

October 2026

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Take a Look Inside

Upcoming Events

God on Tap	2
Pregnancy/Infant Loss Service ..	2
Breakfast Fellowship	2
Lego Bingo	2
Book Club	2
In God's Image	3
Save the Date	3

Youth Events

First Communion	3
Flutter Corn Maze	3
Trunk or Treat	3

NHELC Ministries

Food Ministry Help Needed	4
Pottstown Cluster Collection	4
Substance Abuse Awareness	4
Sunshine Learning Center	5
Letter from Vicar	5
Council Corner	6
October Celebrations	7
Contact Information	8
Council	8
Welcome Statement	8

Seasonal fun for all at the Pumpkin Frolic

Sunday, October 25th, 3 – 5 PM

The annual New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church (NHELC) Pumpkin Frolic will soon be here! This is an enjoyable event for all ages. Come join the fun of pumpkin related activities including pumpkin painting, fall crafts, and games. Participants will be painting pumpkins, not carving them for safety purposes. Pumpkins and paint will be provided. We will close with a light meal consisting of hotdogs and snack foods.

The Pumpkin Frolic is a Thrivent Action team service project so there is no charge; however, **bring some nonperishable food for Preston's Pantry** at Boyertown Area Multi-Service. To sign up, use the designated sheet on the desk in the welcome center, or go online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAAF4C16-66083886-pumpkin>, or use the QR Code. To be sure enough pumpkins will be available, **sign up by Monday, October 19th**. This event will be held in fellowship hall.



A SENIORS MINISTRY EVENT

Sharing Stories from Beyond

Thursday, October 8th, 1:30 PM

Come and welcome the seniors group from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Telford, who will join us in learning more about the history of our church as well as to hear stories about some of the special folks "in residence" in New Hanover Lutheran Church's cemetery. Presenters are Amanda Schlick, Carol Detweiler and others. Light refreshments and fellowship will follow the storytelling. You won't want to miss this event! Sign up today using the signup sheet on the desk in the Welcome Center. This event will be held in Fellowship Hall.



God on Tap

Thursday, October 1st, 6 PM

God on Tap meets at the Main St. Pub in Bally for dinner, drinks and discussion of a Christian topic. The discussion subject for October will be, “Halloween – satanic connotations or harmless fun for children?” For more information and to RSVP, contact Randy Dotterer via email at rdptw6489@gmail.com or text at 610-306-0621 by noon on October 1st.



Pregnancy and Infant Loss Service

Sunday, October 11th, 6:30 PM

Join us for a service honoring and remembering pregnancy and infant loss. If you know someone who would benefit from this service, come and invite them to join you.



Breakfast Gathering

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, October 14th, 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, October 10th, 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.

LEGO Bingo

To Benefit the National Youth Gathering Trip

Please note: This is a ticketed event!

Come one and come all to our LEGO Bingo on **Saturday, November 7th**, at Sassamansville Fire Company - 1865 Hoffmansville Road.

4:00	Doors open
4:30-6:00	Kitchen open for food
5:30	Start selling bingo packages
6:30	Bingo begins

Tickets are \$30 for 20 games. There will be a blackout bingo, raffles and 50/50, all to support our youth. Tickets will be sold in the welcome center or contact the church office. Also, watch for flyers to distribute as well. Come out for fun and to support our youth on this great trip!

LEGO Donations

Also, you can help by donating LEGO sets for our LEGO bingo to allow our youth to raise more funds. Any name-brand LEGO sets are fine. For smaller sets, we will package them together. We have an Amazon wish list to help, but feel free to shop around. If you find a sale – GREAT! If you are really up for an adventure, check Facebook Marketplace. Sets must be NEW and unopened. Any donations can be brought to Vicar Nikki in the church office! Here is the Amazon wish list - https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ION1CNCX00M3?ref=wl_share.



Book Club meets

Tuesday, October 6th, 6:30 PM

The NHELC Book Club is reading “6:40 to Montreal” by Eva Jurczyk. Join the club for dinner and book discussion at the WQ Diner in Pottstown on Tuesday, October 6th, at 6:30 PM. Any questions about the book club, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.

In God's Image

In God's Image (IGI) is a Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (SEPA) sponsored event designed to help congregations explore how to fully welcome all who are beloved and made in God's image. This learning day will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Reformation Lutheran Church, 102 West Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19036. Carpooling is available. If you are interested in learning more or attending the event, scan this QR code. If you have any questions contact Sharon Tracey (LBD36@aol.com).



Class prepares kids for first communion

Kids in second grade and up are eligible for First Communion. First Communion will be observed on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2026. If your child is ready and would like to participate, contact Vicar Nikki. We plan to hold a First Communion class on Wednesday, October 14th, from 6:00 – 7:00 in Fellowship Hall. If that date or time does not work, reach out to Vicar Nikki ASAP.



Flutter event

Sunday, October 11th, 6:30 PM

We will meet at Wilcox Farms in Boyertown. The cost is \$10/person. Bring a flashlight! RSVP in the Band app. See Lindsey Waltermeyer or Hayley Quigley with questions.

SAVE THE DATE

Fun and fellowship opportunities

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 25th

Breakfast with Santa

Fundraiser for National Youth Gathering
December 12th

Christmas Pageant

December 6th

Advent/Christmas Craft Event

December 13th

After worship



Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 24th, 5 - 7 PM

You can help make the 2026 NHELCC Trunk or Treat a great success!

Host a Trunk

Those hosting a trunk must arrive between 4:00 – 4:30 PM to set up. This will be open to the public so plan on having candy/treats for about 200 kids – we have no idea what to expect. The Church will try to have some extra candy on hand. Trunks must stay in place until the event ends.

Please note: To host a trunk you must be affiliated with NHELCC, Troop or Pack 367 OR Sunshine Learning Center.

Extra Support

Also, we need volunteers to man the food table(s) and assist with parking.

To help, go to the SignUpGenius at
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAC2CAA4C16-65815756-2026#/>.



Food Ministry needs your help

The Food Ministry has the following vacancies:

Volunteer Coordinator

Assigns meal delivery drivers, meal staging support and kitchen help.

Purchasing Agent

This person will purchase produce, kitchen supplies, packaging materials and manage food and meal inventories.

Cooks

Cooks are needed immediately. Jim Davidheiser has committed to preparing meals two days every four weeks and we are looking for at least two other cooks to do the same. Schedules are extremely flexible. Jim will get the new cooks familiar with the kitchen and activities required.

Contact Steve Weidner at foodministry@newhanoverlutheran.org if interested or to learn more. Job descriptions are available.



Can you help our neighbors?

Non-perishable food and hygiene donations in October will be distributed through the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. Collection boxes are located in the welcome center and fellowship hall for the donations.

Most Needed Items

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

Thank you for your help.

Corey & Kimberly's Ride Continues

A pursuit to raise awareness and help those who are struggling with substance use disorder find their way

**Saturday, October 3rd, 11 AM – 5 PM
Alburtis Fire Company Social Hall
328 S. Main St., Alburtis**

Motorcycle ride (11 AM), food, face painting, vendors, programs, speakers, live music, cake walk, basket raffles and video game truck. For more information, go to www.ridecontinues.org. Rain date is October 4th.

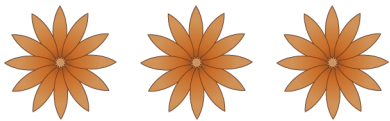
Sunshine Learning Center



Students at New Hanover Sunshine Learning Center are settling into their new school routines with their teachers and classmates.

During the center's first fire drill of the school year, students listened to the alarm from outside the building. In October, they will hear the alarm from inside and then practice evacuating. This gradual approach gives students time to become familiar with the sound before completing a full indoor drill.

At the end of September, students also attended their first music class with Mrs. Horne and their first gym class with Mrs. Houck. They have been enjoying the fall weather on the playground. Our new toddler playground is expected to be ready sometime in October. We are looking forward to some fun fall activities as we are planning a school wide field trip and a Halloween parade and classroom parties.



Letter from Vicar



Dear Friends,

October always feels like a month of transition. The leaves begin to change, the air gets a little cooler, and we start settling into the rhythms of fall. It seems like a good time to pause and take stock—to notice where we have been and to give thanks for where God is leading us.

This month, we are also beginning our stewardship campaign. And I know that the word *stewardship* can sometimes make us think about budgets, pledge cards, and numbers. Those things matter, but stewardship is about something much bigger.

It is about gratitude.

I have the privilege of a front-row seat to some of the generosity in this congregation. I see people giving their time—volunteering, helping with worship, taking care of things around the church, and stepping up when something needs to be done.

I see people quietly helping others without needing recognition.

Sometimes that generosity even comes in unexpected ways. Sometimes someone hands us a check and simply says, “Use it where it is needed.” We see generosity through memorial gifts, through people sharing their talents, and through all the little acts of kindness that happen here every week.

And I also get to see our church council working hard to be good stewards of the financial resources that this congregation entrusts to the church. They take seriously the responsibility of making sure those resources are used wisely and faithfully to support our ministry.

All of this reminds me that stewardship isn't really about what the church asks of us. It is about recognizing what God has already given to us.

Jesus tells us, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) Jesus

understood that our generosity has something to do with our hearts. Giving is one way we say, “I am grateful for what God has given me, and I want to be part of what God is doing.”

That doesn’t mean everyone gives the same amount. We have different circumstances, different gifts, and different seasons of life. But each of us has something to offer—our time, our abilities, our prayers, our encouragement, our financial resources, and simply our presence.

And when all of those gifts come together, something wonderful happens.

We become the church.

We become a community that can worship together, care for one another, reach out to our neighbors, support ministries beyond our walls, and remain a place where people can encounter the love and grace of God.

So as we move through this stewardship season, I hope we can approach it with gratitude rather than obligation. Instead of simply asking, “How much should I give?” perhaps we can also ask, “What has God given me, and how might I share it?”

Because when I look around this congregation, I see that generosity is already here. I see it in the people who show up. I see it in those who serve. I see it in the gifts that are given quietly and faithfully. I see it in the way people care for one another.

And for all of that, I am deeply grateful.

Thank you for being part of this community of faith. Thank you for the many ways you give of yourselves. And most of all, thank you for helping make this church a place where God’s love continues to be shared.

May this season of stewardship remind all of us that we are blessed—not simply so that we can keep those blessings for ourselves, but so that we can become a blessing to others.

With gratitude,

Vicar Nikki Young

Council Corner

Highlights from the September 17th meeting

- A. Finance reported the total General Fund budget deficit YTD as of August 31, 2026 was \$8,297.00 (July 31, 2026 reporting was \$24,169.79). Please make an effort to “catch up” on your giving in 2026. Your efforts are appreciated as the deficit is shrinking, however we are not paying a full-time Pastor position at this time, and the Council is managing expenses below budget.
- B. Finance reported income and expenses as of August 31, 2026 (66.7% of the year) - congregational giving was 60.48% and expenses were 51.84% of the approved 2026 budget. Council is keeping expenses in check and in alignment with the current giving percentage, but giving is behind the congregation approved budget expectations.
- C. The approved 2026 General Fund budget is a **deficit** budget of ~\$90,000. We are 66.7% through 2026 and a deficit still exists. The deficit will vary depending on the timing of a new 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.
- D. The Call Committee has made a recommendation to the Council to move the pastoral candidate forward in the call process. The Council has met with the Call Committee and pastoral candidate and approved moving the process forward to a congregational vote to extend a call. More information will be provided in the near future.
- E. 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.

- F. 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.
- G. During weekday hours when the Sunshine Learning Center is open, building access in the Learning Center wing is secured.

Certain clearances are required to access that part of the building. Please schedule any access needs in advance with Susan Gutshall. Escort is required if access is needed without clearances. Scheduling access is required with the Learning Center Director.

- H. If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
- I. 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.
- J. The next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:30 PM.



October Celebrations



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Verdie Smith, who celebrates her 93rd birthday on October 26th.

To can send birthday greetings to Verdie using the address below.

176 Pinehurst Way
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Also celebrating a birthday

- 1 Presley McNichol, Leona Renninger, Michael Smith, Jr.
- 2 Barbara Bower, Amy LeVan, Keith Renninger
- 3 Scarlett Kulp, Keith Weaver
- 4 Landon DeLong, Malaina Meeker, Dot Pollock, Corinne Schnee
- 6 Carolina Hansley, Tina Hennessey
- 7 Connor Harrity, Donna Smith
- 9 Ashlie Gorman, Marsha Staub
- 10 Natalie Harrington, Teresa Yancik
- 11 Aurelia Cardillo, Shane Forsyth, Richard Freed, Jonathan Rothermel
- 12 Lindsey Waltermeyer, Ryan Weaver
- 13 Kevin Brunner, Tim Evans, Georgann Geiser
- 14 Corey King, Diana Perez
- 16 Ed Phillips, Abby Sauers, Seth Williams
- 17 Aidan Beaver, Kylie McAndrew, Emma

Wenerowicz

- 18 Olivia Helmer, Michael F. Smith
- 19 Carolyn Fleming, Jackson Solarz
- 21 Ainsley Lucas, Kyle Singley
- 22 Sue Swartz, Doug Weaver
- 23 Suzanne Dodge, Valentina Sabastro
- 24 Cheyenne Cole
- 26 Julia DePaul, Bonnie Eichenlaub, Beckett Herold
- 27 Maya Brunner, Kenneth Grzywacz, Judith Kingsepp, David Rhoads
- 29 Vanessa Harrity
- 30 Jennifer Ammarell, Jim Dugan, Jared Pinter, Pr. Scott Staub, Sam Young
- 31 Bethany Bechtel, Monique Becker, Ronald Weller, Cassidy Williams

Anniversaries

- 1 Daniel and Ranell Cole
Jared and Valarie Dubbs
Peter and Heather Wurst
- 2 Joe and Lisa Caputo
Cameron and Michele Parker
Greg and Janet Psota
Mark and Kathy Webb
- 4 Joe and Cara Houseal

- 10 Josh and Morgan Fox
- 12 Jason and Rachelle Kunsch
- 14 Thom and Lisa Heck
- 15 Bob Moyer and Kym Walther-Moyer
- 16 David and Gwen Grant
Lincoln and Barbara Noecker
- 17 Bruce and Bethann Ritter
Preston and Darlene Smith
- 18 Norm and Brenda Hunsberger
- 20 Ron and Lynn Fegley
Wayne and LuAnne Fowler
- 21 Ray and Fay Feick
- 23 Matt and Amy Marazas
Doug and Bette Senne
- 27 Jack and Kathleen Bowers
- 29 Joe and Kathy Jo Hoffman
Matthew and Ally Kulp



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 Council

Edward Becker, treasurer

Monique Becker

Steve Eisenhart, secretary

Marty Hauser, vice-president

Jim Mack

Yvonne Peto

Todd Rothermel, president

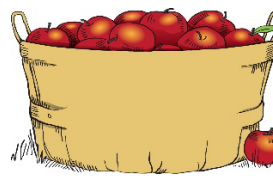
Dee Singley

Andy Van Dyke, financial secretary

Nikki Young, vicar

Contact Council

council@newhanoverlutheran.org



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 hospitality, 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

