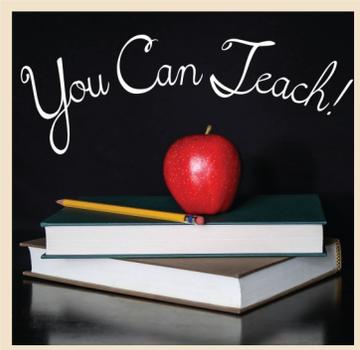


NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



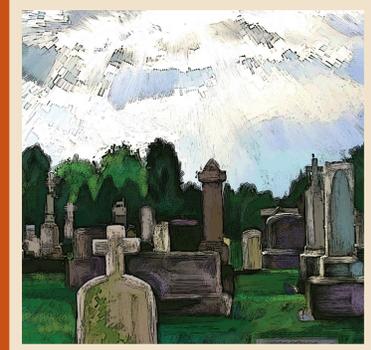
We Need Teachers



Chancel Choir



Learning Center



Living History Tour

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“By learning
you will teach;
by teaching
you will learn.”

—Latin proverb



Fall schedule begins

Sunday, 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 at 10:15, the J.A.M. Kickoff begins with participating in **God’s Work Our Hands** Sunday. We will engage 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.



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God on Tap

Thursday, September 4th, 6 PM at Main Street, Bally

Subject: Studies have shown that people in loving relationships tend to lead a longer and healthier life. Does it matter “who” we love or just “that” we love? And, when God is involved, it’s all the better! Let’s talk!

To join in this conversation, call or text Randy Dotterer at 610-306-0621.



Will you serve as a teacher?

The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELCL) needs a second teacher (or more) to help with the 3rd - 5th grade JAM (Jesus and Me) class. Currently there is only one teacher for this group. If we can add two - three more teachers, then we would have a teaching rotation.

This class is a lot of fun. Teachers will focus their discussion on the lectionary reading each week and do crafts. The year will culminate with an art show and reception. If this is an area you have interest, contact Nikki Young as soon as possible.



FALL GATHERING

Love transforms

Come explore the transformative power love has in our lives at the next Gathering on **Thursday, September 11th**. A live-stream video of Anne Lamott, author of *Somehow*, will talk about how loves surprises us, forces us to confront uncomfortable truths, reminds us of our humanity and guides us forward. "Love just won't be pinned down," says Lamott. "It is in our very atmosphere. We are, after all, creatures of love."

Lunch will be offered beginning at 12:30. Participants are encouraged to bring a dessert to share. Signup online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-56437847-september> or at the desk in the welcome center.



Chancel Choir welcomes new singers!!

The rush of excitement when you hear voices in harmony, the sense of belonging you feel at rehearsals with a group of fun and supportive people AND the fulfillment of enriching the Sunday liturgical experience - all familiar feelings to anyone who has experienced the joy of singing in a church choir.

Consider joining the choir and find out for yourself!! Rehearsals are every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 PM, starting September 17th.

For more information contact Patricia Nyce, director of music at patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org.



Now enrolling students

NHELCL's new Sunshine Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children in the preschool program for ages two - five. Two-year-olds will be attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 11:30 AM. Classes for each of the grades three – five will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 – 11:30 AM.

For more information and to register your child, contact Educational Director Jena Marinelli at jena.marinelli@sunshinecl.org.



Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Update



There are four principal steps to achieving RIC affiliation within the ELCA guidelines.

- 1.) Explicitly state a welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions and names our commitment to racial equity or anti-racism in our Welcome Statement.
- 2.) Open to calling a LGBTQIA and/or Person of Color rostered leader.
- 3.) Allow LGBTQIA weddings and blessings to be performed in our sanctuary.
- 4.) Make an annual contribution to support the national RIC program.

On September 14th, after the worship service, we will be taking an unofficial survey of the members present as a preliminary step on the path to becoming a Reconciling in Christ affiliated congregation. This “exploratory” survey step is in alignment with the RIC guidebook. This survey is your opportunity to provide clear feedback on the proposed Welcome Statement. The RIC team and the Council would like to hear your thoughts, whether supportive or conflicting. Please take this opportunity to do so. If the survey indicates a sufficient level of support, (75% majority in favor per RIC guidelines), then the formal vote will be held. This will be done during an official congregational meeting as called by the Council. At that time the congregation will officially vote on bullet #1 and #2 above - the Welcome Statement and that our church is open to calling a LGBTQIA and/or Person of Color rostered leader. The congregation will not be voting on bullet #3 above as this was unanimously approved at a Special Congregational Council Meeting held on March 26, 2015. The minutes from this meeting are posted on the Reconciling In Christ bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall. The congregation will not need to vote on bullet #4 above - a donation container will be placed in the Welcome Center for an annual free-will offering, there will be no line item in the NHELIC budget. The Reconciling in Christ team hopes that this clarifies any confusion on the upcoming survey and the remaining

process. If you need any further clarification please reach out to a member of the team or submit your question in the box on the table in the Welcome Center.

Recommended Welcome Statement

You are always welcome at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are a growing community of believers in Jesus Christ, rooted in God’s love and guided by Christ’s example. We strive to reach out with compassion, offering a place where you can grow in faith, experience God’s grace and feel safe and celebrated. At New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, we want you to gather with us at our table. Rooted in our Lutheran faith and belief that we are all children of God and made in God’s image, we welcome all people with dignity and love.

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

By this belief, we are committed to intentionally following Jesus’ example of unconditional hospitality, love and justice. Here, you are not only included, you are respected. We affirm and value people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, cultures, ages, abilities, body sizes, relationship statuses and economic or immigration statuses. We are committed to the ongoing work toward anti-racism, inclusion, and equity in all we do.

You are invited to fully participate in our worship, sacraments, leadership positions, gatherings, and ministries. In our identities, we are united by the common faith we hold, and recognize we each offer unique gifts and perspectives. We believe that this transforms lives and deepens the faith of our community.

Christ’s door is open to all, so is ours.





Breakfast Fellowship



Come join the fellowship around a meal with your friends.

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, September 10th, 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.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 13th, 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.



New Hanover Lutheran Church LIVING HISTORY CEMETERY TOUR

325th Anniversary

Join us as we celebrate the congregation's 325th anniversary by sharing stories from New Hanover's long and fascinating history!

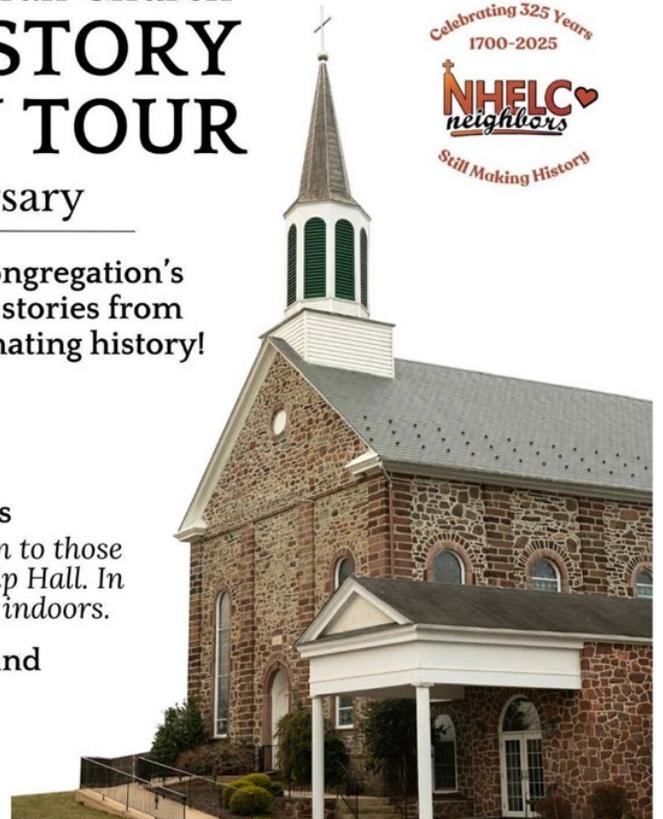
📅 September 27, 2025

🕒 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tours run every 20 minutes

11:30 a.m. dress rehearsal (open to those with mobility issues) Fellowship Hall. In case of rain, event will be held indoors.

Free will donation to help fund cemetery restoration!

Refreshments available!



Can't walk the Cemetery Tour?

Have trouble walking around in grassy areas? Don't miss out! You can come, hear the fascinating stories of some of those who have been laid to rest in the New Hanover Lutheran Cemetery. You may come to the dress rehearsal on Saturday September 27th, 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Jane Manthorne at jane.manthorne@gmail.com. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held indoors.

Check out scenes from previous cemetery tours on the next page.

Jayne McHugh portraying Anna
Rosina Lober Brendlinger in
2024



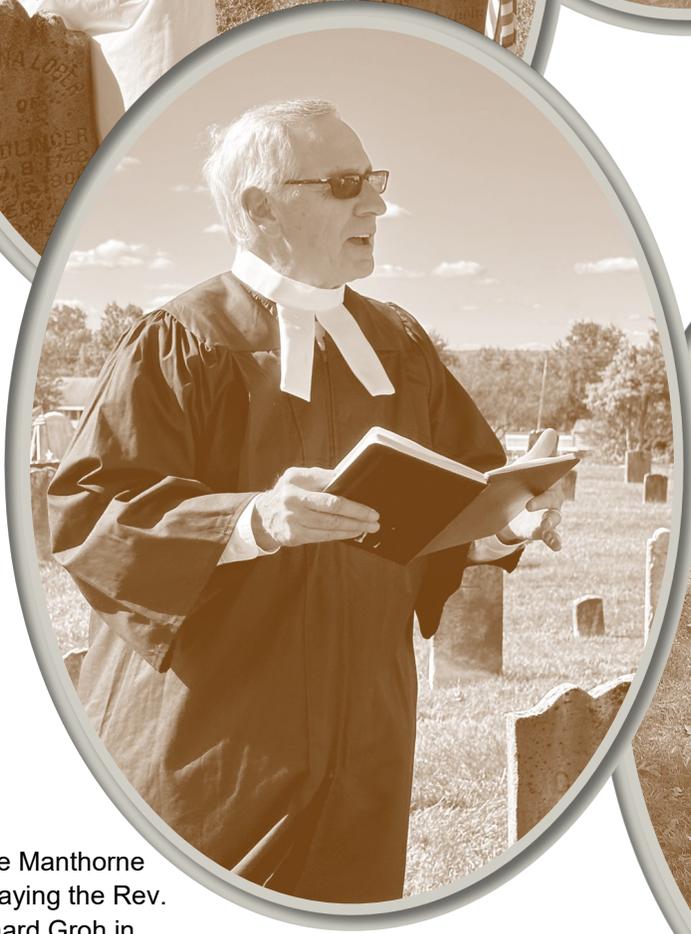
Brian Tracey portraying
Peter Steltz in 2022



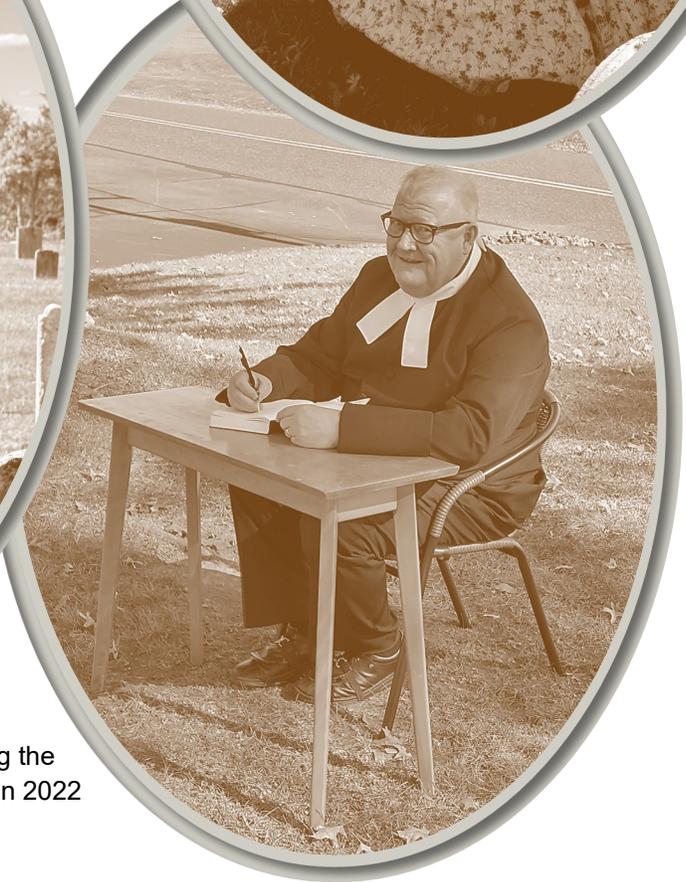
Brenda Hunsberger por-
traying Emma Brendlinger
White in 2024



Bryce Manthorne
portraying the Rev.
Leonard Groh in
2024



Pastor Scott portraying the
Rev. Daniel Falckner in 2022




Guest Pastor Schedule

 Part of the 325th anniversary celebration

- 10/5/25 **The Rev. Dr. Carl Filer**
- 10/19/25 **The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert** will preach (“Martin Luther’s Gift of His Book on the Papacy to Justus Jonas, Jr. in 1545” aka The Luther Book). Will do further teaching during JAM.
- 11/2/25 **Bishop Bryan Penman**, SEPA Synod at 3:00 PM
- 11/9/25 **The Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger** (“Celebrating German Lutheran Contributions in the Fight for Independence and the Young Republic”) Will do further teaching during JAM.

- 11/30/25 **Pastor Tom Lang**, former pastor of NHELCC
- 12/7/25 **Pastor Becky Knox**, NHELCC’s 1st Intern, 25th anniversary of ordination.

Book Club

Tuesday, October 7th, 6:30 PM

The NHELCC Book Club is reading *Wrong Place, Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister. Join the club for dinner and discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown. Any questions about this event, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.



Amazing!

A Message from the Pastor



This is the word I think of when I reflect on the past year. Last year, we started celebrating the 325th anniversary, and began an amazing new ministry. Praise be to God for the opening of the Sunshine Learning Center is happening despite all the construction and regulatory delays.

Opening the Learning Center will enable us to offer both a Christian Valued Early Education to our community in addition to provide sustainable donations to enable future annual celebrations for the 326th year (hold on, do I hear another committee starting) and beyond. As our presence currently is a Beacon of Hope for all, and historically a foundation of learning in our community, our new initiatives will enable us to keep making history and impact on our neighbors positively for years to come.

I must admit, as I was discerning with God on my next steps, I couldn’t have imagined I would be retiring with us having so much momentum. Although, I truly believe it is a great transition to ful-

ly trust in God for both of us in the transition from pastor to a community led faith community. Our church council, active committees and boards are doing great work in securing our faith and financial future to continuing doing God’s work.

You may be wondering, how do I get involved in the great momentum of ministries. I encourage you to ask questions, attend information forums and get involved. Pray and discern what God is calling for you and us to do. Become a member of whatever team you get called by God to join (and for team members, let them in!)

As with any ministry, sport or activity, to make a difference in the world, you must show up. This faith community is about showing up to make new history, I am truly amazed at what we have done and are doing. And who knows, I have four months remaining, and I am always up for new things to plant and grow! Be amazed and be amazing for God loves you.

Peace & Go Get’em, Pastor Scott

Camp Falckner 2025

Faith in Action: Generation to Generation

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10





Council Corner

Highlights from the July 17th Meeting



- Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of July 31 of \$45,000. The total income at the end of July (58% of the year) was at 60% of budget and expenses were at 58.7% 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 Council has appointed congregational member James “Jim” Mack to complete the remaining Council term vacated by Nancy White. Jim will be eligible for re-election to the 2026 Council. The Council thanks Jim for stepping up in support of the NHELCL Leadership.
- The Council welcomes Nancy Ewing as the NHELCL bookkeeper. Nancy started in June and is coming up to speed quickly on the church systems and processes.
- 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

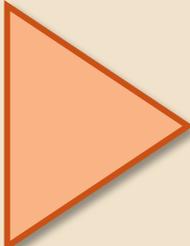
Gutshall, NHELCL office manager, manages the master calendar for all activity and facility use to support minimizing conflicts. Committees and boards - please be sure to notify Susan of all activities planned at the church. This is especially important during the Sunshine Learning Center renovation process.

- 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 September 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. **via Teams.**



2025 Council Members

- Edward Becker, treasurer
- Monique Becker, secretary
- Scott Geiser, financial secretary
- Marty Hauser, vice-president
- Jim Mack
- Yvonne Peto
- Todd Rothermel, president
- Andy Van Dyke
- The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor



Interested in becoming a member of the Congregational Council? Contact any member above.

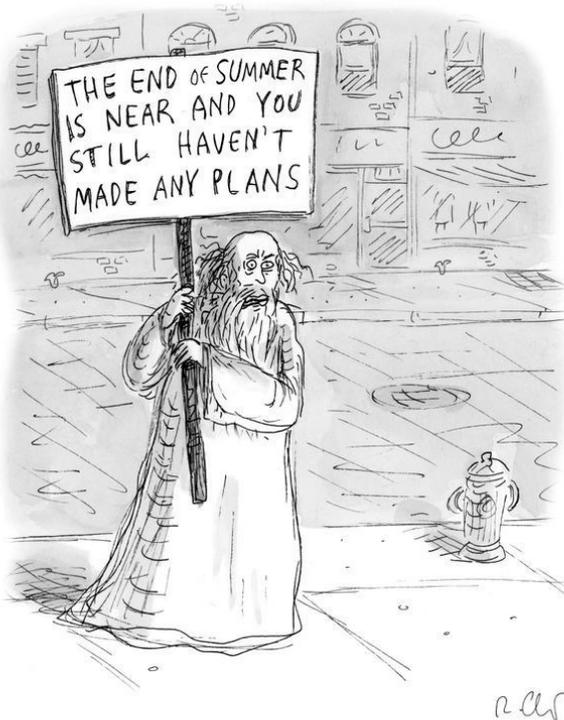
September Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Jane Johnson, Cynthia Mack, Skylar Mathias
- 2 Holli Nuss, Nicole Rohrbach, Jay Smith
- 3 Kristina Lang
- 5 Harry White
- 6 Bryce Manthorne
- 7 Rick Hausch, Molly Moylan
- 8 Cameron Hauser
- 9 Annabel Bechtel, Chase Haraske, Diane Heffner, Jim Mack
- 10 Valencia Sabastro, Kevin Wilson
- 11 Victoria Brett, Ron Fegley, James Lindenmuth, Erin Magee, Jenna Psota, Beverly Smale
- 12 Mason Ammarell
- 13 Morgan Fox, Cindy King, Carlo Malantonio
- 14 Jason Kunsch, Justin Smoot
- 15 Nathan Beaver, Debbie Solazzo
- 16 Nicole Ewing, Emily Gallagher
- 17 Tanner Buchholtz, Patricia Ehst
- 18 David Czarniecki, Matthew Reed
- 19 Lainey Soupik
- 20 Bryan Christ
- 21 Taylor King, Kelsey Renner
- 22 Carly DiPascuale, Julia Hauck, Cameron Parker, Matthew Rohrbach
- 23 Avery Brunner
- 24 Linda Adams, Deb Matthews
- 25 Sheridan Cole, Cheryl Goodwin, Paxton Moyer, Michele Parker
- 26 Ray Bechtel III
- 27 Jamie Soupik
- 28 Ryan Morrell, Beth Schweiger, Suzanne Weller
- 29 Jennifer Yost
- 30 Samantha Allen, Diane Bealer, Kendra Rothermel

Anniversaries

- 2 Jason and Brandy Marino
- 5 Ed and Monique Becker
- 6 Adam and Leslie Gates
- 7 Charles and Christine McNichol
- 9 Brian and Joan Flack
- 12 David and Bonnie Lynn
- 17 Rodney and Carolyn Snell
- 19 Ronald and Joan Comtois
- 22 Dieter and Wendy Gahler
- 24 Brent and Sally Sugita
- 28 Kenneth and Linda Motzer



CartoonStock.com

Adult Forum

Beginning Sunday, September 7th
10:15 AM, education wing

**Do one thing
(but make it reasonable).**

In Defense of Prudence by Kate Bowler

Summer is almost over. School begins, student activities begin, parent activities begin, grandparent activities begin and so on! Where does it end? What did we supposedly rest all summer for? Let's discuss how to make small changes and be joyful. Let's face it, who has time to do big change?

The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's

calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!



Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental,

Let's keep in touch

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

610-326-1335

www.newhanoverlutheran.org

facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 2 PM

Call for an appointment.



think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

—Heidi Hyland Mann

