



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:

Brenda Reichart, President
Richard Gruber, Vice President
Theresa Shurr, Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
Jane Battaglieri
Christopher Becker
Michael Braucher
Richard Greener
Linda Lash
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 the month of April is given to the Glory of God in memory of Jason Spieker.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS


The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, March 18th:

- Finance Committee has moved funds to accounts yielding a higher interest rate.
- Developed plan for return of Social Hours.
- Further discussion regarding shared pastor concept.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m.**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the May *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, April 16th.**


Confirmation Class

Below is the schedule for our Confirmation classes and the Acolytes scheduled for the month of April:

<u>Acolyte</u>	
April 7 – Class	Jameson Kasisky
April 14 – Class	Aidan Slusser
April 21 – Class	Hannah Lash
April 28 – Class	Aidan Slusser

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendars to support our youth going to be confirmed in May. The confirmands will be presenting their Faith Statements to the congregation on Sunday, May 5, and will be confirmed on Sunday, May 19th. A time of fellowship will take place after the worship service to congratulate these young people of our congregation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children are invited to join us for Sunday School after the worship service from 11:00-11:30 a.m.

GERANIUM FLOWER ORDERS

We are planning to decorate our sanctuary with red geraniums for Pentecost Sunday on May 19th. The cost for a 6" double-bloom pot is \$6.00. Please fill out the order form included in your newsletter and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. **Orders are due by Sunday, May 12th.**



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

We will be holding our annual Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner, Sycamore Farm's Apple Dumpling, and flower sale this year on **Thursday, May 23rd**. There will be an assortment of hanging baskets, planters, log boxes, and deck pots to choose from. Pick up for your dinners and dumplings 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 \$6.00. Beginning on April 1st, you can place your orders by calling the church office at 610-374-4343, emailing the church at bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com, or go to our website at www.berchurch.org to click on a link for the order form.

Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

Thank you to Gail Landis, Doug Myers, Brenda Reichart, and Barry Shurr, who helped at the food pantry distribution on Saturday, March 16th. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Mark your calendars for the next food pantry distribution on Saturday, September 21st. We will need your help!



During 2023 the Food Pantry met the needs of families with food insecurity by continuing distributions every 3rd Saturday of each month. Drive-thru continues to be the method of distribution. There was a tremendous response to the food pantry's request for nutritious snacks for kids. These items were bagged and distributed one for every kid within each family in the summer months. Turkeys and holiday boxes were ordered through Helping Harvest and distributed during November. The Food Pantry purchased hams to be distributed to each family in December. Food donations in 2023 were also received from the Shoemakersville Senior Citizens, Schuylkill Valley Middle School and High School.



The food pantry serves an average of 96 families or about 239 people each month. As you can see, the need for this mission is still very much needed. The Food Pantry recognizes that our success is due to the support received from the congregations of the 6 churches within the Schuylkill Valley Pastor's Association as well as the dedicated volunteers.

-Connie Werley, Inventory Control and Ordering

WITH DEEPEST Sympathy



ARLENE M. (BOYER) LENGEL, 94, formerly of Wernersville, passed away Friday, March 8, 2024 at her daughter's house. She was the wife of the late Warren J. Lengel, who died Oct. 26, 2000. Arlene, a daughter of the late Paul L. and Hattie E. (Wessner) Boyer, was born in

Reading. She is survived by five children, Warren J. Lengel, Jr., husband of Marjorie, Harvey P. Lengel, husband of Kathy, Glenva I., wife of Earl Drupp Jr., Sandra A., wife of Richard Krall, and Wendy A., wife of Charles McCully; two sisters, Margaret M. Shultz, and Sarah E. VanCampen; 15 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren, with one on the way; and 11 great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three brothers, Leon S. Boyer, Gerald A. Boyer, and Elwood Boyer; and two sisters, Catharine M. Dague, and Eva Stripling. She was a member of Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church. Services were held at 11:00 AM, Wednesday, March 13th, at Lamm & Witman Funeral Home, 243 W. Penn Ave., Wernersville. Burial was in Bern Church Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.lammandwitman.com.



JOAN L. (GRIMM) REBER, 91, passed away on March 14, 2024, at The Heritage of Green Hills, where she resided. She was the widow of the late Raymond Reber. They married on July 12, 1974 and

shared 44 years together before his passing on July 4, 2018. Born in Reading, she was the daughter of the late William and Grace (Etter) Grimm. Joan graduated from Reading High School. She was employed as a customer service representative at Met Ed for 19 years. Joan was a member of Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church in Leesport, where she was a member of Bern Seniors. She enjoyed cooking, sewing and needlepoint, and being outdoors. Those surviving Joan are her children: Joanne Conard, wife of James; Michael Mutter, husband of Bonnie; Randall Mutter, husband of

Doreen; and Jeffrey Mutter, of Florida. She is predeceased by her siblings: Kenneth Grimm, William Grimm, and Helen (Grimm) Gring. A graveside service was held on Friday, March 22, 2024 at 12 p.m. at Berks County Memorial Gardens, 201 Evansville Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522 with Pastor Gary Rarick officiating. Contributions may be made to Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, 820 W. Leesport, PA 19533. Edward J. Kuhn Funeral Home, Inc. is honored to serve Joan's family. Condolences may be expressed at www.kuhnfuneralhomes.com.



TIMOTHY D. MOYER, 66, of Bern Township, passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at the Reading Hospital. He was the husband of Beverly A. (Speicher) Moyer, with whom he would have shared 37 years of marriage on July 11th. Tim, a son of

Esther M. (Kaley) and the late Paul S. Moyer, was born in West Reading. In addition to his wife and mother, he is survived by a daughter, Aimee B., wife of Stephen Litschi, granddaughter, Savannah E. Litschi, and grandson Aidan M. Litschi. Also surviving are his sister, Debra A., wife of J. Michael Matlock, and five great nieces and nephews; a sister-in-law, Barbara A. Speicher, three uncles, and many cousins. He was preceded in death by infant brothers, Donald P. and Brian S. Moyer. Tim was a member of Bern Lutheran Church. Services were held at Bern Lutheran Church on Monday, March 25, at 10:30 a.m. Contributions can be made to Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund or Northern Berks EMS, P.O. Box 625, Leesport, PA 19533. Online condolences may be made at www.lammandwitman.com.



FOOD & FAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

Epler's UCC will be holding their Food & Faith worship service on **Friday, April 5**, with a fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m. The worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Dress is casual and membership is not required to attend. Come out for an evening of worship and fellowship.



The Health Ministries Committee of our congregation welcomes new members who have an interest in promoting health and wellness within our congregation. The mission of this committee is "To provide members with information to assist in making healthy lifestyle choices." The committee meets quarterly and as needed. Activities include monitoring the AED and First Aid kits to be sure that everything is up to date; providing blood pressure screenings as requested by members of the congregation; posting/publishing health information that would benefit members of the congregation. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Terri Shurr or Brenda Reichart.

SUPPLY PASTOR – April 28, 2024



For our worship service on Sunday, April 28, we welcome Deacon Travis Woodfield as our supply pastor. Deacon Woodfield is the Director of Congregation Legacy and Purpose for the Northeastern PA Synod. In this role, he is responsible for research and development leading to a strategic plan for congregations to live well and serve well.

Some of you might remember Deacon Woodfield joined us for our 25th Anniversary Celebration. Join us for worship as we welcome Deacon Woodfield to our church.

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.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

April 7 – Sally Koch
April 14 – Arlene Ensinger
April 21 – Beverly Moyer
April 28 – Beverly Moyer

Bulletin Sponsors:

April 7 – Barry and Terri Shurr
April 14 – Caroline Eichner
April 21 – David and Beth Hartman
April 28 – Barbara Speicher

Newsletter Sponsor:

The Spieker Family

Church Openers:

April 7 – Erin Readinger
April 14 – Christopher Becker
April 21 – Jane Battaglieri
April 28 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

April 7 – Barbara Auchenbach
April 14 – Nancy Malandra
April 21 – Barbara Auchenbach
April 28 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

April 7 – Donna Marks
April 14 – Kate Schuler
April 21 – Brenda Reichart
April 28 – Richard Gruber

Communion Assistants:

April 7 – Theresa Shurr
April 14 – Dianne Leinginer
April 21 – Linda Lash

Supply Pastor Schedule:

April 7 – Pastor William Fryer
April 14 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
April 21 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
April 28 – Deacon Travis Woodfield

"Do something you really love in the most adventurous place you can and make sure it helps other people."

—Diane Sawyer

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
03/03/24	\$2,905.00	54
03/10/24	\$6,992.00	47
03/17/24	\$1,350.00	48
03/24/24	\$2,839.00	59

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$11,803.00	\$26,373.00
Congregational		
Fund Raising	.00	.00
Total Funds	<u>\$11,803.00</u>	<u>\$26,373.00</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$17,197.00	\$ 9,661.00
Non-Budgeted Income	9,177.00	2,142.00
Budgeted Expenses	13,943.00	6,244.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1,895.00	.00
Benevolence to be Paid	521.00	316.00
Surplus/Deficit	+10,015.00	+5,243.00

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2023 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$260.50	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	106.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	91.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	63.50	600.00
Other	.00	.00

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$200.00
Interest	70.83	146.18
Expense	0.00	0.00
		<u>\$44,741.62</u>

Savings Account	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 309.00
Interest	807.50
Expenses	.00
	<u>\$239,200.35</u>

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

When a member experiences a medical emergency while at the church, they are not always in a position to share the information that is asked by the 911 staff and emergency responders. The Health Ministries Committee has developed an Emergency Information Sheet (below) to assist with this communication. They are available on the table in the narthex and once completed, should be placed in the envelope that is with the form. The envelope is then sealed and placed in the Health Ministries mailbox. Your name and the date that the form was completed should be written on the front of the envelope. These will be filed in the locked Health Ministries file cabinet and your envelope will only be opened and your form accessed in the case of an emergency. At any time, you can request your form back to update as needed by contacting Terri Shurr or Brenda Reichart. Please contact Terri or Brenda with any questions.

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (LLM)

Many of you are already aware, there are a number of pastoral vacancies within the Northeast Synod, and only a small number of candidates coming out of seminary of looking for a change that would be able to fill those vacancies. As a result, the synod is looking at other options to provide spiritual support to its congregations. One of the options now available is for those who feel a calling to serve to become a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM). As a LLM you can support your own congregation, or others within your community. Details regarding the program and the role of the LLM are included in this newsletter, including the training requirements. If you are interested in becoming a LLM, please speak to Brenda Reichart. The Christian Education Committee has funds available that will cover the \$1,000 formation fee and 75% of the cost of the 4 additional Foundational Courses. We have many gifted individuals within our congregation who would be excellent candidates for this program. If you are feeling that call to share your gifts, please pray for God to help you to discern if this is the best way for you to share them.

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"
—Robin Williams



"The soul would have no rainbows if the eyes had no tears."
—Native American proverb

LICENSED LAY MINISTER (LLM)

What is a License Lay Minister (LLM)?

Licensed lay ministers (LLMs) serve their congregation in a variety of ways. Some serve when their pastor or deacon is away. Some serve during a pastoral transition or long-term vacancy. Others serve as one of the 6 LLMCs in a 6261 Ministry Community.

What does a Licensed Lay Minister do?

Lay Ministers will be licensed by the Bishop to perform certain duties within specific congregations or 6261 Ministry Communities. These duties may include:

- Praying for their congregation or their 6261 Ministry Community (and its 6 congregations) along with the surrounding community and ministries
- Preaching
- Leading Worship services
- Leading Bible studies
- Leading and coordinating small groups
- Visiting those in the hospital, the homebound, and others who request a visit
- Potential for licensed Sacramental authorization in special circumstances

How do I become a license lay minister?

Lay ministers will be licensed by the Bishop for service within the NEPA Synod, including in 6261 Ministry Communities once they have completed the LLM formation path.

For more detailed information on the LLM formation path, please refer to the [LLM Handbook](#).

How do lay ministers differ from pastors and deacons?

Lay ministers will vary in their theological backgrounds and training, gifts and passions for ministry, and their availability for service.

Deacons and pastors are rostered ministers, called by the Synod to a 6261 Ministry Community, individual congregation, or Synod-authorized ministry site. Both deacons and pastors have completed a seminary-level theological degree with equivalent training and candidacy rostering requirements.

Why should I consider becoming a licensed lay minister?

Have you ever asked yourself, “What is God calling me to do right now? How can I best serve God and my neighbor? What gifts do I have that I am not using?”

If so, perhaps becoming an LLM could be the answer to those profound, discerning questions.

The Church has always needed and benefited from lay leaders and the variety of gifts they bring to the Church community. Whether you are considering serving your individual congregation, a nearby congregation in transition, or are interested in serving in a 6261 Ministry Community, your gifts are treasured. God calls each and every one of us to use our particular set of skills and talents to serve our neighbor through loving service and by sharing the Good News we have in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Together we are the Body of Christ—one Church community bound together for worship, transformation, and lives of service. This priesthood of all believers, alongside the LLM formation path, is one place for you to explore and share your spiritual gifts.

How do I know if I might be a good fit for licensed lay ministry?

Lay ministers serving a 6261 Ministry Community should have several of the following characteristics:

- Spiritually grounded and rooted in Scripture and spiritual practices
- Sense of vocation
- Willingness, time, and capacity to participate in LLM formation path
- Willing to receive feedback and mentoring as a part of continued professional and spiritual growth
- Self-aware and committed to ongoing learning and personal growth
- Understanding of worship participation and leadership
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Welcoming, hospitable, inviting presence to all; avoids subgrouping/cliques
- Adaptable, comfortable with new things
- Speaks honestly and will curb gossip
- Member of an ELCA congregation, preferably within the NEPA Synod.

What is expected of me as a licensed lay minister in a 6261 Ministry Community?

The NEPA Synod expects the following of its lay ministers serving within their own congregation as supporting minister to their pastor:

- Actively participates in and completes the LLM formation path. This includes attending all 4 retreats over the 2-year program.
- Upon completion of the LLM formation path, engages in continuing education for ongoing leadership and theological development. This includes participating in regular Boundary Training and Racial Justice Training.
- Continues on-going discernment for vocational, spiritual, and personal growth, which may include utilizing coaching or spiritual direction.
- Works under the direction of the pastor, leading in ways that support the ministry of the pastor and serves the good of the congregation.
- Fills in for the pastor when called upon (such as during pastoral vacations and sabbaticals).

What is the LLM Formation Path?

The LLM (Licensed Lay Ministry) formation path gives lay leaders the theological and practical training to provide lay leadership and preaching within a congregation or the 6261 Ministry Community. As a part of the LLM formation path, lay ministers take 4 theological classes and attend 4 retreats for additional formation. Lay ministers will simultaneously complete the requirements to become officially authorized, or "licensed," by the NEPA Synod for service within their ministry context.

How long does it take to complete?

This depends on how many academic theology classes you choose to take at a time. The LLM formation path suggests taking 1 class per semester (for a total of 4 semesters), which would allow you to complete all 4 classes within 2 years. If you need to follow a more spread out schedule, it will take longer than 2 years. As long as you are taking classes, you will also be attending the 2 retreats per year.

How much does the LLM Formation Path cost?

The cost of the Licensed Lay Ministry formation path includes:

- \$1000 formation fee paid to the Synod to cover the cost of the four retreats
- \$450-\$800 per class for the four "Foundational Courses," paid to the institute of higher education chosen by the LLM candidate

- The expense of books for the retreats and classes

(Please note that it is typically expected that the congregation where the Lay Minister will serve will cover the \$1000 formation fee and at least part of the cost of the foundational courses.)

As part of the LLM formation path, you will learn how to preach, lead worship, and the theology that grounds our spiritual practices.

Theology courses are incorporated throughout the entire program and include:

1. Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)
2. Christian Scriptures (New Testament)
3. Theology and Beliefs
4. Church History

You can download the list of courses offered at each of the approved institutions [here](#).

Retreats will always include an element of preaching so that you can begin preaching in your context right away! Retreats happen twice per year and will each have their own theological and practical focus including:

1. Lutheran Preaching
2. Lutheran Worship
3. Lutheran Theology/Confessions
4. Pastoral Care

Interested in applying? Have questions?

If you are interested in learning more or potentially participating in the LLM formation path, please fill out this brief information form:

<https://bit.ly/LLMinterest>. You can email Pr. Jira Albers, the LLM Director at llm@nepsynod.org. Let him know your current congregation along with your interest in the LLM formation path or any questions you might have.

A special Zoom meeting was held on February 27, 2024, with Bishop Christopher deForest, Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director for Evangelical Mission, and Deacon Travis Woodfield, Director of Congregation Legacy and Purpose. In this video they share more information and inspiration behind these two new initiatives, LLM and 6261, to help congregations go and grow in the gospel of Jesus Christ during these challenging times.

To watch a recording of the special Zoom meeting with Bishop Christopher deForest, Deacon Kat Tigerman, and Deacon Travis Woodfield, click [here](#).

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers



MEMBERS:

Family and friends of Timothy Moyer, Family and friends of Joan Reber, Family and friends of Arlene Lengel, JoAnn Ketz, Jane Battaglieri, Evelyn Drobnick, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Debra Kennedy, Joan Hoster, Eddie Kissling, Bill Manus, Kelly Cockrum, Terri Hine, Ziomara, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Pastor Joyce Seip, 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, and Rev. Fred Foerster

(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)

- 1 Kristen Schera
- 2 Tracey Leh
- 3 Gwyneth Kneeream
- 4 Ruth Blecher
- 4 Richard Miller
- 4 Lori Schlottman
- 7 Shawn Hissinger
- 8 Myra Bernhart
- 10 Beatrice Kauffman *
- 17 Wendy Miller
- 19 Michael Braucher
- 20 Stephen Kneeream
- 20 Dianne Leininger
- 21 Cheryl Knabb
- 22 Caroline Eichner *
- 22 Anne Spieker
- 24 Jack Kochan *
- 25 Jeffrey Reichart
- 28 Aidan Slusser
- 30 Ann Myers *

SOCIAL HOURS RETURN!

In response to a suggestion placed in the suggestion box, social hours will be resuming! They will be held the last Sunday of each month, immediately following worship. The first one is scheduled for April 28th.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who would like to “host” the social hour, as well as those who would like to contribute to it. The host is responsible for setting up for the social hour, making the coffee, and cleaning up at the end. The host can be an individual, a family, a committee, or a small group of friends. Those who sign up to contribute can bake or purchase items to be served.

In the past this was a great time of fellowship, allowing members to connect with others and share news and memories. Please plan to be there on Sunday April 28th.

JOIN US FOR
**Social
HOUR**

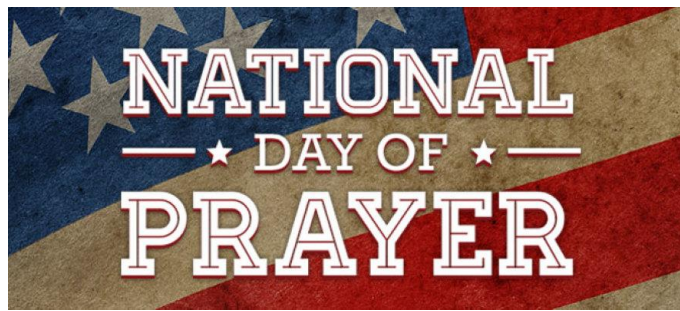


- 14 Craig and Ann Myers (62 years)
- 19 Andrew and Wendy Miller (44 years)
- 25 Kenneth and Donna Marks (26 years)
- 29 Stephen and Janna Kneeream (7 years)

APARTMENT NEEDED!

Does anybody know of an apartment available for rent in the Schuylkill Valley School District area? If you do, please contact Secretary Korinne in the church office.





Thursday, May 2, 2024

Do you find comfort in prayer? Have you seen the impact that prayer can have in your life, or the life of those that you pray for? I hope that you can answer yes to both of those questions. We all have different ways of praying and different times that we do it, and that is ok. What is most important is that we continue to pray at all times and under all circumstances. Think of how powerful it could be if Christians throughout the country were all praying at the same time. That is what is going to happen on Thursday, May 2, 2024. That date has been designated as the National Day of Prayer for 2024.

This year Bern Lutheran Church will participate in this event as we did in 2021, by having members commit to 30 minute slots of time from 8:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. and spend that time in prayer. You are invited to do this from the comfort of your home, or in the Sanctuary at church, the doors will be open. Some of you may be thinking that 30 minutes is a long time to spend in prayer. I bet most of you have a friend that you can easily talk with for 30 minutes...or more. God is ready and willing to listen to us just as our closest friend would. If we also take time to quiet our minds and listen, we may also hear His response. If you would like to participate but aren't sure how to prepare for 30 minutes of prayer, here are a few suggestions:

- Make a list of things to thank and praise God for. He has accomplished some incredible things in spite of the challenges of this past year.
- Make a list of those you will pray for. This can include family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, leaders in government, leaders in our community and leaders in our congregation. You may even want to take our Membership Directory and pray for each member listed. Even if you may not know who they are, God does and he also knows what they need that we may not.
- You can also use prayer books you may have or prayers that have been shared with you by others.

The list is endless, and you may find that 30 minutes is not enough once you get started. That is perfectly fine, it is not a problem if there is an overlap and you have not finished as the next person has already started.

I hope that many of you will be willing to participate in this 12 continuous hours of prayer from our congregation. Please choose the time that works best for you from the schedule posted on the bulletin board, or call the church and your name can be added to the schedule. If the time that you prefer has been taken and there is not an opening that works for you, that is ok too. I don't think God will mind if we double up.

Think of the impact that a day devoted to prayer could have for our community, our country and our world.





&
SYCAMORE FARMS
Apple Dumpling Sale

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024
3:00 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 WEST LEESPORT ROAD, LEESPORT, PA 19533

TO ORDER, CALL 610-374-4343 OR EMAIL TO BERNLUTHERANCHURCH@GMAIL.COM

YOU CAN ALSO ORDER ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BERNCHURCH.ORG



\$6
each

APPLE DUMPLINGS

CHICKEN DINNER INCLUDES:

- ✓ 1/2 CHICKEN
- ✓ BAKED POTATO
- ✓ APPLESAUCE
- ✓ BOTTLE OF WATER

Only
\$11



BBQ CHICKEN

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5 6:00pm-Food & Faith worship service, Epler's UCC, Leesport 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	6
7 Second Sunday of Easter 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Erin Readinger Lector: Donna Marks Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	8	9	10 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council Boy Scouts (Social Hall use)	11 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting	12 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	13
14 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Nancy Malandra	15 7:00pm-Council Meeting 	16 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall use) Newsletter Deadline	17	18	19 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	20
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Jane Battaglieri Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	22	23 4:00-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	24	25	26 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	27
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00 am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School -Social Hour after worship Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Nancy Malandra	29	30				



GERANIUM ORDER FORM

Help us celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th by decorating the sanctuary with red geraniums. If you would like to order any geraniums, please return this form with your payment and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office by **Sunday, May 12th**. The price for a 6" double-bloom pot is \$6.00. Thank you!

	<u>Qty.</u>	<u>Cost</u>
6" double-bloom pot \$6.00 each:	_____	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed:		\$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

DEDICATIONS *(In Honor of, In Memory of, or To the Glory of God):*

In honor of:

In memory of:

Given to the Glory of God:

Please note: Any geraniums ordered must be taken with you after the service. Thank you!