

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

Address Service Requested



“I like to see a man proud
of the place in which he
lives. I like to see a man
live so that his place
will be proud of him.”

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN



**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:

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

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

DESIGNATED PASTOR:

Pastor Gary Rarick, Phone: 610-401-1545 (cell)

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
Jane Battaglieri, Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
Christopher Becker
Richard Greener
Matthew Kasisky
Linda Lash
Erin Readinger
Theresa Shurr

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

The July *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is sponsored by Rich Myers.

Council Meeting Highlights

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

- We approved a motion for the profits from the flower sale to be used to fund the meal for Safe Berks that is scheduled for July 30th.
- We approved a motion to accept the proposal from Mast Roofing and Construction to do the necessary repairs to address the leaking at the steeple.
- We approved a motion to cancel the July council meeting and accept the offer from Chris Becker to host the August meeting at his home as a family picnic and meeting.

There will be no Council Meeting in July. The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, August 18th at 7:00 p.m. at Chris Becker's house.

July Lunch Bunch

The ladies will be meeting on **Monday, July 7, at 12 noon** for their monthly luncheon in the Social Hall.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the August *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, July 22nd.**

July Social Hour

Our Social Hour will be held on **Sunday, July 27th.** A host and contributors are needed. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you can help. Thank you!

July Sign-up Sheets

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for July 20 and Bulletin sponsors for July 20 and 27. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you would like to sponsor any of these dates.

Sunday School

Classes will resume in the fall on Sunday, September 7th. See you then. Enjoy your summer!

Secretary Korinne Vacation

Our Secretary, Korinne, will be on vacation the week of July 7th. She will return to the office on Tuesday, July 15th. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly during the week.

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Summer Request

With children being out of school for the summer, some families could experience added grocery expenses to have additional food on hand during the summer months. The SV Food Pantry would like to help families by providing additional food and snacks and your help is needed. Listed below are a few suggestions of items that are nutritious and easy for young people to prepare as well as fun for snacks:

- ✓ fruit cups and dried fruit
- ✓ snack packs of pudding and gelatins
- ✓ jerky
- ✓ granola bars
- ✓ snack size cereals and crackers
- ✓ individual serving-size mac and cheese and soups

The collection will run through August.

SV Food Pantry

Another delivery has been made to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who continues to support this mission. We collected 34 mac and cheese, 10 pasta, 8 peanut butter, 94 fruit, 8 soup crackers, 25 apple sauce, 80 pudding, 24 jello, 302 snacks, 53 mini cereal, 2 gelatin packets, 1 cake mix, 2 tuna, 1 green beans, 1 mashed potato, and 1 rice. Thank you to Doug Myers and Gail Landis who packed up the items and delivered them to the food pantry.



During a SV Food Pantry meeting, Doug mentioned that they are very appreciative of the food the churches have been donating to the food pantry! There are a few food items that they could use: canned fruit and vegetables, pasta sauce (no glass jars), peanut butter, and canned soup. Thank you!

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry

Distribution: Volunteers Needed!

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 16th**, which will be Bern Lutheran Church's turn to help distribute food at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry and we can sure use your help. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please see Doug Myers if you have any questions. Thank you!

Another Successful Chicken BBQ Sale!

We had another successful chicken BBQ dinner fundraiser. Thank you to all who sold tickets, distributed flyers, delivered dinners, and helped on the day of the event. We sold 520 chicken dinners and 345 apple dumplings. Twenty-four dinners and 4 dumplings were distributed through our Outreach program. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Phil Ketz for all his hard work and dedication with this fundraiser over the years. His time, effort, and commitment played a huge role in making this event a success.

Financial details for the Kauffman's chicken dinner sale:

Income	\$8,025.00
Expenses	<u>\$5,526.34</u>
Profit	\$2,498.66

Mark your calendars for next year's chicken BBQ dinner to be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2026**.

Vacation Bible School

Please plan to join us for VBS on **Sunday, July 20, through Thursday, July 24, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** as we learn more about Forgiveness: Teaching forgiveness, Praying for forgiveness, Forgiving others, and Unlimited forgiveness. We have plenty of fun activities planned. The mission project will be collecting donations for the SV Food Pantry. Non-perishable food as well as monetary donations will be accepted.

Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can also register by going to Epler's UCC website at www.eplerschurch.org or clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/WSrq9ju8rALruJ1A7>.

Epler's UCC Summer Food and Faith Worship Service

There will be no Food & Faith fellowship meal and worship service in July. You are invited to join them on Friday, August 1st, for a special "outdoor picnic" potluck style Food and Faith time together. Epler's will provide hot dogs and drinks, but please bring a dish to share. If the weather does not cooperate, worship will be moved indoors.

Parables Bible Study Summer Evening Schedule

Please join Pastor Gary at Epler's UCC for an evening Bible study. The dates and schedule are below. All meetings are on Wednesday nights from approximately 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Pre-reading of materials is not required to attend and you may attend whenever you would like. Please reach out to Pastor Gary at his email at pastorrrarick@gmail.com with any questions.

July 2: Luke 15:11-32, Prodigal Son

July 9: Luke 10:25-37, Good Samaritan

July 16: Matthew 18:23-35, Unforgiving Servant

July 23: No Bible Study (VBS)

July 30: Matthew 13:1-23, Sower

August 6: Luke 18:1-8, Persistent Widow



(* 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 (19 years)
- 5 D. Barry and Theresa Shurr (50 years)
- 19 Michael and Tracey Leh (17 years)



Greetings and God bless,

All of us at Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry wish to thank you for your generous donations of \$212.00 and \$166.00. Every donation we receive is greatly appreciated and is very helpful, whether it's from your Lent service, or your Souper Bowl event, or the generosity of your congregation.

We could not do what we do without the support from churches and individuals like you. It is a true blessing and allows us to continue to provide food assistance to those in need throughout Leesport and surrounding communities.

Samuel Reimert
President/Treasurer



Dear Bern Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for hosting and facilitating a clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission. This clothing drive will bless many at Hope Rescue. We appreciate your partnership in fighting homelessness.

We are hopeful that you will plan a visit to Hope Rescue and Lighthouse. We would love to give you a tour of our facilities. We are always looking for volunteers to work on a project or serve a meal.

Thank you again for your faithfulness and we look forward to your next clothing drive for the Mission. May you be blessed by blessing others!

Thank you,
Diane Schenk
Director of Hope Thrift Distributing

With Deepest Sympathy

WARREN J. LENGEL, JR., 74, of Leesport, passed away Friday, June 13, 2025. Warren, a son of the late Warren J. and Arlene M. (Boyer) Lengel, was born in Reading. He was a US Navy Veteran, having served during Vietnam. Warren was very much a person of faith and was very involved in the life of Bern Lutheran Church until his health declined. He helped with many activities around the church, including mowing the grass. Services were held on Friday, June 20, at Lamm & Witman Funeral Home, 243 W. Penn Avenue, Wernersville. Burial was in Bern Church Cemetery.

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
5/04/2025	\$2,813.00	38
5/11/2025	\$1,720.00	35
5/18/2025	\$1,915.00	44
5/25/2025	\$1,699.00	38

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$13,463.00	\$52,106.00
Congregational Fundraising		
Chicken BBQ	3,331.00	3,924.00
Total Funds	<u>\$16,794.00</u>	<u>\$56,030.00</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$8,950.00	\$47,423.00
Non-Budgeted Income	7,844.00	12,219.00
Budgeted Expenses	8,117.00	49,960.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	5,176.00	7,570.00
Benevolence to be Paid	342.00	631.50
Surplus/Deficit	+3,159.00	+2,743.50

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2025 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$579.50	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	464.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	474.50	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	234.50	600.00
Other	493.00	.00

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$655.00
Interest	98.69	475.34
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$48,183.10

Savings Account (new)	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 965.00
Interest	.00	3,620.18
Expenses	.00	<u>.00</u>
		\$280,622.40

Savings Account (small)	<u>YTD</u>
Interest	\$1.01
Contributions	.00
	<u>\$14,985.00</u>

A PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH

Loving God, we thank you—the true Father of our country—for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that “this is our Father’s world” and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants. On Independence Day and every day, “O let us ne’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.” Amen.

-Sandy Hyland



“ONE FLAG, ONE LAND,
ONE HEART,
ONE HAND, ONE NATION
EVERMORE!”

— OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Barbara Speicher, Peggy Reagan, Evelyn Drobnick, Tina Hissinger, Berry Hey, Sally Koch, Margaret Hey, Richard Greener, JoAnn Ketz, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, and Ruth Keeney.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Family and friends of Warren Lengel, Pastor David Kistler, Cynthia, Bill, Charlotte, Kathy, Dolores Neidig, Lara and Drayton Pappas, Sheila Becker, Joan Ponzurick, Dick and Janet, Jean, Mary, Charles Trophe, Delores Kistler, Kathy Sutphin, Heather Baum, Eddie Kissling, Nick Odagis, Danielle Roberts, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Matt DeLeon, Pastor Joyce Seip, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, and Joyce.

(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.)

PEACH FESTIVAL

Bern Reformed UCC will be holding a Peach Festival on **Saturday, August 2**, in the grove. The event is open to the public.



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:

July 6 – Rich Myers
July 13 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
July 20 – *sponsor needed*
July 27 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz

Bulletin Sponsors:

July 6 – Pat Yocum
July 13 – Rich Myers
July 20 – *sponsor needed*
July 27 – *sponsor needed*

Newsletter Sponsor:

Rich Myers

Church Openers:

July 6 – Brenda Reichart
July 13 – Richard Gruber
July 20 – Theresa Shurr
July 27 – Christopher Becker

Church Greeters:

July 6 – Barbara Auchenbach
July 13 – Beverly Moyer
July 20 – Beverly Moyer
July 27 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

July 6 – Beth Hartman
July 13 – Rich Myers
July 20 – Brenda Reichart
July 27 – Kate Hartman

Communion Assistants:

July 6 – Hannah Lash
July 13 – Rich Myers
July 20 – Tracey Leh
July 27 – Dianne Leininger

Supply Pastor Schedule:

July 6 – Pastor William Fryer
July 13 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
July 20 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
July 27 – Pastor Joyce Seip

“Flowers don’t worry about how they’re going to bloom. They just open up and turn towards the light and that makes them beautiful.”

– Jim Carrey

JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30-7:45pm-Epler's UCC Bible Study	3	4 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group) 	5
6 <u>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Hannah Lash	7 12:00pm-Ladies Fellowship Luncheon in the Social Hall	8 4:30pm-Synod Meeting at Bern 6:00pm-Group Meeting Secretary Korinne Vacation until July 15	9 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved) 6:30-7:45pm-Epler's UCC Bible Study Secretary Korinne Vacation until July 15	10 Secretary Korinne Vacation until July 15	11 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	12
13 <u>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Rich Myers	14 NO Council Meeting	15 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved) Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30-7:45pm-Epler's UCC Bible Study 7:00pm-Finance and Endowment Committee Meeting	17	18 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	19 1:00-4:00pm-Social Hall reserved
20 <u>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern (Social Hall reserved) Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Tracey Leh	21 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern (Social Hall reserved)	22 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern (Social Hall reserved)	23 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern (Social Hall reserved) NO Bible Study	24 6:00-7:30pm-VBS at Bern (Social Hall reserved)	25 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	26
27 <u>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion -Social Hour after worship Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Nancy Malandra Comm. Asst.: Dianne Leininger	28	29	30 6:30-7:45pm-Epler's UCC Bible Study	31		