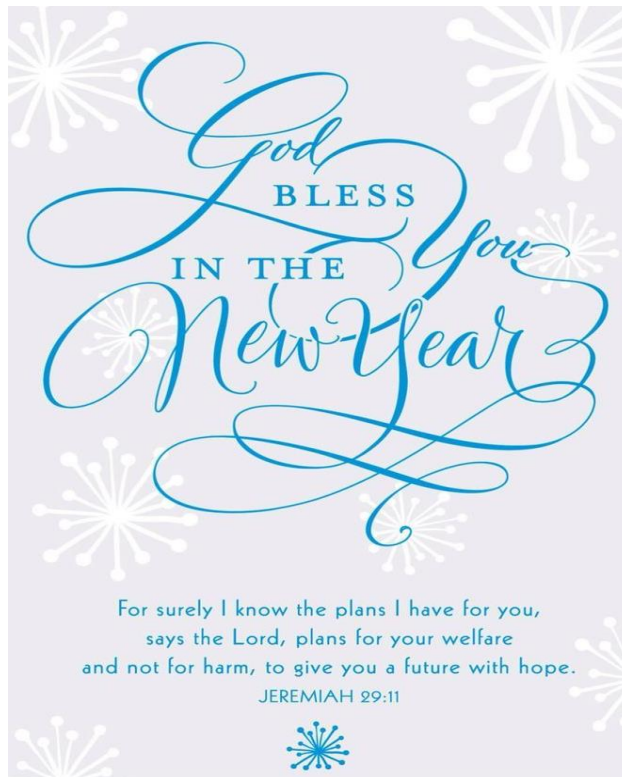


BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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
Richard Greener
Matthew Kasisky
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

Welcome to 2025! May God guide us into the new year with peace, joy, happiness, and grace.

•••••

The sponsor for the December *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* was Barry and Theresa Shurr in honor of and in memory of loved ones.

Council Meeting Highlights

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, December 16th:

- Council Installation will take place on Sunday, January 5, 2025.
- 6261 Formation meeting has been scheduled for December 17, 2024.
- Welcomed Matt Kasisky back to council.
- Thanked Mike Braucher for his 6 years of service on council.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 20, at 7:00 p.m.

Ladies Bring Your Own Lunch

On **Monday, January 6, 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.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the February *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, January 21st.**

January Social Hour

We will be having a Social Hour on Sunday, January 26, after the worship service. Plan to stay and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. We will need a host and contributors. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you would like to help.

Sunday School

We invite all children to join us for Sunday School. We meet from 11:00-11:30 a.m. after the worship service.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day. Secretary Korinne will be back in the office on Thursday, January 2nd.

Council Member Installation

At our worship service on **Sunday, January 5**, our council members will be installed. Let us pray for their service to Bern Lutheran Church throughout the year.

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!

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 in the office to pick up your envelopes if you would like.

End-Of-Year Contribution Statements

Your end-of-year contribution statements should be arriving in your mailbox by the end of January. Please check them over carefully and notify Korinne in the church office of any discrepancies.

Angel Tree

Thank you for your generous support of our Angel Tree Christmas program! Twenty-five children from the Berks County Children & Youth Services enjoyed Christmas this year because of your kindness and thoughtfulness.



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.

January Sign-up Sheets

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for January 19. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you would like sponsor this date.

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.

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Donations

Thank you Bern Lutheran Church! On Sunday, November 17, during our Harvest Home service, members collected a total of \$485.00 to be donated to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. And then in December 2024, you gathered and kindly donated **257 food items** to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. God bless you! – *Doug Myers*



Mark your calendars! Bern Lutheran Church is scheduled to help with the food pantry distribution on February 15 and August 16, 2025, so we will be looking for volunteers.

Thank You Notes

Dear Bern Church, thank you so much for all the prayers, thoughts, calls, and cards during my surgery. It definitely helped with recuperation! As I continue to heal, I know I will feel your prayers and God's love. – Many blessings, *Sally Koch*

Thank you to the members of Bern Church for your many cards and calls this Christmas. – *Ruth Keeney*

Upcoming Events

Choir

Do you love to sing? Well you don't have to just sing in the shower anymore. We are looking to start up the choir again. If you are interested, please see Jane Battaglieri. Help to sing praises to God.



Pork 'n Sauerkraut Dinner

Epler's UCC, 1151 West Leesport Road, is holding a Pork 'n Sauerkraut dinner on New Year's Day, **January 1, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Cost is \$12.00 per person. Children ages 6-12 is \$5.00.

Ink Cartridge Recycling

Don't forget that you can bring in your used ink cartridges to be recycled. Look for the box in the narthex. The reward points help to purchase paper and other office supplies.

Redner's Grocery Receipts

Thank you to everyone who brings in Redner's receipts. When you shop at Redner's with a rewards card, bring your receipts to church and place them in the box in the hallway near the guest book. Those small pieces of paper turn into dollars for our congregation. Thank you all!

Plastic Bag Recycling

We are collecting clean plastic grocery bags and plastic packing material. Look for the bin underneath the coat rack in the narthex to place your bags.



Food and Faith Worship Service

Epler's UCC will be holding their monthly Food & Faith worship service on **Friday, January 3rd**. The meal will be held at 6:00 p.m. with worship following at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

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.)

Inclement Weather

I know no one wants to think about it, but we have already entered that season of snowy, wintry weather. From time to time the weather may affect our scheduled worship services and activities at church. If there would be inclement weather, particularly on a Sunday morning, tune into WFMZ-TV69 for any information on delays and/or closings. Any decision to cancel the worship service will be made through consultation with the Council President by 5:15 a.m.

"Cease to inquire what the future has in store and take as a gift whatever the day brings forth." —Horace (1st century B.C.)



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:

January 5 – Kate Schuler
January 12 – Rich Myers
January 19 – *sponsor needed*
January 26 – Linda and Carl Lash

Bulletin Sponsors:

January 5 – Kathy LaRue
January 12 – Rich Myers
January 19 – Dianne Leininger
January 26 – Nancy Malandra

Newsletter Sponsor:

Caroline Eichner

Church Openers:

January 5 – Patricia Yocum
January 12 – Brenda Reichart
January 19 – Linda Lash
January 26 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

January 5 – Barbara Auchenbach
January 12 – Beverly Moyer
January 19 – Barbara Speicher
January 26 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

January 5 – Richard Gruber
January 12 – Rich Myers
January 19 – Brenda Reichart
January 26 – Kate Schuler

Communion Assistants:

January 5 – Dianne Leininger
January 12 – Hannah Lash
January 19 – Linda Lash

Supply Pastor Schedule:

January 5 – Pastor William Fryer
January 12 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
January 19 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
January 26 – Pastor David Kistler

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.”

—Edith Lovejoy Pierce



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Jamie Wismer
- 2 Charles Lash
- 10 Hattie Schuler
- 13 Richard Greener *
- 14 David Hartman
- 20 Asher Kneeream
- 26 Robert Hissinger *
- 27 Barry Eiche
- 27 Pauline Shuman *
- 27 G. Michael Zimmermann
- 28 Jane Battaglieri
- 28 Hannah Lash



None this month.

A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KORINNE

You may or may not know that Epler’s UCC was looking for an Administrative Assistant. I have accepted the position to work there as well as Bern Church. The other church I work for, New Jerusalem Lutheran Church, will be closing sometime in early or late March.

I want to let everyone know that my hours at Bern Church will not change. I will still be here on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the same time as before.

I am excited to work with Pastor Gary Rarick and get to know the members of Epler’s.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you!

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
12/01/2024	\$5,013.50	46
12/08/2024	\$4,057.00	37
12/15/2024	\$1,795.00	46

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$15,667.00	\$142,840.00
Congregational		
Fundraising	.00	3,566.00
Total Funds	<u>\$15,667.00</u>	<u>\$146,406.00</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$9,355.00	\$115,107.00
Non-Budgeted Income	6,312.00	31,300.00
Budgeted Expenses	6,453.00	90,635.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	2,875.00	12,100.00
Benevolence to be Paid	779.00	779.00
Surplus/Deficit	+5,560.00	+42,893.00

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2024 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$1,412.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	756.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	756.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	383.00	600.00
Other	931.00	.00

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$1,420.00
Interest	98.89	937.41
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$46,604.00</u>

Savings Account	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$1,327.00
Interest	.00	7,297.00
Expenses (-\$1,000.00 Festival of Faith Transfer)	.00	<u>1,000.00</u>
		<u>\$255,245.00</u>

The Kindness Rocks Project

The Kindness Rocks Project was started by Megan Murphy in 2015 on Cape Cod. She wrote “You’ve got this” on a rock and left it on a beach on Cape Cod. After a friend found it, she started leaving more rocks with inspirational messages behind. As the trend of painting kindness rocks has spread, it has many derivatives but remains true to its original intention of spreading kindness. Rocks are painted as a social-emotional learning activity for kids, as well as to support particular charities, events or movements. Sometimes the name of a hashtag or the Facebook group the painter belongs to is written on the back of the rock as well. Generally, rocks which are hidden are intended to be picked up, photographed and put on Facebook, and then re-hidden in a different spot. The painting rock trend was revived during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bern Lutheran Church received a painted rock left on one of the benches outside. I would think from the beautiful picture painted on it that it is a reminder that Jesus’ birth is coming soon and that “for unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.” Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas!



WBMD YOUTH ACTIVITIES

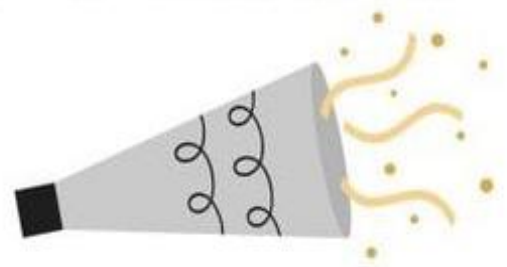
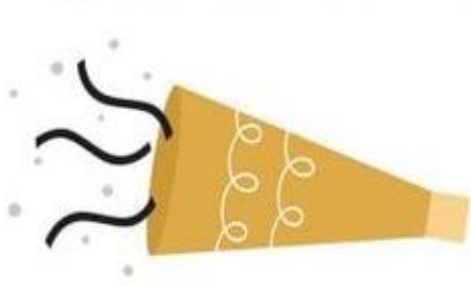
The West Berks Mission District (WBMD) wants to invite all youth to a game day on Sunday, January 19, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Come join youth from around the mission district for an afternoon of community, games and some yummy snacks. Have a favorite game? Bring it to share with others! The game day will take place at Allegheny Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 1327 Alleghenyville Road, Mohnton. Churches are asked to have at least one adult from their congregation accompany their youth in attendance. Go to this link to find the registration form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSaP_MOIG107eYrCks-8BpLznv4OoQMH2RNUMAppbipgYaKA/viewform?usp=header

Any questions? Please contact the Youth Table Head, Kristen Kelly at youthd@aelc.org.

“A day without laughter is a day wasted.”
—Charlie Chaplin

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



	W I H V V A X R N R Z G O A L S A Z Y F	
	G R B K G Z T Y Z I Z Z J Q C O M P X B	
	M D M B T B K T P X N S L T K C X X W T	
	M I Q C R A E Y W E N O Z J K S K R N H	
	L P D M V X P N Z J L O V Z V Y D Z Q G	
	G P E X A X K O Q N C O U N T D O W N I	
	F V Z N D S S M B P C Y W V F T W F B N	
	T R S P S P A R K L E R S H Q T O J A D	
	P J O L B Y V M S Y L N N N R C A F L I	
	Y L P E N S K R O W E R I F Z N Y C L M	
	X J K E B D P P G W B K N J U G J W O J	
	W I S C F S F L D B R G P A J E X A O K	
	Q S C A O W D J R M A W R T J H Q H N C	
	F R Q K J N W P A R T Y P O P P E R S O	
	K E P A U J F G X M I Z X R T S X K Q L	
	V E N R I Y E E B G O Q Y I U P H K Y C	
	Y H I S I R E O T J N O I T U L O S E R	
	Q C S H A P P Y G T B O U V C D L R Z G	
	R M Q G Q X Y B N O I S E M A K E R G F	
	N A E N K V K T Y F H R R A Y R Y I A V	

Countdown
Confetti
Midnight
Balloons

Celebration
Fireworks
January
Happy



New Year
Clock
Cheers
Goals

Party Poppers
Noisemaker
Resolution
Sparklers



JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1:00-4:00pm-Epler's UCC Pork 'N Sauerkraut Meal <i>HAPPY New Year</i> Office Closed	2	3 6:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith meal and worship service 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	4
5 <u>Second Sunday of Christmas</u> 10:00am-Worship -Council Installation Opener: Patricia Yocum Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Dianne Leininger	6 12:00pm-Ladies Fellowship Luncheon in the Social Hall	7	8 6:00-8:30pm – Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved)	9	10 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	11
12 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Hannah Lash	13	14	15	16	17 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	18
19 <u>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</u> 10:00am-Worship -Annual Committee Reports due to church office 1:00-4:00pm-Youth Game Day, Allegheny Lutheran Church Opener: Linda Lash Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Barbara Speicher Comm Asst: Linda Lash	20 7:00pm-Council Meeting Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved) Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	25
26 <u>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</u> 10:00am-Worship -Social Hour Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Nancy Malandra	27	28 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall reserved)	29	30	31 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	