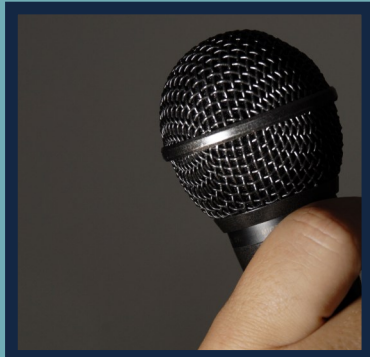


NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Music Sunday



Kids Camp



Camp Falckner



Revolution Exhibit

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Chicken Dinner

Saturday, May 16th, Picnic Grove



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Coffee with Council Informational Session

Sunday, May 3rd

The Council will hold an open informational session after the May 3rd worship service (prior to the 11:30 AM Gathering of Daughters event). The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELCLC) has a lot of activity and projects moving forward in 2026 and the Council would like to continue sharing information, listen to feedback, and answer questions. Plan to grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation in the Multi-Purpose Room.



If you are interested in becoming a member of NHELCLC, contact Vicar Nikki on a Sunday via “Voice from the Pew” Cards or at nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org. On Sunday, May 17th, we will have time to get together and introduce you to NHELCLC and answer any questions you may have. We will meet after worship.



NHELC celebrates Music Sunday



Sunday, May 10th

Join us on Sunday, May 10th, as we celebrate Music Sunday, a special and joyful occasion in the life of our church when we give thanks for the gift of music in worship. Throughout the Lutheran tradition, music has always been a vital expression of faith—proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word, and uniting God’s people in praise.

On this Music Sunday, we will highlight the many musical gifts within our congregation. Our choir and instrumentalists will lead us in a rich variety of offerings, from beloved hymns of the faith, contemporary songs, to inspiring choral anthems and special musical selections. Each piece has been prayerfully prepared to enhance our worship and draw us more deeply into the presence of God.

Music has a unique way of speaking to the heart, carrying scripture and prayer in ways that words

alone cannot. It strengthens our faith, comforts us in times of need, and lifts our voices in thanksgiving and joy. As we sing together, we join not only with one another, but with the whole communion of saints across time and space.

We also take this opportunity to give thanks for those who share their musical talents week after week—our choir members, musicians, and leaders—whose dedication enriches our worship life in countless ways.

Come and be renewed, inspired, and uplifted as we make a joyful noise to the Lord. Whether you are a lifelong member or a first-time visitor, all are welcome to experience the beauty and power of music in worship on this special Sunday.



Book Club

Tuesday, June 2nd, 6:30 PM

The NHELC Book Club is reading *The People We Keep* by Allison Larkin. Join the club for dinner and book discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown on Tuesday, June 2nd, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about the book club, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.



Decorate the church with geraniums

Order by Sunday, May 3rd

Help decorate the church red with geraniums for Pentecost on Sunday, May 24th. Order forms are available on the desk in the Welcome Center. Or contact Altar Guild Chair Barb Eisenhart to place an order.

Breakfast Fellowship

Men’s Breakfast

Saturday, May 9th, 8:00 AM

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

This month, the men will support the scouts and meet at the church for the annual Pancake Breakfast. No reservations required. For more information, contact Ron Fegley at 484-300-3025.

Women’s Breakfast

Wednesday, May 13th, 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.

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.

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

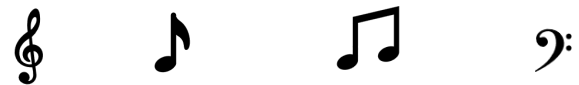
Registration is now open. Sign up today at <https://vbspro.events/p/nhelckidscamp2026>.

J.A.M. End of Year Celebration

Sunday, May 31st

Our J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) time is coming to an end for summer. May 17th will be the last day we get together until September. Be sure to join us for a reception and time together before our summer break!

The Kids for Christ (KFC) Band led the praise music on Easter.



Scout News

The Troop Scouts have been busy and working hard while on camping trips. Our last couple of trips have focused in the older scouts teaching scout skills to the younger scouts. Since February, over 200 rank requirements have been signed in scout handbooks and eleven scouts earned their next rank advancement.

The scouts are looking forward to their upcoming trips, fishing at Worlds End State Park and hiking thru Gettysburg battle grounds.



On Saturday, April 4th, a group of seven scouts from Troop 367 took time out of their spring break and weekend to help clean up trash and debris along Moyer Road. The New Hanover Township plans to install walkways and meadows in this space. Our scouts helped to remove a lot of debris (tires, an oven, at least a dozen bags of trash) that was hidden in the tree line and stream. The township truly appreciated the help as they would not have been able to accomplish as much as they had without our scouts.

Pancake Breakfast, Car Wash and Flower Sale

Saturday, May 9th, 7:30 - 11:00 AM

Come and enjoy a pancake breakfast by the scouts, get your car washed and pick up some flowers in time for spring planting.

Confirmation

Sunday, May 31st

Join us on May 31st when eleven of NHELCC's confirmands participate in their Affirmation of Baptism. Be sure to come out and support them and help them celebrate during a reception in their honor following the worship service.

◆◆ Camp Falckner ◆◆

July 27-30, 2026, Picnic Grove

Camp Falckner is an overnight camp open to all youth who will have finished grades 5 -12. This year's theme is God is Greater. We'll discover how God's power and presence are greater than any of life's highs or lows. Registration is available [online](#), but there are also paper copies available in the Welcome Center. Reach out to [Lindsey Waltermeyer](#) with any questions.

An Unusual Answer to a Mother's Prayer

Linda Jo Peters of Terre Haute, Indiana, felt her "worry button" get pushed when her daughter, Esther, called from college with an unexpected plan. Esther explained she wanted to go camping alone in a park in southern Illinois. She needed quiet time to think and asked her mother for Bible verses to read as she prayed about her future.

Linda knew Esther felt strongly about going, even if it made her uneasy. After the call ended, Linda dropped to her knees and began what she later called "a dialogue with God." She closed her prayer with a simple surrender: "I guess you want me on my knees that weekend."

And that is exactly where she stayed.

The morning after Esther's first night at camp, she called home. She was safe, she said, and no one had come near her tent. All night long, however, a skunk had wandered nearby, circling the campsite.

Later, Linda reflected on the moment with quiet confidence. "There was no way anyone with evil intent would have approached Esther's tent," she wrote, "while the power of prayer, in the form of a black-and-white critter, was circling it."

Local families in the Pottstown area

need our help

Now through June, NHELC 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.



It Is No Secret A Song Born of Transformation



Billy Graham’s public ministry gained national attention at the Rose Bowl in 1949, where a remarkable response marked the beginning of a historic movement. He returned to the same venue in November 2004, 55 years later, to commemorate that milestone.

Before the 1949 event, Billy appeared as a guest on a radio show hosted by songwriter and performer Stuart Hamblen. During the broadcast, Hamblen encouraged listeners to attend the meetings at the Rose Bowl. Before leaving, Billy invited Hamblen to attend as well. Though not a Christian at the time, Hamblen agreed. (His wife, however, was a believer.)

That evening, Hamblen did not go forward with others to profess faith in Christ, but he left deeply unsettled. Later that night, he went to Graham’s

hotel, where he shared his restless spirit. Through Billy’s witness and prayer, Hamblen gave his life to the Lord.

Soon after, actor John Wayne asked him, “Stuart, what’s this about you hitting the sawdust trail?”

Hamblen replied, “That’s no secret, John, what God has done for me. He can do it for you or anyone else.”

Wayne responded, “That sounds like a song. Why don’t you write one?”

And so, “It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)” was born.

Hamblen later wrote many Gospel songs, once saying, “I try to write music with a spiritual uplift instead of a moral downbeat.”

Window to Revolution Exhibit opens



On the heels of the New Hanover Lutheran congregation’s three hundred twenty-fifth anniversary is our nation’s two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Historic Trappe is offering a special exhibition titled *Window to Revolution*:

Pennsylvania Germans and the War for Independence. Focusing on the Revolution's impact on the Greater Philadelphia region, this landmark exhibition features artifacts such as flintlock pistols, Continental currency, Henry Muhlenberg’s

journals, a German translation of the Declaration of Independence, fraktur made by former Hessian soldiers, and much more. Four items from the collection of New Hanover Lutheran Church will be included in the exhibit.

Then visit the Speaker’s House for a stroll through the newly opened house. Self-guided tours are available on Saturdays from 10 AM to 4 PM and Sundays from 12 to 4 PM.

Location

Center for Pennsylvania German Studies at the Dewees Tavern, 301 W. Main Street, Trappe, PA

(photo compliments of Historic Trappe)



Donate for Reconciling in Christ



The Reconciling in Christ team is collecting donations during the month of June for Reconciling Works, a non-profit organization, to fulfill our annual donation, commitment. Reconciling Works provides outreach and education for congregations on their Reconciling in Christ journey and strengthens relationships with current Reconciling in Christ partners.

There will be a container in the narthex for cash or check donations and a designated QR code is provided to donate through [Tithely](https://tithely.com). If you are writing a check, please make it out to NHELCC with Reconciling Works in the memo space. Thank you for considering making a donation to support this organization.



Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn’t easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it “the devil’s music.” Dorsey later joked, “I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land.”

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him.

Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*“Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn...”*

Dorsey’s song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.



Message from the Vicar



Grace and peace to you this May!

It finally feels like spring is really here, doesn't it? After a long stretch of gray and cold, the trees are filling out, flowers are popping up, and there's just a little more energy in the air. It's the kind of season that sneaks up on you—you don't always notice the change right away, but suddenly everything feels a bit more alive.

That feels like a pretty good picture of Easter, too.

We're still in the Easter season, which means we're still living into that promise of resurrection—not just as a one-day celebration, but as something that keeps unfolding in our everyday lives. Sometimes it shows up in big, obvious ways, but more often it's quiet: a moment of hope, a bit of healing, the strength to keep going when things are hard.

Jesus says in John's Gospel, *"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."* And I think this time of year helps us see that a little more clearly. Life is growing, even in places we didn't expect.

This month also brings Mother's Day—a day that can hold a lot of different emotions. For some, it's a joyful celebration. For others, it can be tender, complicated, or even painful. Wherever you find yourself this year, know that you are seen and held. We give thanks for the many ways care, nurture, and love show up in our lives—in mothers, grandmothers, mentors, friends, and all those who have shaped us with compassion and strength. We will celebrate with our tradition of the Gathering of Daughters on May 3rd with a luau theme!

I also want to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you to all of those who helped make our Lenten and Easter season so meaningful. Thank you to those who checked in on me. Thank you to those who are helping get things like the Garden and the Picnic Grove ready for THEIR busy sea-

sons! And to those that continue to do the work of our Loaves and Fishes food ministry, our church council and our Sunshine Learning Center. It's a BUSY time here and everyone is putting in the work!

Our Garden of Hope is starting to come to life again, and it doesn't happen without you. There are so many hands involved—planning, planting, weeding, organizing—and it's a beautiful example of what it means to be the church together. It may look like simple work on the surface, but it's so much more than that. It's a sign of care for our community, a way of sharing what we have, and a reminder that small acts of love can grow into something meaningful.

To everyone who has given time and energy to make it happen—thank you. It matters. To those who have thought about helping reach out! There truly are jobs for everyone.

As we move through May, my hope is that you find small moments to pause and notice the life around you—and within you. Maybe it's sitting outside for a few extra minutes, taking a walk, or just breathing a little deeper in the middle of a busy day.

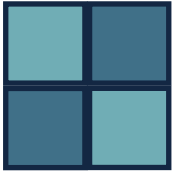
God is still at work. Life is still growing. And you are part of it.

Grateful for all of you,

Vicar Nikki

The Taste of Our Words

I try to watch the words I say,
And keep them soft and sweet;
For I don't know from day to day,
Which ones I'll have to eat.



Council Corner

Highlights from the April 16th Council Meeting



- Finance reported the total General Fund budget deficit YTD as of March 31, 2026 was \$32,054. February giving was decreased significantly due to weather related cancellations of two worship services. Please make an effort to “catch up” on your giving in 2026.
- Finance reported income and expenses as of March 31, 2026 (25% of the year) - total income was at 24% and expenses were at 21.3 % of the approved budget.
- 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 after the May 3, 2026 worship service (prior to the 11:30 AM Gathering of Daughters event). 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 continue sharing information, listen to feedback, and answer questions. Plan to grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- 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 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 May 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM.



Making a difference

Rose Mary Hart has been a letter carrier in rural West Virginia since 1969. In an interview for a magazine, she said,

“For my first seven years as a letter carrier I tried to do the job as efficiently and promptly as I could. But in 1976 I [met Jesus] and now I enter into my work differently. I have started to listen to people on my route in a new way. I have begun to share their pain and joy. When I listen, I can hear their turmoil inside. I hear domestic violence. I’ve even broken up a few fights. I’ve seen latchkey kids sitting out on their steps in ten degree weather because they forgot their key. I hear the frustration of working mothers. They come out and talk to me. Sometimes I don’t even have time to think about a response. But I do what I can, and sometimes word comes to me that something I said was heard. I just walk down the street, but I think I made a difference.”

- Quoted by Bob Olmstead
First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, CA

MAY

Celebrations



Happy Birthday to Walter Hinrichs

Walter celebrates his 93rd birthday on May 9th. To send Walter a birthday greeting, here is his address.

2195 Martin Drive
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Also celebrating a birthday

- 1 Kathleen Bowers, Gabriella Cavalari
- 2 Rodney Eidle, Jonathan Hauck, Kaitlin Robinson, Kayla Ruth, Scot Smale
- 3 Bonnie Lynn
- 4 John Dugan, Cara Houseal
- 5 Candis Sander, Kathy Smith
- 6 Ed Becker, Dan Johnson
- 7 Mikela Lane, Zachary Van Dyke
- 8 Brett Boyer, LuAnne Fowler, Sara O'Dell, Jordan Shirk, Brittany Smith
- 9 Laura Camp
- 10 Diane Van Dyke
- 11 Teri Bechtel, Robert Cavalari III, Jacob LeVan
- 13 Alexander Medlar
- 14 Lauren Flack, Todd Gamler, Meagan Sproul
- 15 Heather Gahler, Patricia Hoffman
- 16 Garrett Halteman, Sherry Miller, Steven Peters, Nicholas Trowbridge
- 17 Anna Camp, Erika Culp, Kevin Dugan, Jean Moser, Ryan Waltermeyer
- 18 Julia Clark, Gary Erb, Tim Hoffman, Morgan Sauers
- 20 Erik Eichenlaub, Emma Hauser, Adam Reber, Jeff Renninger
- 21 Ben Sauers, Sally Sugita, Andrew Wojnarek

- 22 Kate Bealer, Jackson Dugan, Joan Brandt, Connor Foskey, Kevin Galloway, Tara Murray, Will Wilson IV
- 23 Pat Lucas, Kym Walther-Moyer
- 24 Steven Bealer
- 26 Ashley Fowler, Greg Psota, Donald Smale
- 28 Patricia Hart, Don Wirt
- 29 Joan Comtois, Audrey Richardson
- 30 Emily Gates
- 31 Natalie Eshbach, Susan Reber

Anniversaries

- 4 Andrew and Kendra Rothermel
- 5 Bruce and Charlene Forsyth
Doug and Kathy Taylor
- 9 Robert and Marilyn Malason
- 10 Brian and Ariel Hansley
- 11 Ben and Amy Sauers
- 13 Jim and Joan Brandt
- 14 Thomas and Natalie Harrington
- 20 Tobin and Amy Sharp
- 25 Brent and Carol Feick
- 28 Rick and Debbie Solazzo
- 29 Mark and Cheryl Goodwin
- 31 Phil and Jen Boyer
Nelson and Judy Swartley



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.

We are a Reconciling in Christ Church



☆☆☆
A real friend is one who walks in, when the rest of the world walks out.
—Walter Winchell
☆☆☆

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

2026 Council

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

Contact Council
council@newhanoverlutheran.org

Let’s keep in touch

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

