



### **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](mailto:bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.bernychurch.org](http://www.bernychurch.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 July is sponsored with gratefulness for the freedoms we enjoy in our great nation.

### **COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, June 17th:

- We will be holding a clothing drive in September for the Hope Rescue Mission.
- Bern Lutheran Church will be providing the meal for the Festival of Faith service on August 27, 2024.
- The Property Committee will be exploring options to allow us to resume cooking in the kitchen.

**THERE WILL BE NO COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF JULY. The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m.**

### **JULY SIGN-UP SHEETS**

We are in need of Bulletin sponsors for July 14, 21, and 28. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring any of these dates. Thank you!

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Articles for the August *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, July 16th.**

### **BBQ CHICKEN & APPLE DUMPLING FUNDRAISER**

The final tally is in. Our total profit from the Kauffman's BBQ Chicken and Sycamore Farms Apple Dumpling fundraiser is **\$2,357.02**. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success!

\*\*\*HAPPY\*\*\*

*4th of July*

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

—Psalm 33:12



Congratulations to our new brother and sisters in Christ. Seeley Jacoby Schlottman, son of Zackery and Rachael Schlottman, was baptized on Sunday, June 9, with Pastor Kenneth Gould officiating.

Zoe Arline and Isla Rae Westmeyer, daughters of Steven Westmeyer and Katherine Koch, were baptized on Sunday, June 16, with Pastor Kenneth Gould officiating.

We are happy and excited to welcome these newly baptized children as new members of Bern Lutheran Church.

### OUTDOOR WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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, 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.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
The Parables of Jesus

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be held **Sunday, July 21 through Thursday, July 25, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** at Bern Lutheran Church. The theme for this year will be "The Parables of Jesus." The mission project this year will be promotion of healthy food choices, and we will be accepting monetary donations for food to be given to Lighthouse or Mary's Shelter. A box has been placed under the coat rack for donations of greens to be used as part of the decorations. Please include your name on them if you would like them returned. Thank you!

### SNACK DONATIONS FOR VBS

A sign-up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board in the hallway. We are asking for donations of paper products, snacks, fruit, and drinks. If you would like to provide any donations, please sign up next to the item(s) you would like to donate. Thank you for your help!



### Worship and Music Committee

The mission of the Worship and Music committee is to provide a worship service that is appealing, meaningful, rooted in Lutheran tradition, and multi-generational. Members plan and prepare the sanctuary for all special services. They prepare for communion and baptisms. They change the paraments and keep the candles filled with oil. A subgroup also selects the hymns that we sing each Sunday, choosing those that support the message of that particular Sunday. Most of their work is "behind the scenes," but certainly adds to our worship experience every Sunday. If you are interested in learning more, please speak to Dianne Leininger.

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR TRIMMING AT THE BERN CEMETERIES

The Bern Cemetery Board of Trustees is looking for help to do trimming on our two cemeteries. It will be 10/12 hours per month and the pay is \$16.00 an hour. If interested, contact either Edward Fisher at 610-488-1967 (home), 484-599-1634 (cell), or [edwardhfisher44@gmail.com](mailto:edwardhfisher44@gmail.com) (email) or Barry Shurr at 610-372-7229 (home), 610-698-7707 (cell), or [tshurr@comcast.net](mailto:tshurr@comcast.net) (email).



## 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:**

July 7 – Barry and Theresa Shurr

July 14 – Philip and JoAnn Ketz

July 21 – Barbara Braucher

July 28 – Philip and JoAnn Ketz

### **Bulletin Sponsors:**

July 7 – Barry and Theresa Shurr

July 14 – *sponsor needed*

July 21 – *sponsor needed*

July 28 – *sponsor needed*

### **Newsletter Sponsor:**

*sponsor needed*

### **Church Openers:**

July 7 – Theresa Shurr

July 14 – Richard Gruber

July 21 – Christopher Becker

July 28 – Brenda Reichart

### **Church Greeters:**

July 7 – Barbara Auchenbach

July 14 – Nancy Malandra

July 21 – Barbara Auchenbach

July 28 – Nancy Malandra

### **Lectors:**

July 7 – Beth Hartman

July 14 – Donna Marks

July 21 – Barbara Braucher

July 28 – Kate Schuler

### **Communion Assistants:**

July 7 – Theresa Shurr

July 14 – Donna Marks

July 21 – Linda Lash

### **Supply Pastor Schedule:**

July 7 – Pastor William Fryer

July 14 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

July 21 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

July 28 – Pastor David Kistler

## PRAISE FOR GOD'S HANDIWORK

How wonderful, O Lord, are the works of your hands!

The heavens declare your glory,  
the arch of sky displays your handiwork.  
In your love you have given  
us the power to behold the  
beauty of your world  
robed in all its splendor.



The sun and the stars, the  
valleys and hills,  
the rivers and lakes all  
disclose your presence.  
The roaring breakers of the  
sea tell of your awesome might;  
the beasts of the field and the birds of the air  
bespeak your wondrous will.

In your goodness you have made us able to hear  
the music of the world. The voices of loved ones  
reveal to us that you are in our midst.  
A divine voice sings through all creation.

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IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

### **MEMBERS:**

Margaret Hey, Richard Greener, JoAnn Ketz, Jane Battaglieri, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, and Ruth Keeney.

### **FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Pastor David Kistler, Kathy Sutphin, Jeff Heiser, 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.)*





(\* Denotes 80 years young)

- 4 E. Berry Hey \*
- 5 Kevin Reichart
- 6 Harry Yocum
- 10 Spencer Mountz
- 14 Kenneth Beissel, Jr.
- 15 Philip Ketz
- 18 Derek Groff
- 26 Barbara Auchenbach
- 28 Jameson Kasisky
- 30 William Kerns
- 31 Erin Readinger



- 1 Ryan and Erin Readinger (18 years)
- 5 D. Barry and Theresa Shurr (49 years)
- 19 Michael and Tracey Leh (16 years)

Chris and Annette Becker represented Bern Lutheran Church at the Assembly. Here are some highlights Chris and Annette want to share with the congregation.

Annette and I were pleased to have been your delegates at the 2024 Northeast Synod convention. We took part in three pre-assembly Zoom meetings and then in person on June 8<sup>th</sup> all day at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing.

There were three Resolutions:

1. Affirmation of Faith-LGBTQ+
2. Eligibility to serve as Dean of a Mission District
3. Include Rite of Deacon for Ordination

We also voted on the 2024 NEPA Synod budget of \$2,216,264.00.

There was a presentation on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lutheran World Hunger Relief.

There was a presentation on a startup 6261 program (the 6 churches are from West Reading). They hope to be up and running by years end.

There was a very upbeat service that was held complete with a band and communion.

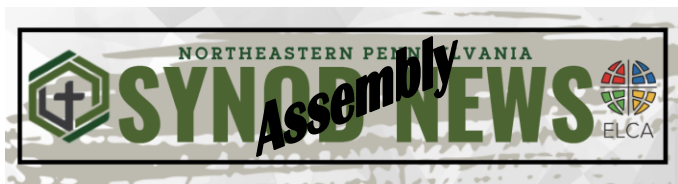
If you want to know more, just contact Annette or I. Again, thanks for having your faith in us to attend.

*-Chris and Annette Becker*



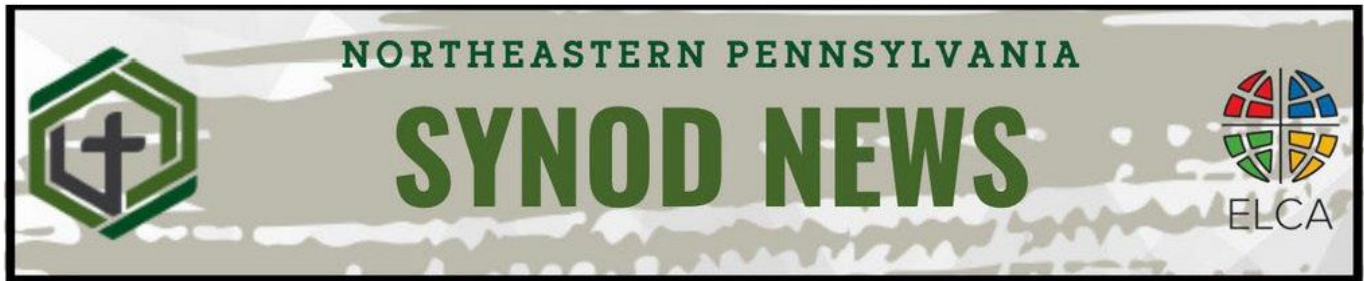
Missed the assembly? No problem. Rewatch the excitement on the Synod's YouTube Channel by clicking the link below:

<http://emails.nepsynod.org/4d3e62ea-0caa-4952-af69-d631fadcd71d68ad57b70a12bd2b5c596df067bc77a8>



The 2024 Synod Assembly is in the books! On Saturday, June 8, 376 Lutherans gathered for the 37<sup>th</sup> Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. This event marked the first hybrid assembly in NEPA Synod history, with over 250 attendees present in person at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing.

The assembly, themed "Hungry for Life Together in Christ," highlighted the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger. The theme highlighted congregations' collective efforts to reduce hunger and poverty in their communities.



## Celebrating Success!



## The Conclusion of the 37<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly



On Saturday, June 8, over 376 Lutherans gathered in person and virtually to participate in the 37th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. The theme, “Hungry for Life Together in Christ,” celebrated the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and highlighted the hunger ministries that congregations are implementing within their communities. Pastor Eileen Smith LeVan, who co-chairs the NEPS Hunger Team along with her husband, Brian, presented how our congregations are improving hunger issues through

ministries like food pantries, community gardens, and weekly food distributions. The ELCA representative, Marie Anne Sliwinski, Senior Director for Building Resilient Communities, expressed how Lutheran Disaster Response, AMMPARO, God’s Work Our Hands, and our synod are helping individuals not only in our country but around the world through mission support and volunteer work. Deacon Kat Tigerman introduced six congregations in Reading discerning themselves to be the first pilot 6261 community. “Our small sterling congregations are making the effort to talk, share, and consider the future,” says Bill Knox of Hope Lutheran, Reading. Many shared how their congregations are growing in friendship, community, and faith. Members of the Assembly also gave \$2,365 towards ELCA World Hunger. The three resolutions passed by the synod



assembly can be found at [godslove.org/assembly2024](https://godslove.org/assembly2024). Congratulations to Jim Doxsey, Rev. Dana Heckman-Beil, and Amy Mietelski on their election to the Synod Council! The Assembly also elected the following voting members to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ: Bishop Christopher deForest, Nancy Reichelt, Mark Stana, Seth Noggle, Betty Jane Schaefer-Hassler, Ron Mordosky, Jackie Williams, Stephanie Druckenmiller, Rev. Brian Beissel, Deacon Dawn Talley, Rev. Tom Scornavacchi, Rev. Lauren Applegate, Rev. Chris Druckenmiller, Rev. Ken Melber, Jr., Don Boyer, Stephen Hikes, Jean Sandberg, Rev. Nelson Quinones, Amanda Melber, Alicia Wood, Elizabeth Leibenguth, and Maria Marcano. To rewatch the excitement, visit the assembly webpage.

*Submitted by: Stacey Burke (she/her) Communications & Growing Young Coordinator*



# Witness and Service Team Grants are a Hugh Help!

Submitted by Georgia Suranofsky

During the assembly, we learned that over 2/3 of those congregations attending the in-person event, have either a food or garden ministry! Here is just one story about an amazing food ministry.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry (MCFM) was created in 2002 to provide a local, community-based source of food to those persons and households in the Governor Mifflin School District experiencing hardship or need, giving them sustenance and aid in the way of food and clothing on a temporary basis one a month.

I was told by Janet Reese, Board Member and one of the MCFM founders, that this food ministry is set apart by their lack of involvement with state or federal programs which in turn allows them for the past 22 years to pray with clients, distribute information on what is happening at their churches and invite the clients, share the gospel and inspirational materials with the families.

4 local churches including St. John's Evangelical Lutheran-Mohnton, New Life of Shillington, Calvary United Methodist and Zion Evangelical Congregational Church are the sponsors of the ministry. Zion is the host church where donations are collected, stored and then distributed. Community donations supply most of the non-perishable food and paper products

distributed to MCFM clients. 8 local churches and several organizations also provide non-perishable food, volunteer distribution tasks and money.

Food distributions prior to Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas include grocery store gift cards for clients' use to buy perishable items and clients receive a gift also. In tears, 1 woman told the President of the food ministry, "I have never received a Christmas gift."

Last year, the community food ministry experienced a dramatic increase in the average number of households served per month going from 84 over 100. The number climbed in December 2023. This was the busiest month

ever, serving 149 households representing 482 people.

Gail Colahan, a member at St. John's Evangelical in Mohnton remembered the grants that are available

through the Witness and Service team and applied. The grant was approved for use this year and is providing meat and produce for the 12 monthly distributions.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry would not be successful without God's helping hand and the wonderful support received from volunteers, organizations, and churches that donate their time, money, and food," When we all share the burden of trying to make a community a better place, it lightens the load.




*Take a minute to view some photos of the ministry by [clicking on this link](#).*

You can find information on the [synod website](#) about the grants available from the Witness and Service Team. Your mission support giving makes these grants possible.

Thank you for your continued support!

# JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	6
7 <u>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship  Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	8	9	10 5:30pm-Outdoor Worship and Picnic, Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, Alsace Twp.  6:00pm – Hawk Mountain Council	11	12 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	13
14 <u>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship  Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Donna Marks Greeter: Nancy Malandra	15 <b>NO COUNCIL MEETING THIS MONTH</b>	16 NO Berks Quilters Guild Meeting  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	17 5:30pm-Outdoor Worship and Picnic, Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, Alsace Twp.	18	19 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	20
21 <u>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship  6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church  Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Barbara Braucher Greeter: Bara Auchenbach	22 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	23 4:30-7:00pm – Berks Festival of Faith Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Bern UCC Picnic Grove  6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	24 5:30pm-Outdoor Worship and Picnic, Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, Alsace Twp.  6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	25 8:30-10:30am-Bern Township Tax Sitting Hours  6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern Church	26 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond	27
28 <u>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship  Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Nancy Malandra	29	30	31 5:30pm-Outdoor Worship and Picnic, Zion-Spies Lutheran Church, Alsace Twp.			