



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:

Michael Braucher, President
Richard Gruber, Vice President
Theresa Shurr, Secretary
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Jane Battaglieri
Christopher Becker
Matthew Kasisky
Linda Lash
Dianne Leininger
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 August is sponsored by Phil and JoAnn Ketz in memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Vacula and Mr. and Mrs. John Ketz.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

There are no highlights this month because council members enjoyed a well-deserved break from meeting for the month of July.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, August 21st at 7:00 p.m.**

AUGUST SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, August 6, 13, and 20. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring these items. Thank you to all who signed up!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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

HOSPITAL NOTIFICATIONS

Since we are only notified by Tower Health/Reading Hospital when a member is admitted, we are asking that if you, a member of your family, or a member of our congregation is ever hospitalized at Penn State Health/St. Joseph's Hospital or any other hospital, please let us know by contacting the church office at 610-374-4343.

Also, in the event you would need pastoral care, please contact our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick, of Epler's UCC at 610-401-1545 or email him at pastorrarick@gmail.com.

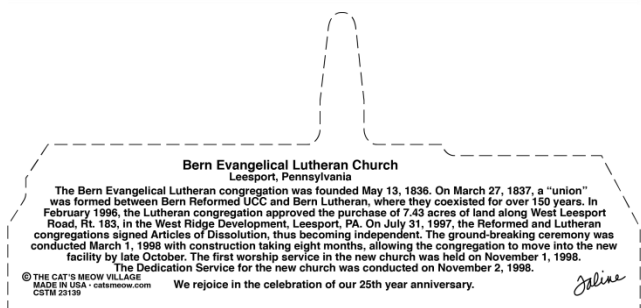
SEMI-ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you have made any contributions from January 1 through June 30, 2023, you should have received a statement in the mail reflecting those contributions. Please let Korinne in the church office know if you have not received one or if you have any questions. Thank you!

25TH ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

On November 1, 2023 we will be celebrating 25 years as Bern Lutheran Church. An anniversary worship service will take place on **Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** In celebration of this very special occasion, we are taking orders for a handcrafted wooden keepsake replica of our church building (see the sample below). The cost is \$20.00 each. An order form is included with this newsletter or forms can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can give your order form and payment to Barry Shurr, place it in the offering basket on Sunday morning, place it in the mail slot of the secretary's office, or mail in your order form with payment to Bern Lutheran Church. Please make your check payable to "Bern Lutheran Church" and write *Cat's Meow* on the memo line of your check.

Orders are due by Sunday, September 3, 2023.



REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

If you are a Redner's shopper and have a loyalty card, please save your cash register receipts. Every time you use your loyalty card when purchasing merchandise, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape customer receipt. Bring your receipts to church and when we turn them into Redner's we will get 1% back from all the grocery register receipts we submit. So keep saving those receipts!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Pastor Kenneth Gould, Brooke Noecker, Evelyn Drobnick, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Tim Moyer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Brian Keeney, Mary Ann, Ziomara, Patricia, the family, friends, and neighbors of R. M. Palmer, Ginny and Nelson Eyrich, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Terry Hine, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Ann Skinner, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Marcia Stoudt, Pastor Joyce Seip, Peter and wife, Bill and Joan Carpenter, Arthur W. Zimmerman, Natalie, Bob Stoner, Ashley Rizzuto, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, and Lesley Wegman

(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.)

LITTLE GUIDEPOSTS TO PEACE

The following items serve as "little guideposts on the footpath to peace," according to author and pastor Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933):

- to be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars;
- to be satisfied with your possessions but not content with yourself until you have made the best of them;
- to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice;
- to covet nothing of your neighbor's except [their] kindness of heart and gentleness of manners;
- to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends and every day of Christ;
- to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God's out-of-doors.



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 2 Zackery Schlottman
- 7 Robert Hissinger
- 9 Timothy Moyer
- 12 Cameron Cote
- 14 Audrey Henderson *
- 16 Bonnie Schlappich
- 17 Aiden Angstadt
- 18 Janna Kneeream
- 19 Ryan Wagner
- 20 Mitzi Cote
- 22 Bristol Long
- 24 Lanny Werley
- 25 MaryEllen Grace Reichart
- 29 George Schaeffer *
- 30 Ted Mountz
- 30 Emma Wismer
- 30 Ethan Wismer



- 2 E. Berry and Margaret Hey (37 years)
- 6 Philip and JoAnn Ketz (57 years)
- 12 Barry and Bonnie Eiche (45 years)



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

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.

If you wish to sponsor Altar Flowers, but don't want to pay the cost for both vases, you can split the cost with another member. Each vase would cost \$17.50 and each sponsor could still include a dedication in the bulletin. Thank you!

Altar Flower Sponsors:

- August 6 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
- August 13 – The Braucher family
- August 20 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
- August 27 – Barbara Auchenbach

Bulletin Sponsors:

- August 6 – *sponsor needed*
- August 13 – *sponsor needed*
- August 20 – *sponsor needed*
- August 27 – Pat and Harry Yocum

Newsletter Sponsor:

Phil and JoAnn Ketz

Church Openers:

- August 6 – Patricia Yocum
- August 13 – Theresa Shurr
- August 20 – Richard Gruber
- August 27 – Dianne Leininger

Church Greeters:

- August 6 – Barbara Auchenbach
- August 13 – Barbara Auchenbach
- August 20 – Nancy Malandra
- August 27 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

- August 6 – Beth Hartman
- August 13 – Kate Schuler
- August 20 – Brenda Reichart
- August 27 – David Greenwood

Supply Pastor Schedule:

- August 6 – Pastor William Fryer
- August 13 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
- August 20 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
- August 27 – Pastor David Kistler

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."

-attributed to Vincent van Gogh

CLEAN WATER PROJECT IN CHAD, AFRICA

This year's VBS program between Bern Lutheran Church and Epler's Church is around the "Water Miracles of Jesus." There is a large mission project that the churches are going to work on together. A member of Epler's, Delsi Atchina, comes from Chad, Africa, and still has family there. His family is going to assist us in this direct project to get water to a small village. We will be raising the funds between the two churches over the next few months. Please give as you are able. Please read the article below for more information.

INTRODUCTION

Every day in rural communities and poor urban communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa Chad, hundreds of people, if not millions, suffer from a lack of access to clean and safe water. Bern Lutheran Church and Epler's Church can make a lasting difference in the village of Sousi Ziboui by partnering with the community to implement a clean water solar project. Finding water is a daily challenge for young girls, moms, and sons. The solar-powered water system will provide a reliable and sustainable source of clean water for the entire village and not just one family. The solar water system will be sustainable, harnessing renewable energy to power the water pump and reducing the reliance on traditional, unreliable water sources.



The solar water project will be implemented in Sousi Ziboui, a rural village in Chad, where access to clean and safe water is currently limited. By focusing our efforts on the entire village, we aim to bring sustainable change and benefit to the entire community.

PROJECT COMPONENTS NEEDED

- Submersible pump
- 750 gallon tank
- Solar panels and its components

- Installation cost (this will be the village's contribution to the project)

The cost breakdown shows that the project is cost effective and has a long-term impact; making it a worthwhile investment. It is helpful to look at the cost broken down by benefit over time. For example, in a village where a \$3,000 water project is installed, this will provide water for over 150 families for the next 10 years. The cost is equivalent to:

- \$20 per family for 10 years, or
- \$2 per family per year, or
- 1/2 a penny per family per day, or
- 1/10th of a penny per gallon

Engaging the villagers in the project by involving them in the installation process, such as providing labor and local materials at cost of \$1,000, fosters a sense of ownership and sustainability.

The villagers themselves can take care of the labor and materials required for the project. By providing training and education for the villagers on how to use and maintain the solar water system which is crucial for the project's sustainability, the churches can empower the community to be self-sufficient and capable of handling any maintenance or repairs that may be required in the future.

Bern Lutheran Church and Epler's Church can make a lasting difference in Sousi Ziboui by addressing the water scarcity issue and improving the overall well-being of the village residents.



CONCLUSION

The primary goal of this project is to ensure that the entire village of Sousi Ziboui has access to clean and safe water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene purposes. By addressing the water scarcity issue, we can enhance the overall health and well-being of the community by reducing waterborne diseases and improving sanitation. Please help as you are able. An offering envelope is included in this newsletter.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

The 10th annual Adult VBS at Advent Lutheran Church, 16 Telford Avenue, West Lawn will be held on Monday, **August 7 through Thursday, August 10** from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** The theme is “The Book of Revelation,” the most mysterious and disputed book of the Bible. The program will consist of adult learning, fellowship, and service. As always, there will be engaging discussion, good food, games, prizes, fun and a project designed to benefit people in need. The program will be followed by a catered lunch each day. Suggested donation to help defray the cost of lunch is \$25.00. Everyone is welcome!

Click on the link below or see the registration form included in this newsletter.

[Register here for Adult VBS](#)

PICNIC IN THE GROVE

St. John’s (Hain’s) UCC, 591 N. Church Road, Wernersville, will be holding a picnic in the grove on **Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.** The kitchen opens at 4:00 p.m. and pork BBQ, soup, burgers, hot dogs, french fries, beverages, desserts, and ice cream will be available for purchase. Music by Dave Kline and the Mountain Folk Band will start at 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit St. John’s website at www.stjhains.org or their Facebook page.

BETHANY CHILDREN’S HOME ANNIVERSARY DAY

On **Saturday, August 19**, Bethany Children’s Home, 1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, is celebrating Anniversary Day with a raffle, live music, carnival games, food, rides, and tribute lighting. Featuring music from Jeff Krick Jr.: Elvis Tribute from 12:00-2:00 p.m., The Celtic Martins from 3:00-5:00 p.m., and Grease Band from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Gates are open from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per car. Lawn seating only—bring your favorite blanket or chair! Visit their website at www.bethanyhome.org for more information.

KIDS AND FRIENDS CHURCH PICNIC AT BLUE MARSH SWIMMING AREA

Zion (Spies) Lutheran Church is hosting a church picnic for children ages 3-12 years and for the adults who love them on **Saturday, August 26, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.** at Blue Marsh swimming area. Play and meet other people of faith, young and old, from this area. We will swim, paddle, study fishing, and picnicking from Jesus’ point of view, and of course enjoy great food and fellowship.

Contact Amanda Grow at Zion (Spies) Church, 310 Spies Church Road, Reading, at 610-779-1181 or email the church office at ZionSpies@comcast.net with your name, what food you’d like to bring, and how many people you will bringing by Saturday, August 19.

A canoe, kayak, and life vests are available for toddlers to adult. Each family unit provides supervision. Please note: There are no lifeguards on duty at Blue Marsh.

SUMMER FRUIT BASKET

Taste some fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)—perfect for summer, and all year round!

- Love: “There is always an ‘again’ with love.”—Unknown
- Joy: “I don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.”—Anne Frank
- Peace: “Peace begins with a smile.”—Mother Teresa
- Patience: “The purposes of God may sometimes seem delayed, but they are never abandoned.”—H. C. Mears
- Kindness: “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”—Mark Twain
- Goodness: “Goodness means to do things for the glory of God.”—Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- Faithfulness: “Do small things as if they were great because of the majesty of Christ, who does them in us.”—Blaise Pascal
- Gentleness: “There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness.”—Han Suyin
- Self-control: “God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”—2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)





Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Mix at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!



Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God's amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

○ _ _ _ _ _

The heavens are the work of God's what? (Psalm 8:3)

_ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

_ ○ _ _ _

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

○ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

_ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

The heave__s declare the __lory __f __od;
the ski__s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV



YOUR MISSION SUPPORT GIFTS AT WORK

STORYTELLING ENGAGEMENT

2023 Mission Support Memo

The eHarmony of Prison Reentry

*As you read this story, what questions arise?
How might you share this story with others in your
ministry setting?*

A story from our Grand Canyon Synod

Over 600,000 people are released from prison every year, and as they struggle to rejoin society, they face barriers to connecting with reentry service providers. We are honored that so many of our synods and congregations are active in prison ministry; yet they know the challenge of finding reliable and effective resources to support folks once they've been released.

Our synods are supporting reentry ministry: the Metropolitan Chicago Synod helped start the work and the Grand Canyon Synod has launched the innovative online resource the Inside Out Network (ION), a one-of-a-kind platform that helps returning citizens connect with the support they need for a successful reentry. The Grand Canyon Synod has made a strong commitment, awarding ION an "Adapting, Connecting, Transforming and Sustaining" grant so it can help people access ministries and service providers.

ION is a bit like eHarmony: returning citizens and service providers can find each other and exchange messages, even before release, to make sure returning citizens get the support they need as soon after release as possible. What started as a prison ministry from an ELCA church in the Chicago area is now operating in Illinois and Arizona and launching soon in Oregon, with 6,400 returning citizens and 443 service providers and ministries enrolled. ION is always free to returning citizens, and service providers participate free of charge for a year before paying a modest annual fee.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, ION has gone into Arizona prisons to train staff on using the platform. This has led to inmates enrolling before their release; reports indicate that as release approaches, they are less anxious, seeing ahead of time what help will be available.

ION values its partnerships with ministry and is currently developing a Reentry Congregational Initiative, gathering insights from faith communities that intentionally minister to returning citizens. Many ELCA congregations work in this area, and we welcome any insights they might provide by completing this survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLFWMLS>). ION intends to develop a guidebook called "Effective Reentry Ministry for Ordinary Congregations"; its valuable "Spiritual Survival Guide for Prison and Beyond" can be read or downloaded free of charge from the ION website at insideoutnetwork.net/resources.



OF BERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In November of this year, we will be celebrating our 25th anniversary as Bern Lutheran Church. In celebration of our anniversary, we are taking orders for a handcrafted wooden keepsake replica of our church building designed by Cat's Meow Village. Give yourself or someone you love a gift to remember this historic year to celebrate our church's 25 years of continuous faith and service. The cost is \$20.00 each.

To place an order, contact Barry Shurr at 610-372-7229, place your order form with payment in the offering basket, in the mail slot of the Secretary's office, or mail in your order form with payment to Bern Lutheran Church at 820 W. Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533. Please make your check payable to "Bern Lutheran Church" and write *Cat's Meow* on the memo line of your check. Orders are due by Sunday, September 3, 2023. Below is a sample of the front and back of the keepsake.



Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
Leesport, Pennsylvania

The Bern Evangelical Lutheran congregation was founded May 13, 1836. On March 27, 1837, a "union" was formed between Bern Reformed UCC and Bern Lutheran, where they coexisted for over 150 years. In February 1996, the Lutheran congregation approved the purchase of 7.43 acres of land along West Leesport Road, Rt. 183, in the West Ridge Development, Leesport, PA. On July 31, 1997, the Reformed and Lutheran congregations signed Articles of Dissolution, thus becoming independent. The ground-breaking ceremony was conducted March 1, 1998 with construction taking eight months, allowing the congregation to move into the new facility by late October. The first worship service in the new church was held on November 1, 1998. The Dedication Service for the new church was conducted on November 2, 1998.

© THE CAT'S MEOW VILLAGE
MADE IN USA - catsmeow.com
CSTM 23139

We rejoice in the celebration of our 25th year anniversary. *Joline*



Please fill out this order form with the number of keepsakes you would like to purchase and return this portion to Bern Lutheran Church. Make your check payable to "Bern Lutheran Church" and please write *Cat's Meow* on the memo line of your check. Orders are due by Sunday, September 3, 2023.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Qty. @ \$20.00 each _____ Total: \$ _____

Advent's Adult Vacation Bible School is back!

~ The Book of Revelation ~

Curious about this most mysterious and disputed book of the Bible? So are we! Join us for our 10th annual (after an interruption due to Covid-19) program of adult learning, fellowship, and service. As always, there will be engaging discussion, good food, games, prizes, fun and a project designed to benefit people in need.

Advent Lutheran Church - 16 Telford Ave., West Lawn, PA 19609

Phone: 610.678.2411

Dates: Monday, August 7th – Thursday, August 10th

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon (followed by a catered lunch)

Invite some friends. Spread the word. Everyone is welcome!

Suggested donation to help defray the cost of lunch: \$25

Adult VBS Registration Form

(Please return to the Advent Lutheran Church Office or mailbox by July 23rd.)

16 Telford Ave., West Lawn, PA 19609

Dates: Monday, August 7th – Thursday, August 10th, 2023

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon (followed by a catered lunch)

Suggested donation to help defray the cost of lunch: \$25

(Please make out checks to Advent Lutheran Church with AVBS on the Memo line.)

Name _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 6:00pm-Food and Faith Worship Service, Epler's UCC 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	5
6 <u>10th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion Pastor: William Fryer Opener: Patricia Yocum Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	7 9:00am-12:00pm- Adult Vacation Bible School, Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn	8 9:00am-12:00pm-Adult Vacation Bible School, Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn	9 9:00am-12:00pm-Adult Vacation Bible School, Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts (Social Hall)	10 9:00am-12:00pm-Adult Vacation Bible School, Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn	11 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	12 4:00-8:00pm-Picnic in the Grove, St. John's (Hain's) UCC, Wernersville
13 <u>11th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion Pastor: Kenneth Gould Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	14	15 9:00am-Berks Quilter's Guild (all-day workshop)	16	17	18 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	19 11:00am-9:00pm- Bethany Children's Home Anniversary Day, Womelsdorf
20 <u>12th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Holy Communion Pastor: Kenneth Gould Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Nancy Malandra	21 7:00pm-Council Meeting	22 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23	24	25 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond	26 2:00-6:00pm-Kids and Friends Church Picnic, Blue Marsh Swimming Area
27 <u>13th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Pastor: David Kistler Opener: Dianne Leininger Lector: David Greenwood Greeter: Nancy Malandra	28	29	30	31		