



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 NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

The *Bern Bugle* for the month of May is given to the Glory of God by the Schuler family in honor of school employees.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, April 15th:

- Tiffany Lash was approved for Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, May 19th.
- Aiden Angstadt, Jameson Kasisky, Hannah Lash, Derian Readinger, and Aidan Slusser were approved for Confirmation on Sunday, May 19th.
- A motion was made to accept the recommendation to move forward with the lease for a new copier.
- A motion was made to proceed with a bid by Tony and Joe's Landscaping Service.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m.**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the June *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, May 21st.**

Confirmation Class

Below is the schedule for our Confirmation classes and the Acolytes scheduled for the month of May:

Acolyte

May 5 – Faith Statements	Derian Readinger
May 12 – Rehearsal	Aidan Slusser
May 19 – Confirmation	

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children are invited to join us for Sunday School after the worship service from 11:00-11:30 a.m.

The last Sunday School class will be on Sunday, May 12, and will resume again in the fall on Sunday, September 8.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Our Catechetical Class: Aiden Angstadt, Jameson Kasisky, Hannah Lash, Derian Readinger, and Aidan Slusser will be presenting their Faith Statements to the congregation on Sunday, May 5th and will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th. A reception will follow the worship service to congratulate these young people of our congregation. Please join us!

KAUFFMAN'S BBQ CHICKEN DINNER, SYCAMORE FARMS APPLE DUMPLING AND FLOWER SALE

We will be holding our annual Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner, Sycamore Farm's Apple Dumpling, and flower sale this year on **Thursday, May 23rd**. There will be an assortment of hanging baskets, planters, log boxes, and deck pots to choose from. Pick up for your dinners and dumplings will be between 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Prices for the chicken dinners will be \$11.00 and apple dumplings will be \$6.00. You can place your orders by calling the church office at 610-374-4343, emailing the church at bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com, or go to our website at www.berchurch.org to click on a link for the order form.



KAUFFMAN'S
BBQ Chicken
&
SYCAMORE FARMS
Apple Dumpling Sale

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024
3:00 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH
820 WEST LEESPORT ROAD, LEESPORT, PA 19533
TO ORDER, CALL 610-374-4343 OR EMAIL TO BERNLUTHERANCHURCH@GMAIL.COM
YOU CAN ALSO ORDER ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BERCHURCH.ORG

 **\$6 each**
APPLE DUMPLINGS

CHICKEN DINNER INCLUDES:
✓ 1/2 CHICKEN
✓ BAKED POTATO
✓ APPLESAUCE
✓ BOTTLE OF WATER

Only \$11
 **BBQ CHICKEN**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

GERANIUM FLOWER ORDERS

We are planning to decorate our sanctuary with red geraniums for Pentecost Sunday on May 19th. The cost for a 6" double-bloom pot is \$6.00. Please fill out the order form included in your newsletter and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. **Orders are due by Sunday, May 12th.**

FOOD & FAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

Epler's UCC will be holding their Food & Faith worship service on **Friday, May 3**, with a fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m. The worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Dress is casual and membership is not required to attend. Come out for an evening of worship and fellowship.

COMMITTEE CORNER



Christian Education

The mission of our Christian Education committee is "To provide a lifelong program of Christian Education that will enable members of all ages to learn the scriptures and Lutheran teaching and apply them to their daily lives." This includes the Sunday School program, Vacation Bible School, First Communion and Confirmation classes and in the past, Bible Study. If you have an interest in joining the Christian Education committee, or just assisting with any of the programs offered, please contact Brenda Reichart.



Sunday, May 12, 2024

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:

May 5 – Patricia Yocum
May 12 – Linda and Carl Lash
May 19 – Beverly Moyer
May 26 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz

Bulletin Sponsors:

May 5 – Patricia Yocum
May 12 – *sponsor needed*
May 19 – Barbara Speicher
May 26 – *sponsor needed*

Newsletter Sponsor:

The Schuler Family

Church Openers:

May 5 – Erin Readinger
May 12 – Patricia Yocum
May 19 – Richard Gruber
May 26 – Brenda Reichart

Church Greeters:

May 5 – Barbara Auchenbach
May 12 – Nancy Malandra
May 19 – Barbara Auchenbach
May 26 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

May 5 – Donna Marks
May 12 – Barbara Braucher
May 19 – Richard Gruber
May 26 – Beth Hartman

Communion Assistants:

May 5 – Linda Lash
May 12 – Dianne Leininger
May 19 – Theresa Shurr

Supply Pastor Schedule:

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Parables of Jesus

Sunday, July 21 – Thursday, July 25

Please plan to join us for VBS in July to learn more about the mustard seed; the lost sheep; the parable of the lamp; and the Good Samaritan. We have plenty of fun activities planned. Please use the registration form included in this newsletter and place it in the Christian Ed mailbox, or click on the link below for the online version:

<https://forms.gle/mxxhw1daXzLPTGU18>.

Our mission project this year will be promoting healthy food choices and we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food as well as monetary donations. Even if you are not attending VBS, you are welcome to participate in this project. We are also in need of artificial greens, large or small, to be used to help decorate the social hall. Please place them in the collection box under the coat rack in the narthex. If you would like them returned to you after VBS, please put a tag with your name on them. Please watch for more VBS information as we get closer to the date!



MEMBERS:

Lucy Moyer, JoAnn Ketz, Jane Battaglieri, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Debra Kennedy, Joan Hoster, Eddie Kissling, Bill Manus, Kelly Cockrum, 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, Owen Hey, 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.)

"Try not to become a [person] of success, but rather try to become a [person] of value."
—Albert Einstein

thank you NOTES

Members of Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, Thank you for the support, prayers, and cards while Tim was ill. He fought hard for almost 2 years. The outpouring of love and support from our church family when Tim passed away was tremendous. The prayers, cards, food, help with the social room set-up, luncheon clean-up and many other details for the viewing and funeral were amazing. God has blessed our family with a wonderful church family. – Gratefully, The Tim Moyer family

Dear members of Bern Lutheran Church, as this holiday season has come to an end, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your donation towards our 2023 Christmas Program. Twenty-five (25) children received wonderful gifts because of your generosity. This is what was shared with me after Christmas:

- The parents of 1-year old Lyla loved the clothing and books that she received. When the caseworker was at the home, Lyla looked adorable wearing the Mickey Mouse shirt and pants.
- Genesis loved that all her stuff was unicorn themed. She especially loved her unicorn Nike jacket.
- Kimberly was SOOO excited for the volleyball she got. She told her caseworker she wanted one for a very long time.
- Luis loved his Dragon Ball Z figurine/toy that he received.
- Joseph loved his rollerskates.
- Margarita was very excited about her dolls.
- Yadira loved all of her coloring/art supplies.

Thank you again for making it possible to bring joy to these families. We hope that you continue to be supportive of our children for the next holiday season and may your 2024 be filled with happiness and good health!

With much appreciation and thanks, Jessica Sweeney, Christmas Program Coordinator, Berks County Children & Youth Services

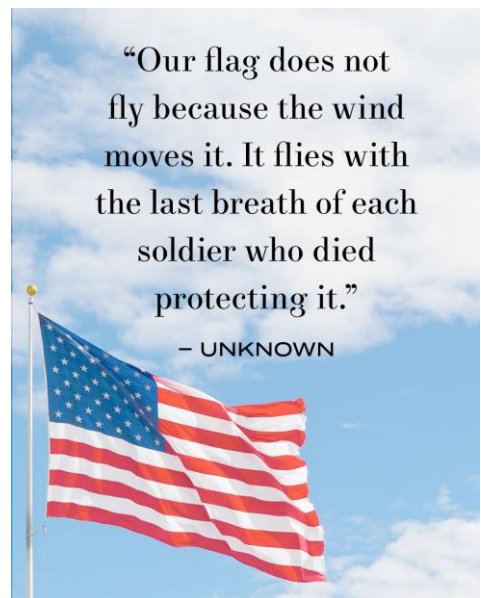
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Do you find comfort in prayer? Have you seen the impact that prayer can have in your life, or the life of those that you pray for? I hope that you can answer yes to both of those questions. We all have different ways of praying and different times that we do it, and that is ok. What is most important is that we continue to pray at all times and under all circumstances. Think of how powerful it could be if Christians throughout the country were all praying at the same time. That is what is going to happen on Thursday, May 2, 2024. That date has been designated as the National Day of Prayer for 2024. This year Bern Lutheran Church will participate in this event, as we did in 2021, by having members commit to 30 minute slots of time from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and spend that time in prayer. You are invited to do this from the comfort of your home or in the Sanctuary at church. The doors will be open. I hope that many of you will be willing to participate in this 12 continuous hours of prayer from our congregation. Please choose the time that works best for you from the schedule posted on the bulletin board, or call the church and your name can be added to the schedule. If the time that you prefer has been taken and there is not an opening that works for you, that is ok too. I don't think God will mind if we double up.

“Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.”

– UNKNOWN



Remember and honor our fallen heroes.

MEMORIAL DAY – Monday, May 27, 2024



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Beth Braucher
- 2 Gabe Mondoro
- 6 Tina Hissinger
- 6 Hunter Mountz
- 9 Patricia Yocum
- 13 Gregory Knabb
- 17 Tara Lash
- 18 Tabitha Angstadt
- 19 Dale Egan
- 20 Ruth Keeney *
- 21 Jacob Braucher
- 21 Luke Braucher
- 21 Kimberly Shank
- 24 Julie Riker
- 29 Gary Drobnick *
- 29 Marian Zimmermann
- 31 Katherine Koch



- 6 Richard and Donna Giles (30 years)
- 9 Walter and Lori Schlottman (31 years)
- 13 Matthew and Rowbee'C Kasisky (18 years)
- 23 Carl and Linda Lash (32 years)
- 28 Dennis and Charlene Egan (46 years)
- 30 Brent and Kate Schuler (9 years)

"Spread love everywhere you go; to show love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes our offering something beautiful to God."

—Mother Teresa

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
03/31/24	\$3,766.00	82
04/07/24	\$4,120.00	53
04/14/24	\$1,252.00	45
04/21/24	\$1,655.00	54

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$19,595.00	\$45,968.00
Congregational Fund Raising	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$19,595.00</u>	<u>\$45,968.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$18,098.00	\$35,294.00
Non-Budgeted Income	1,497.00	10,674.00
Budgeted Expenses	7,374.00	21,318.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses (Festival of Faith)	1,000.00	2,895.00
Benevolence to be Paid	639.00	1,558.00
Surplus/Deficit	+10,582.00	+20,197.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2024 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	.00	600.00
Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry	198.00	.00
Festival of Faith		

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$ 125.00	\$ 325.00
Interest	75.99	222.17
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$44,942.61</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 458.00
Interest	1,202.50
Expenses (Festival of Faith transfer)	<u>1,000 .00</u>
	<u>\$263,745.25</u>

VBS REGISTRATION FORM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



hosted by Bern Lutheran Church
along with Epler's UCC

Sunday, July 21st to Thursday, July 25th
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Name_____

Date of Birth_____ Grade Completed_____ Age_____

(2-3 year olds must be accompanied by an adult for VBS)

Parent/Guardian Name(s)_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Cell Phone_____ Home Phone_____ Email_____

Will you accompany and stay with your child during VBS? ____ yes ____ no

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number_____

Any special needs?_____

Any allergies?_____

Is there a special friend your child must or would like to be with?_____

I give my permission to post photographs of me and/or my child(ren) on the church's website,
Facebook page, and other publications ____ yes ____ no

Are you a member of Epler's UCC _____ Bern Lutheran _____ Other _____

Class/Crew Assignment_____

(completed by church)

Return or mail your VBS Registration Form
To: Bern Lutheran Church
820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533

You can also register online by following this link: <https://forms.gle/mxxhw1daXzLPTGU18>.
or go to Epler's UCC website at www.eplerschurch.org

A SOLDIER DIED TODAY

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?



The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so many times,
That our Bobs and Jims
Went to battle, but we still pine.

It was not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a soldier,
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common soldier,
Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."



-Author unknown

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 6:00pm-Food & Faith worship service, Epler's UCC, Leesport 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	4
5 <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Erin Readinger Lector: Donna Marks Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	6	7	8 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council Boy Scouts (Social Hall use)	9 ASCENSION DAY	10 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	11
12 <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School -Geranium Orders Due Opener: Patricia Yocum Lector: Barbara Braucher Greeter: Nancy Malandra MOTHER'S DAY	13	14	15	16	17 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	18 ARMED FORCES DAY
19 <u>Day of Pentecost</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship -Confirmation -Affirmation of Faith Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	20 7:00pm-Council Meeting	21 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall use) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 3:00-6:30pm- Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner and Apple Dumpling Pick-up	24 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	25
26 <u>The Holy Trinity</u> 10:00 am-Worship -Social Hour after worship Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Nancy Malandra	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28 4:00-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	29	30	31 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	

GERANIUM ORDER FORM

Help us celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th by decorating the sanctuary with red geraniums. If you would like to order any geraniums, please return this form with your payment and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by **Sunday, May 12th**. The price for a 6" double-bloom pot is \$6.00. Thank you!

Qty.

Cost

6" double-bloom pot \$6.00 each: _____ \$ _____

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: Any geraniums ordered must be taken with you after the service.
Thank you!***