

# NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Meeting



First Communion



Wave of Light



Festival Service

ore Opportunities    Explore Opportunities    Explore Opportunities    Explore Opp

## Look Inside

Congregational Meeting .....	2
Book Club .....	2
First Communion .....	2
Anniversary Events .....	3
Wave of Light .....	3
God on Tap .....	3
All Saints Service .....	4
Anniversary Festival Service .	4
Trunk or Treat .....	4
Breakfast Fellowship .....	5
Yoga Classes .....	5
Sunshine Learning Center .....	5
Community Health Fair .....	6
Council Corner .....	7
Substance Use Awareness .....	7
Pastor's Message .....	8
Celebrations .....	9
Hope for Cancer .....	9
Fall Frolic .....	10
School Board Forum .....	10
Contact Information .....	10
2025 Council .....	10

## Seasonal fun for all at the Pumpkin Frolic



Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 6 PM



The annual New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELIC) Pumpkin Frolic will soon be here! This is an enjoyable event for all ages. Come join the fun of pumpkin related activities including pumpkin painting, fall crafts, scavenger hunt and games. Participants will be painting pumpkins, not carving them for safety purposes. Pumpkins and paint will be provided. We will close with a light meal consisting of hotdogs and snack foods.

The Pumpkin Frolic is a Thrivent Action team service project so there is no charge; however, **bring some nonperishable food for Preston's Pantry** at Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Watch for a signup sheet on the desk in the welcome center or go online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-58720706-pumpkin>. To be sure enough pumpkins will be available, **sign up by Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**. This event will be held in fellowship hall.

POINT TO PONDER

### From Knowing to Becoming

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

— Ned Erickson

# Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

A special congregational meeting will be held, following the worship service for a congregational vote on two statements recommended by the Reconciling in Christ team. The two statements will be on a single vote for the presented Welcoming Statement and Called Roster Leader statement. The acceptance of both statements is required for NHELCA to become a Reconciling in Christ partner congregation of the ELCA.

Here are the two statements of faith for the vote.

## 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 hospi-

tility, 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 racial equity and inclusion 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.”

## Called Rostered Leader Statement

“We are open to calling a rostered leader of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The Congregation Council requests that each member make an effort to be present on October 12, 2025 for this special congregational meeting. Per our constitution the vote will be by in-person members of voting status (made a contribution of record since 1/1/2024). We thank you all for your support and membership as we continue our 325-year Anniversary celebration and continue to make history going forward.

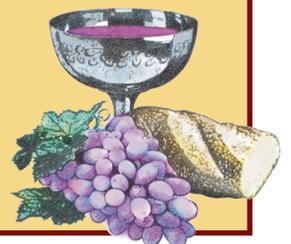
## Book Club meets

Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

The NHELCA Book Club is reading *Wrong Place, Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister. Join the club for dinner and discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown on Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about this event, contact Sharon Tracey at [LBD36@aol.com](mailto:LBD36@aol.com).

## First Communion

Children from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older are welcome to participate in our first communion class. Participation is at the parents’ discretion. Our class will be held Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM. First Communion will be observed on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, Reformation Sunday. If you are interested in taking the class or would like to discuss this further, contact Nikki Young.



# 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Schedule

- 10/5/25 **The Rev. Dr. Carl Filer** will be the guest preacher.
- 10/19/25 **The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert** will be the guest preacher, speaking on the Luther Book about the Papacy to Justus Jonas, Jr. in 1545. This historic book was gifted to NHELCC. Following the service come to J.A.M. as Pastor Wengert will speak more on this topic. A reception will follow the educational session.
- 11/2/25 **Bishop Bryan Penman**, SEPA Synod will preach at the 3:00 PM Festival Service of Holy Communion.
- 11/9/25 **The Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger** will be the guest preacher, speaking on German Lutherans' contributions in the fight for Independence, including the involvement of the Rev. Henry Muhlen-

berg's sons. Pastor Krueger will continue teaching on this subject during JAM.

- 11/23/25 **Carol Detweiler**, former director of Christian Education for NHELCC, will be the guest preacher.
- 11/26/26 **Thanksgiving Eve Service** at 7:00 PM, featuring a mass choir.
- 11/30/25 **Pastor Tom Lang**, former pastor of NHELCC, will be the guest preacher.
- 12/7/25 **Pastor Becky Knox**, NHELCC's first Intern, will be the guest preacher.

## Just show up!

In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to "show up as you are with what you've been given," we must confront these statements:

- I'm not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It's a waste of time.
- It's too much work.
- Who do you think you are?

"A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world," Freeman writes.

## Pregnancy and Infant Loss Wave of Light

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

In observance of National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness day, NHELCC will post something honoring this day online. Stay tuned for more information!



## God on Tap

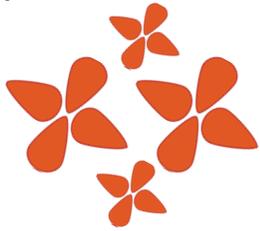


Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 PM, Main Street Pub, Bally

You are invited to enjoy a dinner and discussion at the next God on Tap. The discussion topic will be "We are hung up on 'who' you love. Isn't it more important 'that' you love? Add God into that equation and really think about the dynamics of the question(s)."

Come check out the God on Tap ministry. RSVP to Randy Dotterer via email at ([rdptw6489@gmail.com](mailto:rdptw6489@gmail.com)) or text (610-306-0621) by noon on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hope to see you there!



# Mark your calendars Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>



## Day of Remembrance

This is All Saints Sunday, a day set aside in the church's liturgical calendar to remember with thanksgiving the lives of the saints in the congregation who have departed from us this past year. All Saints Sunday is a day when we celebrate God's gracious blessing upon the church on earth and the church in heaven. Prayers of thanksgiving for their Christian witness will be offered as well as for each departed saint's family. Plan now to join us at 9:00 AM on this special Sunday.

## The Celebration Continues!

The 325<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee invites you to a Festival Service of Holy Communion at 3:00 PM. The Reverend Bryan J. Penman, Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, will preach and preside over communion. The choirs and praise bands of New Hanover Lutheran Church will participate.

Following the service, everyone is invited to a dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Chef Chris will prepare a catered dinner served buffet-style which will include roasted chicken, ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, applesauce, pepper cabbage, rolls and butter. Cake and ice cream will round out the meal. Invitations and RSVP post cards were mailed to all households in the congregation in September. An RSVP is required for the dinner. Sign your name, indicate the number attending, and mail the stamped post card to the church by October 12<sup>th</sup>. **A freewill offering will be received. A suggested donation is \$15 per adult, \$5 for children twelve and younger.** If you did not receive a mailed invitation, see Barbara Eisenhart or Susan Gutshall in the office.

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival Service and dinner as we continue to celebrate 325 years of ministry at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church!



# Trunk or Treat and Sunshine Learning Center Open House

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

NHELCC is excited to partner with our Cub Scout Pack 367 to host a community Trunk or Treat event in the church parking lot. Join in the fun with refreshments, games, meet the scouts and tour the Sunshine Learning Center. All are invited to come to Trunk or Treat, but we need your help! Additional trunks and people to hand out candy are needed. You can decorate as much or as little as you would like. Cars may begin to arrive to set up starting at 4:00, but we kindly request that you be here no later than 4:30. Also needed is volun-

teers to assist as parking lot attendants and refreshment servers.

Since this is the first event of this kind, having extra candy on hand is helpful in case people run out. Therefore, if you cannot help with any of those positions above, you can still help make this event a success by donating candy. To participate, sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-58959973-2025>.

# Breakfast Fellowship

Come join the fellowship around a meal with your friends.

## Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 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

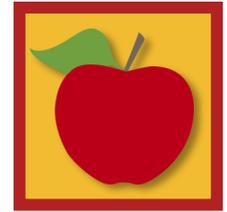
Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM  
Brookside Family Restaurant  
1338 North Charlotte Street

Men meet the second Saturday of the month. No reservations required. For more information, contact Ron Fegley at 484-300-3025.

## Fall yoga classes begin



### Root to Rise Embracing Change with Grace



Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:30 – 9:30 AM

This class offers a gentle grounding practice designed to release negativity, instill peace and embrace a new season with grace and ease. The class is open to adults and teens, who are age 13-17 as long as they are accompanied by an adult. Classes are held in the church nursery suite (room 21).

Four – five sets of blankets and blocks will be available; contact Leslie Gates ahead of time if you need to reserve a yoga mat.

Classes are free-will donation-based for the Food Ministry. Pay in cash or check (payable to NHELCC). Watch for a sign-up sheet in the welcome center and on the church's website.

Any questions, contact Leslie Gates.



## Sunshine Learning Center

The Sunshine Learning Center furniture and equipment have arrived! Thanks to volunteers, furniture has been assembled and set up and ready to go for classes to begin Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Sunshine Learning Center is now accepting enrollment for children in the preschool program for ages two - five. Two-year-olds will attend on

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 – 11:30 AM. Classes for each of the grades three- through five-year-olds 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@sunshineclc.org](mailto:jena.marinelli@sunshineclc.org).



## Free Community Health Fair

Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

### Location

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3206 Big Road,  
Zieglerville

### Vendors

**Jefferson Health** Lung function and blood sugar screening

**Boyertown Multi-Service** Meals on Wheels

**Chestnut Knoll & Fox Rehab** Balance screening

**Save a Leg, Save a Life Foundation** Leg blood circulation screening

**Skippack Pharmacy** flu shots and other vaccines

**Tower Health** Breast Cancer Awareness

**Thrivent** Medicare and long-term care information

**Maternity Care Coalition**

**Perkiomen Watershed**

**Bankers Life Insurance**

**Conservancy Event**

**Senator Tracy Pennycuick, PA 24<sup>th</sup> District**

### Speakers

9:30 **What does the Office of Aging Services do?** by Deborah Jankowski

10:00 **Take a Stand Against Falls** by Harrison Linowski PT, DPT, CSCS Nova Care Rehab

11:00 **Food Fact or Fiction? What's Good, What's Not** by Joanne Sullivan, PhD, RDN, LDN Owner, Premier Nutrition Services, LLC

Free giveaways and snacks

For more information contact St. Luke's at 610-754-7762 or [www.stlukeslutheran.church](http://www.stlukeslutheran.church).



# Council Corner



## Highlights from the September 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit. YTD as of August 31 was \$15,616.00. The total income at the end of August (67% of the year) was at 68.7% of budget and expenses were at 72.8% of budget. Deficit was significantly reduced by a few large donations in July and August.
- 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 nine 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. Thank you to James Mack for becoming the newest Councilmember!
- 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](mailto: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, NHELCC 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).

## Motorcycle ride yields awareness for substance use disorder

Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Alburtis Fire Company Club is raising awareness and helping those who are struggling with substance use disorder find their way through the Corey & Kimberly's Ride Continues. The event will be held at their 328 South Main Street in Alburtis location and includes food, music, vendors, information and fun for the whole family. Kickstands are up at 11:00 AM for the motorcycle ride. A program with speakers begins at 1:00 PM followed

by music by Wicked Beaver. Registration for the motorcycle ride begins at 9:30 AM. The \$25 registration fee also covers breakfast, lunch and a T-shirt. Riders get a chance to win a gift card to Classic Harley-Davidson in Leesport. Rain date is Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information, follow this event on Facebook at Corey And Kimberly's Ride.

# A Message from the Pastor

As we head into a vote on a welcoming statement, I witnessed recently a devotion on what I believe is a statement that speaks to truly welcoming. However, also I believe it is more than a statement, it's a shared belief of welcoming all at the Homeboy Industries. And that's where I believe Jesus leads us as we journey to become more like Jesus and live a life that resembles Jesus to our friends, family and the community. Here is Homeboy Industries' incredible story of welcoming:

A conversation with Richard Rohr on the Everything Belongs podcast, founder of Homeboy Industries Father Greg Boyle describes how love heals us:

On a podcast the other day I said, "Love never fails," and the interviewer said, "Our listeners are going to think you're naïve." And I thought, well, I don't know how you prove that [love never fails] except to say, I think that if anybody stops to think about how that's been operative in their life, they realize, in fact, in the end, it's never failed. If it feels like it has, it's just not the end.

Somehow we don't have confidence in it. We think that it's more savvy to not embrace love somehow – that your head is in the clouds at a time when we need to be doing some things that are concrete. I don't think love cancels out concrete action. This is sort of the marriage of contemplation and action.... When the ego interrupts you, you try to catch yourself, so that you can return to sweetness.... Hold out for sweetness and life because that's what a confidence in love as "never failing" will usher in – that kind of moment of connection and kinship.

I always talk about "cherishing," because the word "love" sort of gets lost. Cherishing is love with its sleeves rolled up. It's about really seeing people. At Homeboy,

we want to create a place that's safe, where people are seen, so that they can be cherished because that's what is healing.

Boyle recounts how his organization came to believe that love and cherishing are the path to healing.

In the early days, we were saying, "Nothing stops a bullet like a job." We thought an employed gang member would never return to prison. Then, as we started a school, we thought, "Well, an educated gang member won't ever go back to prison," but that was proving not true. Then we kind of landed, maybe 20 or 25 years ago (out of our 37 years), where we said, "No, a healed gang member will not ever re-offend." Period. And it's been born out as truthful, so that's the emphasis.

We do all the other things: employment, here's money in your pocket, a gainful job, education and all these other things like tattoo removal and therapy. All those things are secondary to the primary community of healing where people are receiving doses [of love] constantly, in a very repetitive way. It's the repetitive nature of reassurance, affirmation, affection, hugging - all these things. We used to fret if somebody relapsed with drugs or returned to gang life for a moment or went to jail. We used to say, "Well, maybe they'll come back." Nobody says that now. Everybody says, "He'll be back" – and they all come back. I'm not really aware of an exception. They'll come back because once you've had a taste of having been cherished in a way that's authentic, it's so compelling that [you surrender to it].

I hope you enjoy, Peace!  
Pastor Scott



# October Celebrations



## Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Verdie Smith, who celebrates her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

To send birthday greetings to Verdie, here is her address.  
2849 Big Road, Apt. 3116B  
Zieglerville, PA 19492

## Also celebrating a birthday

- 1 Presley McNichol, Leona Renninger, Michael Smith, Jr.
- 2 Barbara Bower, Amy LeVan, Keith Renninger
- 3 Keith Weaver
- 4 Landon DeLong, Malaina Meeker, Dot Pollock, Corinne Schnee
- 6 Carolina Hansley, Tina Hennessey
- 7 Connor Harrity, Donna Smith
- 9 Ashlie Gorman, Marsha Staub
- 10 Natalie Harrington, Teresa Yancik
- 11 Aurelia Cardillo, Shane Forsyth, Richard Freed, Jonathan Rothermel
- 12 Lindsey Waltermeyer, Ryan Weaver
- 13 Kevin Brunner, Tim Evans, Georgann Geiser
- 14 Corey King, Diana Perez
- 16 Ed Phillips, Abby Sauers, Seth Williams
- 17 Aidan Beaver, Kylie McAndrew, Emma Wenerowicz
- 18 Olivia Helmer, Michael F. Smith
- 19 Carolyn Fleming, Jackson Solarz

- 21 Ainsley Lucas, Kyle Singley
- 22 Sue Swartz, Doug Weaver
- 23 Suzanne Dodge, Valentina Sabastro
- 24 Cheyenne Cole
- 26 Julia DePaul, Bonnie Eichenlaub, Beckett Herold
- 27 Maya Brunner, Donna Evans, Kenneth Grzywacz, Judith Kingsepp, David Rhoads
- 30 Jennifer Ammarell, Jim Dugan, Jared Pinter, Pr. Scott Staub, Sammy Young
- 31 Bethany Bechtel, Monique Becker, Ronald Weller, Kassidy Williams

- 2 Joe and Lisa Caputo  
Cameron and Michele Parker  
Greg and Janet Psota
- 10 Josh and Morgan Fox
- 12 Jason and Rachelle Kunsch
- 14 Thom and Lisa Heck
- 15 Bob Moyer and Kym Walther-Moyer
- 16 David and Gwen Grant  
Lincoln and Barbara Noecker
- 17 Bruce and Bethann Ritter  
Preston and Darlene Smith
- 18 Norm and Brenda Hunsberger
- 20 Ron and Lynn Fegley  
Wayne and LuAnne Fowler
- 21 Ray and Fay Feick
- 23 Matt and Amy Marazas  
Doug and Bette Senne
- 27 Jack and Kathleen Bowers
- 29 Joe and Kathy Jo Hoffman

## Anniversaries

- 1 Daniel and Ranell Cole  
Jared and Valarie Dubbs  
Peter and Heather Wurst



## Morning of Hope for those touched by cancer Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM - Noon

Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schwenksville is hosting a free event presented by Lynn Eib, long-time survivor, patient, advocate, award-winning journalist and best-selling author of “When GOD & Cancer Meet.” The event is a hope-filled morning of emotional and spiritual encouragement for anyone touched by cancer: patients, survivors, caregivers, friends and healthcare or ministry professionals.

Doors open at 8:15 for a continental breakfast. Space is limited. Register online at [www.jelc.org](http://www.jelc.org) or call (610) 287-7104.



Pastor Scott and Nikki Young, pictured, along with Educational Director Jena Marinelli greeted members of the community at the New Hanover Fall Frolic on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. They enjoyed a sunny day while letting the community know about NHELC's Sunshine Learning Center.



### VERBUM DOMINI MANET IN AETERNUM

Is Latin for "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever." This motto of the Lutheran branch of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25.



Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther's earliest and most influential supporters, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments worn at his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords, and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in standing firm in their faith.

## Meet candidates for the Boyertown School Board

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 - 9 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church will host a forum for voters to meet and ask questions to the Boyertown School Board candidates. All candidates have been invited to participate.

St. John's is located at 45 North Reading Avenue in Boyertown. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

## Let's keep in touch

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

610-326-1335  
[www.newhanoverlutheran.org](http://www.newhanoverlutheran.org)  
[facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch](https://facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch)

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



## 2025 Council

- 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 NHELC Council?  
Contact any member above.