



MAILING ADDRESS:

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533
Phone: 610-374-4343 / Fax: 610-374-1014
Email: bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.berchurch.org
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

WORSHIP:

In-Sanctuary Worship on Sundays at **10:00 a.m.**

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

PARISH SECRETARY:

Korinne Hotzman, 610-790-7195 (cell)
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jane Battaglieri, Phone: 610-370-0965

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Brenda Reichart, President
Richard Gruber, Vice President
Theresa Shurr, Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
Jane Battaglieri
Christopher Becker
Michael Braucher
Richard Greener
Linda Lash
Erin Readinger

BUILDING PRINCIPLES:

- Devotion to Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Compassionate Sharing and Community Service
- Persistent Faithfulness
- Courageous Witness
- Flexible Leadership

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

God's purpose for our congregation is to:

Learn God's mission

Share God's love

Witness through Word and Service

Welcome all to a fellowship of forgiveness and thankful praise

BERN BUGLE NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

The *Bern Bugle* for the month of June is sponsored by Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher in memory of Elwood Speicher.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, May 20th:

- Landscape work at the front of the building has been completed.
- Additional sink holes have developed and will be filled with stone.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

JUNE SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of a Bulletin sponsor for June 23. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring this date. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the July *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, June 18th.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes will resume in the fall on Sunday, September 8th. See you then. Enjoy your summer!

SECRETARY KORINNE VACATION

Korinne will be on vacation the week of June 3rd. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly. Korinne will return to the office on Tuesday, June 11th.

PASTOR GARY RARICK will be on vacation from Thursday, June 13, until Wednesday, June 26. Pastor William Fryer will be our Designated Pastor while Pastor Rarick is on vacation. If you would need pastoral care during this time, please contact Secretary Korinne in the office.

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

—Robert Louis Stevenson

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Congratulations to Aiden Angstadt, Jameson Kasisky, Hannah Lash, Derian Readinger, and Aidan Slusser who were confirmed and to Tiffany Lash who was received by Affirmation of Faith on Sunday, May 19th.



(from left to right: Jameson Kasisky, Aiden Angstadt, Brenda Reichart, Hannah Lash, Pastor Kenneth Gould, Derian Readinger, Aidan Slusser)

SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2024

Thank you to Chris and Annette Becker for representing Bern Lutheran Church at the 37th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly to be held on Saturday, June 8, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing. The theme for this year is “Hungry for Life. Together in Christ.” For more information about the Assembly, click on the ASSEMBLY tab on the Northeastern PA Synod website at <https://nepasynod.org>.

BAPTISMS

During the month of June, we will be celebrating three baptisms. Seeley Jacoby Schlottman, son of Zackery and Rachael Schlottman, will be baptized on Sunday, June 9. Zoe Arline and Isla Rae, daughters of Steven Westmeyer and Katherine Koch, will be baptized on Sunday, June 16. We hope you will be able to join us for worship as we welcome these children as new members of Bern Lutheran Church.



SUMMER FOOD & FAITH WORSHIP

There will be no Food & Faith fellowship meal and worship service during the months of June or July. You are invited to join along with the members of Epler’s UCC on Friday, August 2, for a special “outdoor picnic” style Food and Faith time together.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHICKEN BBQ AND APPLE DUMPLING SALE!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Chicken BBQ and Apple Dumpling sale. We appreciate those who sold tickets, distributed flyers, delivered dinners, sold or purchased flowers, as well as those who came out to help the day of the event. A huge thank you to Phil Ketz for all of his planning and organizing. His leadership helps make this event possible. Total profits are not yet available. Look for that update in the July newsletter.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Epler’s UCC, Leesport, is sponsoring a free community meal on **Tuesday, June 18, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** (or until gone). No reservations necessary. This will be a drive-through only event. Please share with your friends and neighbors and join us.

EPLER’S UCC FUNDRAISER

Epler’s UCC, Leesport, is holding a fundraiser on **Thursday, June 20, and Friday, June 21.** Call *Around the Family Table*, located at 2735 Bernville Road, Leesport, at 484-671-3743 to place your “take and bake” order. If you call ahead, it will be hot and ready for pick up. Mention that your purchase is to benefit Epler’s UCC and 15% of your purchase will be donated to Epler’s.

COMMITTEE CORNER



Property Committee

The mission of the Property Committee is to ensure that the building and property of Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church are properly maintained so that the congregation may carry out its ministries and missions. This group of individuals takes care of all of the day to day property management of both our building and the grounds. They address needs discovered by or reported to them. If you are interested in joining the committee or just assisting with maintenance projects, please speak to Matt Kasisky.

A PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

Dear heavenly Father, we come as your children to praise you for putting us in our family—and in our church family. Thank you for the love and nourishment we receive from the people in whose presence you've placed us. We confess our need for your guidance in our families and congregation. Please grant us harmony in our homes and church body. In all situations, help us show love, patience and respect for one another. In your name we pray. Amen.



NEED FAST RELIEF? SLOW DOWN!

Actor Lily Tomlin reportedly said, “For fast-acting relief, try slowing down.” Summer doesn't seem to be the “slow season” it once was — if indeed it ever truly was. But perhaps we can use it as incentive to take some “downtime” around the plethora of activities, travel and always-busy work schedules. Pause and accept Jesus' invitation: “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mark 6:31, NIV).

It may be a refreshing spot at a lake, a hike in the woods, an early-morning fishing trip. Maybe, around your work schedule, you can reserve time for a few days of church camp, a picnic at the city park, a nap on a blanket in the backyard sun. Help the kids in your life discover what it's like to *not* be on the go and to take a screen-time sabbath — even to experience boredom and see what creativity blossoms. Do art projects together, ride bikes, paint with water or chalk on the sidewalk, pick berries, bake cookies, solve puzzles, sing songs!

Try slowing down, as Lily Tomlin — and even Jesus — advised. In summer, and any time, it's good for the soul!

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

You can sponsor Altar Flowers for \$35.00/week, Bulletins for \$20.00/week, or our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway with your name and dedication next to the date(s) you want to sponsor.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

June 2 – Barbara Speicher and Beverly Moyer
June 9 – The Reichart's
June 16 – Patricia Yocum
June 23 – Beth and David Hartman
June 30 – Barry and Theresa Shurr

Bulletin Sponsors:

June 2 – Caroline Eichner
June 9 – The Reichart's
June 16 – Katie Koch
June 23 – *sponsor needed*
June 30 – Patricia Yocum

Newsletter Sponsor:

Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher

Church Openers:

June 2 – Brenda Reichart
June 9 – Theresa Shurr
June 16 – Richard Gruber
June 23 – Christopher Becker
June 30 – Jane Battaglieri

Church Greeters:

June 2 – Barbara Auchenbach
June 9 – Nancy Malandra
June 16 – Barbara Auchenbach
June 23 – Nancy Malandra
June 30 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

June 2 – Donna Marks
June 9 – Brenda Reichart
June 16 – Jay Field
June 23 – David Greenwood
June 30 – Kate Schuler

Communion Assistants:

June 2 – Dianne Leininger
June 9 – Theresa Shurr
June 16 – Linda Lash
June 23 – Donna Marks

Supply Pastor Schedule:

June 2 – Pastor William Fryer
June 9 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
June 16 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
June 23 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
June 30 – Pastor David Kistler



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Parables of Jesus

Sunday, July 21 – Thursday, July 25

Please plan to join us for VBS in July to learn more about the mustard seed; the lost sheep; the parable of the lamp; and the Good Samaritan. We have plenty of fun activities planned. Please use the registration form included in this newsletter and place it in the Christian Ed mailbox, or click on the link below for the online version:

<https://forms.gle/mxxhw1daXzLPTGU18>.

Our mission project this year will be promoting healthy food choices and we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food as well as monetary donations. Even if you are not attending VBS, you are welcome to participate in this project. We are also in need of artificial greens, large or small, to be used to help decorate the social hall. Please place them in the collection box under the coat rack in the narthex. If you would like them returned to you after VBS, please put a tag with your name on them.



Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, 310 Spies Church Road in Alsace Township (just east of Reading off of Route 12) will host a Wednesday picnic at 5:30 p.m. and then worship at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, June 19, June 26, and July 10, July 17, July 24, and July 31.

Come and enjoy the 28-acre woods. Bring a dish to share. Bring a lawn chair if you can. Musicians are welcome. Contact Pastor Rebecca Knox at 610-823-8343 or Pastor Bruce Osterhout at 610-914-2795 for more information, questions, and to get involved in supporting our new outdoor ministry efforts this summer.



MEMBERS:

Family and friends of Myra Bernhart, Margaret Hey, Richard Greener, Lucy Moyer, JoAnn Ketz, Jane Battaglieri, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, and Ruth Keeney.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Heather Baum, Debra Kennedy, Eddie Kissling, Bill Manus, Terri Hine, Ziomara, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Pastor Joyce Seip, Ashley Rizzuto, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Joyce, and Rev. Fred Foerster

(If you would like to add anyone to our prayer list, please contact Korinne in the church office. Please also notify her of anyone that could be removed.)



Greetings and Blessings to all,

We all here at Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry wish to thank you for your very generous donation from your Lenten services. We are very grateful for this donation, and it will help us to provide food assistance to families throughout our local community.

It is with the support from churches like yours that makes what we do possible.

Please accept my apologies for not sending this out earlier. With the hustle and bustle of our busy world, we sometimes run out of time to complete what is important to us. Rest assured, we are very appreciative for your generous gift.

Thank you and God bless,
Samuel J. Reimert

President/Treasurer
Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry



MYRA LOU (REICHART) BERNHART, 83, passed away Tuesday, May 7, 2024 in her daughter's residence. Born in Reading, she was a daughter of the late John E. and Violet (Eshbach) Reichart. She was the wife of the late James W. Bernhart who passed away January 2, 2022. They shared 59 years

of marriage prior to his passing. Myra was a graduate of Reading High School and Pace Institute. She is survived by her daughter, Marie, wife of Pete Patestas, her granddaughters, Vanessa Brossman, fiancé of Tiago DeLuz, Tiffany, wife of Casey Tobin, her grandsons, Yanni Patestas, Matthew Patestas, her great grandchildren, Giovanna DeLuz, Gabriela DeLuz, Lily Acker, Gerald Acker, Baylen Tobin, Paxton Tobin, nine nieces and five nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Joan Gehret. Funeral services were held on Saturday, May 11, at Bern Lutheran Church, with Douglas F. Didyoung, Sr. officiating. Interment was in Laureldale Cemetery. The Klee Funeral Home, Shillington, was in charge of arrangements.



SERVICE FOR JUNE M. KOCHAN

A Celebration of Life service will be held for June M. (Gilbert) Kochan on Saturday, June 29, at Leibensperger Funeral Home, 223 Peach Street, Leesport from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A graveside service will follow the service. Pastor Rod Sutliff will be officiating. A catered luncheon will be held at Bern Lutheran Church, 820 W. Leesport Road, at 12:00 p.m. following the graveside service. All are invited to attend.

YOUR CONGREGATION'S BEST ASSETS

Some time ago, I met with leaders from struggling congregations who wanted insight on how they could grow. The main event was an "asset mapping" workshop to help them identify the resources their congregation already had to invigorate its mission.

So, I'll put the question to you that I put to them: What assets does your congregation have, and why are they important to complete your work?

The teams from the congregations worked diligently and then presented lists that were remarkably similar:

- Money in the bank and investments
- Talented, motivated congregants
- Solid physical plant and/or property
- Good location
- Talented choir, band, or musicians
- Good pastor and/or lay leadership

Bravo! These are certainly assets that can be used to turn things around at every congregation. More notable were the assets that all of the teams neglected to mention. They included:

- God the Father/Creator
- God the Son/Savior
- God the Holy Spirit/Sanctifier
- The Bible
- The Sacrament of Baptism
- The Sacrament of Eucharist
- The Word of God

What's wrong? The teams were looking at their congregation from a business model. Their lists would probably compare with those of restaurants or social clubs.

Of course, all of the congregations actually did possess the elements of the second list. The problem was that none of the team members readily saw these sacred, holy assets as useful in accomplishing their mission and making their congregation strong again.

Is it any reason why they were struggling? What attitudes would they have to change in order to turn things around? How is your congregation doing?

--Rob Blezard

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(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 2 Sonja Starr
- 4 Judy Haas
- 6 Christopher Becker
- 8 William Kerns *
- 9 Brian Eiche
- 16 Emma Mondoro
- 17 Sierra Adam
- 17 Dylan Slusser
- 23 Jean Ziegler *
- 26 Judy Scheipe *
- 28 Beth Hartman
- 28 Franklin Reifsnyder III



- 20 David and Judy Haas (43 years)
- 20 Ted and Rachel Mountz (26 years)
- 25 David and Beth Hartman (41 years)



INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
04/28/24	\$1,061.00	34
05/05/24	\$4,777.25	55
05/12/24	\$2,845.57	51
05/19/24	\$2,878.05	74

***\$3,259.19 is needed per week to meet 100%
of the Budgeted Expenses***

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$ 8,981.00	
Congregational		
Fund Raising	.00	.00
Total Funds	<u>\$ 8,981.00</u>	

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$ 8,206.00	\$43,501.00
Non-Budgeted Income	775.00	11,449.00
Budgeted Expenses	10,010.00	31,328.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	198.00	3,093.00
(Festival of Faith)		
Benevolence to be Paid	268.00	268.00
Surplus/Deficit	-1,495.00	+20,261.00

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2024 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$ 555.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	277.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	257.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	142.00	600.00
Souper Bowl	\$313.00	
Festival of Faith	\$652.00	
	965.00	.00

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$ 100.00	\$ 425.00
Interest		222.17
Expense	0.00	0.00
		<u>\$45,042.61</u>

Savings Account	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 531.00
Interest	1,650.78
Expenses (Festival of Faith)	-1,000.00
	<u>\$264,265.63</u>

VBS REGISTRATION FORM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



hosted by Bern Lutheran Church
along with Epler's UCC

Sunday, July 21st to Thursday, July 25th
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade Completed _____ Age _____

(2-3 year olds must be accompanied by an adult for VBS)

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email _____

Will you accompany and stay with your child during VBS? _____ yes _____ no

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number _____

Any special needs? _____

Any allergies? _____

Is there a special friend your child must or would like to be with? _____

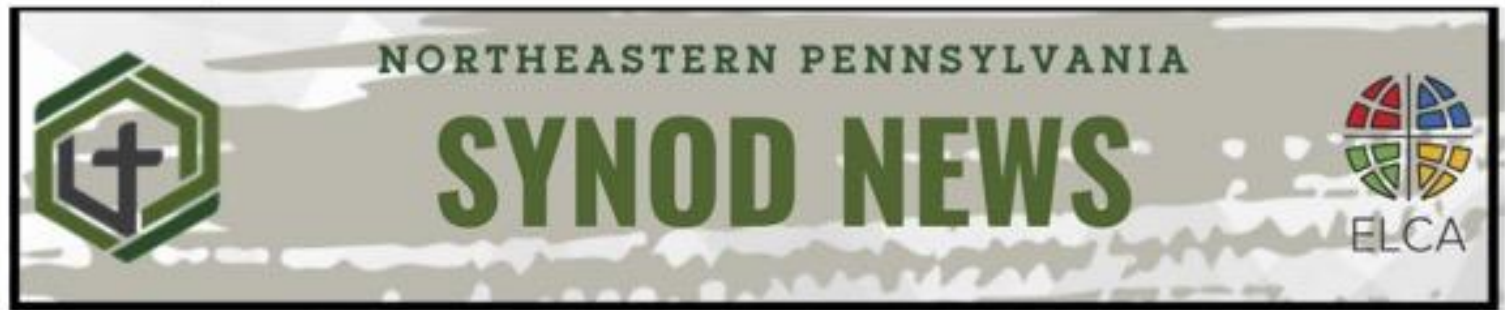
I give my permission to post photographs of me and/or my child(ren) on the church's website,
Facebook page, and other publications _____ yes _____ no

Are you a member of Epler's UCC _____ Bern Lutheran _____ Other _____

Class/Crew Assignment _____
(completed by church)

Return or mail your VBS Registration Form
To: Bern Lutheran Church
820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533

You can also register online by following this link: <https://forms.gle/mxxhw1daXzLPTGU18>.
or go to Epler's UCC website at www.eplerschurch.org



Worship & Art: A Congregation's Journey

A few years ago, Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale, set out on a journey to be as inclusive as possible. This journey led the congregation to install state-of-the-art cameras (for streaming worship), three 85-inch monitors (for reading the liturgy and music), and a new sound system (that would enable everyone to hear and engage during worship). This was the beginning of the trek to become the congregation God was calling them to be!

The people of Calvary knew they could do more to engage in worship or worshipful experiences so they asked, "How can we engage more of our bodies in worship?" They pondered, brainstormed, and listed ways they could inclusively engage their bodies in worship and Christian life. They decided that creating together would align with their values of inclusivity. This came to fruition through their first collective art project. They began with a Lenten collage that created a dark scene with the tomb of Jesus. The congregation loved the project so much that they asked for more. The next project was for Easter, which included a prominent cross and a rainbow collage surrounding and illuminating the cross. The congregation is currently working on a Pentecost piece that includes a centralized bird erupting from rings of fire. The congregation is in conversation with an art organization to place their piece on display for the wider community to enjoy.



Lenten



Easter



Follow Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/calvarylutheranlaureldale> to stay up to date!

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am –Worship Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Donna Marks Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	3	4 SECRETARY KORINNE VACATION	5 6:00pm –Hawk Mountain Council Boy Scouts (Social Hall use) SECRETARY KORINNE VACATION	6 SECRETARY KORINNE VACATION	7 6:00-8:00 pm –Frog Pond	8 Synod Assembly, Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing
9 <u>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am –Worship -Holy Baptism Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Nancy Malandra	10	11	12 5:30pm –Outdoor Worship and Picnic, Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, Alsace Township	13 Pastor Gary Rarick on Vacation until June 26	14 6:00-8:00 pm –Frog Pond	15 1:00-9:00pm –Beverly Moyer (Social Hall rental)
16 <u>4th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am –Worship -Holy Baptism Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Jay Field Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	17 7:00pm –Council Meeting	18 9:00am –Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall use) 4:30-6:00pm –Free Community Meal, Eplers’ UCC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 5:30pm –Outdoor Worship and Picnic, Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, Alsace Township	20 Epler’s UCC <i>Around the Table</i> “take and bake” fundraiser	21 6:00-8:00 pm –Frog Pond Epler’s UCC <i>Around the Table</i> “take and bake” fundraiser	22
23 <u>5th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am –Worship Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: David Greenwood Greeter: Nancy Malandra	24 Festival of Faith VBS (Social Hall use)	25 4:00-7:00pm –Festival of Faith (Social Hall use)	26 Festival of Faith VBS (Social Hall use) 5:30pm –Outdoor Worship and Picnic, Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, Alsace Township	27 8:30-10:30am –Bern Township Tax Sitting Hours Festival of Faith VBS (Social Hall use)	28 6:00-8:00 pm –Frog Pond	29 9:30-11:30am –Celebration of Life Service for June Kochan, held at Leibensperger Funeral Home, Leesport 12:00pm –Luncheon following Celebration of Life service held at Bern Lutheran Church (Social Hall rental)
30 <u>6th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am –Worship Opener: Jane Battaglieri Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Nancy Malandra						