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

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 April is given to the Glory of God in honor of Zoe Westmeyer's 1st birthday with love from Nana Sally Koch.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, March 20th:

- A motion was made to donate \$250 from Endowment - Outreach to each of the following organizations: Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Hope Rescue Mission, and St. FrancisHome.
- The electric has been updated on the island in the kitchen and the timers have been upgraded to digital.
- The Confirmation students will pick the hymns for Confirmation Sunday on May 21st.
- Two delegates are needed to represent Bern Lutheran Church at this year's Synod Assembly.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m.**

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

In order to provide high quality weekly bulletins and cover mailing costs, we invite you to become an Altar Flower sponsor for \$35.00/week or a Bulletin sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month. 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 2023 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

APRIL SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for April 16 and Bulletin sponsors for April 16 and 23. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring these items. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the April *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, April 18th.**

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Bern Lutheran Church is scheduled to help at the next food pantry distribution on **Saturday**, **April 15**, **at 7:30 a.m.** at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 102 Apple Street, Leesport. If you are able to participate, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway or contact Korinne in the church office.

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH'S DESIGNATED PASTOR

Pastor Gary Rarick of Epler's UCC in Leesport has agreed to be our Designated Pastor. What this means is Pastor Rarick will be available for homebound visits and communion, funerals and weddings, and other pastoral care needs. Feel free to contact him at 610-401-1545 or email at pastorrarick@gmail.com.

If anyone would like to receive home communion, please contact Korinne in the office and arrangements can be made.

EPLER'S UCC EASTER EGG HUNT

Epler's UCC will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt, rain or shine, on

Saturday, April 8, at 12 noon. All children up to and including 5th grade are invited to participate. The event is open to the



community. Please bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Two delegates are needed to represent Bern Lutheran Church at the Synod Assembly this year. The Synod Assembly will be held on Thursday through Saturday, June 1-3, at the Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos. If you are interested, please see any council member. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR VBS

Robin Ganster from Epler's UCC has served as the Program Coordinator for our joint VBS program for a number of years. She has decided that it is time for her to step away from that role. We are looking for a volunteer willing to step in and assume those responsibilities for our program. This year's program is scheduled to be held from **Sunday**, **July 23 through Thursday**, **July 27**. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, or need more information before deciding, please contact Brenda Reichart at 610-926-6772. Thank you!

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

For the Week Ending	Income toward Budget Expenses	Attendance	
03/05/23	\$4,386.96	52	
03/12/23	2,048.00	58	
03/19/23	2,420.00	57	
03/26/23	4,514.00	63	

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

Budget Report - Year to Date

Income Congregational Fund Raising (Sound System) Total Funds	February \$9,680.00 <u>10,000.00</u> \$19,680.00	<u>YTD</u> \$21,788.00 <u>10,000.00</u> <u>\$31,788.00</u>	
Actual Income / Expenses Budgeted Income Non-Budgeted Income Budgeted Expenses Non-Budgeted Expenses Benevolence to be Paid	February \$8,766.00 10,915.00 8,585.00 890.00 335.00	<u>YTD</u> \$ 19,225.00 12,563.00 14,583.00 2,889.00 335.00	
Surplus/Deficit	+9,871.00	+13,981.00	
Benevolence Synod and ELCA World Hunger Mission Field W.B.M.D. Other (Souper Bowl)	YTD \$156.00 50.50 75.50 53.00 490.00	2023 Pledge \$3,000.00 1,500.00 1,300.00 600.00	
Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$245.00	
Interest	.51	.87	
Expense	0.00	0.00	
		<u>\$42,578.95</u>	
Savings Account Thrivent Choice Dollars Interest Expenses	\$	YTD 255.00 6.75 .00 \$132,682.52	



HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE

Our clothing drive to benefit the Hope Rescue Mission continues until April 9th. We are currently collecting men's, women's, and children's clothing, shoes, purses, socks, hats,

gloves, coats, sheets, and towels. We have already emptied the box twice so far. Thank you for all your donations! Be sure to check out the Hope Rescue Mission website at https://www.hopeforreading.org/ to see how your donations help families in Berks





We are recycling printer ink cartridges. If you have any used cartridges at home, you may now bring them into church and place them in the box in the narthex. Korinne, our secretary, will take them to Staples and they will be applied to the rewards program to help purchase paper and other supplies for the office. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who brings in Redner's receipts. When you shop at Redner's with a rewards card, bring your receipts to church and place them in the box in the hallway near the guest book. Those small pieces of paper turn into dollars for our congregation. Thank you to everyone who shares their receipts.



Dear Bern Church family,

I appreciate and thank you for all your love and prayers. I am doing well now. I love you all with my whole heart! – *Tina Hissinger**** *******

Dear Bern Lutheran Church.

Thank you so much for blessing Hope Rescue Mission and Lighthouse. Your clothing drive will bless many! We appreciate your church partnering with the mission in fighting homelessness. We look forward to your next drive. Feel free to call and set a time up for volunteering at the mission. —

Blessings, Diane Schenk

* * * * * *

Dear Bern Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$490.00 to Helping Harvest. We sincerely appreciate that during a time when we are all more conscious of our budgets, you have generously given to help those less fortunate. Your kindness has truly made things a bit easier for families and seniors who find themselves struggling with food insecurity, some for the first time.

Thank you for helping to make this possible. Your continued support throughout this upcoming year will allow us to meet the ever-increasing demands on our services and make sure that no man, woman, or child needs to go hungry.

Your friend, Jay Worrall, President, Helping Harvest

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

In 2022, Bern Lutheran Church received \$1,278.00 in Thrivent Choice Dollars grant funding. Your contributions help support the important work we do here at Bern. We appreciate you 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.



LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING

Eucharistic Visitors are members of the congregation who are trained to bring the communion meal from worship to ill and homebound members of their congregation who are unable to attend service.

Lutheran Congregation Services (LCS) training ministry engages learners in the Biblical and theological background of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and teaches potential Eucharistic Visitors about visitation and administration of the sacrament.

The Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training is a one-day event held on **Saturday**, **April 29**, **from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4201 Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Road, Reading. The cost is \$30.00 per person. To register online for this upcoming training event click here to complete the application at www.LibertyLutheran.org/LEVT. If you are not registering online, you can mail your completed registration form with a check made payable to: Lutheran Congregational Services, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown, PA 18109, or you can email your completed registration form to Julia Menzo at jmenzo@libertylutheran.org.

SUGGESTION BOX

A friendly reminder that if you have any comments, questions, and/or suggestions, we would love to hear them. Everything will remain anonymous. There are papers on the table in the narthex. Just jot down anything that is on your mind and drop it in the Suggestion Box.

The papers that are in the box are picked up and reviewed at our council meetings.

CONFIRMATION

Mark your calendars to support our youth going to be confirmed in May. Abigail Angstadt, Spencer Mountz, and Cerina Readinger will be presenting their Faith Statements on Sunday, May 7 and will be confirmed on Sunday, May 21. A time of fellowship will take place after the worship service on May 21 to congratulate these young people of our congregation.

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. Thank you!

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.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

April 2 – Barbara Auchenbach

April 9 – The Braucher Family

April 16 – sponsor needed

April 23 – Tim and Beverly Moyer

April 30 – Tim and Beverly Moyer

Bulletin Sponsors:

April 2 – Barry and Terri Shurr

April 9 – Korinne Hotzman

April 16 – sponsor needed

April 23 – sponsor needed

April 30 – Barbara Speicher

Newsletter Sponsor:

Sally Koch

Church Openers:

April 2 – Richard Gruber

April 9 – Theresa Shurr

April 16 – Dianne Leininger

April 23 – Christopher Becker

April 30 – Christopher Becker

Church Greeters:

April 2 – Barbara Auchenbach

April 9 – Nancy Malandra

April 16 – Barbara Auchenbach

April 23 - Nancy Malandra

April 30 – TBA

Lectors:

April 2 – Kate Schuler

April 9 – Jay Field

April 16 – Beth Hartman

April 23 – Richard Gruber

April 30 – Barbara Braucher

Supply Pastor Schedule:

April 2 – Pastor William Fryer

April 9 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

April 16 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

April 23 – Pastor Rachael Dietz

April 30 – Pastor David Kistler



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Kristen Schera
- 2 Tracey Leh
- 3 Dallas Fix
- 3 Gwyneth Kneeream
- 4 Ruth Bleecher
- 4 Richard Miller
- 4 Lori Schlottman
- 7 Shawn Hissinger
- 8 Myra Bernhart *
- 10 Beatrice Kauffman *
- 16 Warren Lengel
- 17 Wendy Miller
- 18 Tammi Shiller
- 19 Michael Braucher
- 20 Stephen Kneeream
- 20 Dianne Leininger
- 20 Leanna Stoudt
- 21 Cheryl Knabb
- 22 Caroline Eichner *
- 22 Anne Spieker
- 24 Jack Kochan *
- 25 Jeffrey Reichart
- 26 Keric Rollman
- 28 Aidan Slusser
- 30 Ann Myers *



- 14 Craig and Ann Myers (61 years)
- 19 Andrew and Wendy Miller (43 years)
- 20 Jeffery and Dolores Gruver (22 years)
- 25 Kenneth and Donna Marks (25 years)
- 27 Chris and Mitzi Cote (25 years)
- 29 Stephen and Janna Kneeream (6 years)

"Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

THANK GOD FOR OUR FOOD

God said [to Adam and Eve], 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. - Genesis 1:29

There's an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, "Where do apples come from?" Little Ian speaks up: "From the supermarket!"

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food – every bite – comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it's God's miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God's miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- Mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest; for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating, discuss the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Saturday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, reserve a Sunday for a service highlighting creation and food. Maybe "Blessing of the Seeds," or the ancient "Rogation Sunday" ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

--Rob Blezard

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25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

How many of you remember the ground-breaking ceremony that was conducted on March 1, 1998 for our new church building? How many of you attended the first worship service in our new church building that was held on November 1, 1998? How many

of you can believe it will be 25 years on November 1, 2023 that we have been worshiping together in our church building? We would like to plan a celebration to commemorate these 25 years as Bern Lutheran Church and we need your help. We are looking for a Chairperson to head the committee and members to help in the planning of this celebration. If you would like to be a part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee, please speak with any council member.



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

We will be holding a BBQ chicken dinner, apple dumpling, and flower sale this year on **Thursday**, **May 25th**. Pick up will be between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Prices for the chicken dinners will be \$11.00 and apple dumplings will be \$5.50. Beginning on April 1, you can place your orders by calling the church office at 610-374-4343, Phil Ketz at 610-678-5954, emailing the church at bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com, or order on our church website at www.bernchurch.org.

Please see the flyer enclosed in this newsletter for more information.

HOW JESUS SAYS YOUR NAME

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing

less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary

saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her —not by name, just "Woman..." — and then a gardener: "Woman..." Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so



knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

-Heidi Hyland Mann



MEMBERS:

Jake Braucher, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Doug Myers, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Tina Hissinger, George Schaeffer, Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Those impacted by the disaster at R. M. Palmer, Ginny and Nelson Eyrich, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Katelyn Hotzman, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Bishop Christopher deForest, 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.)



The Berks County Suicide Prevention Task Force was developed in 2015. The task force is a group of community members with common goals who have come together to focus on the needs of our community through advocacy and education so that we can eliminate stigma of mental illness and put an end to suicide. They believe that suicide prevention is everyone's business.

ruOK? held their 6th Annual 5K Run and 1.5 Mile Walk on Saturday, March 25, at Penn State Berks Campus. Medals were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place male and female, as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place per age category.

Matt, Jameson, and Andrew Kasisky, as well as Barry Shurr and Jen Miller participated in the run for Berks ruOK?



Matt Kasisky came in 3rd place for his age group and Jameson Kasisky came in 3rd place for his age group.





Matthew Kasisky



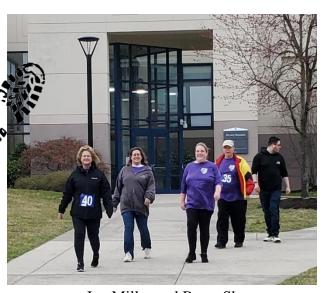




Andrew Kasisky







Jen Miller and Barry Shurr

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the participants! You all come in 1st place at Bern.



Newsletter[®]

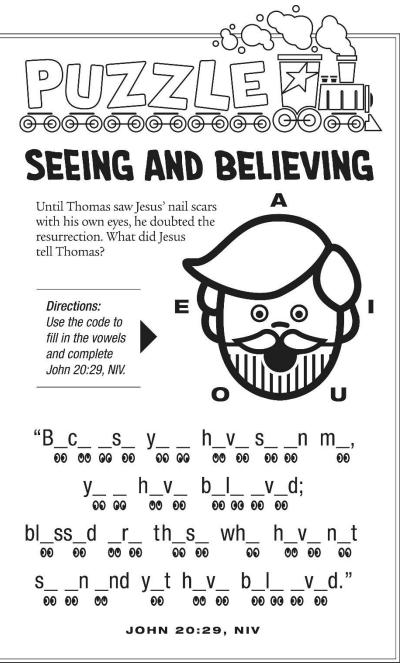
Use batik, a unique fabric-dying method, to create flags celebrating the good news of Christ's resurrection.



- Colored chalk
- White linen fabric
- Washable gel glue
- Acrylic craft paint
- Textile medium
- Paintbrushes

What you do:

- 1. Cut fabric to the desired size and shape. Set it on a flat, protected surface. With chalk, lightly sketch an Easter design or message.
- 2. Completely cover the chalk lines with gel glue. Let dry.
- 3. Mix equal parts paint and textile medium. Paint the flag with that mixture, which makes paint permanent. Let dry.
- 4. Soak the dried fabric in warm water a few minutes. Then gently peel away the glue to reveal the unpainted areas. Lay flat to dry.
- 5. Hang the flags and celebrate!



not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have delieved; dlessed are those who have



and

Sycamore Farm's APPLE DUMPLING SALE



820 West Leesport Road Leesport, PA 19533

Phone: 610.374.4343

(2 blocks off Route 183, just 2 miles north of the Reading Airport)

Thursday, May 25, 2023 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Walk-in Pick-up (dinners not picked up by 6:30 p.m. will be sold)



Call to order at 610.374.4343 or 610.678.5954. You can also order online on our website at www.bernchurch.org

Chicken Dinner Tickets are \$11.00

Dinner includes:

- 1/2 Chicken
- Baked Potato
- Apple Sauce
- Bottled Water

APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	-					1
Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	3	4	5	7:00pm-Maundy Thursday Worship Service, St. John's Gernant's Church, Leesport	7 6:00-8:00 pm–Frog Pond 7:00pm-Good Friday Worship Service, Salem Belleman's Church, Mohrsville	8 12:00pm-Easter Egg Hunt at Epler's UCC, Leesport
Resurrection of Our Lord 10:00 am—Worship Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Jay Field Greeter: Nancy Malandra	10	Hope Rescue Mission Clothing Drive Pickup	12 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council Boy Scouts	13	14 6:00-8:00 pm—Frog Pond	7:30am-Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Distribution, Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport
Second Sunday of Easter 9:00am—Confirmation Class 10:00 am—Worship 11:00am—Sunday School Opener: Dianne Leininger Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	7:00pm-Council Meeting	9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall use)	19	20 Korinne – Out of Office	21 Sierra Starr Wedding Rehearsal 6:00-8:00 pm—Frog Pond	22 1:00pmSierra Starr Wedding
23 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00am—Confirmation Class 10:00 am—Worship 11:00am—Sunday School Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Richard Gruber	24		26	27	28 6:00-8:00 pm–Frog Pond	29
Greeter: TBA 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Barbara Braucher Greeter: TBA						HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE Collection ongoing until Sunday, April 9th

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