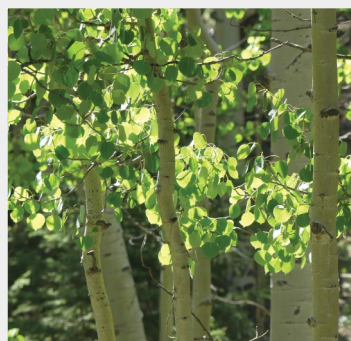


NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Worship at Grove



Camp Falckner



Candy Bingo



Graduates

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“Don’t start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks.”

—Frederick Buechner

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Outdoor Worship & picnic

Sunday, July 26th

The warm, summer breeze is gently blowing. The sun is peaking through the canopy of leaves above. And the birds are chirping from every angle around you. Summer is here and what better way to thank and praise God than to worship at the church picnic grove! Be sure to join us at the annual worship and picnic at the church picnic grove (Swamp Picnic Road between Charlotte Street and Lutheran Road). Bring a lawn chair if you wish or you can sit at the tables and benches under the pavilion.

Following the service, a pancake breakfast will be served. And, if you can help, volunteers are needed to set up tents for the campers at this year’s Camp Falckner.

So mark the date and head out to the grove on Sunday, July 26th. Be sure to bring a friend to enjoy worship in nature followed by a hearty pancake breakfast.



Camp Falckner is just around the corner! This overnight camp is open to all youth who will have finished grades five - twelve. Registration is available [online](#), but there are also paper copies available in the Welcome Center. Reach out to [Lindsey Waltermeyer](#) with any questions.



Candy Bingo

Wednesday, July 8th

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Candy Bingo is back by popular demand! Bring a snack to share! So we can plan accordingly, signup using this QR code or go online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-64316918-candy>.



Hymn Sing

Sundays, July 19th and August 30th

Did you enjoy the Hymn Sing on June 28th? The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELC) has scheduled two additional dates throughout summer for this popular pre-worship service music event. Be sure to find your seat in the pew by 8:45 on Sundays July 19th and August 30th, and be ready to request your favorite hymn to sing.



Donations help local families

You can help your neighbors throughout the month of July by bring items to church which will be distribution to local families through the Boyertown Area Multi-Service.

Non-perishable Food

Canned chicken	Canned tuna	Canned fruit/vegetables	Canned meals
Canned chili	Canned soup	Rice/rice sides	Pasta/pasta sides
Boxed quick meals	Spaghetti sauce	Pancake mix	Pancake syrup
Kids snacks	Juice	Cereal	Oatmeal
Crackers	Mixed nuts	Peanut butter	Jelly

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.

School Supplies

Notebooks	Pens/pencils	Markers/crayons	Folders
Backpacks	Rulers	Safety scissors	Glue sticks

Hygiene Items

Shampoo	Bar soap	Deodorant	Toothpaste
Paper towels	Tissues	Toilet paper	Napkins
Laundry detergent	dish soap	Lysol	Diapers & Wipes (sizes 3-5)

Items may be dropped off at the church. Collection boxes are located in the Welcome Center, Fellowship Hall and Multi-purpose Room.

If you know someone who is facing food insecurities, contact Boyertown Area Multi-service at 610-367-6957.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Breakfast Fellowship

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, July 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. Don't forget, men are invited too.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, July 11th, 8:00 AM
Brookside Family Restaurant
1338 North Charlotte Street

The men meet the second Saturday of the month at Brookside Family Restaurant. Come out for good food and friendly conversation. No registration is required. Any questions, contact Ron Fegley at 484-300-3025.



Congratulations to our graduates

Michael Artim

Michael graduated from Boyertown Area High School and Berks Career and Technology Center (Welding program). He has accepted a full time position as a mechanic at East Penn Manufacturing.



Elsa Lucas

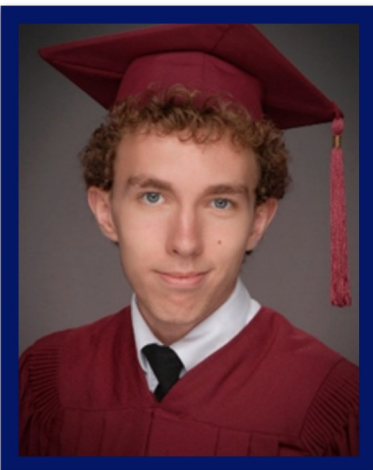
Elsa graduated from Pottsgrove High School. In the fall, she will attend Lock Haven University to study Sport Management and to swim.



London Andrew Meeker

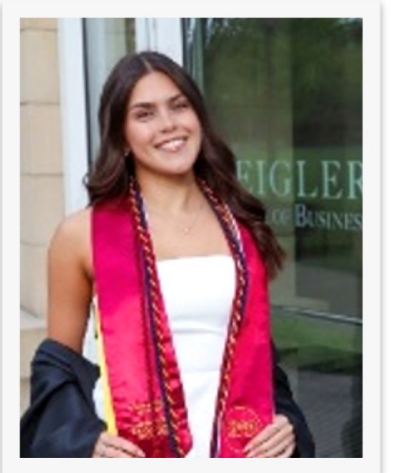
London graduated from Pottsgrove High School on May 29, 2026. During his high school years, London played the trumpet and violin. He participated in Marching Band his freshman year. Also, he was a part of the Co-Ed Varsity Bowling Team and the Boys' Varsity Tennis team all four years of high school. He will be attending Montgomery County Community College in the fall and eventually transfer to a four-year school to major in Finance/Accounting/Business.

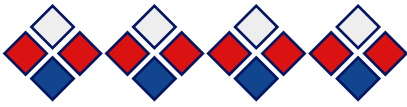
London is the son of Christopher and Megan Meeker and the brother of Malaina Meeker.



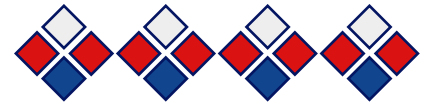
Alexis Urbassik

Alexis graduated from Bloomsburg University Zeigler College of Business with a Professional Sales and Marketing degree. She is currently working for Dyco as a technical sales rep.





Vicar Letter



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we turn the calendar to July, we find ourselves in the heart of summer. School is out, vacations are underway, gardens are growing, and many of us enjoy a slower pace. Summer invites us to rest, reconnect with family and friends, and spend time enjoying God's beautiful creation. It is also a wonderful season to reflect on how God is continuing to work in and through our congregation.

In worship over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus remind us of the importance of welcoming others. Hospitality is much more than offering a friendly smile or opening a door. Christian hospitality is seeing Christ in every person we meet. It is making room for those who may feel forgotten, lonely, or unsure if they belong.

This month, I invite each of us to consider one simple question: **Who can I welcome?** Perhaps it is inviting a neighbor to worship, introducing yourself to someone you have not met, volunteering in one of our ministries (we need help to support the great ministries we have), considering a financial gift or increase in giving if possible (our giving this year is down), or simply taking a few extra moments to listen to someone's story. Small acts of kindness often become powerful witnesses to God's love.

As we celebrate Independence Day, we also give thanks for the many freedoms we enjoy while remembering those who continue to work for justice, peace, and the well-being of all people. Let us pray that God will guide our nation toward compassion, understanding, and unity, and that we, as followers of Christ, may always seek to love our neighbors.

Thank you for all the ways you serve, give, pray, and care for one another. Together, we are making Christ's love visible in our community. Whether you have been part of New Hanover for decades or have only recently found your way here, you are an important part of this family of faith.

May God bless you with opportunities this summer to rest, to rejoice, and to share the love of Christ wherever you go. May our church continue to be a place where everyone experiences the welcome of Jesus.

See you in worship!

In Christ's peace,
Vicar Nikki Young



Be-attitudes

Be understanding of your enemies.

Be loyal to your friends.

Be strong enough to face the world each day.

Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.

Be generous to those who need your help.

Be frugal with what you need for yourself.

Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.

Be open enough to believe in miracles.

Be willing to share your joys.

Be eager to share the sorrows of others.

Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.

Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.

Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.

Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.

Be loving to those who love you.

Be loving to those who don't love you;
they may change.

Be yourself, above all.

—Author unknown



Council Corner

Highlights from the June 18, 2026 Meeting

- A. Finance reported the total General Fund budget deficit YTD as of May 31, 2026 was \$31,635.39. Please make an effort to “catch up” on your giving in 2026.
 - B. Finance reported income and expenses as of May 31, 2026 (42% of the year) - total giving was 31.83% and expenses were 33.9 % of the approved 2026 budget. Council is keeping expenses in check and in alignment with the current giving percentage, but giving is falling behind the congregation approved budget expectations.
 - C. The approved 2026 General Fund budget is a **deficit** budget of ~\$90,000. We are 42% through 2026 and the deficit is growing. 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.
 - D. The Property Committee has completed the HVAC project to replace the 35-year-old air-conditioning system that services the Sanctuary. The Fellowship Hall air-conditioning system, also 35 years old, is being replaced currently. The total cost is estimated at \$80,000. The Capital Campaign funds are expected to cover the expense. The Council is asking for directed donations to the Capital Campaign fund to help offset this capital expense.
 - E. The Council is grateful to share that our congregation has been the recipient of a generous legacy gift by Carol Estes. This gift is a testament to her deep love for our church and her vision for our future. While this gift provides a much-needed bridge to sustainability, it is not a replacement for our collective participation. Our ministries continue to depend on the faithful, recurring contributions of our members.
 - F. The Council has approved a new continuing resolution regarding the allocation of undesignated bequests, which has now been formally added to our constitution. This update establishes a structured framework for managing future gifts to ensure a sustainable balance between our long-term financial health, daily operating needs, and outward benevolence.
 - G. The Transitional Committee (Call Committee) has expressed that they are working with a Senior Pastor candidate and are in the early interview process.
 - H. All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the church office manager. Susan Gutshall, NHELC 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.
 - I. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
 - J. Giving/offering envelopes - if you are using an electronic giving method (Simply Giving, Tithely) and do not need offering envelopes please contact Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall.
- The next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Sunshine Learning Center News

At the end of May, New Hanover Sunshine Learning Center welcomed the staff and families of Grace Early Learning Center into its school community. Volunteers from New Hanover Lutheran Church, along with Grace staff and several school board members, came together to help move classroom furniture and materials to Sunshine Learning Center. It was a wonderful team effort. On moving day, staff were warmly welcomed with a much-appreciated luncheon, and they worked hard to set up their rooms in time to open for the first day of summer camp the following day. Since then, New Hanover Church volunteers have been so helpful in getting the learning environment set up by hanging shelves and bulletin boards, donating items no longer needed, reorganizing the craft closet, and finding new homes for duplicate items. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support as Sunshine Learning Center begins this new chapter together.



Our summer camp program is off to a great start for children ages one - five. Each week features a new theme, including Stuffed Animal Friends, Let's Go Camping, Fairytale Fun, and Sun, Sand, & Smiles. Staff build classroom centers, art, and dramatic play activities around each theme. recently, the children also enjoyed our first water play day with outdoor water table activities. We look forward to many fun learning themes as we continue our summer camp program here at Sunshine Learning Center!



Camp Falckner Galilean Worship

Join us for a special worship service at the conclusion of Camp Falckner. On July 29th, our Galilean Worship Service will take place at 8:45 in the chapel area of our picnic grove (if the weather is bad, watch for alternate plans). Please arrive at 8:30 and bring a chair. We will meet in the pavilion and walk out to the outdoor chapel. Skits and snacks will follow worship.

Upcoming CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday to

Alice Nester

97th birthday, July 12th

Walnut Woods Apt. 301

35 North Walnut Street

Boyertown, PA 19512

Joan Price

90th birthday, July 29th

61 Bard's Way

Pottstown, PA 19464

21 Bill Helmer, Darby Smale Seng, Justin

Trowbridge

23 Natalie Lindenmuth, Jordan Morrell, Don

Swavely

24 Robert Snell

25 Julian Cole, Austin Spencer

26 Sarah Hollis, Mallory Sugita

27 Mark Bowman, Kenneth Shellenberger II

28 Alaina Christ, Patty Grzywacz

29 Lily Hoffman

30 Janet Psota, Brandy Smale

Also celebrating a birthday in July

1 Gerald Dotterer, Jamie LeVan, Lucille Powell,
Heather Wurst

2 Lori Corcoran, Vicki Dotterer, Teagan Martin,
Jamison Rothermel

3 Lisa Heck, Lisa Hibbs, Rylan Rupell, April
Smith

4 June Urbassik

5 Cara Boyer, Matt Landis, Carolyn Velazquez

6 Pearl Moyer

7 Barbara Dunn, Dominick Marino

8 Gianna Marino, Dave Pollock, Sr., Doug
Rhoads

9 Jack Bowers, Randy Dotterer, Stacy
Trowbridge, Kate Wenerowicz

10 Ryan Schweiger, Taylor Waller, Logan
Williams

11 Brian Hansley, Jr., Addison Smith, Steve
Weidner

12 Lily Lane, Anita Rath

13 Ryan Dubbs, Scott Geiser, Gavin Quinn

14 Tom Holiday, Ryan Springer

15 Mason Artim

16 Matthew Cavalari, Jim Edwards, Blake
Hennessy

17 Michael McCarthy, Randy Morrell

18 Archie Allen, Jr., Lisa Evans, Todd Stapleton,
Erik Yanisko

19 Ronald Rath, Meredith Sugita

20 Amanda Halteman, Kerwin Reber, Kaci
Tadley

July Anniversaries

5 Mike and June Urbassik

6 Russell and Lois Biehl

11 Kevin and Robyn Brunner

13 Mike and Jennifer McCarthy

17 Nicholas and Dana Gilbert

20 Alex and Darby Smale Seng

22 Allan and Sue Care

23 Pr. Scott and Marsha Staub

25 Kyle and Molly Woods

27 Jeff and Sharon Wise

30 Robb Davis and Jenn Dell'Alba

31 Bill and Wendy Helmer
Don and Andi Swavely

Book Club enjoys summer read

The NHELC Book Club is reading *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. Join the club for dinner and book discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown on Tuesday, August 4th, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about the book club, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.

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-

tal, 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.

NHELC is a Reconciling in Christ Church



2026 Council

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

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
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.



2026 SUMMER EVENTS

NEW HANOVER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE

14 - CHICKEN DINNER 3-6 AT PICNIC GROVE (SONS OF PHELAN 4-7PM)
15-19 - RAINFOREST FALLS KIDS CAMP (POTTY TRAINED PRE-K - RISING 5TH GRADERS)
29 - RITA'S FUNDRAISER FOR THE 2027 YOUTH GATHERING

JULY

8 - 6:30 - CANDY BAR BINGO IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
26 - WORSHIP AT THE GROVE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST (CAMP FALCKNER TENT SETUP)
27-30 - CAMP FALCKNER (FOR 6TH -12TH GRADE YOUTH)

AUG

3 - BOYERTOWN DAIRY QUEEN NIGHT - SHOW FLYER TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING TRIP
10 - HOT WHEELS COOL TREATS *BRING YOUR OWN WHEELS TO HAVE FUN AT THE CHURCH
19 - MINI GOLF AND ICE CREAM AT WALTZ GOLF
22 - THE GREAT SWAMP PICNIC - AT THE GROVE
23 - BACKPACK BLESSING

SEPT

13 - MOVE UP & GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY & JAM KICKOFF - 11:30
PICNIC AT THE GROVE (AFTER JAM)

GARDEN HARVESTING MON & THURS AT 7:00 AM

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT
WWW.NEWHANOVERLUTHERAN.ORG OR FOLLOW
US ON FACEBOOK (SEARCH OUR CHURCH NAME)**





**HAPPY
TASTES
GOOD®**

**+ Join Us!*

DQ® Fundraising Event

NHELC Youth Group

DQ will donate 20% of DQ sales

**Monday
August 3rd
5-7 PM**

1050 E Philadelphia Ave, Gilbertsville PA

To join in, either...

Mention the
Fundraising Event
Bring this flyer

