

BERN BUGLE'S

February 2022



JOYFUL NOTES

Volume 25, Issue 2

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.bernchurch.org
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

WORSHIP AVAILABILITY:

Sundays at **10:00 a.m.**
In-Sanctuary Worship
Parking Lot Service (91.7 FM)

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

PARISH SECRETARY:

Korinne Hotzman
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 am-2:00 pm,
Wednesday 12:00 pm-4:00 pm, and Thursday 8:00
am-1:00 pm

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jane Battaglieri
Phone: 610-370-0965

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



I thank you for your support, your prayers, your friendship, and your partnership in ministry, over the past six years. I will always be grateful to God for our time together as we faced both unexpected challenges and moments of surprising grace. As Alan and I enter retirement, please understand that we will need personal time to adapt to this new phase of our lives. We do not plan to perform pastoral duties in any congregation for at least the first year of retirement. Our contact with friends from our churches will be limited. This is to give both you and us space to discover how God is calling us forward. Thank you for respecting these boundaries. Know that you are in our prayers and in our hearts.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Phyllis

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on
February 21st at 7:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Please join us from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. We meet in the second classroom on the right.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the food distribution at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry on Saturday, January 15th.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the March *Bern Bugle* are due by
Tuesday, February 15th.

"Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile. – Franklin P. Jones

BULLETIN, NEWSLETTER, AND ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

In order to provide high quality weekly bulletins and cover mailing costs, we invite you to become a Bulletin sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month. Or you can help in presenting our best before God as we worship by sponsoring Altar Flowers. **Please note: As of January 1, 2022, the cost to sponsor Altar Flowers has increased to \$35.00/week.** You are welcome to sponsor any of these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. Sign-up sheets for 2022 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Altar Flower sponsors for February:

February 6 – *sponsor needed*
February 13 – *sponsor needed*
February 20 – *sponsor needed*
February 27 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin sponsors for February:

February 6 – Rick and Christine Gruber
February 13 – *sponsor needed*
February 20 – *sponsor needed*
February 27 – *sponsor needed*

Newsletter sponsor for February: *sponsor needed*

Church Openers for February:

February 6 – Terri Shurr
February 13 – Rick Gruber
February 20 – Dianne Leininger
February 27 – Pat Yocum

Church Greeters for February:

February 6 – Nancy Malandra
February 13 – Barb Auchenbach
February 20 – Nancy Malandra
February 27 – Barb Auchenbach

Supply Pastor Schedule:

February 6 – Pastor David Kistler
February 13 – *open*
February 20 – *open*
February 27 – Pastor Virginia Biniek

MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE

Robert Frey is now residing at the Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 401 University Drive, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972. His phone number is 570-385-0331. Please update your member directory. Thank you!

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.

WINTER WEATHER

The winter season is upon us, and may from time to time affect scheduled worship services and activities at church. Particularly when bad weather conditions arise on Sunday mornings, you may wish to tune into WFMZ TV69 or check their website for any information regarding our worship services. Any decision to cancel will be made through consultation with the Council President by 5:15 a.m. Those members who signed up for text alerts will receive notification on your phones.



TEXT ALERTS

We needed to establish a new text alert account so everyone who would like to receive them will need to sign up. If you received them in the past and would like to continue to receive them, you will need to sign up again. These alerts have been used for daily scripture, announcements and reminders as well as service cancellations due to inclement weather. If you would like to receive text messages, please type @bernlut on your phone and send to 81010 to sign up. If you want to register an email account, please provide your email address and you can be added to the group.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 20, 2022** immediately following our worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the reports from the committees. Please plan to attend this meeting as 25 voting members are needed for a quorum.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Hopefully everyone has received their copy of the end-of-year contribution statement for 2021. If you have not received it yet, please contact the church office and I can mail another one or email you a copy. Thank you!



Come join us every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the library for Bible Talk. A time for fellowship, conversation and discovery. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Marks at 610-223-8771 or dmrx69@gmail.com.

CHANGES ARE COMING!

With the retirement of Pastor Phyllis we must rely on the Synod for supply pastors. Sadly, there aren't enough to go around. Therefore, some Sundays we will not have a pastor. We will be filling in with hymn sings, perhaps a temple talk or an outside speaker.

The Worship & Music Committee asks if you know of anyone you could recommend or if you are willing to serve yourself, please let us know. We also need people who are willing to read the scriptures and/or lead the prayers.

We ask for your patience and understanding during this difficult period. More importantly, we need your prayers.

Thank you and God bless! – *Diane Leininger*, 610-926-5738



Congratulations to our newly-elected and continuing council members and elected officers:

Michael Braucher, President
Richard Gruber, Vice President
Terri Shurr, Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
Jane Battaglieri
Matthew Kasisky
Dianne Leininger
Erin Readinger

We thank them for their service to Bern Lutheran Church.

With God
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE
-MATTHEW 19:26-

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Bob Frey, Ruth Keeney, and family and friends of Jim Bernhart

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Bob Stoner, Betty Gruber, Ashley, Stacy Laroche, Philip Triantis, Mike, Dennis Hettinger, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Ryder Knechtle and family, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, Erin Ascencio, and Lesley Wegman

GLOSSY MAGAZINE RECYCLING PROGRAM for Ronald McDonald House.

We are currently collecting glossy magazines. You will find a black bin under the coat racks to place your magazines.



Why do we do this?

To help each other and the environment.

When the containers are full, Ronald McDonald House calls Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. to pick up the containers. They process the contents and sell them to a paper mill, which turns the discarded paper into new magazine paper. A portion of the proceeds from each ton of paper collected comes directly to RMHC-CP. Since this program began in 2004, over **\$371,000** has raised by recycling over **14,000 tons** of glossy paper.



THANK YOU!

Dear family of Bern, thank you for the generous Christmas gift and many cards. You bless me in so many ways. Through your words, written and spoken; through your thoughtful gifts; through your presence, I feel supported and loved. Thank you! I pray that 2022 will be filled with love, hope, peace, and joy for all of us. In Christ's love, *Pastor Phyllis*



Dear members of Bern Church, thank you so very much for your generous Christmas gift. It is really appreciated! Even more, I appreciate all of you! You all are such a gift to me, to our community of faith, and to the world beyond. The light of Christ truly shines in you! Thanks again. – *Jane Battaglieri*



Dear members of Bern church, I have felt welcomed here since my first day. I appreciate all of you for being so friendly and I feel overwhelmed by your generosity. Thank you so much for thinking of me at Christmas time with your thoughtful gift. It is a pleasure to be here with all of you. I wish you all good things for 2022! May it be a year filled with happiness, good health, and blessings from God! – *Korinne Hotzman*



Thank you for all the Christmas greetings and the Redner's gift card. Also, thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers for Jim; and for your support and comfort during this difficult time. – *Myra Bernhart*



With appreciation for the many lovely Christmas cards and the caring shepherding of Pastor Phyllis. Merry Christmas to all! – *Margaret Hey*



To the Bern Church family, thanks again and again for the Redner's gift card (towards Christmas dinner). Also for the beautiful "Joy to the World" Christmas card. Bless you always. Sincerely, *Darryl and Doris Schlappich*



Dear Bern family, thank you so much for remembering me at Christmas with the gift card to Redner's, for cards and other remembrances. Also to the Confirmation class for the beautiful laser cut out Christmas tree card. The spirit of Christmas is alive and working through the dedication and services of the members at Bern. Thank you again and God bless you. – *Pauline Shuman*

Everyone at Bern church, my mother wants to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, and cards sent her way. Mom gets a smile on her face when she gets a card in the mail or a phone call. She says she thought everyone forgot about her, but I reassure her that is not so. Mom (Arlene) is home with me and she is getting stronger every day. So I want to thank everyone for your kind thoughts and prayers. P.S. Pastor Phyllis enjoy your retirement. You will be missed! Love in Christ, *Arlene Lengel and daughter, Glenva Kohl*



Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in October 2021. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you share the everlasting joy of that transformation with our neighbors around the world. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed. Thank you! – In Christ, *The Rev. Robin Brown, Director, Congregational Generosity*



Thank you to the members of Bern Lutheran Church who supported "Wreaths Across America" by sponsoring wreaths to be placed in the Bern Cemetery or Historic Graveyard.

Please note: The Bern Cemetery Company and Historic Graveyard is a federal non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3). Your donations are tax deductible. In the case of donations to "Wreaths Across America," no goods or services are considered to have been provided by the organization in exchange for your contribution.



Please be sure to use your Save-a-Tape card when making your purchases at Redner's. We can only use receipts that have used this card. For more information about this program, please visit: <https://www.rednersmarkets.com/redners-save-a-tape-program.html>

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$14,826.55	\$164,467.74
Congregational Fund Raising		
Chicken BBQ	.00	4,848.00
Redner's Tapes	.00	438.24
Sandwiches	.00	<u>382.50</u>
Total Fund Raising	.00	5,668.74
Total Funds	<u>\$14,826.55</u>	<u>\$170,136.48</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$13,341.00	\$137,463.00
Non-Budgeted Income	1,485.00	32,672.00
Budgeted Expenses	13,486.00	156,907.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1,299.00	5,697.00
Benevolence to be Paid	714.00	1,809.00
Surplus/Deficit	(673.00)	5,722.00

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2021 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$3,080.50	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	1,853.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	1,300.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	600.00	600.00
Other		
CROP Walk	308.00	--
Veterans Making a	430.00	--
Difference		

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$105.00	\$1,445.00
Interest	.69	8.02
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$40,977.47</u>

Savings Account	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$580.00
Interest	39.32
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>\$131,729.17</u>



(* Denotes 80 years young)

5	Joslyn Spieker
12	Tanner Mountz
18	Pauline Schenk *
20	Julia Greenwood
20	Margaret Spieker
21	Nancy Rickenbach *
22	Debra Beissel
22	Laura Berger
22	Stacey Reifsnyder
24	Sandra Schucker
25	Michael Leh
25	April Riegel
25	Shawn Slusser
25	Donna Giles
28	Maria Mogford



6 Ronald and Phyllis Stonefelt (62 years)

BEYOND CANDY HEARTS AND ROSES

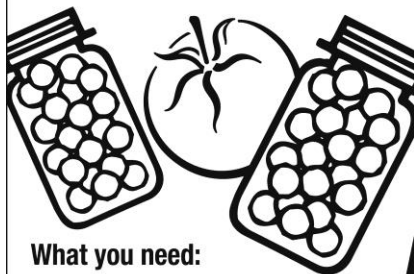
The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love—and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”



Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that—beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is a good reminder as any.

Friendship SOUP

Make jars of Italian barley soup to share love and warmth with friends.



What you need:

- 1 cup pearled barley
- ½ cup sundried tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp dry minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp dry minced onion
- 1 veggie bouillon cube
- Glass pint jars with lids
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Pen

What you do:

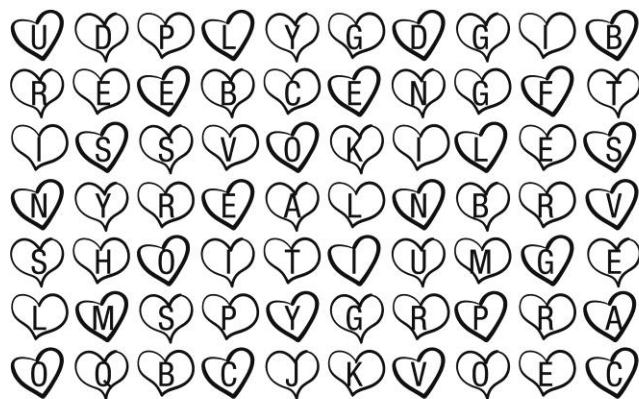
1. In order, layer the first five ingredients into the jar.
2. Trace the outline of the lid onto cardstock. Cut out.
3. On the card, write these directions: Remove wrapper from bouillon cube. Add contents of jar to saucepan. Add 4 cups water and a can of diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce to low. Simmer about 20 minutes, until barley is tender. Serve with parmesan cheese.
4. Place the card atop the lid. Screw on the canning ring to keep it in place.



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D , because love
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

FEBRUARY 2022 • ISSUE 2 • VOLUME 30

Faith in Action

Arndt's Lutheran Church in Easton





Hunger is a real problem in our country and our area of Pennsylvania is no different. Last year we started a reverse Advent food drive where congregants collected food items each day during Advent, culminating with delivery to our local food bank. It was such a success that we decided to expand it to the community. Volunteers will collect, sort, and deliver food items to the pantry right after Christmas when the need is the greatest. This year's food drive was very successful as we collected 983 lbs. of food valued at \$1671 for the ProJeCt Easton Food Pantry in Easton, PA. Approximately 43 families from Arndt's and people outside the community participated in the project. A local moving company donated a truck and manpower for the delivery. We hope to make this project an annual event of providing for those in need.

FAITH FORMATION SATURDAYS



FAITH FORMATION
SATURDAYS OCCUR THE
SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH
MONTH, STARTING IN
FEBRUARY, RUNNING FROM
10:00AM – 12:00PM

STEWARDSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA

 **JUNE 18, 2022** 
**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH, LANSDALE**
AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE
SEPA AND NEPA SYNODS
(REGISTRATION FORTHCOMING)

PRAYING TOGETHER



Marty Everhart
Doug LaFauci
Roy Koehler
Phyllis Pelletier
Emma Weaver

MISSION SUPPORT 2022



Send in your mission support
commitments for 2022. You
can find the form on the synod
website, under the resources
tab.

boundless
god beyond measure

JULY 24-28, 2022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
REGISTER NOW AT ELCA.ORG

Save the date **SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2022**
*June 10-11
Reading*

FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm	2 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm 7:00pm-Boy Scouts 	3 Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm 9:00 am – Bible Talk	4 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	5
6 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am – Worship 11:00am – Sunday School Opener: Terri Shurr Greeter: Nancy Malandra	7	8 Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm 7:00 pm – Boy Scouts	9 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm 7:00pm-Boy Scouts	10 Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm 9:00 am – Bible Talk	11 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	12
13 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am – Worship 11:00 am – Sunday School Opener: Rick Gruber Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	14 1:00 pm – Senior Berners 	15 Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm 3:30pm-Quilters	16 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm	17 Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm 9:00 am – Bible Talk	18 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	19
20 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 am – Worship Annual Meeting after worship Opener: Dianne Leininger Greeter: Nancy Malandra	21 7:00 pm – Council Mtg. 	22 Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm	23 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm	24 Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm 9:00 am – Bible Talk	25 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	26
27 Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:00 am – Worship 11:00am – Sunday School Opener: Pat Yocum Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	28					