

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

Address Service Requested

September





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 September *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* needs a sponsor.

Council Meeting Highlights

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

- An updated agreement for Pastor Gary Rarick to continue to serve as our Designated Pastor is now in place with no end date.
- A discussion took place regarding the need for additional work to clean and repaint the steeple.
- A quote was received for repaving the parking lot. Further planning will be done by the Property Committee.
- A small choir has been started. They plan to sing 6 times a year.
- Parents will be using Bern's parking lot as a pick-up and drop-off point for their children during the school year. The school bus will be picking up and dropping off the students at the curb.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Epler's UCC Summer Food & Faith Worship Service

You are invited to join the members of Epler's UCC on **Friday, September 5th**, for their Food & Faith fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a worship service at 7:00 p.m. The topic will be "Noah's Ark: Have you ever really thought about it?"

Sunday School

We are excited to announce the start of our Sunday School on **September 7th** following our worship service. All children are invited to join us for fun-filled learning.

September Lunch Bunch

The ladies will be meeting on **Monday, September 8th, at 12 noon** for their monthly fellowship luncheon in the Social Hall. Please note the date change due to Labor Day being on September 1st.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the October *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, September 16th.**

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday

Sunday, September 7th is God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. We are going to be collecting items for the Rudden Family Foundation. This foundation assists individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. They could really use cleaning supplies for families. There is a collection basket in the narthex. **Please have your donations in by Sunday, September 7th.** The following are suggested items:

- ✓ dish soap
- ✓ scrubbies
- ✓ cleaning cloth
- ✓ Mr. Clean or similar cleaning liquid
- ✓ Windex
- ✓ Mr. Clean White Cleaning Bar

We are doing this in conjunction with Trinity, Leesport, and Trinity, Gouglersville. Members of all three congregations are invited to meet at Trinity, Leesport, on Sunday, September 7, starting at 1:00 p.m. to fill the buckets with the cleaning supplies. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you are planning to attend.

September Social Hour

Join us for our Social Hour on **Sunday, September 28**, after the worship service. A host and contributors are needed. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you are interested in hosting or contributing any desserts. Thank you!

Epler's UCC Fall Book Group

Pastor Gary Rarick from Epler's UCC will be holding a book group in the fall. The book to be discussed is *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian* by Brian McLaren. **Meeting dates are each Thursday, September 4, through November 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

September Sign-up Sheets

We are in need of a Flower sponsor for Sunday, September 28, Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, September 21 and 28, and a newsletter sponsor. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring any of these dates. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School Wrap-up

Vacation Bible School was held July 20-24. The theme was Forgiveness and it was a huge success. A total of 33 children participated throughout the week. The mission project was collecting donations for the SV food pantry. We had a tremendous response with our donation table overflowing with non-perishable food. Thank you to Erin and Cerina Reader for leading our VBS program. Thanks to our congregation for their continued support of this ministry. Be sure to check out some pictures from the week of VBS elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thank you!

To the members of the Lunch Bunch who prepared dinner for the residents of Safe Berks on Wednesday, July 30, in support of the Outreach Committee.

Someone in the Hospital?

If you have a family member in the hospital or someone in need of a phone call, pastoral visit, or prayers, please call the church office or contact our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick, at 610-401-1545. We sometimes receive notifications from Tower Health Hospital when a member has been admitted, but not always, so we rely on family members or friends to inform us. Thank you!

Free Community Meal

Epler's UCC, 1151 West Leesport Road, Leesport is sponsoring a free community meal on **Tuesday, September 23, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** (until while supplies last). This will be a drive-through, takeout only event. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors and anyone who could use a good free meal. No reservations are necessary.

Upcoming Free Community Meals

Mark your calendars for these additional upcoming free community meals:

- Tuesday, October 21 at Bern UCC
- Tuesday, November 18 at St. John's Gernant's Church

Harvest Home Service

Mark your calendars to join us on **Sunday, October 12**, at our 10:00 a.m. worship service when we will celebrate our Harvest Home service. We will have a beautiful harvest display in the sanctuary to remind us all to be thankful of the bounty God bestows upon us. Our special offering for the day will go to ELCA World Hunger.



Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse Clothing Drive

As you are going through your closets to prepare for cooler temperatures, please set aside those items that you are ready to pass on for our upcoming clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse. The collection box will be available from October 5 – November 23. The clothing can be for any season.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our Holiday Kick-off will be held **Sunday, November 30**, immediately following the worship service. Watch for more details as we get closer to that date.

Wreaths Across America

We will be taking orders for wreaths to remember our military veterans. The laying of the wreaths will take place on Saturday, December 13th. A service will take place before the laying of the wreaths at 1:00 p.m. at Bern UCC. Please come into the church building at 1:00 p.m. for the service and your assignments. If you are interested in helping to lay the wreaths, contact Barry Shurr at 610-372-7229. See the order form included in this newsletter for more details and to place your order. **The deadline for orders is Monday, December 1st.**

Our Designated Pastor

Just a reminder that our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick of Epler's Church, is available for conversations and pastoral care if needed. Whether you're going through a tough time, seeking spiritual guidance, or just want a listening ear, Pastor Gary is here to listen. You can contact Pastor Gary at 610-401-1545 or pastorrarick@gmail.com.



Sunday, September 7th



Berks County Farm Market & Festival

The Penn State Master Gardeners of Berks County will be hosting the Berks County Farm Market & Festival at the Berks County Heritage Center on **Saturday, September 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Admission is FREE! Celebrate the bounty of Berks County with fresh produce, local vendors, and fun for the whole family. Master Gardeners will be there to answer all your gardening questions. Plus, don't miss a delicious food demo by Jennifer, Food, Families & Community Educator — come learn tasty tips and tricks for seasonal cooking!

Designer Bags/Gift Baskets Bingo

St. John's Gernant's Church, 13 Gernant's Church Road, Leesport, is holding a Designer Bag/Gift Basket Bingo on **Sunday, September 21st**. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20.00 / \$25.00 at the door. (Ticket price includes a hot dog and drink.) To order tickets, call the church office at 610-926-2384 or Barb Parznik at 610-562-5086.



MEMBERS:

Greg Knabb, 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:

Joel Koch, Pastor David Kistler, Cynthia, Bill, Charlotte, Kathy, Dolores Neidig, Lara and Drayton Pappas, Sheila Becker, Joan Ponzurick, Dick and Janet, Jean, Mary, 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.)

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
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7/06/2025	\$2,813.00	38
7/13/2025	\$1,720.00	35
7/20/2025	\$1,915.00	44
7/27/2025	\$1,699.00	38

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$9,305.00	\$75,186.00
Congregational Fundraising	.00	4,069.00
Total Funds	<u>\$9,305.00</u>	<u>\$79,255.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$8,761.00	\$65,146.00
Non-Budgeted Income	344.00	14,109.00
Budgeted Expenses	16,317.00	74,981.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	.00	7,674.00
Benevolence to be Paid	328.00	328.00
Surplus/Deficit	<u>-7,540.00</u>	<u>-3,728.00</u>

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2025 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$680.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	623.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	643.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	320.00	600.00
Other	662.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$ 880.00
Interest	99.49	670.80
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$48,478.55

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 1,054.00
Interest	.00	5,193.41
Expenses	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$282,244.63



(* Denotes 80 years young)

1	Tiffany Lash
11	Annette Becker
11	Matthew Kasisky
11	Mark Lash
14	Rowbee'C Kasisky
16	Rachel Mountz
18	Sally Koch
19	Harold Leh *
19	Devin Schlottman
21	Craig Myers *
22	Walter Schlottman
23	Donna Marks
26	Lucy Moyer *



2	Jeffrey and Andrea Shurr (19 years)
14	Harold and Janet Leh (62 years)
16	Christopher and Annette Becker (36 years)
17	Michael and Beth Braucher (31 years)
23	George and Jane Schaeffer (75 years)
23	G. Michael and Mirian Zimmermann (30 years)
25	Kyle and Tabitha Angstadt (21 years)

PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY

Lord, on this Labor Day we thank
You for the blessing of work.

We ask for strength to
complete each day.

We ask for rest when we are weary.

We ask Your guidance for everyone
seeking employment, and we
ask that You be with those
whose faces we might never see
but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.
Amen.

“If you have good thoughts, they will
shine out of your face like sunbeams
and you will always look lovely.” –
Roald Dahl

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:

September 7 – Beth and David Hartman
September 14 – Sierra Adam
September 21 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
September 28 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors:

September 7 – Evelyn and Gary Drobnick
September 14 – Sierra Adam
September 21 – *sponsor needed*
September 28 – *sponsor needed*

Newsletter Sponsor: *sponsor needed*

Church Openers:

September 7 – Richard Gruber
September 14 – Brenda Reichart
September 21 – Linda Lash
September 28 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

September 7 – Barbara Auchenbach
September 14 – Beverly Moyer
September 21 – Barbara Speicher
September 28 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

September 7 – Kate Schuler
September 14 – Beth Hartman
September 21 – Rich Myers
September 28 – Tracey Leh

Communion Assistants:

September 7 – Hannah Lash
September 14 – Tracey Leh
September 21 – Rich Myers

Supply Pastor Schedule:

September 7 – Pastor William Fryer
September 14 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
September 21 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
September 28 – TBA

SV FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

Thank you to those members who helped out at the SV Food Pantry distribution on Saturday, August 16. Approximately 100 families were served. Your help is greatly appreciated.





SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4 10:30am-12:00pm-Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC	5 6:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith Meal 7:00pm- Worship 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	6 9:00am-2:00pm-Berks County Farm Market & Festival, Heritage Center 2:30pm-Social Hall reserved for Tracey Leh
7 <u>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -God's Work. Our Hands. 11:00am-Sunday School 1:00pm-Fill buckets at Trinity, Leesport Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Hannah Lash	8 12:00pm-Ladies Fellowship Luncheon in the Social Hall	9	10 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts (Social Hall reserved)	11 10:30am-12:00pm-Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC 	12 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	13
14 <u>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Baptism of Aiden Adam 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Tracey Leh	15 7:00pm-Council Meeting	16 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved) Newsletter Deadline	17	18 10:30am-12:00pm-Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC	19 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	20 8:30am-12:00pm-Heartland Herb Society (Social Hall reserved)
21 <u>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School 12:30pm-Designer Bag Bingo, St. John's Gernant's Church Opener: Linda Lash Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Barbara Speicher Comm. Asst: Rich Myers	22 	23 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall reserved) 4:30-6:00pm-Free Community Meal at Epler's UCC	24	25 10:30am-12:00pm-Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC	26 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	27
28 <u>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Social Hour after worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Tracey Leh Greeter: Nancy Malandra	29	30				



NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

WHY WE DO IT

We understand we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms. In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We hope you will join us at any of our more than 1,600 participating locations to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We will never forget.

Please help Bern Cemetery Company remember our military veterans by sponsoring a wreath in either Bern Cemetery or the Bern Historic Graveyard this holiday season.

The cost for the wreath is \$17.00. They are live wreaths from Maine and are 22" in diameter with a red bow. **The Wreaths Across America service will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Bern Reformed UCC, on Saturday, December 13, 2025.** Wreaths will be placed at the graves following the service.

Please make checks payable to "Bern Cemetery Company" and give to Barry Shurr or place in offering plate. Checks may also be mailed to: Barbara Reed, Treasurer, Bern Cemetery Company, 3 Brossman Lane, Wernersville, PA 19565 or Barry Shurr, 118 Berkley Street, Reading, PA 19605. **The deadline is Monday, December 1st.** If you are interested in assisting with the laying of the wreaths that day, please let Barry Shurr know.

Please return this bottom portion with your check by Sunday, December 1st. Thank you!

Sponsor (your name): _____

Place on grave(s) of _____ or where needed _____

Number of wreaths _____