

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

Address Service Requested





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's Newsletter Sponsor

A sponsor is needed for the December *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes*.

Council Meeting Highlights

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, November 18th:

- The kitchen appliances have been sold. We are looking replacing them with electric stoves. We will be looking at different options.
- An information meeting was held regarding 6261. We are hoping to have another meeting before the end of the year.
- A meeting was held with St. John's, Sinking Spring, to share ideas on how local churches can work together.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Wreaths Across America

We will be taking orders for wreaths to remember our military veterans. The laying of the wreaths will take place on Saturday, December 14th. A service will take place before the laying of the wreaths at 1:00 p.m. at Bern UCC. Please come into the church building at 1:00 p.m. for the service and your assignments. If you are interested in helping to lay the wreaths, contact Barry Shurr at 610-372-7229.

The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 1st.

Christmas Kick-off

Please plan to join us for a pot-luck luncheon immediately following worship on **Sunday, December 1st**. Hot dogs and hamburger BBQ will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who would like to contribute a side dish, drinks, or dessert. There is also a sign-up sheet for those planning to attend so that we know how much food to prepare. We are hoping to spend some time together before everyone is caught up in the busyness of the holiday season. There will be food, fellowship, and some holiday activities.

Bring Your Own Lunch

On **Monday, December 2, at 12:00 noon**, the ladies of Bern Lutheran will meet in the Social Hall to enjoy each other's company. Bring a sandwich and a drink and join us for an afternoon of fellowship.

Food and Faith Worship Service

Epler's UCC will be holding their monthly Food & Faith worship service on **Friday, December 6th**. This month's theme is "Blue Christmas." Special music by Linda Hammond on the harp. The meal will be held at 6:00 p.m. with worship following at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Christmas Camp

Epler's UCC, 1151 W. Leesport Road, is hosting their free Christmas Camp on **Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Parents can drop off their kids for the day and wrap presents, go shopping, clean, or just take a break from the holiday rush. Potty-trained children through age 17 can spend the day playing games, doing crafts, listening to stories, singing, and more! Even though the camp is free, registration is still required. **No forms will be accepted after Monday, December 2**, so get your forms in early. Registration forms are available on their website at www.eplerschurch.org or by emailing Pastor Gary at pastorrrarick@gmail.com. If you have any questions, contact Brea Rarick at 570-441-1980 or brea.rarick@gmail.com.

Free Community Meal

St. John's Gernant's Church is sponsoring a free community meal on **Tuesday, December 10, from 5:00-6:00 p.m.** Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and anyone who could use a good free meal.

Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee will be meeting on **Thursday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome to attend.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the January *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, December 17th**.

December Social Hour

Please Note: There will be no Social Hour for the month of December.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed the week of December 23 for the observance of the Christmas holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, December 31st.

Staff Christmas Gifts

If you would like to contribute towards monetary Christmas gifts for our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick, our supply pastors, Kenneth Gould, William Fryer and David Kistler, our organist, Jane Battaglieri, or our Secretary, Korinne Hotzman, please place your donation in an envelope and mark the amount you are contributing to each staff member's gift. The supply pastor donations will be divided evenly between them. Envelopes can be found on the offering table in the narthex. You may place your contribution in the offering plate or mail it to the church. **All contributions must be received by Sunday, December 15th.** Thank you!

Traveler's Christmas Eve Worship

Do you travel for Christmas and are unable to attend Christmas Eve worship? Epler's UCC is offering an opportunity to experience Christmas Eve worship in person on **Thursday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m.** This service will be exactly the same as the December 24th service and will include all of the regular Christmas Eve worship experiences including a choir anthem, singing Christmas hymns, hearing the Christmas Story, and the candlelight singing of Silent Night. All are welcome to join in this service.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us on **Tuesday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m.** for our Christmas Eve worship service. We will be celebrating the birth of Jesus. Pastor Kenneth Gould will be leading our worship service which will include Candlelight, Holy Communion, and a Children's Sermon.

Hymn Sing

On **Sunday, December 29**, we will be having a Hymn Sing. We are asking members of the congregation to write down their favorite Christmas hymns with your 2 favorite verses and place in the container on the table in the narthex.

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."

—Janice Maeditere

Angel Tree

We will again be participating in the Berks County Children & Youth Services Christmas gift program. There will be a tree in the narthex with names of children who are in need of some Christmas cheer. You will find some gift suggestions to pick from. If you would like to participate, please select a name from the tree that you would like to shop for. We hope this provides as much joy shopping for the gifts as it does to the children receiving them. Thank you for your generous support!

Altar Flower Bulletin and Newsletter

Sponsorships

Sign-up sheets for 2025 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway. Prices remain the same as last year. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor any items and dates.

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Donations

On Sunday, November 17, we held our Harvest Home service. A total of \$485.00 was collected for the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. Thank you all for your generosity!

Annual Committee Reports

It is time to begin thinking about and preparing the committee reports to be included in our 2024 Annual Report. Please have your reports submitted to the church office no later than Sunday, January 19, so they can be assembled and available for members prior to our Congregational Meeting in February 2025. Thank you!

Cans Needed!

The supply of cans used for the altar flowers is dwindling. If anyone has the 46 oz. cans please consider bringing them to church. If any questions, see Dianne. Thank you!



Offering Envelopes

Member offering envelopes for 2025 are now available for pick up in the hallway at church. Please pick up your envelopes as well as any family members. You can also stop into the office to pick up your envelopes if you would like.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Tina Hissinger, Berry Hey, Sally Koch, Margaret Hey, Richard Greener, JoAnn Ketz, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, and Ruth Keeney.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Randy Shurr, Jean, Mary, Charles Trophe, Delores Kistler, Kathy Sutphin, Heather Baum, Debra Kennedy, Eddie Kissling, Bill Manus, Terri Hine, 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, 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.)

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Just a reminder to consider designating your "Choice Dollars" to Bern Lutheran Church. This program continues to benefit our church through your quarterly designations. Thrivent's phone number is 800-847-4836. When you hear the menu of options, simply say "Choice Dollars" and you will be connected to an operator to conduct the transaction. To make your designation by email, go to www.Thrivent.com and fill in the necessary information. Thank you for your contributions.



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.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

December 1 – Richard and Christine Gruber
December 8 – Richard and YuYun Greener
December 15 – Philip Ketz
December 22 – Barbara Auchenbach
December 24 – Christmas Eve Poinsettias
December 29 – Michael and Brenda Reichart

Bulletin Sponsors:

December 1 – Jay Field
December 8 – Richard and Christine Gruber
December 15 – Barry and Theresa Shurr
December 22 – Gary and Evelyn Drobnick
December 24 – Barry and Theresa Shurr
December 29 – sponsored

Newsletter Sponsor:

Barry and Theresa Shurr

Church Openers:

December 1 – Christopher Becker
December 8 – Richard Gruber
December 15 – Linda Lash
December 22 – Christopher Becker
December 24 – Richard Gruber
December 29 – Theresa Shurr

Church Greeters:

December 1 – Barbara Auchenbach
December 8 – Beverly Moyer
December 15 – Barbara Speicher
December 22 – Barbara Auchenbach
December 24 – Barbara Auchenbach
December 29 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

December 1 – Brenda Reichart
December 8 – Rich Myers
December 15 – Kate Schuler
December 22 – Beth Hartman
December 24 – Richard Gruber
December 29 – David Greenwood

Communion Assistants:

December 1 – Donna Marks
December 8 – Dianne Leininger
December 15 – Linda Lash
December 22 – Dianne Leininger
December 24 – Theresa Shurr



(* Denotes 80 years young)

3 Andrew Kasisky
7 Margaret Hey *
15 Theresa Shurr
17 Pastor Kenneth Gould
17 JoAnn Ketz
18 Nicholas Braucher
20 Nancy Malandra *
21 Matthew Reichart
23 Jeffrey Shurr
27 Beverly Moyer
27 Barbara Speicher
31 Marke Wismer



7 Richard and Christine Gruber (50 years)
7 Jeffrey and Sandra Schucker (50 years)
14 Richard and YuYun Greener (22 years)
26 Michael and Brenda Reichart (43 years)

SING WHILE YOU DRIVE

@ 55 mph sing — "Highways are Happy Ways"

@ 65 mph sing — "I'm Just a Stranger Here and
Heaven Is My Home"

@ 75 mpg sing — "Nearer My God to Thee"

@ 85 mph sing — "Lord, I'm Coming Home"

Have a safe Christmas Season!



INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
11/03/2024	\$7,832.00	42
11/10/2024	\$2,674.00	38
11/17/2024	\$2,594.00	41
11/24/2024	\$1,223.00	31

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$10,102.00	\$127,174.00
Congregational		
Fundraising	.00	3,566.00
Total Funds	<u>\$10,102.00</u>	<u>\$130,740.00</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$8,638.00	\$105,752.00
Non-Budgeted Income	1,463.00	24,988.00
Budgeted Expenses	9,720.00	84,182.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	596.00	9,225.00
Benevolence to be Paid	417.00	417.00
Surplus/Deficit	-632.00	+36,916.00

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2023 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$1,527.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	841.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	911.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	443.50	600.00
Other	1,268.00	.00

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$1,295.00
Interest	105.06	1,103.58
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$46,405.28</u>

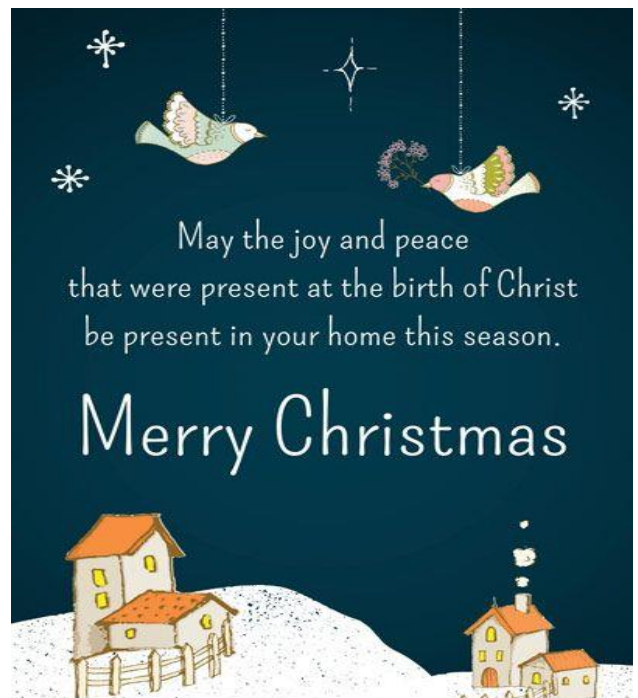
Savings Account	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ \$848.00
Interest	.00	6,497.25
Expenses (-\$1,000.00 Festival of Faith 3/7/2024)	.00	<u>1,000.00</u>
		<u>\$254,344.09</u>



From Sunday, December 1 through Sunday, December 15, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. Please place your donations on the table in the narthex. The donations will be delivered to the food pantry by Friday, December 20. If you are able to help, the following items are needed:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| cereal | canned beans |
| peanut butter | box of crackers |
| stuffing mix | packaged rice |
| boxed potatoes | packaged oatmeal |
| macaroni and cheese | packaged pasta |
| canned fruit | spaghetti sauce |
| canned tomatoes | chicken noodle soup |
| canned tuna | tomato soup |
| dessert mix | canned corn |
| jar of applesauce | canned mixed vegetables |
| canned sweet potatoes | canned carrots |
| cranberry sauce | canned green beans |

Thank you for your support!



DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><u>First Sunday of Advent</u> 10:00am-Worship -Christmas Kick-off Potluck Luncheon -Wreaths Across America due Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00pm-Bring Your Own Lunch (BYOL) Ladies' Fellowship Lunch at Bern Church</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall Reserved)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith meal and worship service 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm-Christmas Camp, Epler's UCC</p>
<p>8</p> <p><u>Second Sunday of Advent</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Beverly Moyer</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:00-6:00pm-Free Community Meal, St. John's Germantown's Lutheran Church</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00-8:30pm – Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved) Poinsettia Orders Deadline</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00-3:00pm-Nativity Display, Zion Lutheran Church, Shoemakersville</p>
<p>15</p> <p><u>Third Sunday of Advent</u> 10:00am-Worship -Staff Christmas Gifts due to church office Opener: Linda Lash Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barbara Speicher</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00pm-Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved) Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30pm-Traveler's Christmas Eve Worship Service, Epler's UCC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p><u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Korinne-Vacation until Tuesday, December 31</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Barb Auchenbach</p>	<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><u>First Sunday of Christmas</u> 10:00am-Worship -Hymn Sing Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: David Greenwood Greeter: Nancy Malandra</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> 				



We are planning to adorn our sanctuary with red and white poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service. If you would like to order any plants, please return this form with your payment and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by **Wednesday, December 11th**. The price for each plant is \$6.50. Thank you!

Number of poinsettias at \$6.50 each: red _____ white _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

DEDICATIONS (*In Honor of, In Memory of, or To the Glory of God*):

In honor of:

In memory of:

Given to the Glory of God:

PLEASE NOTE: A minimum of 60 poinsettias are needed in order to decorate the poinsettia tree, with 25 of those being white for the cross in the middle.