

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Holy Week



Egg Hunt



Daughters



Camp Falckner

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The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



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Lent continues

It's not too late to participate in this year's Lenten series, "The Hardest Part – Hurt we carry. Hope we find."

Sunday, April 6th

Worship

9:00 AM in the sanctuary and on YouTube or Facebook

Adult Lenten Group Discussion Forums

10:15 AM at the Roundtable, room 14

Wednesdays, April 2nd and 9th

Lenten Dinner

5:30 PM Soup, Sandwiches & Chef's Choice

Evening Prayer

6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer service in the sanctuary and on YouTube or Facebook

Download the following file to follow along with the service...

Holden Evening Prayer Booklet

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, April 13th – Communion service at 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 17th – Communion service at 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 18th – Service at 7:00 PM

Easter Worship, April 20th – Communion service at 9:00 AM

Good Friday readers needed

Nine readers are needed. A sign-up sheet is available on the desk in the Welcome Center for those who would like to read during this service.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 12th

Due to the construction, we will host two hunts based on the age of the child. First grade and younger will hunt at 10:30 and second grade and older at 11:00. Following the two hunts a light lunch consisting of hotdogs, chips and cake will be provided. Please help us out with planning by letting us know how many will be joining us. If you have kids in both age groups or one time works better than another, feel free to attend what works best for your family. We are just trying to have smaller groups in case of rain. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-55954940-easter>.

Youth, who would like to help with this event, should contact Nikki Young at nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org

**Also, we need candy!
Bring candy to church
on Sunday, April 6th.
The youth will fill
the eggs on that date.**



April Gathering Tuesday, April 22nd, Noon

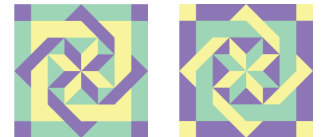
The Aging Grace-Fully series continues with a live-stream presentation by Missy Buchanan, author of *From Dry Bones to Living Hope*. In this book, the author opens with an intimate, prayerful lament to God from the perspective of the older adult, who longs for spiritual renewal and purpose, and then guides the reader to God's perspective on aging and specific actions to take to leading to hope and joy.

Lunch will be available prior to the presentation. Participants are encouraged to bring a desert to share. Look for a sign-up sheet on the desk in the Welcome Center.



Gathering of Daughters

Sunday, May 4th, Noon



In celebration of Mother's Day, daughters of all ages are invited to a Gathering of Daughters featuring a **tea party** themed lunch of assorted tea sandwiches, pastries, and hot and cold teas. Following the tea, will be a **vintage fashion show** featuring New Hanover's models showcasing styles from ? to the 1980s. (You won't want to miss this!) Come for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the desk in the Welcome Center or you may sign up on the Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-56007833->

gathering. **Reservations are due by Sunday, April 27th.** Those attending are asked to participate in the service project by bringing diapers and/or baby wipes to be distributed to local families in need through Boyertown Area Multi-Service.

The Fellowship Committee is planning this event in conjunction with the 325th Anniversary Committee. If you have any questions, contact Jean Moser at 610-367-0342 or Barbara Eisenhart at 610-316-5909.

If you have vintage clothing and/or if you would like to be a model, contact Barbara by April 13th.



You can lessen the burden

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELCH) is collecting non-perishable food items and full-sized personal hygiene items throughout the months of April, May and June. Donations will be distributed to local families 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.

Items most needed: Pancake syrup • Shelf stable milk • Ramen noodles • Canned pasta • Chili • Pork ‘n’ beans • Baking goods • Chicken ‘n’ dumplings • Spaghetti sauce • Canned ham • Spam • Shampoo • Toothpaste • Soap



“My Easter Dove”

There came a dove, an Easter dove,
when morning stars grew dim;
It fluttered round my lattice bars,
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,
aglow with dewy sheen;
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts
to calm my soul that day;
I caught the meaning of the note,
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter dove!
Above earth’s storm and strife,
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,
of light and hope and life.

— Henrietta Cordelia Ray (1849-1916)

Breakfast Fellowship

Women’s Breakfast

Wednesday, April 9th, 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, April 12th, 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.

Two-way benefits

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” (Matthew 10:39, NIV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also — or perhaps even more so — received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.



Reconciling in Christ hosts

TOWN HALL MEETING

Tuesday, April 22nd, 7:00 PM

A four-member panel, representing Lutheran churches in our area that have gone through the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) journey, will be telling us about their RIC experiences and you will have the opportunity to ask them questions.

Panel Participants

- ✠ 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

How to Participate

1. Zoom

Logon to <https://zoom.us>. Meeting ID is 84524154363 and the Password is 123456. If you join from a mobile device, you will need to install (or already have) the Zoom app to join. If you join from a desktop/laptop, you

can join without installing the app. Anyone joining Zoom can live chat or ask a voice question.

2. YouTube

Use the QR code below or use the link <https://youtube.com/live/WpsUQSaQUBI>.



3. Live at Church

Meet in the sanctuary. The doors to the Welcome Center will open at 6:45. We will start promptly at 7:00 PM.

If you have any questions, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com or the church office.

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

Spring Planting at Garden of Hope

Saturday, April 12th, 9:00 AM

Come join in the fun!

Kids Camp

June 16th – 20th
9 AM - Noon



Registration is NOW OPEN! We are heading North for Kids Camp this year! Potty trained pre-schoolers – 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>.

"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

—Joseph Campbell

Camp Falckner

An Overnight Christian Camping Experience for Youth
Completing 5th – 12th Grade

Camp Falckner will be held July 21-24, 2025 at the church picnic grove on Swamp Picnic Road. This year’s theme is Faith in Action: Generation to Generation. Participants will explore how faith has shaped their past and how to carry it forward into the future. Come and learn, grow, and discover how to put Faith in Action—not just within our church, but in the world around us. Together, we’ll build on our rich history and find new ways to serve, lead and make a lasting impact for generations to come! Registration is available [online](#), but there will also be paper copies available in the Welcome Center. Reach out to [Lindsey Waltermyer](#) with any questions.

Where are your wings?

Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard told this parable about a town filled with ducks. Does it remind you of anyone?

In a land inhabited only by ducks, all the residents waddled to church one fine Sunday, with ducklings following behind their parents. They entered the Duck Church doors, got situated in their proper pews, sang from the Duck Hymnal and then listened to Duck Minister preach from the Duck Bible (yes, even ducks have their own preferred version of Scripture).

“Ducks, God has given you wings!” the preacher shouted. “With wings you can fly like eagles! You can soar into the sky! No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! God has given us wings, and we can know the utter euphoria of unfettered freedom! Do you believe you can fly?” In response, the duck congregation all shouted, “Amen!” Then they left their pews ... and all waddled back home.

Parable of the pufflings

As summer ends on a remote island off Iceland, parent puffins — black and white seabirds with rainbow beaks — stop bringing fish to their chicks. These “pufflings,” whose first few weeks were lived in burrows in cliffs, now must launch into a wind current to glide out over the sea and find their own food. Some babies, however, mistake a lit-up house or gas station for moonlight on the water and, as locals say, “fall out of the sky.” Because pufflings can’t yet take off from land and fly, if left alone they starve.

So for generations, during “puffling season” people on this island have stayed up late to rescue baby birds. On his *Animal* podcast, reporter Sam Anderson tells how, with an islander’s help, he picks up a puffling one night, placing it in a box for morning release over the ocean. As the frightened, confused bird squeals and scratches to get free, Anderson supposes it thinks this is the worst night of its life. In fact, it is the best: It’s being saved.

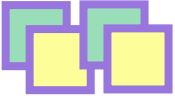
We humans often get confused, pulled in wrong directions. We’re misled and land in trouble from which we cannot save ourselves. Scared and confused, we believe we’re irredeemably trapped in the worst of circumstances. We can’t perceive that, even now, we are being protected and rescued, that God is working to give back to us the fullness of life we cannot attain for ourselves.

Hang on, beloved one. Though you can’t sense it at this moment, you are held in God’s care, soon to be lifted on the wind of the Holy Spirit, who will carry you into better days.

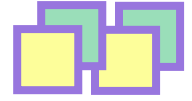
—Heidi Hyland Mann

With God’s plan for you in sight, how high can you soar?





Council Corner



Here are highlights from the March 20th Council meeting.

Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are **running a total deficit** YTD as of **February 28** of \$18,351. The income for February (16.7% of the year) was at 16.7% of budget and expenses were at 18.7% of budget.

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 in 2025.

The 2025 Council has **eight Councilmembers out of twelve** expected positions. Council members may be appointed by the standing Council at any time of the year to one-, two-, or three-year terms. If you have interest in serving as a Councilmember please talk to any current Councilmember.

The Council has reorganized for 2025. The following Council members are holding executive positions:

President	Todd Rothermel
Vice-president	Marty Hauser
Secretary	Monique Becker
Treasurer	Edward Becker
Financial Secretary	Scott Geiser
Quality Assurance Specialist	Edward Becker

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.

Next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for April 24, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Tell your story

In his *Confessio*, St. Patrick shares his fascinating biography, placing Jesus at the center. Believers should follow suit, especially in a culture that is “ignoring and forgetting the Christian story,” states Father Billy Swan. At WordOnFire.org, the Irish Catholic priest writes:

“Our calling is to retell the greatest story ever told and to help people find their place within the drama in which God has created them to participate. Like St. Patrick, we retell that story not as detached bystanders but as witnesses whose lives have been changed by being drawn deeper into the dynamics of the great love story of God and his people.”

Patty Breen, a lay minister in Michigan, also finds inspiration from the fifth-century saint. “The journey and life story of St. Patrick invite us to wrestle with and consider these questions,” she writes. “Who is God for me? How do I contribute to the coming of the kingdom of God? What is God’s plan for my life? Where am I invited to serve?”

Writing down our own *Confessio*, or faith story, is “a way to remember and see God’s presence with you at each step of your life,” adds Breen, “even at times when you weren’t necessarily following God.”



Pastor's Message

It's Growing Season!



When one thinks about spring, several things come to mind regarding new life. Plants pushing through the soil to capture sunshine and warmth. New arrivals of chicks in the nests and the return of those who spent their winter somewhere else warm. Easter egg hunts and Easter traditions resonate of one's journey to the cross and finding the empty tomb that brings new life.

New life is described in the band Semisonic's tune, Closing Time, as "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." These are the words that resonate with me when I think about growth and new life. Some species die when their young are born. Some plants feed off the decaying previous plant that occupied the soil. In many instances there are sacrifices so new life can occur.

Easter brings the epic story of rebirth and sacrifice. Once again God was challenged with a people that

had forgotten how to love and kindness. There could have been another flood or some good ole smiting occurring to cleanse. However, God chose once again to bring a radical love to creation. God sacrificed God-self so all could be reborn.

We rejoice and thrive in this radical act of sacrificial love bringing eternal life to us all. Sacrificial love is so beautiful and yet so hard to emulate. We tend to hold onto and guard the very things that must die to bring new life to ourselves, our faith communities and practices. All the while we witness and envy the growth of others, while clinging to our fears of change and new birth.

Easter is a time to celebrate. Celebrate our salvation through the amazing story of God's love for each of us. It is a time for each baptized member in the body of Christ to recognize this amazing gift and put behind our fears and know God is with us.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Scott



"Behold ... the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

— Sitting Bull

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.



Will you donate a ham?

The Food Ministry is collecting hams for Easter. Bring your donations to the kitchen.

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 AM.

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Hazel LeVan celebrates her 92nd birthday on April 25th

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
- 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 Perez, 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 Thomas and Jayne McHugh
- 30 Ryan and Stephanie Fegley
- Bill and Sandy Wilson