

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

Address Service Requested



God is pure light,
undimmed by darkness
of any kind.

1 John 1:5

BERN BUGLE'S

October 2025



JOYFUL NOTES

Volume 28, Issue 10

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 October *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is sponsored by Doug Myers in celebration of Gail Landis' birthday on October 2nd.

Council Meeting Highlights

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

- Two quotes have been received so far for the sealing of the parking lot.
- Our Congregational Meeting is scheduled to be held on Sunday, November 16th.
- The 2026 Proposed Budget was voted on and approved by council. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the November 16th Congregational Meeting.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Epler's UCC Food & Faith Worship Service

You are invited to join the members of Epler's UCC on **Friday, October 3rd**, for their Food & Faith fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a worship service at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Tammie Wisniewski will be leading worship and preaching with a theme of "No matter who...you are welcome, really?" Linda Michael will be playing piano and Rev. Fran Merkel will be offering special music during communion.

Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse Clothing Drive

As cooler weather approaches, it's the perfect time to help others stay warm. Join us for our Fall Clothing Drive by donating gently used clothing. Your donations will benefit local families and individuals at Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse. Sort through your closet and gather gently used clothing. Even though this is a Fall clothing drive, clothing from all seasons will be accepted. **The drive will run from Sunday, October 5 through Sunday, November 23.** Look for the donation box in the narthex! Thank you all for your generosity!

Safe Berks Meal

The Ladies Lunch Group will be preparing a meal for the residents of Safe Berks on **Thursday, October 2, beginning at 3:00 p.m.**

World Wide Communion Day – October 5th

Worldwide Communion Sunday, or World Communion Sunday, is observed on the first Sunday in October each year to celebrate Christian unity and the interconnectedness of churches across denominations and cultures through the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Safe Berks Welcome Kit Collection

We will be collecting items to assemble welcome kits for those who arrive at Safe Berks. These kits include:

- ✓ Twin Sheet Set
- ✓ Pillow
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Shampoo (any size)
- ✓ Conditioner (any size)
- ✓ Soap
- ✓ Toothbrush
- ✓ Toothpaste
- ✓ Deodorant

The collection will run from October 5 to November 23.

October Lunch Bunch

The ladies will be meeting on **Monday, October 6th, at 12 noon** for their monthly fellowship luncheon in the Social Hall.

Clergy Appreciation Month

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Bern Church has been blessed with a team of three dedicated supply pastors who lead us in worship every week, as well as a designated pastor who is not able to lead worship for us, but visits members who are hospitalized or homebound, performs weddings and funerals as needed, and has made himself available for our members whenever requested. We are very fortunate to have these dedicated pastors serving our congregation as we continue to work to fill our pastoral vacancy. Please take a moment this month to thank them for their dedication and support of our congregation. We are truly grateful to be blessed with:

Pastor William Fryer	Pastor David Kistler
Pastor Kenneth Gould	Pastor Gary Rarick

Pastor Gary Vacation

Our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick, will be on vacation from Wednesday, October 1 through Monday, October 13. Pastor William Fryer will be

covering for him while he is away. If you would need pastoral care, please contact Terri Shurr at 610-372-7229.

Secretary Korinne Vacation

Korinne will be on vacation the week of October 13th. She will return to the office on Tuesday, October 21st. Emails and phone messages will be checked regularly. If you would need immediate assistance, please contact Brenda Reichart at 610-926-6772.

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.

October Social Hour

Join us for our Social Hour on **Sunday, October 26th**, after the worship service. We need a few more contributors. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you are interested in contributing any desserts. Thank you!

Epler's UCC Fall Book Group

The discussion of the book *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian* by Brian McLaren continues **Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. through November 20th**. Please note there will be no Book Group on Thursday, October 2nd and October 9th.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the November *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, October 21st**.

Congregational Meeting

Please make a note that our Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 16**, after our worship service.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our Potluck Luncheon/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.

Prayer List

We are in the process of updating our prayer list. If you have previously added someone and they are doing well, please let us know if they may be removed from the list. Thank you for helping us keep our prayer needs current.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Tanner Mountz who was recognized at the Student Production Awards, Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, College Division. He received the award for Talent in News or Sports for his work at West Virginia University.



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.**

Plastic Bag Collection

Thank you to everyone who has been bringing in your plastic recycling materials. The collection continues for the West Reading / Wyomissing Rotary Club. Keep on bringing in your clean, dry grocery bags, bread bags, and bubble wrap. These will be converted into composite benches and other products.



A composite bench can be made from every 500 or 1,000 lbs. of plastic. This helps keep plastics out of our landfills.

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
8/03/2025	\$4,390.00	38
8/10/2025	\$1,630.00	35
8/17/2025	\$1,875.00	51
8/24/2025	\$ 890.00	39
8/31/2025	\$2,222.00	49

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$13,192.00	\$92,447.00
Congregational Fundraising		
Redner's and Candy (\$593.00)		
BBQ (\$2,498.66)	.00	3,092.00
Total Funds	<u>\$13,192.00</u>	<u>\$89,355.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$12,040.00	\$77,186.00
Non-Budgeted Income	1,153.00	15,261.00
Budgeted Expenses	6,692.00	81,694.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	.00	7,674.00
Benevolence to be Paid	290.00	617.00
Surplus/Deficit	+6,211.00	+2,462.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2025 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$732.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	708.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	753.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	362.00	600.00
Other	747.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$125.00	\$ 1,005.00
Interest	99.97	770.77
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$48,683.52

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 1,121.00
Interest	.00	5,996.56
Expenses	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$283,134.78

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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:

Family and friends of Ryan Szczepanik, Joanna Fryer, 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.)



(* Denotes 80 years young)

4	Brenda Reichart
5	David Haas
9	Kate Schuler
11	Andrew Lash
12	Evelyn Drobnick *
12	YuYun Greener *
12	Michael Knabb
15	Abigail Angstadt
19	Nancy Schoener *
22	Emily Starr
24	Bonnie Eiche
27	Christine Gruber
31	Janet Leh *



14	Mark and Tara Lash (30 years)
15	Julie and Jason Riker (14 years)
17	Rev. Kenneth and Carol Ann Gould (22 years)
17	Michael and Cheryl Knabb (39 years)
18	David and Dianna Greenwood (39 years)
20	Kenneth and Debra Beissel (46 years)
23	Richard and Lisa Miller (15 years)
23	Chris and Kristen Schera (26 years)

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH
is partnering with
Hope Rescue Mission & LightHouse!

Clothing Collection
Oct 5th - Nov 23rd, 2025



We'll be collecting all seasons of clothing for men, women and children.

Coats, hats, scarves, gloves, shoes, towels, belts, purses, new mens underwear & long Johns in sizes small to xxxl.



www.HopeForReading.org/HopeThrift



REFORMATION SUNDAY
October 26, 2025



Sunday, November 2, 2025

All Saints Sunday is a special observance on the calendar of the church in which we remember with thanksgiving all the faithful departed.

We invite everyone to submit the name(s) of loved ones who have died since last All Saints Day in November 2024 by filling out the section below and placing it in the offering plate. Photographs (framed or unframed) may also be brought to the church prior to or on All Saints Day. These pictures will remind us that we are constantly surrounded by the love of all the saints. All photographs may be reclaimed after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, November 3rd or on the following Sunday.

Submitted names, as well as members of our congregation who have died in the past year, will be read during the prayers and a bell will toll following the reading of each name.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Name(s) of Deceased: _____

Your Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Please return this slip by Sunday, October 26th

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:

October 5 – Beth and David Hartman

October 12 – Lois Ondik

October 19 – Kate Schuler

October 26 – Donna Marks

Bulletin Sponsors:

October 5 – Lois Ondik

October 12 – Korinne Hotzman

October 19 – Rich Myers

October 26 – Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher

Newsletter Sponsor:

Doug Myers

Church Openers:

October 5 – Erin Readinger

October 12 – Richard Gruber

October 19 – Patricia Yocum

October 26 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

October 5 – Barbara Auchenbach

October 12 – Beverly Moyer

October 19 – Barbara Speicher

October 26 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

October 5 – Brenda Reichart

October 12 – Rich Myers

October 19 – Beth Hartman

October 26 – Kate Schuler

Communion Assistants:

October 5 – Dianne Leininger

October 12 – Rich Myers

October 19 – Linda Lash

Supply Pastor Schedule:

October 5 – Pastor William Fryer

October 12 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

October 19 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

October 26 – Pastor William Fryer

"Truth is mightier than eloquence; the spirit stronger than genius; faith greater than learning."

—Martin Luther

Veterans Day

In our November newsletter and at our worship service on **Sunday, November 9, 2025**, we will be recognizing and honoring Bern Church's veterans and those currently serving in the military.

Army

Jay Field
Donald Greenwood
E. Berry Hey, Jr.
Robert Hissinger
C. Jacob Stricker

Air Force

Gary Drobnick
David Haas
Judy Haas
Shawn Hissinger
Harry Yocum, Jr.

Navy

Craig Myers
Gerald Pawlyk

Marines

Christopher Becker

Air National Guard

Dennis Egan

We would like to make sure to include everyone and have correct information, so if you are a veteran and we have missed including your information, please let us know. Fill out the form below with your name, branch of military, years served, and location of service, and return to Korinne in the office or place in the offering plate. Thank you!

VETERANS DAY LIST

Name: _____

Branch of Military: _____

Years Served: _____

Location of Service: _____

God has nothing but the best, and he offers it to us, weeds us, sustains us and cares for us through his Son. That's the way our hearts are changed to follow Christ.

—Martin Luther

Holy Interruptions

Most of us are pretty good at planning — schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour?

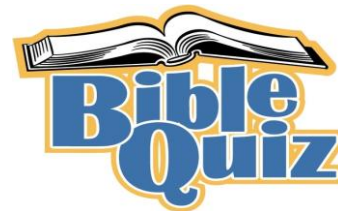
Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently “interrupted” by people seeking healing or hope—and he never turned them away.



“Interruptible faith” is a posture of openness. It’s saying, “Lord, here’s my plan—but I trust yours more.” It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for his greater purpose.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” May we have the courage to let him.

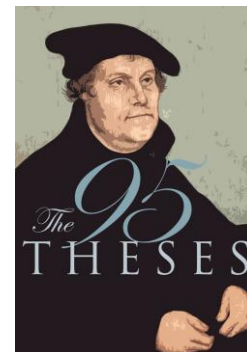
-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



Which of the following statements impressed Martin Luther, a leader of the Reformation?

- A. “I am not ashamed of my good works.”
- B. “I am not ashamed of the laws of Moses.”
- C. “I am not ashamed of the gospel.”
- D. “I am not ashamed of my God.”

(The correct answer is in Romans 1:16.)



Answer: C

OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE October 5 through November 23			1 Pastor Gary Rarick Vacation until October 14	2 3:00pm -Safe Berks Meal Preparation No Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC	3 6:00pm -Epler's UCC Food & Faith Meal and 7:00pm - Worship 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	4
17th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am -Worship -World Wide Communion 11:00am -Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Hannah Lash	6 12:00pm -Ladies Fellowship Luncheon in the Social Hall	7	8 6:00pm -Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts (Social Hall reserved)	9 No Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC	10 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	11
12 18th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am -Worship -Harvest Home Service 11:00am -Sunday School Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Tracey Leh	13	14 Secretary Korinne Vacation	15 Secretary Korinne Vacation	16 8:30am-12:00pm -Heartland Herb Society Meeting (Social Hall) 10:30am-12:00pm -Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC Secretary Korinne Vacation	17 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	18
19 19th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am -Worship 11:00am -Sunday School Opener: Linda Lash Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Barbara Speicher Comm. Asst.: Rich Myers	20 7:00pm -Council Meeting	21 9:00am -Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved) Newsletter Deadline	22	23 10:30am-12:00pm -Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC	24 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	25
26 <u>Reformation Sunday</u> 10:00am -Worship -Social Hour after worship 11:00am -Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Tracey Leh Greeter: Nancy Malandra	27	28 4:00pm -Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall reserved)	29	30 10:30am-12:00pm -Fall Book Group, Epler's UCC	31 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	SAFE BERKS WELCOME KIT COLLECTION October 5 through November 23



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 _____