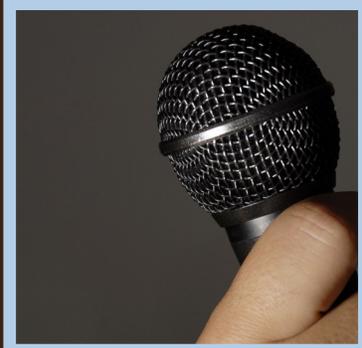


NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Coffee with Council



Talent Show



Pottstown Cluster



Christmas Pictures

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What's coming up in 2026?

The Council will hold a “Coffee with the Council” open informational session on **Sunday, January 18th**, immediately following the 9:00 AM worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELCC) has a lot of activities and projects moving forward in 2026 and the Council would like to share information, listen to feedback, and answer questions. Plan to grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation.



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New Hanover's Got Talent! Fastnacht Social & Talent Show

Sunday, February 15th, 10:15 AM

Everyone is blessed with a talent. What's yours? Here's an opportunity to showcase your talent. The event will follow the 9:00 AM worship service and, of course, will include fastnachts! Do you sing? Like to dance? Play an instrument? Tell stories or jokes? Recite poetry? Do a skit with a friend? If so, see Nikki Young or Patricia Nyce to sign up. Folks of all ages are invited to participate. It's a fact that New Hanover's got lots of talent! We can't wait to see yours!



God on Tap

January 8th, 6:00 PM
Main Street Pub, Bally

Please note the date change due to the holiday this month.

Come to enjoy a dinner and discussion at the next God on Tap. The subject of discussion will be, "NOW WHAT? After Pastor Scott's retirement, what can WE/I do to be sure we continue and prosper the ministries we currently enjoy at NHELCC?" Roll up your sleeves and join coordinator Randy Dotterer on January 8th, weather permitting. RSVP by noon on the 8th to Randy via email (rdptw6489@gmail.com) or text (610-306-0621).

Breakfast Fellowship



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 10th, 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, January 14th, 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.



Donations help local families

Throughout the months of January and February, NHELCC is collecting non-perishable food items and full-sized personal hygiene items to 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.

The Following are the **Most Needed Food Items** for the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities:

- Fruit Juice
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Canned Oranges
- Canned Pineapple
- Pasta in Sauce (Chef Boyardee)
- Canned Chicken
- Chicken & Dumplings
- Spam
- Pork 'n Beans
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly

Ready Made Meals: hormel.com/brands/hormel-compleats-microwavable-meals

Thank you for your contributions that will help those in need.

Submit your 2025 report

Committee and board reports
for 2025
are due in the church office by
Monday, January 5, 2026.

NHBC News: A Christmas Special



Following the worship service on December 21st, J.A.M. presented the Christmas pageant, “NHBC News: A Christian Special.” Talents of NHELC youth entertained both the young and the old.

Special thanks to Hayley Quigley and Molly Woods for writing and directing the play.

All about attitude

“The way you say ‘representative’ to an automated system reflects the real you,” a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized *everything* I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative.

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT) says our language shouldn’t be “foul or abusive” but good, helpful and encouraging. Whether I’m peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I’m not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God’s prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

- ✓ *I’m alone* can become *God is with me.*
- ✓ *I can’t do this* can become *Anything is possible with God.*



- ✓ *I’m failing* can become *Just because I’m struggling, it doesn’t mean I’m failing.*
- ✓ *I’m not enough* can become *I’m God’s beloved child.*
- ✓ *I’m tired* can become *God will give me rest.*

Don’t stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

— Janna Firestone



Cast

News Anchors: Richard Garcia, Collins

Quigley, Caleb Woods

Angel: Tanner Quigley

Mary: Kady Singley

Joseph: Sam Young

Innkeeper: Landon Woods

Animals: Carly DiPasquale, Carolina

Hansley, Juniper Hazel, Lainey Soupik

Shepherds: Kylie Ewing, Madison Hansley,

Aubrey Woods

Wise (wo)Men: Genesis Garcia, Miller

Quigley, Alivia Singley

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)
will resume January 11th
at 10:15 AM.



A Message from Pastor Scott

Looking through the Front View Mirror

I believe “The” New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, while celebrating 325 years of ministry on our soil has always been looking through the front view mirror these past seven years, so to speak. And never has it been more evident than this past year in mission and in worship. It is hard to argue that a year has produced more celebrations than this past year.

Celebrating our 325th year, we witnessed the return of alumni pastors and deacons in the pulpit, along with displays, celebrations of past events and the intro into new events as well. I believe everyone from those who have been serving in the community for their long lives to recent members, from old to young alike, could find a place in the celebration. With the resounding spirit, I can only imagine what year 326 will produce.

As a result of a crowning achievement in building the Sunshine Learning Center, we learned our official name started with “The” when we applied for a loan. A new beginning of name recognition of a historic holy ground. The loan itself signified our shared dedication and investment into the future by providing Christian education to young lives and families.

Investments in mission did not stop there, as we expanded our Garden of Hope by 100%! We added another 2,500 pounds of produce to help those in need, a 67% increase over 2024. Our Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry expanded meals services to two new locations. With the planting of a new orchard we can witness the addition of fruit as well.

We continue to expand our love by feeding our neighbors in need.

Feeding the soul also was the mission of our youth and music ministry. We saw the introduction of two new music groups. The Kids For Christ youth praise band (KFC) and the Jesus and Me Choir (JAM Choir) were inspired by the children and youth and created by our Church and Grace music directors.

Feeding of the soul was always witnessed in our recognition as a Reconciling in Christ community. We listened to God and have provided a welcoming and safe space for all to worship. Our worship has been steadily always moving towards worthy praise unto our God, and all are worthy to participate.

Yes, much has been accomplished, and I can only imagine we will see greater things in 2026. I have been blessed to serve this community as your pastor, and I and my wife, Marsha, are truly feeling blessed to come to know each and everyone of you. You, together with our church and learning center staffs, are the core to serving our neighbors in a Christ like mission. I truly believe as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, you, The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church are capable of doing far more things than you can imagine with the help of God. Keep looking through the front view mirror.

Peace, and Thank you,

Pastor Scott



Fresh starts

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That’s why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, “With me you can always start afresh.”

— Ada Lum

Council Corner

Highlights from the December 18th Council meeting

- ✓ Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of November 28 of \$6,000. The total income at the end of November (91.6% of the year) was 129% of budget (91.6% offerings) and expenses were at 96.4% of budget. The projected deficit for the end of year is \$15,000 once the bequest funds are transferred to the Endowment Fund.
- ✓ 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. Thank you for your continued support!
- ✓ The Council has approved a compensation package for Nikki Young starting January 1, 2026 (as part of the 2026 Proposed Budget). Nikki will be our Vicar and part-time Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry until a Senior pastor is called. We are blessed to have Nikki as part of our transition between Senior Pastor to help maintain continuity of our worship and ministries.
- ✓ The Synod has assigned Vice-Pastor Mark Singh-Hueter from Advent Lutheran in Harleysville to NHELCC. Pastor Mark will support Vicar Nikki on an as needed basis. Pastor Mark will also oversee Nikki's Internship as part of her seminary journey.
- ✓ The Finance Committee recommended and the Council approved the contracting of new NHELCC Bookkeeper Dorothy Brower.
- ✓ The Property Committee is overseeing a HVAC project to replace the 35-year-old air-conditioning system that services the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The total cost is estimated at \$80,000. The Capital Campaign funds will partially cover the expense. Watch for a campaign announcement to request additional capital funds for this much-needed project.
- ✓ The Council approved an organ remediation project (the organ is 40 years old this year!). All funds to support this project are being provided by an anonymous donor.
- ✓ Councilmember nomination cycle for the 2026 Council are now open. If you have an interest in serving as a Councilmember please talk to any current Councilmember for information. The current 2025 Council has nine Councilmembers out of twelve expected positions.
- ✓ All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the church office manager. Susan Gutshall, NHELCC 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).

The next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for January 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Scenes from the 4:00 Christmas Eve Service

Thank you to the following participants in the live nativity.

Mary - Miller Quigley

Joseph- Landon Woods

Jesus - Baby Doll provided by Kaydence Singley

Three wise people - Alivia Singley, Sam Young, Collins Quigley

Guiding Star - Kylie Ewing

Shepherds - Caleb Woods, Richard Garcia, Tanner Quigley

Angels - Hannah Waltermeyer, Maddie Artim, Charlotte Moser, Alexa Moser

Animals in the stable – Kaydence Singley, Aubrey Woods, Lainey Soupik





Special music was provided by the Kids for Christ (KFC) and Jesus and Me (JAM) Choir: Madison Hansley, Alivia Singley, Sadie Hubley, Genesis Garcia, Alexa Moser, Madelyn Artim, Miller Quigley, Sam Young and Landon Woods



Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

Hold fast to your faith
(Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints
(Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day
(1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings
(Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation
(1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities
(Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily
(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness
(Romans 6:11, 16)

Exercise yourself in godliness
(1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection
(Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time
(Ephesians 5:15, 16)

— Gus Nichols



January Celebrations

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following members, who will celebrate a 90+ birthday.

January 16th

Pat Smale

Celebrates her 92nd birthday
2849 Big Road #1209
Zieglerville, PA 19492

January 19th

Herman Richard

Celebrates his 93rd birthday
51 West Arcadia Drive Apt. 3019
Limerick, PA 19468

Also Celebrating a Birthday in January

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Michael Lindenmuth, Marlene Waller | 21 | Christopher Morgan, Dylan Parker, Mark Warnquist |
| 4 | Jennifer Haraske, Paisley McKenrick, Will Wilson V | 22 | Emily Willis |
| 5 | Alexander McCarthy, Amelia Solarz | 23 | Charles McNichol, Olivia Smith |
| 6 | Ryan Foskey, Rachel Williams | 24 | Nora Buckwalter, Susan Fretz, Robert Heck, Jr., Brian Rohrbach, Kathleen Smoot, Rick Solazzo |
| 7 | Todd Rothermel, Luke Sharp, Lillian Stapleton | 26 | Wendy Gahler, Denise Moyer |
| 8 | Robyn Brunner, Tyler Hibbs, Vivien O'Donnell, Brennan Schweiger | 27 | Justyn Forrest, Jenafer Mayan, Evan O'Donnell, Jack Repa, Jeff Smoot |
| 9 | Ranell Cole, Connie Norris, Ryan Pinter | 28 | Robb Davis, Kevin Jackmore, Jamie Kurtz, Esmae Miller |
| 10 | Linda Motzer, Avery Spencer | 29 | Lisa Betz, Phil Boyer, Amanda Dodge, Bill Tracey |
| 11 | Lynn Fegley, Stern Nester, Jr., Brad Zuchero | 30 | Bruce Forsyth, Torry Gallagher, Jim Gross, Colson Martin, Bob Moyer |
| 12 | Mel Alting, Kylie Ewing | 31 | Carolyn Snell |
| 13 | Ashley Allen, Nevada Grant, Mike Wenerowicz | | |
| 14 | Kenny Gahler, Graham Lindenmuth | | |
| 15 | John Zuchero | | |
| 18 | Joseph Kern, Pauline Meeker, Daniel Moser, Gavin Smith | | |
| 19 | Ray Green | | |
| 20 | Carl Dey, Matthew McHugh, Michael Moehring, Keith Rohrbach | | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 3 | Stern and Erin Nester |
| 5 | Dave and Dot Pollock |
| 9 | Chris and Robin Fatzinger |
| 11 | Jeff Renninger and Rick Hausch |
| 24 | Walter and Betty Hinrichs |

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-

ality, 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.





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.



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
- Nikki Young, vicar

Are you interested in serving on Council?

Contact any member of Council for more information.

Council meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Meetings are open to all members.