

NEW HANOVER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONGREGATION

Mission Statement:

We commit ourselves to be an active, growing and serving community of Christians, witnessing and sharing God's grace in Jesus Christ

Since 1858 the New Hanover Lutheran congregation bell has resonated over the valley every Sunday morning serving both as a reminder and invitation to come and witness the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 153 years have rolled by and the old church building has witnessed many changes – good and bad – but stands strong and proud amongst the sugarcane and can testify to a grand and proud history and a future ensconced in the Word.

The New Hanover Lutheran Congregation was constituted in 1858 by the farmers H Sieckmeyer, F Aulfes and G Bosse who were members of the Hermannsburg Congregation. They undertook to recruit other German Settlers in the area to join the congregation. The new congregation was given the name “New Hanover”, named after the Kingdom of Hannover from whence most of the German-speaking settlers had come.

The first pastor of the new congregation, Heinrich Schütte took up residence in a simple wattle-and-daub structure that served as manse, church and school. In 1859 a two-roomed structure of raw bricks and thatch was built also serving a three- fold purpose. The handsome sandstone church building as it stands now was erected in 1867 and has undergone many renovations and improvements in order to accommodate the congregants every Sunday morning.

As the church building has undergone its changes; so too the dynamics of the congregation functions have been an ever evolving process and have changed over the years. Today the New Hanover Lutheran Congregation still guards its school under its wing and has also built a Care Centre for the Aged called Brunfelsia - meaning Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. The Piggery and Sugar Cane endeavours are still strong and without this financial backup NH Preparatory School and Brunfelsia would not operate as such successful businesses.

Although the church building stands proud and has indeed been declared a National Monument in March 1985, we would like to think that the church is made up of its congregants and that they are the true brick and mortar of the congregation. The congregation is made up of mostly German and English speaking members and therefore two con-currant services are being held every month on a Sunday morning, at 8:30. One service is in English and the other in German. In order to make two services possible the congregation makes use of Lay Preachers and Lay Readers to administer one of the services either in the Church or the Hall. Twice a month a Combined Service is held where the two groups are able to fellowship together.

Over the years the need for a more informal Sunday service arose which was motivated especially by the younger congregation members. A group of musicians came together to play Praise and Worship music and since 2006 this Worship service remains a popular and respected form of worship in the New Hanover Congregation.

On a Sunday morning the children look forward to Sunday School. At this young and impressionable age it is important to give them true and correct information about our God. Sunday School Helpers provide an exciting and informative time for all children present at the morning services.

Since 1989 Victor Brockmann has become a member of our Congregation. He does valuable full time missionary work in the neighbouring Zulu congregations. The congregation try to support his work financially since his work is on a voluntary basis.

Another group of co-workers in the congregation are the Ladies who perform many functions throughout the year, which include catering for functions, funerals and fundraisers. They take turns to freshen the church and hall with flowers every Sunday as well as offering a hot cuppa after a Sunday service.

The New Hanover Congregation boasts a 'choir of note' under the leadership of Connie Ortmann. The first choir was born in 1884 and the present choir is still a very instrumental part of some of the Sunday services.

Brass Band music is an integral part of the congregation's history and culture and therefore also forms part of some of the services giving the service a very special feel.

Six councillors under the leadership of our current minister, Dieter Klee, steer the proverbial ship with their guidance, time and skills. ...and the secretary, keeps them all in tow!!

Pastor Klee can be contacted on 033-5020021 or at dieternh@telkomsa.net. The church office is open from 11:00 until 16:00 every weekday and the secretary, Elmarie Breytenbach, can be contacted on 033-5020237 or nhelc@telkomsa.net.

At present the New Hanover congregation consists of 234 members. Each member plays a vital role in the congregation serving with their talents as the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ.



