

BERNBUGLE'S

September 2021



JOYFUL NOTES

Volume 24, Issue 9

MAILING ADDRESS:

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Leesport, PA 19533
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Website: www.berchurch.org

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

WORSHIP AVAILABILITY:

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

(beginning September 12 at 10:00 a.m.)

In Sanctuary Worship

Parking Lot Service (91.7 FM)

Video on our Website

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

PASTOR:

The Rev. Phyllis Wolkenhauer

Phone: 727-543-3537

Email: pastorphylliswolkenhauer@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00-11:00 am, and
Thursday 10:00-11:30 am

PARISH SECRETARY:

Korinne Hotzman

Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 am-2:00 pm, Wednesday
12:00 pm-4:00 pm, and Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jane Battaglieri

Phone: 610-370-0965

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

BUGLE SPONSOR:

The *Bern Bugle* for this month is provided by Philip and JoAnn Ketz in honor of their new great-grandchildren, Austin and Aiden.



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

When Council met last month, we were so excited about so many ministries that need support. Right now with the pandemic still hovering over us, we are not very involved physically in community organizations that feed the hungry, heal the sick, and share the word of God. As well as needing volunteers, these non-profits need financial help. That is an area where many of us can enjoy the act of generosity. In the next few months there will be opportunities for us to give to God by giving to those in need. I encourage you to take the time to get to know these organizations and make a conscious decision about which you would like to support and how much you would like to give. Some of you may want to give your whole designation to one ministry and others may want to give some to each. Please remember that any amount is helpful. When we put together the resources God has given us, they grow and make a substantial difference in the work that is done in Jesus' name. Thank you for taking the time and effort to be involved.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Phyllis

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Next meeting: September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Selected dates for the following at our council meeting on Monday, August 16th:

- God's Work. Our Hands. – September 12
- Harvest Home – September 26
- Thankoffering – November 7
- We will move worship time to 10:00 AM beginning on September 12th

NEW WORSHIP TIME:

On September 12th we will begin worshipping on **Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** Just think what you can do with that extra hour: sleep in; have brunch together as a family; take a little extra time for getting ready; walk your dog; or enjoy your favorite exercise routine. Use your imagination and remember to get to church on time.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

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

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. - September 12, 2021:

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

At Bern we will come together in worship and kick off our ministry activity. This year we will be supporting the ministry of Common Ground. Common Ground is a compassionate, spiritual community that embraces the worthiness and brokenness of all people. Many are part of recovery communities and together they are exploring the “common ground” that lies beneath the 12-steps and an inclusive Christian faith. To learn more, go to their website www.cgrcommunity.org.



Some of the needs our brothers and sisters in Christ have are gently used warm clothing: coats, sweaters, socks, knit hats, gloves. They can also use sleeping bags and 2-person tents. Our collection will take place September 19 through October 10. Please make sure your donations are laundered or new.

After gathering our donations, we will pack them to have them ready to give to Pastor Tom as our Love Offering, when he comes to Bern to preach on Sunday, October 24. As you are cleaning out your closets this fall, remember those who are in need of warm clothes and enjoy sharing from the abundance God has given you.

HEALTH MINISTRIES TEAM:

Terri Shurr has taken over the Health Ministries team and is available for blood pressure checks. If you have any questions, she will answer them if she is able. You can contact her at 610-372-7229.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

RETURNS SEPTEMBER 16:

Join Pastor Phyllis each Thursday, or as often as you are able, at 9:00 am to study the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. It is a meaningful way to study God's Word and learn from one another. We enjoy prayer together as well as lively discussion. Meet in the Library.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES begin September 19 at 11:00 am. See you in the Youth Room!

LUNCH BUNCH:

A group of women from Bern and Trinity Lutheran in Reading meet monthly for lunch and fellowship. We have been meeting under the drive-through at Bern Church during the summer. Everyone brings their own lunch and a lawn chair. When it gets cold, we will move inside. This month, we will meet on **Monday, September 20th at 12 noon.** Come and enjoy the fellowship and meeting new friends.

HARVEST HOME – September 26, 2021:

On Sunday, September 26th you will find a beautiful harvest display in the sanctuary helping us all to be reminded of the bounty God bestows upon us. That day we will thank God for giving us more than enough. The special offering that day will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. You can learn more about this work by typing ELCA World Hunger in your search engine.



2021 BULLETIN, NEWSLETTER, AND ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS:

In order to provide high quality weekly bulletins and cover mailing costs, we invite you to become a Bulletin Sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly newsletter to help us share our faith, our church, and our family. We are able to share news of birthdays, upcoming events, and so much more for only \$40.00/month. Or you can help in presenting our best before God as we worship by sponsoring Altar Flowers for \$30.00/week. You are welcome to do all these things in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. Sign-up sheets are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

40TH ANNUAL READING-BERKS CROP HUNGER WALK:

Over the past 39 years, thousands of walkers have raised over a million dollars for local and global hunger through the Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk. This year, we are planning to gather at Gring's Mill on **Sunday, October 10th** (event registration at 12:30 and walk at 1:30).

Because of pandemic conditions, there is also a **Virtual CROP Walk option**.

Members of all ages can participate by going to www.crophungerwalk.org/ReadingPA and donating through Bern Lutheran. If you're able to walk, either virtually or at Gring's Mill, you can register for walking at the same site. If you're not online, or would rather register or donate offline, call or email Korinne in the church office and she will set you up. Let her know if there is a certain walker you would like to support or if you would like to support the whole team with your donation.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Members:

Peggy Reagan, Warren Lengel, Ruth Mease, and Ruth Keeney

Family and Friends:

Betty Gruber, Ashley, Kim Peth, Stacy Laroche, Philip Triantis, Mike, George Frey, Dennis Hettinger, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Ryder Knechtle and family, Brian, James Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, Erin Ascencio, and Lesley Wegman



Please be sure to use your Save-a-Tape card when making your purchases at Redner's. We can only use receipts that have used this card. For more information about this program, please visit: <https://www.rednersmarkets.com/redners-save-a-tape-program.html>



Friday, October 22, 2021

3:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Drive Thru Pick Up Only

(Dinners not picked up by 6:30 p.m. will be sold)

\$9.00 Dinner Includes

■ ½ Chicken ■ Baked Potato ■ Apple Sauce ■ Bottled Water

To order, call 610-374-4343 or 610-678-5954
or

Order online at www.bernchurch.org

GLOSSY MAGAZINE RECYCLING PROGRAM for Ronald McDonald House.

We have restarted this program and are actively collecting glossy magazines. You will find a black bin under the coat racks to place your magazines.



Why do we do this?

To help each other and the environment.

When the containers are full, Ronald McDonald House calls Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. to pick up the containers. They process the contents and sell them to a paper mill, which turns the discarded paper into new magazine paper. A portion of the proceeds from each ton of paper collected comes directly to RMHC-CP. Since this program began in 2004, over **\$371,000** has been raised by recycling over **14,000 tons** of glossy paper.

AUTUMN FIRES

In the other gardens and all up the vale
From the autumn bonfires, see the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over and all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes, the grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of season! Something bright in all
Flowers in the summer, fires in the fall.

– Robert Louis Stevenson

STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT GOOD PRIORITIES

Jesus taught, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” – **Luke 12:32**

The Bible makes it clear that God has given us all that we have and all that we are. This includes not just our money and possessions, but also our relationships, our character strengths, our time, our intelligence, the special talents and skills we may possess, and so much more.

Biblical stewardship invites us to use all these gifts in God-pleasing ways—not for God’s benefit, but for ours. We are the ones who benefit when we invest ourselves, our time and our possessions in ways that are in sync with God’s purposes.

The more we align our lives with God’s purposes, the happier and more fulfilled we become. And why not? We are learning to live more fully as disciples of Jesus, approaching more fully the abundant life he promised us. We grow in awareness and set new priorities that bring us closer to God.

If that sounds appealing to you, why not begin? Pick an area of your life that you’d like to align with God’s purposes. Maybe your relationships? Your money? How about your time?

Then, honestly and prayerfully consider: How are you using that gift? Talk it over with your pastor or prayer partner. Ask God to give you insight and to reveal your blind spots. Pray for guidance on how you can better use your gifts.

It takes time, but it’s so worth it. When our priorities are in sync with God’s purposes, we are not only stewarding our lives well, but also opening the door to greater personal fulfillment and joy.

—Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2020, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: U.S. WILDFIRES

“I keep the Lord always before me; because [the Lord] is at my right hand, I shall not be moved” (Psalm 16:8).

The 2021 wildfire season is devastating the western United States. A prolonged drought and extreme heat waves are causing wildfires to spread rapidly, which makes them difficult to contain. California is currently the hardest-hit state — the Dixie Fire, in Northern California, is already the second largest wildfire in the state’s history, having burned over 505,000 acres. Tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders, and hundreds of buildings have been destroyed.

The fires are not limited to California; more than 100 wildfires are now burning throughout 15 states. Smoke from these fires is carried across the country, a sign of the far-reaching effects of worsening wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with synods and social ministry organizations in California and other western states to develop a coordinated response to the wildfires. We anticipate that immediate needs will include food and other necessities. Long-term recovery will likely take years. Because emotional and spiritual care is a key aspect of disaster response, the Sierra Pacific Synod is developing a Lutheran Chaplaincy Corps, training rostered leaders and laypeople to offer such care to first responders and survivors after a disaster.

Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to “U.S. Wildfires” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires, until the response is complete. Make your check out to Bern Lutheran Church, place it in your offering envelope and designate the amount you want to give to Lutheran Disaster Response Fires on your envelope.

You may also designate gifts to simply “[Lutheran Disaster Response](#)” so we can immediately respond to disasters in the United States and around the world whenever they might strike (including Haiti).

We pray that God may comfort and protect those in the paths of wildfires. Together, we can follow Christ’s call to heal and share hope with those who are suffering.





* Denotes 80 years young

- 5 Kenneth Beissel *
- 10 Joseph Borkey
- 10 Kristi Reichart
- 11 Matthew Kasisky
- 11 Mark Lash
- 14 Rowbee'C Kasisky
- 16 Rachel Mount
- 18 Sally Koch
- 19 Harold Leh
- 19 Randall Schlappich
- 19 Devin Schlottman
- 20 Jeremy Goetz
- 21 Craig Myers *
- 21 Pastor Phyllis Wolkenhauer
- 22 Walter Schlottman
- 23 Donna Marks
- 23 Sharon Mogel
- 24 Jeffrey Gruver
- 26 Lucy Moyer *



- 2 Jeffrey and Andrea Shurr (15 years)
- 14 Harold and Janet Leh (58 years)
- 17 Michael and Beth Braucher (27 years)
- 23 George and Jane Schaeffer (71 years)
- 23 G. Michael and Marian Zimmerman (26 years)
- 25 Kyle and Tabitha Angstadt (17 years)



INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

\$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	\$10,072.71	\$109,646.14
Congregational		
Fund Raising	<u>194.80</u>	<u>820.74</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$10,267.51</u>	<u>\$110,466.88</u>

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$9,592.03	\$77,623.92
Non-Budgeted Income	675.48	23,949.96
Budgeted Expenses	10,226.10	93,620.21
Non-Budgeted Expenses	15.89	563.55
Benevolence to be Paid	362.00	3,149.00
Surplus/Deficit	- 336.48	4,241.12

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2021 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$2,055.50	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	975.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	589.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	403.00	600.00
Other	--	0.00

Capital Improvement Account	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$110.00	\$990.00
Interest	.68	4.62
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	<u>\$110.68</u>	<u>\$994.62</u>

Savings Account	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$318.00
Interest	22.67
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>\$131,450.52</u>

BE STILL (AND SILENT)

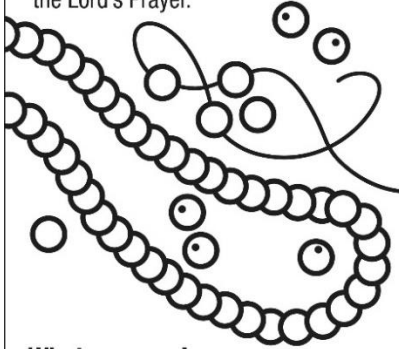
We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grow in silence; see the stars, the moon, the sun, how they move in silence. ...The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within—words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.

– Mother Teresa



Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver



Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ l _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ _ d _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ _ r _ _ (v. 7)

bask - b = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

keeps - p = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define - ee = _ _ d _ _ (v. 9)

shift - t = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm	2 Pastor: 9:00-11:30 am Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm	3 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	4
5 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am-Worship Opener: Brenda Reichart	6 OFFICE CLOSED 	7 Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm	8 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm	9 Pastor: 9:00-11:30 am Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm	10 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	11 
12 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am-Worship God's Work. Our Hands. Opener: Dianne Leininger	13 Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am 1:00 pm-Senior Berners	14 Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm	15 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm	16 Pastor: 10:00-11:30 am Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm 9:00 am-Bible Study 3:00 pm-Berks Festival of Faith	17 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	18
19 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am-Worship 11:00 am-Confirmation Class Opener: Evelyn Drobnick	20 Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am 12:00 pm-Lunch Bunch 7:00 pm-Council Meeting	21 Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm 3:30 pm-Quilters NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm 	23 Pastor: 10:00-11:30 am Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm 9:00 am-Bible Study	24 6:00-8:00 pm-Frog Pond	25
26 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am-Worship Harvest Home 11:00 am-Confirmation Class Opener: Brenda Reichart	27 Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am	28 Pastor: 9:00-11:00 am Secretary: 8:00-2:00 pm	29 Secretary: 12:00-4:00 pm	30 Pastor: 10:00-11:30 am Secretary: 8:00-1:00 pm 9:00 am-Bible Study		



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

SEPTEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 9 • VOLUME 29

AN INCREDIBLE RETURN TO THE WOODS AT THE END OF THE RED DIRT ROAD

BY COLLIN GROOMS

No one would have asked to have a summer of youth camp canceled because of COVID, but certainly, as with any challenge, it is good when the positives of a situation can be found. Having a summer away from the routines of camp as it has “always been” gave Bear Creek Camp an opportunity to truly look at creating the camp experiences that campers and staff need right now.

In a world where we’ve been separated from our friends and families, taking the time to build a small, intentional community was most essential. This summer, each quest group crafted their own experience as they creatively planned their week’s activities. For some that meant nature hikes into the depths of our woods or discovering every swimming location. For others that meant time on the high ropes course or writing new songs to be sung at bonfires.



*Continuing
Promises*

For every group that meant finding unique ways to explore their faith through daily bible study and worship experiences. Camp has an enduring quality of being the place where campers can find whatever they are needing in the moment. Faith can be discovered and strengthened. Lifelong friends can be made. Personal discovery happens constantly as we're taken away from our comfort zones and shown a newly revealed world.

Summer 2021 was an incredible return to the woods at the end of the red dirt road. We are so deeply grateful for our entire community that supported us in reaching this new beginning.



GROWING TOGETHER IN NEPSYNOD: MINLAB

On August 14, 2021 people from all over the NEPSynod gathered at the Lutheran Center to share ministry, ideas, and God's love with one another. Individuals who participated in MinLab were able to work together to build relationships with one another and the ministries of the other through authentic engagement, conversation, and questions. *The relationships we build at synod assemblies, special events, and through mutual collaboration are paramount to our work as Church.*

At MinLab, participants learned more about Growing Young and elements that are present in ministries that are actively "growing young." Participants also learned that congregational and organizational ministry is at the center of our work as a synod. *The synod is not a top-down organization, but instead, a collaboration of people working together to serve God's people.* Leaders in our synod, both lay and ordained, can't wait to see where the Spirit will lead us next.