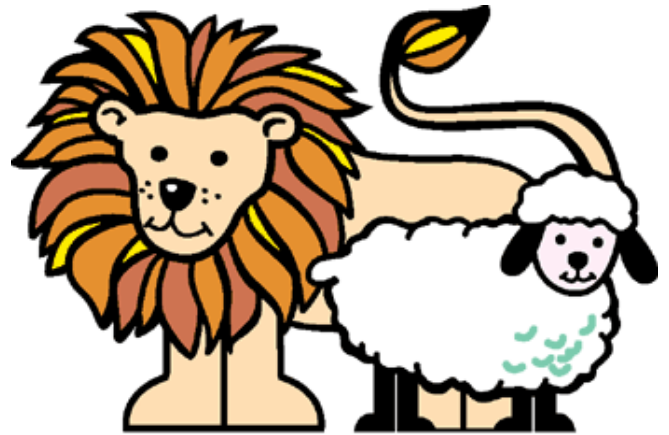
Celebrate the 526th birthday for Katie Luther (Martin Luther's wife) at a special presentation, "Katie Luther (Better Late than Never) by the Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel. Come and learn about Katie's life and what makes her a practical and bold woman of faith. You will learn about her life with Martin Luther, and the ins and outs of her managing a bustling household that was always ready to welcome guests.

You don't have to be a member of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

(WELCA) to attend. Registration and refreshments begins at 9:00 AM. Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food donations for the Open Link Food Pantry in Pennsburg.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is located at 81 Main Street in Pennsburg. Park near Front Street and enter through the side door on Front Street. For more information, contact Dale O'Hara (WELCA) at Augustus Lutheran Church, (610-489-0417).

March Celebrations



Birthdays

- 1 Sydney Renner, Kelli Ritter
- 4 Danielle Dugan, David Evans, Kelsie Rohrbach, Ted Schweiger, Mason Williams
- 5 Fred Agliano, Jr., Kim Dinsmore, Benjamin Rothermel
- 6 Zachary Mayan, Tyler Sauers
- 7 Leslie Gates, Derek Updegrove
- 8 Erik Johnson, Zachary Reed
- 9 Eric Hansley, Alaina Wojnarek
- 10 Ethan Landis
- 11 Amy Foskey, Tyler Lynn, William Sibusiso Masuku
- 12 Alex Caputo, Brenda Hunsberger
- 16 Colleen Christ, Kyle Culp, Christine Miller, Faye Weidner
- 18 Craig Geiser, Bobbi Nuss, Mary Ann Peters
- 19 Emerson Leydet
- 20 Steve Eisenhart

- 22 Kim Trout, Lee Wesner, Nancy Wolfe
- 23 Michael Freed, Dieter Gahler, Ryan Schatz
- 24 Ilana Bencsik, Robert Ganovsky, Roberta Ganovsky, Ron Hedrick
- 25 Kinsey Ewing, Noah Fatzinger, Bradley Fox, Jr.
- 26 Aiden Girard, Madison Hansley, Kevin Hauck, Cameron Parker, Courtney Schweizer
- 27 Joan Girard, Seth O'Dell, Madison Shirk
- 28 Eleanor Erb
- 29 Brent Feick, Andy Grzywacz, Alicia Smoot
- 30 Matthew Duncan, Stephanie Fegley, Wayne Fowler, Jr., Terry Santangelo
- 31 Pat Corcoran, Cora Harrierty, Tom McHugh, Jr., Logan Weisbach

- 6 Barry and Sharon Spencer
- 10 John and Bobbi Nuss
- 14 Dane and Josalyn Mulvihill
- 18 Christopher and Rachel Clark
- 19 Bryan and Colleen Christ
- 22 Robert and Victoria Brett
- 24 Kerwin and Susan Reber
- 28 Kenneth and Pamela Shellenberger
- 29 Jeff and Kathleen Smoot

Anniversaries

- 5 Aurelio Zarza Rojas and Amanda Rojas

Fasting & feasting

During Lent, consider this practical and biblical advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

- ✝ Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- ✝ Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- ✝ Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- ✝ Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- ✝ Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- ✝ Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- ✝ Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- ✝ Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Let's 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.

Celebrating 325 Years
1700-2025



Still Making History

Easter Lily Order Form
Orders due by March 30, 2025

Name _____
Phone Number _____

Lilies will adorn the sanctuary on Easter, April 20, 2025. A list of lily sponsors will be included in the Easter bulletin. Please indicate below how you desire the names to appear on the sponsor page. This form along with your payment are due in the church office by Sunday, March 30, 2025.

("In memory of" if deceased; "In honor of" if living)

PLEASE PRINT

In memory/honor of: _____ by _____
(Circle One)

In memory/honor of: _____ by _____
(Circle One)

In memory/honor of: _____ by _____
(Circle One)

Suggested donation per plant is \$11.00. Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Place this form along with your payment in an envelope and place in the offering plate, mail slot at the Fellowship Hall door, or mail to the church office. Please make checks payable to NHELCC. **Order deadline is March 30.**

(Check one)

I will pick up my plant(s) _____ **Please deliver to a homebound member** _____

Lilies may be picked up after the 9:00 AM service on Easter, April 20, 2025.

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