

**BERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533

Address Service Requested

September



Let us not become
weary in doing good, for
at the proper time we
will reap a harvest if we
do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

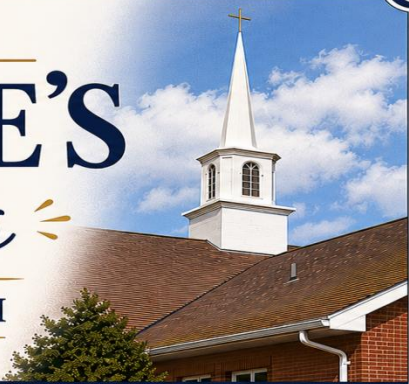


BERN BUGLE'S

Joyful Notes

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533



WEBSITE:
www.bernchurch.org



EMAIL:
bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com



PHONE:
(610) 374-4343

WORSHIP:

In-Sanctuary Worship on Sundays at **10:00 a.m.**

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:

Pastor Diane LaFauci, Phone: 484-794-5503 (cell)

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

Dianne Leininger, Asst. Financial Secretary

Christopher Becker

Richard Greener

Matthew Kasisky

Linda Lash

Beverly Moyer

Rich Myers

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's Newsletter Sponsor

A sponsor is needed for the September *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes*.

Council Meeting Highlights

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, August 17th:

- Approved request by Hawk Mountain Council to form a scouting unit at Bern.
- Will join with other local congregations to offer a collaborative confirmation program.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. PLEASE NOTE the time change.

Epler's UCC Food & Faith

You are invited to join the members of Epler's UCC on **Friday, September 4**, for their Food & Faith fellowship meal at 6 p.m. followed by their worship service at 7 p.m.

Sunday School

We are excited to announce the start of our Sunday School on **Sunday, September 13th** from 11:00-11:30 a.m. All children are invited to join us for fun-filled learning.

September Lunch Bunch

The ladies will be meeting on Monday, **September 14, at 12 noon** for their monthly fellowship luncheon in the Social Hall. **Please note the date change due to Labor Day being observed on Monday, September 7th.**

September Social Hour

Join us for our Social Hour on **Sunday, September 20**, 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!



Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the October *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* are due by **Tuesday, September 22nd**.

Harvest Home Service

Mark your calendars to join us on **Sunday, October 11th, at our 10:00 a.m.** worship service when we will celebrate our Harvest Home service. We will have a bountiful harvest display in the sanctuary to remind us all to be thankful of the goodness God bestows upon us. Our special offering for the day will go to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our Holiday Kick-off will be held **Sunday, November 29th**, immediately following the worship service. Watch for more details as we get closer to that date.

Altar Flower, Bulletin, and Newsletter Sponsors

Sign-up sheets for 2026 are on the bulletin board in the hallway. Prices will remain the same for Bulletins at \$20.00/week and the Newsletter at \$40.00/month. **Please note that the price for the Altar Flowers has increased to \$40.00.** If you would only want to sponsor one vase, you can see if another member would like to sponsor the other one. You are welcome to sponsor these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or to the Glory of God. You may also contact Korinne in the church office to sponsor any of these items.

Sign-up Sheets for September

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for Sunday, September 27, Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, September 6, 20, and 27, and a Newsletter sponsor. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor any of these dates. Thank you!

Thank Offering Sunday – November 22

This year, our special offering will support World Hunger, helping provide food and hope to people facing hunger and food insecurity around the world. As we gather on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we invite everyone to consider making a special gift.

Vacation Bible School Wrap-up

Vacation Bible School was held July 26-30. The theme was "In the Wild" and it was a huge success. A total of 20 children participated throughout the week. We had a tremendous response to our mission project where we collected supplies needed by the Berks Animal Rescue League. Snoopy's doghouse was overflowing with lots of goodies for the cats and dogs. Thank you 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.



Epler's UCC Fall Book Group

Pastor Gary Rarick from Epler's UCC will be holding a book group in the fall. They will meet on **Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning on September 14th**. They will meet for 11 weeks. The book *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* by Marcus Borg will be discussed. Please email Pastor Gary at pastorrarick@gmail.com if you would like a book ordered for you.

A bit about the book: Borg wants to show us, as today's thinking Christians, how to discover a life of faith by reconceptualizing familiar beliefs. Being born again, for example, has nothing to do with fundamentalism, but is a call to radical personal transformation. Talking about the kingdom of God does not mean that you are fighting against secularism, but that you have committed your life to the divine values of justice and love. And living the true Christian way is essentially about opening one's heart—to God, and to others.

Growing in Faith Together

We are excited to offer **First Communion preparation** for all children who are ready to take this important step in their faith journey. We will also begin offering **Confirmation preparation this fall** for youth who are ready to continue growing in their relationship with Christ and the church. For more information and specific details about these classes, please contact the church office or **Pastor Diane** at 484-794-5503. We look forward to walking alongside our children and families as they grow in faith and celebrate these special milestones together!

Share the Gift of Communion

We are looking for caring volunteers to visit our homebound members and assist with bringing them Holy Communion. This is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love, offer companionship, and remind our members that they are an important part of our church family. If you are interested in helping with this meaningful ministry, please contact **Terri Shurr** at 610-372-7229.



MEMBERS: Arlene Ensinger, Gary Drobnick, George and Jane Schaeffer, Janet Leh, Greg Knabb, Peggy Reagan, Evelyn Drobnick, Tina Hissinger, Berry Hey, Margaret Hey, Richard Greener, JoAnn Ketz, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Family and Friends of Sheila Becker, Family and Friends of Dee Smith, Pastor Wayne Heintzelman, Katie, Pastor Althea Albright, Pastor Virginia Biniek, Noel, Harvey Lengel, Catherine Chilcoat, John Mountz, Jessica Keller, Joel Koch, Kathy, Joan Ponzurick, Dick and Janet, Jean, Mary, Kathy Sutphin, Lara and Drayton Pappas, Nick Odagis, Danielle Roberts, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Matt DeLeon, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, 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.)



ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

You can sponsor Altar Flowers for \$40.00/week, Bulletins for \$20.00/week, or our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

September 6 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
September 13 – The Hartmans
September 20 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
September 27 – **sponsor needed**

Bulletin Sponsors:

September 6 – **sponsor needed**
September 13 – sponsored
September 20 – **sponsor needed**
September 27 – **sponsor needed**

Newsletter Sponsor:

sponsor needed

Church Openers:

September 6 – Christopher Becker
September 13 – Jane Battaglieri
September 20 – Rich Myers
September 27 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

September 6 – Barbara Auchenbach
September 13 – Beverly Moyer
September 20 – Barbara Speicher
September 27 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

September 6 – Tracey Leh
September 13 – Rich Myers
September 20 – Rick Gruber
September 27 – Brenda Reichart

Communion Assistants:

September 6 – Tracey Leh
September 13 – Rich Myers
September 20 – Linda Lash

Supply Pastor Schedule:

September 6 – Pastor William Fryer
September 13 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
September 20 – Pastor Diane LaFauci
September 27 – Pastor William Fryer

HARVEST HOME SERVICE

Sunday, October 11, 2026
at 10:00 a.m.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Thank You!

The following is a list of items that were delivered to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry on

➤ **August 14th.** ➤

- Mac & Cheese - 44 individual cups
- fruit cups - 52 individual servings
- Cereal - 8 individual servings
- Rice - 2 packages
- Pasta Sauce - 20 jars/cans
- Raisins - 4 individual servings
- Soup - 6 cans
- Cereal/Protein Bars - 96
- Crackers - 1
- Peanut Butter - 6 jars
- Pudding Cups - 6



The Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry is very

appreciative

of the generous food/monetary donations from the

Bern Lutheran Church
congregation.

Someone in the Hospital?

If you have a family member or friend in the hospital, or someone who is in need of a phone call, pastoral visit, or prayers, please contact the church office.

You may also contact:



Transitional Pastor Diane LaFauci
484-794-5503



Designated Pastor Gary Rarick
610-401-1545



We sometimes receive notifications from Tower Health Hospital when a church member has been admitted, but we do not always receive this information. Because of this, we rely on family members and friends to let us know when someone is in the hospital or could use pastoral care.



Thank you for helping us stay connected and care for one another!

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
7/05/2026	\$ 1,610.00	43
7/12/2026	\$ 1,880.00	41
7/19/2026	\$ 1,440.00	63
		(Joint w/LCHT)
7/26/2026	\$ 1,765.00	37

**\$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	\$8,860.00	\$80,608.00
Congregational Fundraising	.00	4,596.00
		(\$3,217 Chicken BBQ, \$533 Redner's S-A-T, \$846 Lunch Bunch)
Total Funds	<u>\$8,860.00</u>	<u>\$85,204.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$8,042.00	\$65,012.00
Non-Budgeted Income	818.00	20,192.00
Budgeted Expenses	15,328.00	81,950.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	491.00	19,763.00
Benevolence to be Paid	500.00	500.00
Surplus/Deficit	-7,459.00	-17,009.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2026 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$442.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	672.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	777.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	272.00	600.00
Other	1,154.00	

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$ 0.00	\$ 665.00
Interest	89.60	607.03
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$50,766.82

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 1,132.00
Interest	.00	4,667.58
Expenses (transfer to FofF)	.00	<u>3,890.55</u>
		\$288,653.72

"By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn." —Latin proverb

Coming this fall...

**The BOOK OF REVELATION:
Christ's Word of Wisdom and Encouragement
for the Church
A Study with The Rev. Diane M. LaFauci**

- † Why is the Book of Revelation full of so many strange images?
- † Does the mere thought of trying to read the Book of Revelation intimidate you?
- † Is the Book of Revelation about the "End Time"...written in some kind of code???

Reading the Book of Revelation can be a daunting task!

If you've ever tried to read it and given up,
or if you've always heard how "strange" it is,
or if you've ever found it
un-understandable, maybe even
somewhat scary,

**this study can ultimately be one that helps to
understand the whole Bible better!!**

You need not be a regular Bible study person to benefit from this study. It can be most helpful because it unpacks the reasons behind this book and explains the symbolism that fills its chapters.

**We'll have two Tuesday opportunities to meet:
10:30 am in person at Bern; 7 pm on ZOOM
We'll start mid-September and conclude before
Thanksgiving.**

**DATES: September 15, 22, 29
October 6, 13, 27
November 3, 10, 17**

If you can't make every session, don't worry because the study guide has helps, and reviewing major points weekly will help us stay up to speed.

A sign-up sheet is on the round table in the narthex, or you can call the church office to sign up (that helps us to have study guides ready for everyone). Please indicate email address if you want the ZOOM session. Do feel free to contact Pastor Diane for more information at 484-794-5503.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Thanks to all for the tremendous support of the GWOH backpack project. The donations by members of LCHT and Bern totaled **\$944.00**. This allowed us to provide Opportunity House with 40 backpacks containing:

- 1 spiral bound notebook
- 5 two-pocket folders
- 1 pencil bag
- 4 pencils
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 2 erasers
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 highlighter
- 1 pack of crayons
- 1 box of colored pencils
- 1 watercolor paint set
- 1 tissue pack
- 1 water bottle

We also provided Opportunity House with these additional items that were on their list of needs:

- 8 stick deodorant for girls
- 8 stick deodorant for boys
- 5 dry shampoo

"No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire."

— L. Frank Baum



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

September always reminds me of back-to-school days (because school started after Labor Day back in the day) and getting back into a “regular” fall routine, and back to emphasis on our own faith development thru learning.

Over the summer members of our three-church parish and some friends of our congregations participated in a study of the Jewish Festivals. We looked at the 7 festivals commanded by God and their relationship to events in Jesus’ life and ministry. Jesus faithfully participated in the festivals.

This fall I’m pleased to say we have three learning programs for the parish: another First Communion preparation, another Pastor’s Study (see the following publicity about the study of the Book of Revelation starting this month), and a new program of Collaborative Confirmation.

The purpose of confirmation is to help young members grow in faith and to help them become faith-filled, informed, effective church members. We’re entering into partnership with three other congregations (Zion’s, Perry Township; St. John’s, Hamburg; Friedens, Shartlesville) to provide an opportunity for a “youth group” to meet together monthly to study the Catechism, scripture, and how the church works. This is a program I was part of starting when I was Transition Pastor at Zion’s. When we were approached to see if we wanted to participate, it lifted a huge burden of trying to develop a program within the parish to meet the needs of such a small group of youth.

The program brings kids together—some they already know from school, some who are new to each other—in an enjoyable and encouraging way of study...and it comes with it tangible experience of learning that the church is not about 4 walls confining/defining us! It’s about Christ ministry and mission.

The pastors team teach the sessions. We rotate meeting sites monthly, and the host congregation prepares supper for the group before we start the learning sessions. We meet across two years from October thru May, with one service at the end of April each year where everyone is encouraged to support a joint service led by all the youth in the program.

Christian Education is the second most critical way of ministering to people in the body of Christ, the first being worship.

Exciting things are happening for us as we continue to be Christ’s Church together. May we all strive to support and be part of the learning ministry for the one who is counting on us: Jesus Christ!

Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Diane LaFauci

WANTED!

SINGERS & RINGERS!

Bern Church is looking for singers and bell ringers to join our choirs!

No auditions needed! If you've ever sung in the shower, **you qualify!**

If you can count to four and know your colors, **you qualify!** 

We'll be sharing music offerings during Sunday worship from **September 2026 through June 2027**. We have some wonderful **new music to learn**, and the best part is—you'll be home in time for dinner!



WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Every Thursday

 **Bell Choir: 4:00 PM**

 **Choir: 5:00 PM**



Rehearsals begin **Thursday, September 3.**

Come join us! Learn some music and share your gifts with our congregation.

Making music is inspiring!

Do join us! We'd love to have you!

WHAT AN AWESOME TIME AT VBS!

Thank you to all the amazing kids, volunteers, and families who made our VBS such a wonderful week! We laughed, we learned, we sang, we played, and most importantly—we discovered God's love together!

You are all
a blessing!



❤ WE...

- ✓ Learned about God's great love
- ✓ Made new friends
- ✓ Sang joyful songs
- ✓ Did fun crafts & games
- ✓ Grew in our faith!



I can do all things through Christ
who strengthens me.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

THANK
YOU! ❤



Special Celebration!!
**REFORMATION
SUNDAY**
October 25, 2026

When Martin Luther nailed the **95 Theses** to the chapel door at Wittenberg Castle on October 31, 1517, it was the message that could not be ignored! The Church needed to be reformed! Luther and other faith-filled theologians and biblical scholars were increasingly aware of corrupt practices coming from Rome, and doctrines with no basis in God's Word. Luther understood that God's will and grace were meant to bring "comfort for our terrified souls," not fear and oppressive demands.

The Reformation was upon us!



SOLA SCRIPTURA
SOLA GRATIA
SOLA FIDE
SOLI DEO GLORIA

Reformation Sunday is always the last Sunday in October –
this year **October 25th.**



We join with our sisters and brothers from Trinity, Leesport and Trinity, Gouglersville, in one worship, with a joint choir, special music, and leadership from all three congregations.

*Would you like to be part of the choir?
Let Jane know.*



Worship at 9:00 a.m. at LCHT,
with fellowship to follow worship.
Sunday, October 25th



All three congregations are providing refreshments—if you'd like to bake or provide something else, let the church office know.



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	4 6:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith Fellowship Meal and Worship Service 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	5
6 <u>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor William Fryer Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Tracey Leh Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Tracey Leh	7 	8	9 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved)	10 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	11 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group) Patriot Day	12
13 <u>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor Kenneth Gould 11:00am-Sunday School Begins Opener: Jane Battaglieri Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Rich Myers	14 10:30am-12:00pm-Epler's UCC Fall Book Group 12:00pm-Ladies Lunch Bunch PLEASE NOTE Date Change	15 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild (Social Hall reserved) 10:30am-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study 7:00pm-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study on ZOOM	16 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting	17 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	18 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	19 8:00am-12:00pm-Heartland Herb Society (Social Hall reserved)
20 <u>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship with Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity -Pastor Diane LaFauci -Social Hour after worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Rich Myers Lector: Richard Gruber Comm Asst: Linda Lash	21 10:30am-12:00pm-Epler's UCC Fall Book Group 6:00pm-Council Meeting (Library reserved) PLEASE NOTE Time Change	22 10:30am-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall reserved) Bern UCC Free Community Meal 7:00pm-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study on ZOOM Newsletter Deadline	23	24 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	25 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	26
27 <u>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor William Fryer 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Nancy Malandra	28 10:30am-12:00pm-Epler's UCC Fall Book Group	29 10:30am-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study 3:00-9:00pm-Berks Quilters Guild Quilt Drop-off (Social Hall reserved) 7:00pm-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study on ZOOM	30 9:00am-5:00pm-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Quilt Judging (Social Hall reserved)			