

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Backpack Blessing



Pottstown Cluster



Fall Schedule



Preschool

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Look ahead

“The spirit of complaint is born out of an unwillingness to trust God with today,” says Priscilla Shirer. “Like the Israelites, it means you are spending your time looking back toward Egypt or wishing for the future, all the while missing what God is doing right now.”

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DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!

The Great Swamp Picnic

Saturday, August 23rd, 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Bring your family and friends to the annual Great Swamp Picnic, a 100+ year tradition for gathering of NHELCA (New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church) members and community. We will have lots of food and fun for all ages. Menu favorites include hot roast beef sandwiches, pulled pork sandwiches, grilled chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries, kettle soups, ice cream and more! We offer free kids games, a flea market to benefit a local charity and entertainment by the Boyertown Area Alumni Band.

Help Needed

Lots of volunteer opportunities are available leading up to and on the day of the picnic. A schedule of volunteer opportunities will be available soon. If you are willing to help, contact Sally Sugita at 610-505-9682.

Flea Market Treasures

The Great Swamp Picnic flea market folks will once again be collecting your attic treasures! Remember we accept anything accepted at Liberty Thrift (except large furniture and electronics). So drop off your attic treasures anytime on August 22nd or 23rd at our church picnic grove, on Swamp Picnic Road. Any questions, call Vicki Mutter at 484-363-0639.

The picnic grove is located on Swamp Picnic Road between Rte. 663 and Lutheran Road.

Donate toys for The Great Swamp Picnic

Bring in small, new toys to be given at the fish pond. Remember babies and small children when you make your purchase. A collection box is in the Welcome Center. Thank you!

“Allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise, and love.” —St. Teresa of Avila

Backpack Blessing Sunday, August 17th

Calling all students, teachers and school staff: Join us for worship at 9:00 AM on Sunday, August 17th, for our backpack blessing. Students and teachers/school staff can bring their backpack or work bag for a blessing as we prepare to head back to school.

Will you help those in need?



NHELC will be collecting non-perishable food items and full-sized personal hygiene items throughout the months of August, September and October. Donations will be distributed to local families through the Pottstown Cluster. 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 the list of the items that are most needed.

- Crackers
- Pork n Beans
- Chili
- Canned Pineapple
- Jelly
- Shampoo
- Canned Chicken n Dumplings
- Canned Ham
- Beef Stew
- Pancake Syrup
- Canned Mango
- Toothpaste
- Bar soap



Fall schedule begins and church picnic Sundy, September 7th

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) kickoff is when students move up to the next grade. Also, third graders or anyone who has never received a Bible will receive a Bible in worship that day.

Following worship and for our J.A.M. Kickoff we will be participating in God’s Work Our Hands Sunday. We will participate in some service projects with Alison Clark from KenCrest.

After completing the God’s Work Our Hands project at 11:15, all are invited to head to the Picnic Grove for an old fashioned church picnic. The Fellowship committee will provide the main dish and drinks. Everyone else is asked to bring a salad, side or a dessert to share!

Come and join the fun and fellowship.



Breakfast Fellowship

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, August 9th, 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, August 13th, 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 Lynn Fegley at 484-300-6281 by Tuesday noon before the breakfast.

Live in the light

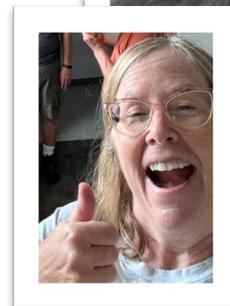
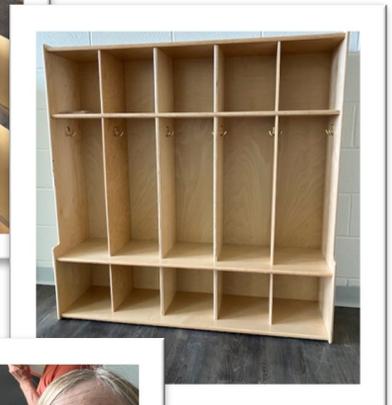
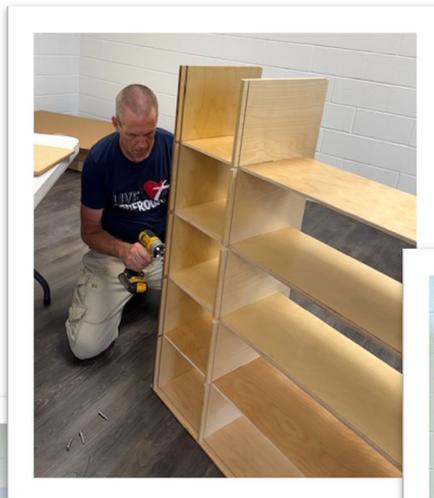
Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or ten years from now?" There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen
Bread for the Journey

Getting ready for the learning center

The cubbies, classroom locker units, have arrived. Volunteers have been putting the units together and setting them up in the classrooms. Good job!



A message from the pastor

All one can do is pray....

How many times have you heard this hopeless statement? This despairing statement is never used unless there is a dire need for something to change for the better. People, I believe, never pray for things to get worse: however?

Prayer is a powerful tool. We pray during worship, teach our children to pray at JAM, Kids Camp, Camp Falckner, Flutter, etc., we ask parents and sponsors to commit to and nurture *them* in faith and prayer during a baptism, we have prayer groups, we even have a once per year prayer learning forum complete with handouts for adults. However, with all this education on prayer, I must ask, do we believe in the power of prayer?

Prayer is a powerful tool. Case in point. Several years ago, I invited a friend, Pastor Jeff Linman, the founding and lead pastor of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Orlando to speak and teach at our church. Spirit of Joy is an incredible story of the transformation of a dying congregation (no children, no diversity) to a vibrant community of faith. Along the journey they lost a \$275,000 deposit (majority of their funds) on construction

property, lost some members, however, through their faith and consistent active prayer they have become a vibrant beacon of hope. Prayers are powerful.

We, I believe, could benefit from consistent purposeful prayer. Pray for our Sunshine Learning Center (SLC) to overcome construction and permitting delays, and pray for encouragement and perseverance for our Director Jena Marinelli, the SLC committees and the board. SLC is a critical ministry for our vitality, and prayers are powerful.

Pray also for the upcoming votes on the Reconciling in Christ Journey. I am not a prophet and cannot tell you the outcome of the vote; however, I do know a house divided cannot stand. Hatred and judgment have no place in a Christian community. Jesus teaches us to love one another beyond all else, and pray. So, I ask all to pray for unity beyond the vote. Prayers are powerful.

All one can do is pray...

Peace, Pastor Scott



A Path of Persistence

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

When you grow weary, remember this promise in Galatians 6:9 (NIV). "At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Council Corner

Highlights from the July 17th Meeting

- ⇒ The Finance Committee continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of June 30 was \$38,472. The total income at the end of June (50% of the year) was 52.3% (52.1% offerings to budget) of budget and expenses were at 54.1% 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 an interest in serving as a Councilmember please talk to any current Councilmember.
- ⇒ The Council continues to work on updates to the Constitution as part of the regular Council meetings. The expectation is to provide congregation review of the changes prior to possible ratification at the December Special Congregational meeting and Annual Congregational meeting.
- ⇒ As a reminder - the pastor is available for personal meetings Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM by appointment only. Please make an appointment by calling (610) 326-1335 or email at psstaub@gmail.com. Given prior commitments and events, some appointment times are not available.

- ⇒ All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the church office manager. Susan Gutshall, NHELC church office manager, manages the master calendar for all activity and facility use to support minimizing conflicts. Committees and boards - please be sure to notify Susan of all activities planned at the church. This is especially important during the Sunshine Learning Center renovation process.
- ⇒ 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).

Next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for August 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM.



—William Arthur Ward

Garden of Hope **BUZZ**

Do you know we have four colonies of Honeybees? The colonies are part of the success of our Garden of Hope and provide important research into the health of bees in our area. We are participating in a Penn State University Agricultural study regarding organic methods for bees to resist disease and pests.



Why Bees Matter

Pollination Powerhouses: Bees pollinate 75% of fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the U.S. Without them, crops like:

- **Fruits:** Apples, peaches, blueberries, cherries and cranberries are among the fruits that rely on bee pollination for successful harvests.
- **Vegetables:** Crops such as cucumbers, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, and peppers are also dependent on bees for pollination.
- **Other Crops:** Bees also pollinate other agricultural products in Pennsylvania, including alfalfa, melons, soybeans and sunflowers.

Environmental Stewards: Bees support biodiversity by pollinating wildflowers that feed birds and other wildlife.

Food Web Guardians: Beyond human needs, bees help sustain ecosystems by supporting plants that provide food and shelter for countless species.



Bee-Friendly Gardening Tips

Go for Single Flowers: Single-petaled blooms produce more nectar and pollen than doubles.

Set Up a Water Station: Place shallow dishes with water and pebbles for bees to safely land and drink.

Plant in Clumps: Group flowers together to make it easier for bees to forage efficiently.



Bees Are in Trouble

Despite their importance, bee populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change. You can make a difference by creating a bee-friendly garden that provides food, shelter and safety.



How to Attract Bees to Your Garden

Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers

Choose plants that are rich in nectar and pollen, especially those native to California. These are perfectly adapted to the local climate and require less water—a win for you and the environment.

- Milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*)
- Lavender (*Lavandula spp.*)
- Sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*)

Provide Habitat

- **Leave Bare Soil:** Many native bees nest in the ground, so avoid mulching every inch of your garden.
- **Install Bee Hotels:** Create or buy structures where solitary bees can nest.

Plant Diversity: Include a variety of plants that bloom at different times of the year to provide a continuous food source. Sometimes, like in the winter. Bees starve in the summer also before Golden Rod and other wildflowers bloom.

Avoid Pesticides: Use organic or bee-safe alternatives to control pests. Apply treatments in the early morning or evening when bees are less active.

Our bees are sweet! This year we plan to have a honey harvest and share!

More information: <https://extension.psu.edu/conserving-wild-bees-in-pennsylvania>



Happy Birthday to Jo Heck, who will celebrate her 94th birthday on August 2nd. For those who would like to send Jo a birthday greeting, here is her address.

1452 Yoder Avenue
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Also celebrating a birthday in August

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Nathaniel Bechtel | 12 Will Davis, Dana Gilbert,
Tyler Landis, Nova
McKenrick, Sarah Ray |
| 2 Ryan Camp, Patrick
Dinsmore, Scarlet Smale | 13 Melanie Bauer, Erica
Lucas, Lori Weisbach |
| 3 Mason Kemp, Brittney
Miller, Vicki Mutter,
Andrew Parker, Ada Poster,
Lilly Smith | 14 Amy Sharp, Evelyn
Springer, Autumn
Wojnarek |
| 4 Timothy Eddinger, Luca
Galliano | 16 Hunter Houseal |
| 5 Brent Corcoran, Gerald
Eisenhart, Tina Phillips,
Tessa Schiavo | 17 Andy Van Dyke |
| 6 Bruce Ritter | 18 Alex Boys, Shirley Miller,
Andi Swavely, Gregory
Wirt |
| 7 Kenneth Motzer, Sue Norris,
Laurie Pinter | 19 Elese Christ, Troy Girard,
Henry Houseal, Rachel
Magee, London Meeker,
Morgan Pell, Kayleigh
Urbassik, Lauren Waller |
| 8 Jessica Harrity, Tanner
Quigley | 20 Brian Bechtel, Caleb
Woods |
| 9 Collins Quigley, Matthew
Shirk, Jo Anne Wirt | |
| 10 Casey Agliano, Keith
Crowther | |

- 21 Daniel Cole, Donna
Landis, Brianna Lynn
- 22 Andrew Mayan
- 23 Alex Eisenhart, Karen
Williams
- 24 Tom Faust, Mary Alice
Mack
- 25 Gabriel Cole, Jace Kunsch,
Ben MacLuckie, Jane
Manthorne, George
Trowbridge
- 26 Pamela Shellenberger
- 27 Dorothy Stapleton
- 28 Glenn Hoffman
- 29 Tyler Smith
- 30 David Gaugler, Claire
Hennessey, William Kehs,
Jackie Rhoads, Alyssa
Soupik, Sharon Spencer
- 31 Emma Allen, Kathy
Delaney

Anniversaries

- 1 Scot and Kelly Smale
- 2 Todd and Stacey
Rothermel
- 7 Michael and April Smith
- 8 Ron and Corrine
Bartholomew
- 10 James and Rebecca
Wabish
- 12 Bill and Kathy Borneman
- 14 Don and Jo Anne Wirt
- 16 Jamie and Alyssa Soupik
- 20 Michael and Christine
Miller
- 26 Bob and Suzanne Dodge
- 31 Michael and Debra Black
Doug and Jackie Rhoads



Summer

'Tis summer, I know by the blue of the sky;
By the trees' deeper green, as beneath them I lie;
And more than all these, by the lovely wild rose
That now in the woodland its pink blossom shows.

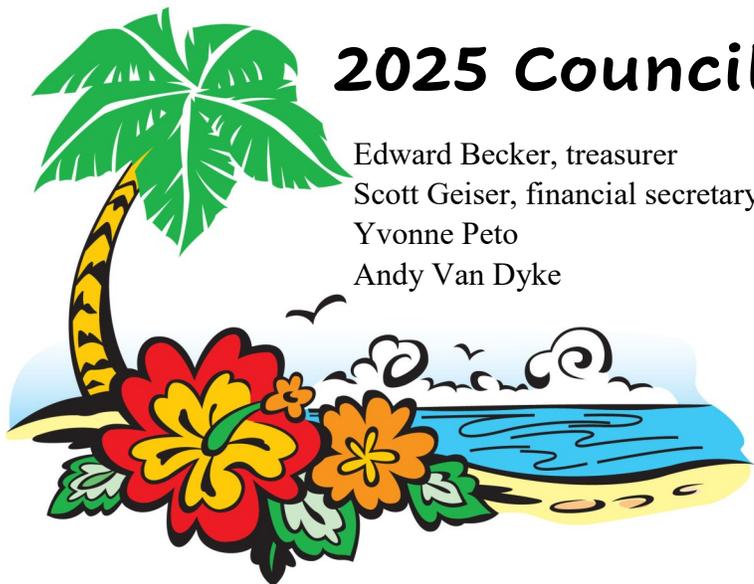
I feel the warm west wind fan gently my cheek
As I sit on the grass, far too happy to speak;
And then in the twilight I see the faint spark
Of the fire-fly, flitting alone in the dark.

Oh! long happy days, when 'tis full of delight
To roam in the meadows from morning till night!
Oh! summer, sweet summer! glide slowly away,
For I love in your warmth and your fragrance to stay.

— H.P. Nichols



2025 Council Members



Edward Becker, treasurer
Scott Geiser, financial secretary
Yvonne Peto
Andy Van Dyke

Monique Becker, secretary
Marty Hauser, vice-president
Todd Rothermel, president
The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor

Want to learn more about
how to become a member
of the Church Council?
Contact any member above.

Let's keep in touch

The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

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

Office Hours
Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 2 PM
Call for an appointment.

