

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Food Collection



Youth Sunday



Daughters Gathering



Garden

[More Opportunities](#) [Explore Opportunities](#) [Explore Opportunities](#) [Explore Opp](#)

“See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.”

Luke 18:31-33

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Holy Week

NHELHC (The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church) invites you to join in worship as we celebrate the ultimate sacrifice our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has made for you and me. Bring your family and friends.

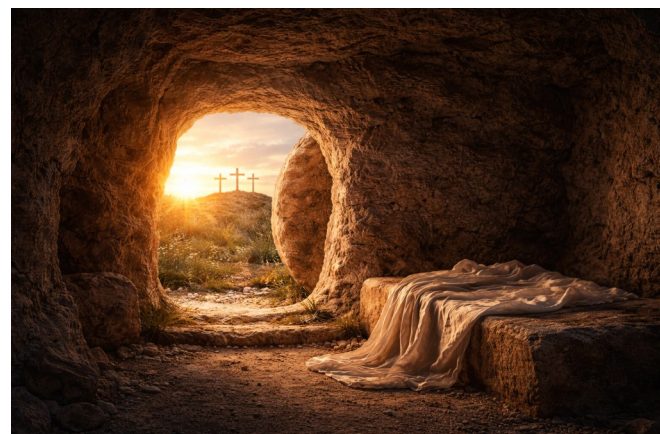
Maundy Thursday April 2nd, 7:00 PM

Good Friday April 3rd, 7:00 PM

Easter April 5th, 9:00 AM

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”

Matthew 28:5-6





Local families in the Pottstown area need our help

Throughout the months of April, May and June, 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 and fellowship hall for the donations.

A special thank you to all who donated during the winter months to the Pottstown Cluster boxes. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team project, we donated 218 pounds of food and personal care items.

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

Canned Oranges in Juice
Dry Milk
Broth
Spam
Pancake Syrup
Bar Soap

Canned Pineapple in juice
Fruit Juice
Beef Stew
Chili
Ready to Eat Meals (Hormel)
Shampoo

Individual Shelf Stable Milk
Canned Ham
Pork and Beans
Jelly
Crackers
Toothpaste

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

Youth lead worship service Sunday, April 19th

Join us on Sunday, April 19th, as our talented youth lead us in worship. From heartfelt original prayers to a special skit and high-energy music, they have been working tirelessly to prepare a meaningful service for our church family. Also, a

special collection will be received that day to support the Camp Falckner program, helping our youth grow in faith and community this summer. Come show your support and see the Spirit at work in our next generation!



Rainforest Falls Kids Camp 2026



June 15 - 19, 2026

9:00 AM - Noon

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a life-long adventure, discovering the nature of God, and exploring what it means to be rooted in relationship with their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

NHELHC's Kids Camp is for Pre-K (four-year-olds and MUST BE POTTY TRAINED) through Rising fifth graders.

Registration is now open. Sign up today at <https://vbspro.events/p/nhelckidscamp2026>.



Gathering of Daughters

Sunday, May 3rd, 11:30 AM

In celebration of Mother's Day, daughters of all ages are invited to a Gathering of Daughters featuring a **luau with luau themed foods, crafts and activities**. Come for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the desk in the Welcome Center or you may also sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-63256431-gathering>.



Reservations are due by Sunday, April 26th.

Those attending are asked to participate in the service project by bringing diapers and/or baby wipes to be distributed to local families in need through Boyertown Area Multi-Service.

If you have any questions, contact Jean Moser at 610-367-0342.

God on Tap

Thursday, April 9th, 6:00 PM

Main Street Pub in Bally

Please note the April date is changed to the 2nd Thursday due to Holy week.

The discussion subject will be: We know Jesus had to die and be resurrected to show us there is eternal life for those who follow him and his teachings. But, did all the brutal events of Holy Week need to happen? Of course, who are we to second guess God? But, if there is ONE thing you could change about Holy Week it would be _____? Want to join in the discussion? RSVP to Randy Dotterer by noon on April 9th either by text at 610-306-0621 or email at rdptw6489@gmail.com.



Blessing of the Fields Sunday, April 26th



Breakfast Fellowship

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, April 8th, 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, April 11th, 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.

Garden of Hope

We have BIG plans for the garden this year! We plan to allocate a couple rows of raised beds for our school children so they can experience God's work in action as they plants seeds, water them, and watch them grow. We're also adding a wash-basin to make the cleaning of our harvested produce a little easier. Our new Lead Gardener Jim Mack and the Food Ministry are identifying more convenient ways to volunteer in the garden, so keep an eye out for more information on volunteer opportunities. Last year we produced 3 ¼ tons of organic produce that we gave to local Food Banks. None of this is possible without the dedication and support of our congregation and our neighbor volunteers.

The Garden of Hope has set their Spring Garden Preparation and Planting weekends. If you enjoy working with your hands, playing in dirt, or simply like the camaraderie of friends, come out and join us. The garden preparation date is **Saturday, April 11th, at 9:00 AM** and the garden's first planting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 18th, at 9:00 AM** (rain date April 25th). No experience necessary!

Feel free to reach out to Jim Mack at jimmack203@gmail.com or Steve Weidner at steveusamail@duck.com for more information.

A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God. —Robert E. Gibson

Will you donate a ham?

The Food Ministry is looking for ham donations for Easter. Hams may be dropped off in the kitchen on Wednesdays and Sundays between 9:00 – 10:00 AM or stop by the office Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.



—Madeleine L'Engle,
The Rock That Is Higher

NHELCL Book Club

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.



The Quiet Power of Singing in a Church Choir



Singing in a church choir is more than a musical activity; it is a practice that blends faith, community, discipline, and joy into a single shared experience. For centuries, choirs have shaped the soundscape of worship, carrying prayers and scripture on melodies that reach places words alone sometimes cannot.

At its heart, a church choir exists to serve. Unlike performance-centered music, choral singing in worship is directed outward—toward God and the congregation. Choir members lend their voices not for personal recognition, but to support the liturgy, enhance reflection, and help guide communal prayer. This sense of purpose gives choir singing a meaning that often feels deeper than music-making in other settings.

The communal aspect of a choir is equally powerful. People of different ages, backgrounds, and musical abilities stand side by side, learning to breathe together, blend their voices, and listen closely to one another. Over time, rehearsals become more than practice sessions; they turn into spaces of friendship, mutual support, and shared commitment. In many churches, the choir becomes a second family—one that celebrates joys, carries burdens, and marks seasons of life together.

Spring Concert

The Boyertown Area Alumni Marching Unit will hold their 50th anniversary spring concert on Saturday, April 25th, at 2:00 PM at the Boyertown Senior High School Auditorium. Tickets are sold at Aunt Nannie’s Bake Shop (913 Rte. 100, Bechtelsville) and Bachman’s Music (38 S. Reading Ave., Boyertown). Adult tickets are \$10, student tickets are \$2 and under age six are free. For more information, visit the band’s website at www.boyertownalumnimarchingunit.org.

Musically, church choirs offer a unique education. Singers are exposed to a wide range of repertoire, from ancient chants and hymns to contemporary sacred works. This variety develops technical skills such as sight-reading, vocal control, and harmony, while also fostering an appreciation for the church’s musical heritage. Even those with little formal training often discover that consistent rehearsal and collective effort lead to surprising growth.

There is also a deep, personal dimension to choir singing. Lifting one’s voice in sacred music can be an act of devotion, a form of prayer that engages both body and spirit. Many singers describe moments during an anthem or hymn when time seems to slow, the music resonates fully, and a quiet sense of peace or transcendence emerges. These moments, though fleeting, often linger long after the final note fades.

In a fast-paced and often fragmented world, singing in a church choir offers something rare: a steady rhythm of gathering, listening, and contributing to something larger than oneself. It reminds singers that their individual voices matter most when joined with others—and that harmony, both musical and human, is something we build together.

The Gift of Music

I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.

Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

— Martin Luther

From the Vicar



Dear Friends in Christ,

April always feels like a threshold.

We step into it still carrying the weight and reflection of Lent, and yet we can already sense the nearness of Easter—resurrection, renewal, and the quiet but powerful promise that God is not finished with us yet.

This year, I find myself thinking a lot about what it means to live in that “in-between” space.

So much of life feels like that right now. As a congregation, we are in a season of transition and growth. Our ministries continue to evolve—the energy of our preschool, the steady and meaningful work of our food ministry, the ways we are learning to show up for one another and for our wider community. There is so much good happening, and at the same time, not everything is fully clear yet. We are becoming something, together.

That is what I have been reflecting on throughout Lent.

Not just in the certainty of Easter morning, but in the waiting. In the questions. In the small, faithful steps forward when we don’t have the whole picture. In the moments when we trust that God is already at work—even before we can see the outcome.

April invites us to pay attention to those moments.

To notice signs of new life—not just the obvious ones like blooming flowers and longer days, but the quieter ones too. A conversation that brings hope. A child’s laughter in the hallway. A shared meal. A deep breath after a long season. These are all small resurrections, reminders that God is

always bringing life out of what feels uncertain or unfinished.

As we move through Holy Week and to Easter and the Easter season, my prayer for all of us is this: that we would have the courage to stay present in the “in-between.” To trust that even here—especially here—God is doing something new.

I am so honored to be the Vicar during this time and have felt so much love and support from all of you. Thank you for the ways you continue to be the church together. Your presence, your generosity, your willingness to show up—it matters more than you know.

Grace and peace,

Vicar Nikki

“My Easter Dove”

There came a dove, an Easter dove,
when morning stars grew dim;
It fluttered round my lattice bars,
to chant a matin hymn.

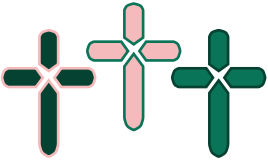
It brought a lily in its beak,
aglow with dewy sheen;
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts
to calm my soul that day;
I caught the meaning of the note,
why did it fly away?

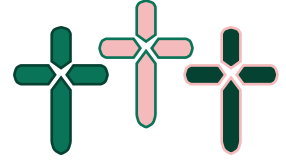
Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter dove!
Above earth’s storm and strife,
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,
of light and hope and life.



— Henrietta Cordelia Ray
(1849-1916)



Council Corner



Highlights from the February 19, 2026 meeting

- Finance reported that the total deficit 2026 YTD as of February 28, 2026 was \$13,400. February giving was decreased due to weather related cancellations of two worship services. Please make an effort to “catch up” on your giving in 2026.
- 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!
- The Council will hold a “Coffee with the Council” open informational session post the Easter holiday. Watch for announcements of the date and time. 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.
- The Council has approved Nikki Young as 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 Property Committee is overseeing an 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.
- All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the Church Office Manager. Susan Gutshall, NHELCC’s 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 April 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

End of Life legal matters seminar

Saturday, May 16th, 9:00 AM
Linwood W. Ott Funeral Home

The law offices of Richard T. Curley, P.C. and the Linwood W. Ott Funeral Home are offering a free seminar on end of life legal matters. Attorney Curley will discuss wills, POA’s (Powers of Attorney), living wills and end of life legal matters.

If you would like to attend this informative seminar, contact Phil Haddad at Phil-ip.Haddad@dignintymemorial.com by May 5th.

Light refreshments will be provided.

The Linwood W. Ott Funeral Home is located at 111 North Reading Avenue in Boyertown.



Seuss classics, including Fox in Socks, Sleep Book, Wacky Wednesday, The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham. Each day brought a new themed activity, and the children absolutely loved it—from wearing their coziest pajamas to school to creating their own “green egg” made from green-dyed vanilla pudding topped with a vanilla wafer “yolk” and rainbow sprinkles for seasoning. Their excitement and creativity made the week truly special.

Sunshine Learning Center is excited to begin open enrollment for our upcoming Fall 2026/2027 session. Enrollment is being accepted for children one year to Pre-k for both part-time and full time options. In the fall, Sunshine will also have a half day kindergarten enrichment program for children who will be attending Gilbertsville Elementary. Summer camp registration has opened to our current families and will open to the public on April 1st. For more information about our programs, contact directornhslc@gmail.com.

During the week of Monday, March 2nd, through Friday, March 6th, our Sunshine students and teachers celebrated Read Across America Week with some of our favorite Dr.



There’s something better coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we’ve felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There’s something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we’ve unintentionally neglected. There’s something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love

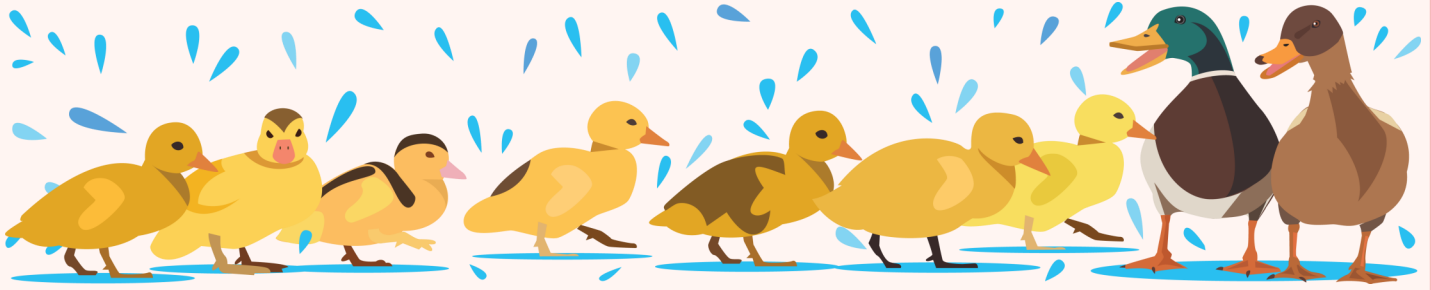
and seek God for compassion. There’s something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There’s something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There’s something better coming.

Easter is a chance to “renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint.” There’s something better coming.

APRIL Celebrations



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Hazel LeVan, who will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on April 25th. If you would like to send a birthday greeting to Hazel, here is her addresses.

35 North Walnut Street Apt. 214
Boyertown, PA 19512-1031

Also celebrating a birthday

- 1 Daulton Moyer, Connor Smale, Debra Smale
- 2 Cameron Gorman, Kelly Hennessey, Barry Spencer
- 3 Ruth Bauer
- 4 Carter Allen, David Grant, Samantha Wurst
- 5 Ryan Black, Katrina Clark
- 6 Christopher Clark, Carol Feick, Craig Moser, Gary Moser
- 7 Ronald Comtois, Alexa Moser, Dee Singley, Kathy Taylor
- 8 Jordan Becker, Jennifer Boyer, Carl Eisenhart, Jamie Holiday, Nikki Young
- 9 Jason Crunetti, Christian Schweizer, Jaime Scott, Maggie Soupik
- 10 Scott Dotterer, Carol Dugan, Ursula Gamler, Eric Meeker
- 11 Graham Beaver, Jess Davis, Michelle Kehs
- 12 Brian Eisenhart, Genesis Garcia, Sadie Hubley, Rodney Snell
- 13 Kadence Fox, Diana Perez, Mandy Hamilton, Adam Helmer, Natalie Meeker
- 14 Amanda Hoffman, Hayley Quigley

- 15 Carl Dey, Cody Eichenlaub, Gwen Grant, Dustin Smale
- 16 Lisa Caputo, Sue Care, David Helmer
- 17 Andrew Dubbs, Dwight Marazas, Joshua Nimmerichter, Andrew Rothermel, Nance White
- 18 Michael Lambert, Charlotte Lindenmuth
- 19 Timothy Dinsmore, Jeffrey Magee, Hannah Waltermeyer
- 20 Justin Gallagher, Cathy Gehringer, Marty Herold, Karter Lehigh, Tim Mutter
- 21 Allison Bowman, Alexia Campbell, Ashley Mutter
- 22 Rick Becker, Kelly Hauser, Amanda Rojas, Sandra Yanisko
- 23 Tara Hauck
- 24 Stephanie Ray
- 25 Ralph Borneman, Molly Woods, Shyla Wright
- 26 Madison Bauer, Erin Eisenhart
- 27 Zachary Foskey, Joshua Heck, Noah Waltermeyer
- 28 Jenn Dell'Alba
- 29 James Brandt, Kady Singley

Anniversaries

- 10 Raymond and Teri Bechtel
- 12 Ed and Tina Phillips
- 13 Rick and Deb Becker
- 16 Rick Garcia and Ligia Ayala
- 25 Robert and Jenn Cavalari
- 26 Ken and Patricia Grzywacz
- 29 Thomas and Jayne McHugh
- 30 Ryan and Stephanie Fegley
Bill and Sandy Wilson



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-

tality, 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.



Edward Becker, treasurer
Monique Becker
Steve Eisenhart, secretary
Marty Hauser, vice-president
Jim Mack
Yvonne Peto

2025 Council

Todd Rothermel, president
Dee Singley
Andy Van Dyke, financial secretary
Nikki Young, vicar

Contact Council
council@newhanoverlutheran.org

Let's keep in touch

The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
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www.newhanoverlutheran.org
facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch

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