

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Hot Wheels/Cool Treat



Mini Golf/Ice Cream



Garden of Hope



Camp Falckner

ore Opportunities Explore Opportunities Explore Opportunities Explore Opp



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Rain or shine, come and dine at The Great Swamp Picnic

Saturday, August 22nd, 4:00 - 8:00 PM

The annual Great Swamp Picnic will soon be here! This 100+ year tradition for NHELCH (New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church) members and community offers lots of food and fun for all ages. Food, including the ever-popular hot roast beef sandwiches, will be available for purchase from 4:00 - 8:00 PM. Other menu favorites include pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, French fries, ice cream and more! We offer free kids games, a flea market to benefit a local charity and entertainment by the Boyertown Area Alumni Marching Unit (6:00 - 8:00).

Help Needed

Lots of volunteer opportunities are available leading up to and on the day of the picnic. A schedule of volunteer opportunities will be available soon. If you can help, contact Sally Sugita at 610-505-9682.

Flea Market Treasures

Got some attic treasures that need a new home? Bring them to the picnic grove on Friday, August 21st, for the picnic flea market. Sorry, we cannot accept large furniture or electronics. Any questions, call Vicki Mutter at 484-363-0639.

The picnic grove is located on Swamp Picnic Road between Rte. 663 and Lutheran Road.

National Youth Gathering

NHELC youth will hold a DQ fundraiser event on **Monday, August 3rd, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.** Take this flyer to the DQ at 1050 East Philadelphia Avenue in Gilbertsville on the date and designated time above and present it when you order. DQ will donate 20% of the designated sales to help support our youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering 2027.

A POINT TO PONDER

Do not follow where the path may lead.
Follow God instead, where there is no path,
and leave a trail.



The flyer is for a DQ fundraising event. At the top, the DQ logo is on the left and the slogan "HAPPY TASTES GOOD" is on the right. Below the logo, it says "Join Us!" with a star icon, followed by "DQ® Fundraising Event" in large bold letters. Underneath that, it says "NHELC Youth Group". A line of text states "DQ will donate 20% of DQ sales". The event details are listed: "Monday August 3rd 5-7 PM" and "1050 E Philadelphia Ave, Gilbertsville PA". To the right of the text is an image of two DQ drinks: a blue cup of Blizzard with cookie toppings and a pink smoothie with a swirl of white soft-serve ice cream. At the bottom left, it says "To join in, either... Mention the Fundraising Event Bring this flyer". At the very bottom, in small print, it says "All trademarks owned by AM, D.Q. Corp. Mpls, MN. ©2025."

DQ 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

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Hot Wheels and Cool Treats Monday, August 10th

Bring your bike or scooter (Please no e-bikes or scooters) and come and have some fun in the church parking lot. Ride around and then we will have a cool treat. Helmets are required (Vicar Nikki, in a previous career a long time ago, was a pro at fitting bike helmets, so if you need some help, you can ask her!) We will ride from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Help us plan by signing up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-64921149-hotwheels>.

FAMILY FUN Ice Cream & Mini Golf Wednesday, August 19th

Join us at Waltz Golf Farm for some mini golf and ice cream on Wednesday, August 19th, at 7:00 PM. We will have some fun prizes. Ice cream will be order what you want. You may pay for your golf game when you get there. The cost is \$10 or \$11, depending on which course you choose. Please sign up by August 16th so they can be prepared for our group. Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-64921250-mini>.

Donate food for Pottstown Cluster

Local families in the Pottstown area need our help.

Throughout the months of August, September and October, 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. Thank you for your contributions that will help those in need.

A special thank you to all who donated during the spring months to the Pottstown Cluster boxes. With the help of a Thrivent Action Team project, we donated 155 pounds of food and personal care items.

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities Most Needed Food Items

- Canned Oranges in Juice
- Canned Pineapple in Juice
- Individual Shelf Stable Milk
- Dry Milk
- Fruit Juice
- Canned Ham
- Broth
- Beef Stew
- Pork and Beans
- Spam
- Chili
- Jelly
- Pancake Syrup
- Ready to Eat Meals (Hormel)
- Crackers
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste

Thank you for your help.

Backpack Blessing



Students, teachers, and school staff are welcome to join us on Sunday, August 23rd, for our 9:00 AM worship service. Bring your backpack or just come up front to take part in the blessing.

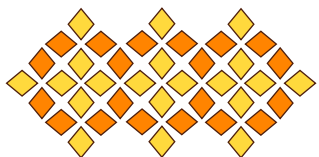
God on Tap

Thursday, August 6th

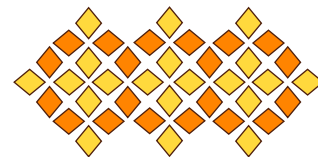
The next God on Tap is at the Dotterer's Pool! There will be no agenda but FUN! Bring swimming suits and towels, perhaps beverages of your choice. We'll have beer on tap and adult slushies. RSVP to Randy Dotterer at 610-306-0621 or if you have any questions about this event.



Can you help with harvesting and maintenance on Mondays and/or Thursdays beginning at 7:00 AM? And, if that doesn't fit your schedule, can you pull weeds at your convenience? NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Any questions, contact Jim Mack at jimmack203@gmail.com or Steve Weidner at foodministry@newhanoverlutheran.org. Your help is appreciated.



Breakfast Fellowship



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, August 8th, 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.

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, August 12th, 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.



Music Ministry News



Do you like to express your faith through music?

Music is a treasured part of our life together as an ELCA congregation, proclaiming God's grace and giving voice to our faith. Through hymns, anthems, and special music, our choir and musicians enrich our worship, inspire our hearts, and help lead the congregation in joyful praise. We are deeply grateful for those who share their musical gifts in service to Christ and the church. If you enjoy singing and are looking for a meaningful way to serve, we warmly invite you to join our choir. Whether you have years of experience or simply a love of music and a willing spirit, your voice can help lead our congregation in joyful praise as we "sing to the Lord a new song" (Psalm 96:1). There is a place for you in our music ministry. Together, we celebrate God's abundant love

and help our congregation sing with joy, hope, and thanksgiving.

To learn more about our adult or children's choir, or to become a member, contact **Patricia Nyce**, director of music, at 267-252-3020 or patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org. We would be delighted to welcome you and your family to our music ministry!



Hymn Sing Sunday, August 30th

As the unofficial days of summer come to an end, be sure to join in the final Hymn Sing on August 30th. The Hymn Sing begins at 8:45 and offers an opportunity for the congregation to sing their favorite hymns. Be sure to find your seat in the pew by 8:45 on Sunday, August 30th, and be ready to request your favorite hymn to sing.

DOES YOUR CHILD LOVE TO SING?

Why not join our Church Children's Choir J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)?

Do you love to sing, laugh, and have fun? Then we have the perfect place for you! Our Children's Choir is looking for enthusiastic boys and girls who want to make joyful music and praise God with their voices.

No experience is needed—just bring your smile, your excitement, and your love for God!

Why Should You Join?

 **Praise God Through Music** – Use your voice to worship and glorify Him.

 **Have Fun!** – Sing exciting songs, learn new music, and enjoy every rehearsal.

 **Make New Friends** – Meet other children who love God and enjoy singing together.

 **Build Confidence** – Grow your singing skills and shine as you sing during church services.

 **Serve God with Your Gifts** – Every voice matters, and God has given each of us unique talents to share.

Come be part of something special! Together we'll sing, worship, learn, and grow in God's love while making wonderful memories. Invite a friend to join with you!

 **Everyone is Welcome!**

Ages: 3 to 12

Rehearsals: Every Sunday, 11am to 11:15am. First rehearsal will be September 20th.

Location: Choir Room

 **For More Information**

Choir Director: Patricia Nyce

Phone: 267-252-3020

Email: patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org

We can't wait to welcome you to our Children's Choir family!



From the Vicar

As I write this, it seems impossible that summer is already beginning to wind down. Before we know it, school buses will be back on

the roads, backpacks will be filled with fresh supplies, and families will be settling into new routines. August often feels like a bridge—a time between the slower pace of summer and the busy schedules of fall.

For many, this season brings excitement. Students look forward to seeing friends, trying new classes, or participating in sports and activities. For others, it brings uncertainty. A new school, a new teacher, new challenges, or even the pressure of balancing everything can feel overwhelming. Whether you are a student, a parent, a grandparent, an educator, or simply someone who loves the children in our community, this is a wonderful time to remember that God walks with us into every new beginning.

Isaiah 41:10 reminds us:

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Those words are just as true in a classroom as they are in a sanctuary. God is already present in every hallway, every classroom, every office, and every home. As a church family, let’s commit to praying for our students, teachers, school staff, bus drivers, administrators, and parents throughout the coming year. A few moments of prayer each day can have a lasting impact.

As we prepare for a new season, we also have an opportunity to celebrate the blessings of community at our **Great Swamp Picnic on Saturday, August 22**. Gatherings like these remind us that the church is more than a building—we are a family. Sharing a meal, enjoying laughter, welcoming new

faces, and spending time together strengthens the relationships that carry us through every season of life.

Whether you’ve been part of our congregation for decades or have just recently joined us, I hope you’ll come to the picnic. It’s a wonderful chance to reconnect after the summer months and to welcome those who are looking for a church home. Sometimes the simplest invitation—“Come join us for a picnic”—can be the beginning of a lifelong friendship or even a renewed journey of faith.

As summer gives way to fall, may we embrace the opportunities God places before us. May we encourage one another, pray for one another, and continue to be a community where everyone knows they are loved by Christ.

May God bless our students as they learn, our teachers as they serve, our families as they adjust to new routines, and our congregation as we continue to grow together in faith.

Grace and peace,

Vicar Nikki Young



The NHEL C 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.

Council Corner

Highlights from the July 16, 2026 Meeting

1. Finance reported the total General Fund budget deficit YTD as of June 30, 2026 was \$36,154.47 (May 31, 2026 reporting was \$31,635.39). Please make an effort to “catch up” on your giving in 2026.
2. Finance reported income and expenses as of June 30, 2026 (50% of the year) - congregational giving was 41.62% and expenses were 41.57% 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.
3. The approved 2026 General Fund budget is a **deficit** budget of ~\$90,000. We are 50% 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, maintain our staff, **and call a new Pastor**, the Council is strongly encouraging each giving unit to increase giving to the extent possible.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The Transitional Committee (Call Committee) has expressed that they are working with a Pastor candidate and are in the interview process with Council involvement.
7. All meeting and event requests by committees, members or non-members are to be communicated to the Church Office Manager. Susan Gutshall, NHELCO 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.
8. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
9. Giving/offering envelopes - if you are using an electronic giving method (Simply Giving, Tithe.ly) 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, August 20, 2026, at 6:30 PM.



Camp Falckner 2026

Theme: "God Is Greater"



Vicar Nikki led campers in worship every morning.

This year, 27 youth participated in Camp Falckner on Monday, July 27th, through Thursday, July 30th. On Monday, campers delivered 800 bags to local communities for the annual Preston's Pantry food collection for the Boyertown Area Multi-Service. The campers returned on Wednesday to pick up the donations, organized and taken the food to Multi-Service.



On Tuesday, campers filled backpacks for local students.





On Monday afternoon, campers visited seniors.

Slow down

Walk a little slower, Daddy, said a little child so small.
I'm following in your footsteps and I don't want to fall.

Sometimes your steps are very fast; sometimes
they're hard to see. So walk a little slower, Daddy, for
you are leading me.

Someday when I'm all grown up, you're what I want
to be. Then I will have a little child who'll want to fol-
low me.

And I would want to lead just right, and know that I
was true; So walk a little slower, Daddy, for I must
follow you.

—Author unknown



Follow me

When Christ calls us by his grace, we ought not only to remember what we are, but we ought also to think of what he can make us. It is, "Follow me, and *I will make you.*" We should repent of what we have been, but rejoice in what we may be.

It is not "Follow me because of what you are already." It is not "Follow me because you may make something of yourselves" but "Follow me because of what I will make you."

— Charles Spurgeon



Sunshine Learning Center Holds first summer camping program

Our summer camps for children ages one - five at New Hanover Sunshine Learning Center have been a wonderful success.

Throughout June and July, our students engaged in a variety of exciting activities:

Forest Critters Week

PreK classes painted squirrels, made ripped paper bear caves, and created paper chain snakes.

Red, White, & Blue Bonanza Week

Students painted fireworks, made foam flags, and dressed in patriotic colors.

Backyard Bugs Week

Children in the Happy Hedgehog room wore handmade bee headbands and our older students created smash-paint butterflies.

In addition to these themed activities, the children have been enjoying our outdoor playground daily, using the indoor playground on hotter days, and participating in our weekly water play days.

We also want to extend a huge thank you to the New Hanover Church volunteers who helped us spread mulch in early July to ensure our playground remains safe for the students. Our staff has been working diligently preparing their classrooms for the upcoming school year. NHSLC staff is looking forward to welcoming so many families into New Hanover Sunshine Learning Center in September.

Stephanie Houck
New Hanover Sunshine Learning Center Director

A POINT TO PONDER

From Knowing to Becoming

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

— Ned Erickson





AUGUST CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday

- 1 Nathaniel Bechtel
- 2 Ryan Camp, Patrick Dinsmore, Scarlet Smale
- 3 Mason Kemp, Brittney Miller, Vicki Mutter,
Andrew Parker, Ada Poster, Lilly Smith
- 4 Timothy Eddinger, Luca Galliano
- 5 Brent Corcoran, Tina Phillips, Tessa Schiavo
- 6 Bruce Ritter
- 7 Kenneth Motzer, Sue Norris, Laurie Pinter
- 8 Jessica Harrity, Tanner Quigley
- 9 Collins Quigley, Matthew Shirk, Jo Anne Wirt
- 10 Casey Agliano, Keith Crowther
- 12 Will Davis, Dana Gilbert, Tyler Landis, Nova
McKenrick, Sarah Ray
- 13 Melanie Bauer, Erica Lucas, Lori Weisbach
- 14 Amy Sharp, Evelyn Springer, Autumn
Wojnarek
- 15 Rae Bechtel
- 16 Hunter Houseal
- 17 Andy Van Dyke
- 18 Alex Boys, Shirley Miller, Andi Swavely,
Gregory Wirt
- 19 Elese Christ, Troy Girard, Henry Houseal,
Rachel Magee, London Meeker, Morgan Pell,
Kayleigh Urbassik, Lauren Waller
- 20 Brian Bechtel, Caleb Woods
- 21 Daniel Cole, Brianna Lynn
- 22 Andrew Mayan
- 23 Alex Eisenhart, Karen Williams
- 24 Tom Faust, Mary Alice Mack
- 25 Gabriel Cole, Jace Kunsch, Ben MacLuckie,
Jane Manthorne, George Trowbridge
- 26 Pamela Shellenberger
- 27 Dorothy Stapleton
- 29 Tyler Smith
- 30 David Gaugler, Claire Hennessey, William

Kehe, Jackie Rhoads, Alyssa Soupik, Sharon
Spencer

- 31 Emma Allen, Kathy Delaney

Happy Anniversary

- 1 Scot and Kelly Smale
- 2 Todd and Stacey Rothermel
- 7 Michael and April Smith
- 8 Ron and Corrine Bartholomew
- 10 James and Rebecca Wabish
- 12 Bill and Kathy Borneman
- 14 Don and Jo Anne Wirt
- 16 Jamie and Alyssa Soupik
- 20 Michael and Christine Miller
- 26 Bob and Suzanne Dodge
- 31 Michael and Debra Black
Doug and Jackie Rhoads

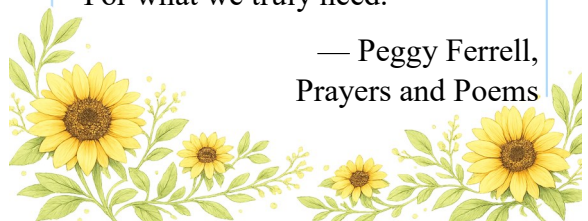


The Hand of God

God's gentle Hand is guiding,
But it doesn't push or shove,
Instead it clasps our human hands
And leads with Grace and Love.

We find within this Hand of God
A heavenly Strength indeed,
And as we follow, God provides
For what we truly need.

— Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems



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



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



For God
so loved
the world



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.