

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Lenten Worship



Spaghetti Dinner



Easter Lilies



Egg Hunt

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St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



Join us on Wednesday evenings in Lent

NHELHC (The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church) invites you to join in fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings throughout March. Enjoy dinner and fellowship at 5:30 PM followed by the Holden Evening Prayer service at 6:30 PM.

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Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, March 14th

4:00 – 7:00 PM

NHELHC’s annual **all-you-can-eat** Spaghetti Dinner will soon be here! Enjoy all the spaghetti with homemade meatballs, homemade sauce, homemade Italian bread, salad and beverage you want. Be sure to save room for ice cream and Pizzelle for dessert. **BYOB**

Adults - \$16.00

Seniors (65 and older) - \$12.00

Children (7-12) - \$8.00

Children (6 & younger) – free

The Spaghetti Dinner is a fundraising event to help maintain the picnic grove and support youth activities. No reservation is required.

Buon appetito.

God on Tap

Thursday, March 5th, 6 PM
Main St. Pub in Bally

Come join in this month's discussion topic, "If you were to witness an act of public bigotry against an individual or a group, what would you do?" What would you do in a situation such as: A waiter or another individual belittling another for his/her ethnicity/skin color/dress/sexuality/other, how would you handle it? Of course this will play differently due to the environment. If you were in a Hell's Angel's Biker bar, you'd play it differently than if you were in Saville's. So, let's say you were in Saville's when this took place. Go on...."

RSVP to Randy Dotterer at 610-306-0621 by noon on March 5th or if you have any questions about this event.

Last call to order lilies for Easter

Orders for Easter lilies are due Sunday, March 8th. Order forms are available on the desk in the welcome center or order online at https://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/lily_signups. Orders are due by Sunday, March 8th. The suggested donation is \$12 a plant.

Book Club

Tuesday, April 7th, 6 PM

The NHELCL Book Club is reading *Maybe you Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb. Join the club for dinner and book discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown on Tuesday, April 7th, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about the book club, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.



Donations help local families

Throughout the month of March, NHELCL is collecting non-perishable items for distribution to local families through the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Top items needed to help fill the shelves are listed below.

Food

- Canned Soups
- Pancake Mix
- Pasta Sauce
- Crackers
- Cereal
- Pasta Sides
- Tuna
- Pancake Syrup
- Rice
- Canned Fruit
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Meat Meals (Manwich, Chef Boyardee, Spam)

Non-Food

- Laundry detergent
- Conditioner
- Dish Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant

Also, sugar-free, sodium-free and low-fat items for those with dietary restrictions are greatly appreciated. Please do not bring items with an expiration date already expired, home-canned items or medicines. These items cannot be accepted. Items may be dropped off at the church. Collection boxes are located in the Welcome Center, Fellowship Hall and Multi-purpose Room.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Breakfast Fellowship

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, March 11th, 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, March 14th, 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.



Easter Egg Hunt



Sign up for the Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 28th
10:00 AM

The NHELC annual Easter Egg Hunt will be rain or shine, and we will move indoors if needed. Participants will enjoy hearing a story, playing games, and participating in the egg hunt which will be divided into groups based on age. After all age groups have gone through the rotations, we will have hot dogs and some snacks around 11:00. If your child(ren) will participate, we ask for you to sign up so we can have a count for food and supplies. Scan the QR code to sign up!



GOD in three persons,



blessed TRINITY.

Can you help?

With the Egg Hunt coming up, volunteers and candy donations are needed. Contact Vicar Nikki if you can lend a hand.

1. Will you **coordinate** some **games**?
2. Will you **read a story**?
3. Will you **“hide”** (AKA scatter) **the eggs**? This is a great opportunity for youth!
4. Will you **fill eggs** after worship during J.A.M. on Sunday, March 21st?
5. Will you **donate small, individually wrapped candies** to fill the eggs? A bin for candy donations will be placed in the welcome center beginning March 1st.



NHELC installs AED

A second AED has been placed on the wall in the Sunshine Learning Center. The AED is on the left wall by the back hallway (past the second set of doors). A triangle sign on the wall will identify the location. The AED contains both adult and pediatric pads for emergency use. Thank you to Mission Service Committee for the funds to purchase a second AED for the building and to Scott Geiser for his efforts to secure the purchase.

Lead Gardener

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church is looking for a Lead Gardener to oversee its 10,000-square-foot garden. Last year, this garden’s volunteers produced 3 ½ tons of fresh organic produce, which was provided to local food pantries. If you enjoy gardening with like-minded volunteers while helping your neighbors in need, we have the role for you!

For more information, contact President of Food Ministry Steve Weidner at foodministry@newhanoverlutheran.org.

General garden volunteers are ALWAYS welcome too!

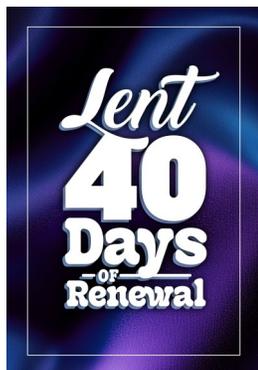


The Lenten Desert

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday, Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, “O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.”

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. “This is what Lent is meant to be,” writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. “Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other.”



Church holds fire drills

If you are at NHELCL and the fire alarm goes off, please exit the building as quickly and safely as possible. After you exit, walk to the far side of the parking lot across from the church office. Sunshine and church staff will be meeting there and will let you know if it is a drill and when you may return inside the building. Practicing drills is a requirement of PA regulations. Local emergency officials are made aware of a fire drill prior to the alarm going off. If an emergency triggers the alarms, our system automatically alerts all necessary local emergency services. Police and fire department will be arriving and will check the building and let staff know when it is safe to return inside. Thank you for your understanding as we learn this new procedure!



Community Band Extravaganza

Saturday, March 21st, Noon - 5 PM
SunnyBrook Ballroom

The Boyertown Alumni Concert Band and Marching Unit will host the third annual Community Band Extravaganza. Other bands to perform include: Oley Valley Alumni and Community Band, Wyomissing Community Band, Pottsgrove Community Band, Exeter Community Band and Quakertown Band. Tickets in advance cost \$10, or \$15 at the door. To buy tickets online, go to SoulJoels.com.

SunnyBrook is located at 50 Sunnybrook Road in Pottstown.



Council Corner



Highlights from the February 19th meeting

- A. Finance closed out the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. We had a total deficit YTD 2025 as of December 31 of \$9,468. The total income at the end of December (100% of the year) was 144.58% of budget (104.54% offerings) and expenses were at 127.39% of budget.
- B. The 2025 total deficit (\$60,000 projected) was offset by generous donations, bequests, and Endowment interest funding. Relying on these funding sources is a risk to sustained income to meet operational expenses. Please consider increasing your General Fund giving in 2026.
- C. Finance reported that the total deficit 2026 YTD as of January 31, 2025 was \$3,100. The total income at the end of January (8.33% of the year) was 7.9% of budget and expenses were at 7% of budget. February giving is projected to be decreased due to weather related cancellations of two worship services. Please make an effort to “catch up” on your giving in 2026.
- D. The approved 2026 General Fund budget is a *deficit* budget of ~\$90,000. The deficit will vary depending on the timing of a new Senior Pastor and the compensation package. 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 2026. Thank you for your continued support!
- E. The Council will hold a “Coffee with the Council” open informational session on March 29th immediately following the 9 AM worship service in the Fellowship Hall. NHELCC has a lot of activity 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.
- F. The Council has approved Nikki Young as our Vicar and part-time Director of Children, Family and Youth Ministry until a Senior pastor is called. We are blessed to have Nikki as part of our transition between Senior Pastors to help maintain continuity of our worship and ministries.
- G. 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.
- H. 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. The Council is asking for directed donations to help offset this capital expense.
- I. 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.
- J. The congregation ratified the NHELCC Constitution at the February 22nd Annual Meeting. A copy of the new constitution can be found on the NHELCC website.
- K. 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.

- L. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
- M. Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes please see Scott Geiser or

Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving).

- N. The next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for March 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM.



MARCH

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Sydney Renner, Kelli Ritter
- 4 Danielle Dugan, Kelsie Rohrbach, Ted Schweiger, Mason Williams
- 5 Fred Agliano, Jr., Kimberly Dinsmore, Benjamin Rothermel
- 6 Rylee Amos, Zachary Mayan, Tyler Sauers
- 7 Leslie Gates, Jaxson McKenrick, Derek Updegrove
- 8 Erik Johnson, Zachary Reed
- 9 Eric Hansley, Alaina Wojnarek
- 10 Ethan Landis
- 11 Amy Foskey, Tyler Lynn, William Sibusiso Masuku
- 12 Alex Caputo, Brenda Hunsberger
- 16 Colleen Christ, Kyle Culp, Christine Miller, Faye Weidner
- 18 Craig Geiser, Bobbi Nuss, Mary Ann Peters
- 19 Emerson Leydet
- 20 Steve Eisenhart
- 22 Kim Trout, Lee Wesner, Nancy Wolfe
- 23 Michael Freed, Dieter Gahler, Ryan Schatz
- 24 Ilana Bencsik, Roberta Ganovsky, Ron Hedrick
- 25 Kinsey Ewing, Noah Fatzinger, Bradley Fox, Jr.

- 26 Aiden Girard, Madison Hansley, Kevin Hauck, Cameron Parker, Courtney Schweizer
- 27 Joan Girard, Seth O'Dell, Madison Shirk
- 28 Eleanor Erb
- 29 Brent Feick, Andy Grzywacz, Alicia Smoot
- 30 Matthew Duncan, Stephanie Fegley, Wayne Fowler, Jr., Terry Santangelo
- 31 Pat Corcoran, Cora Harrity, Tom McHugh, Jr., Logan Weisbach

Anniversaries

- 5 Aurelio Zarza Rojas and Amanda Rojas
- 6 Barry and Sharon Spencer
- 10 John and Bobbi Nuss
- 14 Dane and Josalyn Mulvihill
- 18 Christopher and Rachel Clark
- 19 Bryan and Colleen Christ
- 20 Michael and Madison Bauer
- 22 Robert and Victoria Brett
- 24 Kerwin and Susan Reber
- 28 Kenneth and Pamela Shellenberger
- 29 Jeff and Kathleen Smoot