

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

Address Service Requested





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/p/Bern-Lutheran-Church-100081398742915/>

WORSHIP:

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

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:

Pastor Diane LaFauci, Phone:

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 Beverly Moyer
Richard Greener Rich Myers
Matthew Kasisky Erin Readinger
Linda Lash

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 August *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is sponsored in memory of Tim Moyer by Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher.

Secretary Korinne Vacation

Secretary Korinne will be on vacation the week of July 27. She will return to the office on Tuesday, August 4. Emails and phone messages will be checked throughout the week.

Epler's UCC Food & Faith

You are invited to join the members of Epler's UCC on **Friday, August 7**, for the return of their Food & Faith services. This will be an outdoor worship service (weather permitting) and potluck meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share.



God's Work. Our Hands Backpack Project

Our Shared Ministry group has selected school backpacks as our project for God's Work. Our Hands day this year. Since the date selected for God's Work. Our Hands this year is September 13th, we will be celebrating it a little early. In order to have the backpacks and supplies available for children as they start the school year, we will be assembling them on **Sunday, August 16, following the joint worship service at LCHT.** There will be a blessing of the backpacks as part of the worship service that day.

The backpacks assembled by our congregations will be provided to Opportunity House in Reading for the children staying at their facility. They will be providing us with the list of needed items closer to the date, once they know the age of the children in need. Since this might limit shopping time, we are asking for monetary donations so that once we receive the list, someone can be sent on a shopping trip to get what we need.

We will be collecting monetary donations through **August 9th**. Envelopes are provided on the table in the narthex. Please place your donation in the container on the table. Thank you for your support!

Council Meeting

Our Council Meeting will be held on Monday, August 17, with a picnic at Chris and Annette Becker's house at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the September *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, August 17th**.

August Social Hour

Plan to join us for a Social Hour on **Sunday, August 30**, after our worship service.



Sunday School

Sunday School is taking a break for the summer. Classes will resume again next month on **Sunday, September 13th**. Enjoy your summer!

Semi-Annual Contribution Statements

If you made any contributions from January 1 through June 30, 2026, you should or will be receiving your statement reflecting those contributions. Please let Secretary Korinne in the church office know if you have any questions regarding your statement. Thank you!

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry (SVFP) Summer Request

The SVFP is asking for our help to provide families with additional food and snacks over the summer. Here are a few suggestions of items that are nutritious and easy for young people to prepare as well as fun for snacks.

- Fruit cups and dried fruits
- Snack packs of pudding and gelatins
- Jerky
- Granola bars
- Snack size items such as cereals and crackers
- Lunchables
- Individual servings of macaroni & cheese and soups

Thank you to all the members who continuously donate items to support those in need at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. Your generosity and commitment make a meaningful difference in our community.

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 August

We are in need of Altar Flower sponsors for Sunday, August 9 and 30, and Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, August 9, 23, and 30. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor any of these dates. Thank you!

SUNFLOWER

The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him. Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS: 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: Dee Smith, Pastor Wayne Heintzelman, Katie, Pastor Althea Albright, Pastor Virginia Biniek, Noel, Harvey Lengel, Catherine Chilcoat, John Mountz, Jessica Keller, Joel Koch, Kathy, Sheila Becker, 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, 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.)

Pastor's Summer Study

Fulfilled: A Series on the Feasts
A Study of Connection to Christian Feasts
by The Rev. Diane M. LaFauci

We'll meet **Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** on-site at Bern Lutheran Church for those who wish to attend in person, and **Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** via ZOOM. The schedule is as follows: July 28–No Class (VBS), August 4–Trumpets, August 11–Tabernacles, August 18–Other Feasts

Each weekly session is independent of the others, so attend as you are able! Understanding the basis of the individual Jewish festivals is key to deeper understanding of the Christian festival and the Christian faith.

MONTHS in the JEWISH CALENDAR

SPRING	Nisan	Lyan	Sivan
SUMMER	Tammuz	Av	Elul
AUTUMN	Tishrei	Heshvan	Kislev
WINTER	Tevet	Shevat	Adar

Relationship to the events in Christ's Life

FESTIVALS

OT>>NT message

SPRING:

Unleavened bread	15 Nisan	Sin taken away
Firstfruits	17 Nisan	Resurrection/New Life
Weeks (Shavout/Pentecost)	6/7 Sivan	Holy Spirit

FALL:

Trumpets/The Harvest	1 Tishrei	God's presence with us (Rosh Hashanah)
Tabernacles/Booths (Sukkot)	5 Tishrei	The Water of Life

OTHER JEWISH FESTIVALS

Their relationship to the events in Christ's Life

SPRING:

Passover	14 Nisan	Relates to Maundy Thursday/Good Friday
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FALL:

Atonement (Yom Kippur)	10 Tishrei	Relates to Good Friday
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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.



**BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026
9:00 AM**

During our Joint Worship Service at
Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
102 Apple Street, Leesport, PA

As part of God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday,
students are invited to bring their
backpacks to worship to be blessed along
with the ones for Opportunity House.
Teachers are also invited to participate.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 7 Robert C. Hissinger
- 14 Audrey Henderson *
- 17 Aiden Angstadt
- 18 Janna Kneeream
- 22 Bristol Long
- 22 Zackery Schlottman
- 24 Lanny Werley
- 25 MaryEllen Reichart
- 28 Rich Myers
- 29 George Schaeffer *
- 30 Ted Mountz
- 30 Ethan Wismer
- 30 Emma Wismer



- 2 E. Berry and Margaret Hey (40 years)
- 6 Philip and JoAnn Ketz (60 years)
- 12 Barry and Bonnie Eiche (48 years)

Look How Much Fun Can Be Had While Making A Difference!

Volunteering at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry is a wonderful way to serve our neighbors, build friendships, and share God's love in a practical way. Whether you're sorting donations, packing food, or helping distribute groceries, every helping hand makes a meaningful impact.



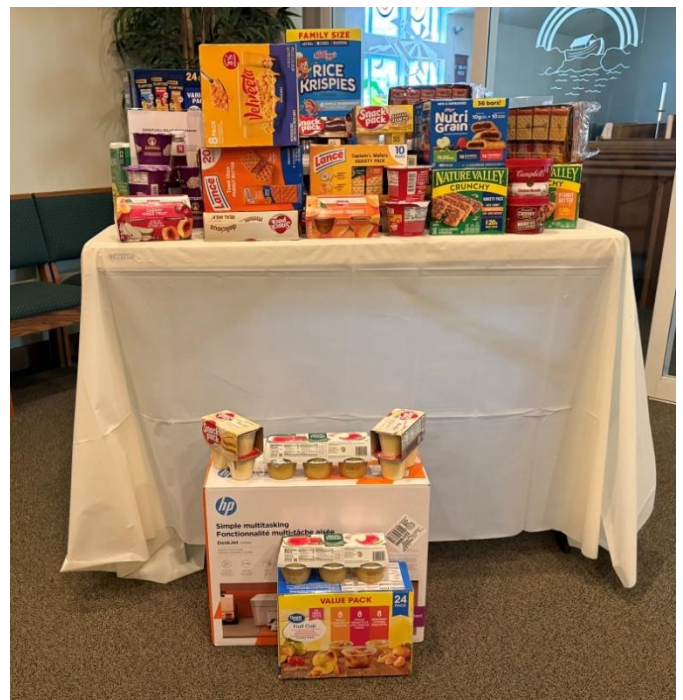
Come and join us next time, and experience the joy of serving others—because helping your community is rewarding, and it's a lot of fun too!



SV Food Pantry Distribution

Following is a list of food items that were delivered to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry for the month of July.

- Mac & Cheese – 17 individual cups
- Cereal/Protein Bars – 298
- Cracker Sandwiches – 98 individual packs
- Cereal – 1 box
- Ketchup – 1 bottle
- Soup – 2 individual servings
- Nuts – 24 individual packs
- Fruit Cups – 44 individual servings
- Jello Cups – 40
- Pudding Cups – 88
- Toilet Paper – 12 rolls



The Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry is very appreciative of the general food/monetary donations from the Bern Lutheran Church congregation.

With Grateful Hearts... Thank You!

There are so many little things that make our church feel like home, and so many of them happen because of the generous hearts of people who quietly give their time and talents.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helps keep our church looking so beautiful. Whether you're planting flowers, mowing the lawn, decorating the sanctuary or narthex, tidying up, or taking care of the countless tasks that often go unnoticed, your loving hands and willing spirit are a true blessing.



Your faithful service creates a warm and welcoming place where we can gather to worship, pray, and grow together in Christ. The beauty of our church is a reflection of the love and care you pour into it, and we are so very grateful.



Thank you for sharing your gifts, your time, and your servant's heart. May God bless you abundantly for the many ways you help make our church a place that feels like home.

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:

August 2 – Rick and Chris Gruber
August 9 – Tina and Bob Hissinger
August 16 – Worship @ LCHT
August 23 – Philip and JoAnn Ketz
August 30 – ***sponsor needed***

Bulletin Sponsors:

August 2 – Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher
August 9 – Tina and Bob Hissinger
August 16 – Worship @ LCHT
August 23 – Nancy Rickenbach
August 30 – ***sponsor needed***

Newsletter Sponsor:

Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher

Church Openers:

August 2 – Erin Readinger
August 9 – Richard Gruber
August 16 – Worship @ LCHT
August 23 – Richard Gruber
August 30 –

Church Greeters:

August 2 – Barbara Auchenbach
August 9 – Beverly Moyer
August 16 – Worship @ LCHT
August 23 – Nancy Malandra
August 30 – Barbara Auchenbach

Lectors:

August 2 – Jay Field
August 9 – Tracey Leh
August 16 – Rich Myers
August 23 – David Greenwood
August 30 – Kate Schuler

Communion Assistants:

August 2 – Hannah Lash
August 9 – Tracey Leh
August 16 – Rich Myers
August 23 – Linda Lash

Supply Pastor Schedule:

August 2 – Pastor William Fryer
August 9 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
August 16 – Worship @ LCHT w/Pastor Diane
August 23 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
August 30 – Pastor William Fryer

We're six months in Shared Ministry together! What does this mean for us, and where are we headed?

Why do we have a "Shared Ministry"?

Unless a congregation is able to provide compensation for a full-time pastor, working with other congregations and sharing a pastor is the way to go.

What is the role of our Transition Pastor?

The obvious role is having a pastor "on the ground" who will personally care about the ministry of our congregations, provide personal commitment for worship, pastoral care, ongoing Bible study, administrative assistance...

"shepherd for the sheep"[John 10].

Our Transition Pastor's ultimate role is to help develop the format of shared ministry in our unique setting in order to help a call committee discern the "right fit" for a pastor. We want to do our best to understand the needs to make it possible for a called pastor to hit the ground running!

Why joint services?

In initial discussions, each of the three congregations expressed desire to have the Transition Pastor lead worship at least once a month. With our Transition Pastor being retired with part-time availability, and in order for each congregation to be served once a month, the Leesport congregations decided on joint services rather than adjusting worship times to permit travel between them on the same Sunday.

Will joint services continue if a full-time pastor is called?

That will depend on what our needs actually are. The obvious benefit in our current situation is that we are broadening our friendships, sharing ideas, and increasing the impact we can have in certain areas of ministry.

Who oversees our shared ministry?

In our case, two representatives from each congregation (including a council member and a member of the congregation's worship team) meet periodically with the Transition Pastor. She supplies monthly reports to this group that show allocation of her time. In addition, she meets monthly with each congregation council and with others as needed.

Where do I fit in to this shared ministry?

We all must take seriously how we matter in the mission of Christ's Church...wherever we are planted!

We remember words of the song we learned as children: "the church is not a building, the church is people!" While we may feel an attachment to our home church, we know that Christ's Church is more than just one body, one location.

Just as we need our daily meals, we need regular nourishment for our mind, heart, and spirit. We need weekly worship, daily devotional time and prayer, continuing study of God's Word.

All this...if we are to work with a pastor and congregation leadership to fulfill Christ's call to us. Christ is counting on us!!

The big question: Where are we headed???

We want to call the right pastor to shepherd us! So we need to do everything we can to grow this ministry to attract a pastor who understands how we function as people committed to Christ! We'll need a good time-and-task manager, a good shepherd for the sheep of our three pastures!

The more we work together, the better the options for us. Our synod staff wants to help us find the right fit for us. And we want to help them help us!!



Vacation Bible School Mission Project

As part of our Vacation Bible School mission project, we are collecting donations for the **Berks County Animal Rescue League (ARL)** to help care for animals in need.

If you would like to support this special mission, simply place your donations in **Snoopy's Doghouse** in the narthex!



Every donation—big or small—helps provide food, treats, toys, cleaning supplies, and other essential items for the animals waiting for their forever homes.

Thank you for helping us share God's love and compassion by caring for His creation. Together, we can make a difference for the animals at the Berks County Animal Rescue League!

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!

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
6/07/2026	\$ 4,609.88	51
6/14/2026	\$ 2,757.05	48
6/21/2026	\$ 1,400.25	41
6/28/2026	\$ 1,019.00	53

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$7,548.00	\$71,258.00
Congregational Fundraising	.00	5,086.00
(\$3,707 Chicken BBQ, \$533 Redner's SAT, \$846 Lunch Bunch)		
Total Funds	<u>\$7,548.00</u>	<u>\$76,344.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$7,047.00	\$56,970.00
Non-Budgeted Income	501.00	19,374.00
Budgeted Expenses	8,738.00	67,360.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	140.00	19,273.00
Benevolence to be Paid	137.00	654.00
Surplus/Deficit	-1,467.00	-10,943.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2026 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$372.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	582.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	487.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	222.00	600.00
Other	345.00	
Festival of Faith (FoF)	302.00	

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$ 705.00
Interest	87.00	517.43
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$50,677.22

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 981.00
Interest	.00	3,982.14
Expenses (Festival of Faith)	.00	<u>3,890.55</u>
		\$287,817.28

"You can do what I cannot do. I can do what
you cannot do. Together, we can do great
things."
—Mother Teresa

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2:30-4:30pm-LLM Course (Tracey Leh) Library
2 <u>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor William Fryer -Jane Battaglieri Vacation Opener: Erin Readinger Lector: Jay Field Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Hannah Lash	3 12:00pm-Ladies Lunch Bunch	4 10:30am-Pastor's Summer Study at Bern Lutheran 7:00pm-Pastor's Summer Study on ZOOM	5	6	7 6:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith Outdoor Picnic and Worship 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	8
9 <u>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor Kenneth Gould -Jane Battaglieri Vacation 6:00pm-First Communion Meeting Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Tracey Leh Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Tracey Leh	10	11 10:30am-Pastor's Summer Study at Bern Lutheran 7:00pm-Pastor's Summer Study on ZOOM	12 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved)	13	14 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	15 Tracey Leh Retirement Party (Social Hall reserved)
16 <u>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am-Joint Worship Service at LCHT -Pastor Diane LaFauci -Assemble Backpacks after Worship -Bair Family Reunion (Social Hall reserved) 6:00pm-First Communion Meeting Lector: Rich Myers Comm Asst: Rich Myers	17 6:00pm-Picnic at Chris and Annette Becker's House before Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.	18 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild (Social Hall reserved) 10:30am-Pastor's Summer Study at Bern Lutheran 7:00pm-Pastor's Summer Study on ZOOM	19	20	21 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	22
23 <u>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:30am-Outreach Comm. Meeting 10:00am-Worship -Pastor Kenneth Gould 6:00pm-First Communion Meeting Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: David Greenwood Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm. Asst.: Linda Lash	24	25 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	26 Pastor Diane Tentative Oversight Committee Meeting (Library/Social Hall reserved)	27 Pastor Diane Tentative Oversight Committee Meeting (Library/Social Hall reserved)	28 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	29
30 <u>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor William Fryer -Ice Cream Social Hour after worship Opener: Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Nancy Malandra	31					

