

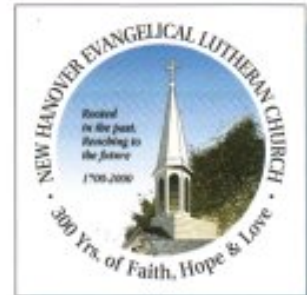
# Rooted in the Past

## New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church Celebrates 300th Anniversary

Beginning in September, 1999, the members of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church will celebrate the 300th anniversary of "the oldest German Lutheran congregation in the United States". We thank God for our long heritage of Christian faith, evangelism, and patriotism.

There are more than 20 events, activities, and projects planned for the celebration, including services with Bishops Almquist and Anderson, a Pennsylvania Dutch month, an historical re-enactment, encampment and re-creation of Muhlenberg's Ride, the Great Swamp Picnic, and a mass choir with our daughter congregations.

For more information contact Pastor Rick Elliott (610) 326-1335, or Sandy Zuchero (610) 754-7860. For ongoing information, visit our web site <http://www.members.aol/nhelc>.



## 18th Century

The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in 1700 by Daniel Falckner, who gathered the German immigrant Lutherans living between the Schuylkill River and what is now Pennsburg to form a congregation. He was followed by "circuit" pastors who served a number of congregations. Among them was Henry Melchior Muhlenberg who arrived in 1742. He was a dynamic leader who enabled the congregation to grow and was instrumental in organizing the area congregations into a synod (regional organization), the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

In 1768, after having worshiped in three log structures, the congregation dedicated the stone building that continues to serve today.

During the War for American Independence, the church building served in a way its builders had not anticipated. In the autumn of 1777, the Continental Army, led by General George Washington, retreated before the oncoming British. They carried the wounded from the Battles of Brandywine and Paoli.

As the army moved north of the Schuylkill River, the church became a temporary hospital.



In 1777-1778, the Reverend Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, son of Henry, served the New Hanover congregation. He later entered civil life and served both in the Continental Congress and the first Congress of the United States, where he became the first Speaker of the House of Representatives.

## At a Glance

### 1999

- 9/12 Kick-off Celebration
- 9/27 Art Exhibit
- 10/ German Month
- 10/16 Muhlenberg's Ride
- 11/21 German Service
- 11/25 Thanksgiving with daughter churches

### 2000

- 1/1 Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner
- 1/2 Time Capsule
- 2/2 Kid's Crusade
- 5/21 Community Chorus
- 6/4 Choir Concert
- 7/5 Trip to Germany
- 7/30 Heritage Day
- 8/13 Colonial Reenactment & Cemetery Tour
- 9/ Washington Trip
- 10/ Mission Month
- 10/29 Global Hymn Sing
- 11/5 Reaching to the Future Service