

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/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

WORSHIP:

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

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

DESIGNATED PASTOR:

Pastor Gary Rarick, Phone: 610-401-1545 (cell)

PARISH SECRETARY:

Korinne Hotzman, 610-790-7195 (cell)
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Jane Battaglieri, Phone: 610-370-0965

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Brenda Reichart, President
Richard Gruber, Vice President
Jane Battaglieri, Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
Christopher Becker
Richard Greener
Matthew Kasisky
Linda Lash
Erin Readinger
Theresa Shurr

BUILDING PRINCIPLES:

- Devotion to Jesus as Lord and Savior
- Compassionate Sharing and Community Service
- Persistent Faithfulness
- Courageous Witness
- Flexible Leadership

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

God's purpose for our congregation is to:

Learn God's mission

Share God's love

Witness through Word and Service

Welcome all to a fellowship of forgiveness and thankful praise

Bern Bugle's Newsletter Sponsor

The June *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is sponsored in memory of Elwood Speicher by Barbara Speicher and Beverly Moyer.



The May *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* was sponsored in celebration of Beth Braucher's birthday.

Council Meeting Highlights

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, May 19th:

- The Bell Choir will be playing on Sunday, June 1st.
- 6261 Informational Sessions will be held at Bern Lutheran Church on June 8th and Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn on June 22nd.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, at 7:00 p.m.

June Lunch Bunch

The ladies will be meeting on **Monday, June 2, at 12 noon** for their monthly luncheon in the Social Hall.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the July *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, June 17th.**

June Social Hour

Our Social Hour will be held on **Sunday, June 29th.** A host and contributors are needed. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you can help. Thank you!

June Sign-up Sheets

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for June 15 and a Bulletin sponsor for June 29. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you would like to sponsor either of these dates.

Sunday School

Classes will resume in the fall on Sunday, September 7th. See you then. Enjoy your summer!

Secretary Korinne Vacation

Our Secretary, Korinne, will be on vacation the week of June 9th. She will return to the office on Tuesday, June 17th. Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly during the week.

Synod Assembly 2025

Thank you to Tracey and Michael Leh for representing Bern Lutheran Church at the 38th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly to be held on May 30-31, at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church, Stroudsburg. The theme for this year is "Connect the Dots." For more information about the Assembly, click on the ASSEMBLY tab on the Northeastern PA Synod website at <https://nepasynod.org>.

6261 Informational Sessions

Bern Lutheran Church will be hosting a 6261 informational session on **Sunday, June 8, at 11:00 a.m.** Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission for the synod, will be here to share more information about 6261 and answer any questions you may have. If you cannot attend the session on June 8, another one will be held on Sunday, June 22, at 12 noon at Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn.

Hope Rescue Mission Spring Clothing Drive

There is still some time to bring in donations for our clothing drive to benefit the Hope Rescue Mission. It will run until Sunday, June 15th. We are collecting men's, women's, and children's clothing, shoes, purses, socks, hats, gloves, coats, sheets, and towels. Check out the Hope Rescue Mission website at <https://www.hopeforreading.org/> to see how your donations help families in Berks County.



Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Summer Request

With summer almost upon us, children will be out of school which means families could experience added grocery expenses to have additional food on hand during the summer months. The SV Food Pantry would like to help families by providing additional food and snacks and your help is needed. Listed below 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 fruit
- ✓ snack packs of pudding and gelatins
- ✓ jerky
- ✓ granola bars
- ✓ snack size cereals and crackers
- ✓ individual serving-size mac and cheese and soups

The collection will run through August 2025.

Berks Festival of Faith Volunteers Needed

On Tuesday, June 24, Bern Church has the honor of providing the meal for this month's Festival of Faith service and we need your help to make it a warm, welcoming, and delicious experience for all! Volunteers will be needed at 3:30 p.m. to begin preparations of the meal and to help serve the food. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Another Successful Chicken BBQ and Apple Dumpling Sale!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Chicken BBQ and Apple Dumpling sale. We appreciate those who sold tickets, distributed flyers, delivered dinners, sold or purchased flowers, as well as those who came out to help the day of the event. A huge thank you to Phil Ketz for all of his planning and organizing. His leadership helps make this event possible. Total profits are not yet available. Look for that update in the July newsletter.

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Distribution: Volunteers Needed!

Please mark on your calendars that **Saturday, August 16**, will be Bern Lutheran Church's turn to help distribute food at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry and we can sure use your help. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please see Doug Myers if you have any questions. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School

Please plan to join us for VBS on Sunday, July 20, through Thursday, July 24 as we learn more about Forgiveness: Teaching forgiveness, Praying for forgiveness, Forgiving others, and Unlimited forgiveness. We have plenty of fun activities planned. The mission project will be collecting donations for the SV Food Pantry. Non-perishable food as well as monetary donations will be accepted.

A registration form is included in this newsletter and are available on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can also register by going to Epler's UCC website at www.eplerschurch.org or clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/WSrq9ju8rALruJ1A7>.

Easter Candy Sale

Thank you to everyone for your support of our Easter Candy Sale. Even though we did not approach this as a fundraiser, we ended up making a profit of \$407.00.



Congratulations!

On Sunday, May 18, we were fortunate to be able to celebrate Pastor Kenneth Gould's 50 years of ordained ministry.

Pastor Gould, a native of Hazleton, Pa. and the son of the late Norman and Florence Gould, was ordained into Lutheran ministry on May 18, 1975 at his home church, Christ Lutheran Church of Hazleton. He holds an A.B. degree in Sociology from Muhlenberg College and a M.Div. degree from the Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary, now United Lutheran Seminary. He has served the following congregations: Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Reading; St. John The Evangelist Slovak Lutheran Church, Lansford; Christ's United Lutheran Church of Gordon, Schuylkill County; Nativity Lutheran Church, Reading; and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Birdsboro, Pa. Since retiring he has served as Sunday supply pastors at numerous churches in the area including Bern Church. He is married to the former Carol Ann Rutt of Nazareth, Pa.

After the worship service, we celebrated Pastor Gould's Golden Jubilee with a cake and some refreshments.



We joyfully celebrate and congratulate Pastor Gould on 50 years of ordained ministry! Let us reflect on the many blessings that have come through his service, and we pray for continued strength and joy as he continues to lead and serve Bern Church and other congregations.



thankyou

Dear members and church council,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the reception celebrating the 50th Anniversary of my ordination on May 18. Your thoughtfulness and kindness touched my very being and it will always be remembered. Also many thanks for the Deitsch Eck gift card, a Pa. Dutch restaurant I found out about from Terri and Barry Shurr. We have found food there which is very much like what my mother would make and it brings back very pleasant memories.

I have served Bern Church for more than three years now, two to three times per month, and doing so has been a very pleasant assignment which I hope to continue as long as possible.

Again, my gratitude; may God continue to bless and guide you.

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Kenneth A. Gould



INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
--------------------------------	--	-------------------

4/06/2025	\$4,080.00	36
4/13/2025	\$2,854.00	48
4/20/2025	\$3,065.32	68
4/27/2025	\$1,160.00	41

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$12,239.00	\$29,896.00
Congregational Fundraising		
Easter Candy	\$407.00	
Redner's	\$186.00	
	593.00	.00
Total Funds	<u>\$12,832.00</u>	<u>\$29,896.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$11,139.00	\$38,353.00
Non-Budgeted Income	1,693.00	4,375.00
Budgeted Expenses	7,619.00	41,843.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	189.00	2,394.00
Benevolence to be Paid	387.00	387.00
Surplus/Deficit	+4,637.00	-1,896.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2025 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$506.50	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	366.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	376.50	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	161.50	600.00
Other	235.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$230.00	\$555.00
Interest	94.98	377.00
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$47,859.00

<u>Savings Account (new)</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 928.00
Interest	.51	2,872.00
Expenses	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$259,837.00

<u>Savings Account (small)</u>		<u>YTD</u>
Interest		\$1.01
Contributions		.00
		<u>\$14,985.00</u>



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 2 Sonja Starr
- 4 Judy Haas
- 6 Christopher Becker
- 9 Brian Eiche
- 16 Emma Mondoro
- 17 Sierra Adam
- 17 Dylan Slusser
- 23 Jean Ziegler
- 26 Judy Scheipe
- 28 Beth Hartman
- 28 Franklin Reifsnnyder III



- 20 David and Judy Haas (44 years)
- 20 Ted and Rachel Mountz (27 years)
- 25 David and Beth Hartman (42 years)





Cassidy Ketz (Phil Ketz's granddaughter) graduated from West Chester University with a degree in Speech Pathology.

John Ketz (Phil Ketz's grandson) graduated from Governor Mifflin High School. John will be attending West Chester University in the fall majoring in Business.

Victoria Heckman (Chris and Annette Becker's granddaughter) graduated from Northwestern High School. She will be attending Kutztown University in the fall.

Grant Felegy (Chris and Annette Becker's grandson) graduated from Emmaus High School. He will be going on to West Chester University.



EPLER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Free Community Meal

Epler's UCC, Leesport, is sponsoring a free community meal on **Tuesday, June 24, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.** (or until gone). No reservations necessary. This will be a drive-through only event. Please share with your friends and neighbors and join us.

Epler's UCC Summer Food and Faith Worship Service

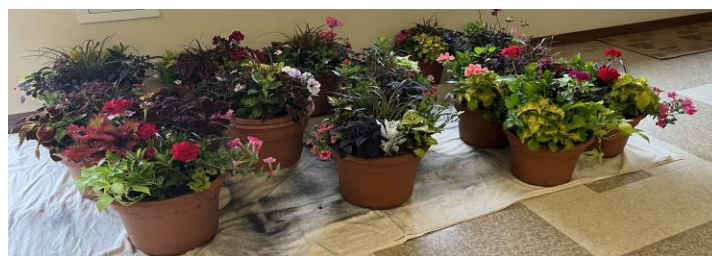
There will be no Food & Faith fellowship meal and worship service during the months of June or July. You are invited to join them on Friday, August 1st for a special "outdoor picnic" potluck style Food

and Faith time together. Epler's will provide hot dogs and drinks, but please bring a dish to share. If the weather does not cooperate, worship will be moved indoors.

Summer Evening Book Discussion Group

Pastor Gary is looking to offer an evening book discussion group sometime this summer. If you might be interested, please let Pastor Gary know as he continues to seek out a book to discuss. You can reach him at pastorarik@gmail.com or 610-401-1545. We do not know which evening we would meet, but it would begin at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. and go for about an hour and a half.

Pictures from our Chicken BBQ, Apple Dumpling, and Flower Sale





Dear Friends,

I am writing to thank you for your generous gift to Safe Berks. With your help, we can continue our mission of supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Berks County.

Please know that we are extremely grateful for your support. While we face many challenges, your generosity strengthens us to continue our mission. Your help allows us to achieve an important goal: create a *Safe Berks*.

Thank you for your support and for having me come out to do the presentation. Hope to see you more in the future.

Sincerely,

Mindy McIntosh

Director of Development

Thank you for your support of the teal ribbon campaign for sexual assault awareness. We received a total of \$25.00 in donations.



MEMBERS:

Peggy Reagan, Evelyn Drobnick, Tina Hissinger, Berry Hey, Sally Koch, Margaret Hey, Richard Greener, JoAnn Ketz, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, and Ruth Keeney.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Family and friends of Bill Manus, Pastor David Kistler, Cynthia, Bill, Charlotte, Kathy, Dolores Neidig, Lara and Drayton Pappas, Sheila Becker, Joan Ponzurick, Dick and Janet, Jean, Mary, Charles Trophe, Delores Kistler, Kathy Sutphin, Heather Baum, Eddie Kissling, Nick Odagis, Danielle Roberts, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Matt DeLeon, Pastor Joyce Seip, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, and Joyce.

(If you would like to add anyone to our prayer list, please contact Korinne in the church office. Please also notify her of anyone that could be removed.)

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

You can sponsor Altar Flowers for \$35.00/week, Bulletins for \$20.00/week, or our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

June 1 – Kate Schuler

June 8 – Tracey Leh

June 15 – ***sponsor needed***

June 22 – David and Beth Hartman

June 29 – Barry and Theresa Shurr

Bulletin Sponsors:

June 1 – Nancy Malandra

June 8 – Dianne Leininger

June 15 – Dianne Leininger

June 22 – Evelyn Drobnick

June 29 – ***sponsor needed***

Newsletter Sponsor:

Barbara Speicher and Beverly Moyer

Church Openers:

June 1 – Patricia Yocum

June 8 – Christopher Becker

June 15 – Patricia Yocum

June 22 – Richard Gruber

June 29 – Theresa Shurr

Church Greeters:

June 1 – Barbara Auchenbach

June 8 – Beverly Moyer

June 15 – Barbara Speicher

June 22 – Barbara Auchenbach

June 29 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

June 1 – Kate Schuler

June 8 – Rich Myers

June 15 – Richard Gruber

June 22 – Jay Field

June 29 – Beth Hartman

Communion Assistants:

June 1 – Dianne Leininger

June 8 – Rich Myers

June 15 – Linda Lash

June 22 – Theresa Shurr

Supply Pastor Schedule:

June 1 – Pastor William Fryer

June 8 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

June 15 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

June 22 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

June 29 – TBA

Sponsored by: Bern Lutheran Church and Epler's United Church of Christ

Vacation Bible School

Bern Lutheran Church

820 West Leesport Rd.



Age 3 up to
completion of
5th grade

July 20-24
6-7:30 PM

Forgiveness

Register at www.eplerschurch.org

VBS REGISTRATION FORM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Theme: Forgiveness
at Bern Lutheran Church
along with Epler's UCC

Sunday, July 20th to Thursday, July 24th
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade Completed _____ Age _____

(2-3 year olds must be accompanied by an adult for VBS)

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Email _____

Will you accompany and stay with your child during VBS? _____ yes _____ no

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number _____

Special needs? _____

Allergies? _____

Is there a special friend your child must be with? _____

I give permission to post photographs of me and/or my child(ren) on the church's website,
Facebook, and other publications. _____ yes _____ no

Are you a member of Epler's UCC _____ Bern Lutheran _____ Other _____

Class/Crew Assignment _____
(completed by church)

Return or mail VBS Registration Form
To: Bern Lutheran Church
820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533

You can register online by following this link: <https://forms.gle/WSrq9ju8rALruJ1A7>

or you can also register on Epler's UCC website at www.eplerschurch.org

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <u>Seventh Sunday after Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Rich Myers	2 12:00pm-Ladies Fellowship Luncheon in the Social Hall	3	4	5	6 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	7
8 <u>Day of Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-6261 Information Session with Kat Tigerman Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Rich Myers	9	10 Secretary Korinne Vacation until June 17	11 1:30pm-Heartland Herb Society Meeting 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved) Secretary Korinne Vacation until June 17	12 Secretary Korinne Vacation until June 17	13 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	14 
15 <u>The Holy Trinity</u> 10:00am-Worship -Hope Rescue Mission Clothing Drive ends Opener: Patricia Yocum Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Barbara Speicher Comm Asst: Hannah Lash Father's Day	16 7:00pm-Council Meeting	17 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved) -Hope Rescue Mission Clothing Drive Pick-up Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group) 	21
22 <u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship 12:00pm-Information Session at Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Jay Field Greeter: open Comm Asst: Tracey Leh	23 4:00pm-Festival of Faith VBS (Social Hall reserved)	24 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith VBS (Social Hall reserved) -Bern Lutheran Church is providing the meal	25 4:00pm-Festival of Faith VBS (Social Hall reserved)	26 4:00pm-Festival of Faith VBS (Social Hall reserved)	27 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	28
29 <u>Third Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Social Hour after worship Opener: Theresa Shurr Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Nancy Malandra	30			Hope Rescue Mission Clothing Drive until June 15		