

# 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](mailto:bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.berchurch.org](http://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  
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 sponsor for the February *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is sponsored by Rich Myers.

### **Re-organization Council Meeting Highlights**

Our elected and appointed council officers are listed below:

- Brenda Reichart – Council President
- Richard Gruber – Council Vice-President
- Jane Battaglieri – Council Secretary
- David Hartman – Treasurer
- Patricia Yocum – Financial Secretary

We welcome back council member, Matthew Kasisky, and thank all who continue to serve on council: Christopher Becker, Richard Greener, Linda Lash, Erin Readinger, and Theresa Shurr. Your selfless commitment to serve as leaders is greatly appreciated all year long.

### **Council Meeting Highlights**

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, January 20th:

- Election of officers for 2025.
- Approved installation of a rack to store the paraments in the sacristy.
- Scheduled Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 23 immediately following worship.

**The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Ladies Bring Your Own Lunch**

On **Monday, February 3, at 12:00 noon**, the ladies of Bern Lutheran will meet in the Social Hall to enjoy each other's company. Bring a sandwich and a drink and join us for an afternoon of fellowship.

### **Sunday School**

We invite all children to join us for Sunday School. We meet from 11:00-11:30 a.m. after the worship service.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, February 23, due to the Annual Congregational Meeting after worship.

### **Food and Faith Worship Service**

Epler's UCC will be holding their monthly Food & Faith worship service on **Friday, February 7th**. The meal will consist of ham, white bean, and potato soup, mac and cheese, salad, and dessert and will be held at 6:00 p.m. with worship following at 7:00 p.m. Special Music by Linda Michael. All are welcome!

### **Schuykill Valley Food Pantry Distribution**

Mark your calendars! Bern Lutheran Church is scheduled to help with the food pantry distribution on **Saturday, February 15, 2025**. We are looking for volunteers to help with the distribution. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you are available.

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Articles for the March *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, February 18th**.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 23**, immediately following our worship service. At our meeting we will be reviewing reports from the various committees. A quorum of 25 voting members is needed to conduct the business of the church. Copies of the Annual Report will be available on the round table in the narthex shortly.

### **February Social Hour**

We will be holding a Social Hour on **Sunday, February 23**, after the Annual Congregational Meeting. Plan to stay and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. We will need a host and contributors. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you would like to help.

### **Altar Flower Bulletin and Newsletter Sponsorships**

Sign-up sheets for 2025 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway. Prices remain the same as last year. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor any items and dates.

### **February Sign-up Sheets**

We are in need of Altar Flower sponsors for February 2, 9, 16, and 23 and Bulletin sponsors for February 2, 9, and 23. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you would like to sponsor any of these dates.

### **Choir**

Do you love to sing? Well you don't have to just sing in the shower anymore. We are looking to start up the choir again. Our Choir will sing a couple times a year at special worship services. A time to practice will be discussed at a later time. If you are interested, please see Jane Battaglieri. Help to sing praises to God.

### **Redner's Grocery Receipts**

Thank you to everyone who brings in Redner's receipts. When you shop at Redner's with a rewards card, bring your receipts to church and place them in the mailbox in the hallway.

### **Thank You Notes**

Dear Bern Congregation, thank you for your generous gift at Christmas. I appreciate your thoughtfulness at this time of the year when we celebrate God's gift of love to us in the Christ Child. Your kindness is very much appreciated. It is a joy to do ministry together with you. God's blessings to you. – *Pastor William Fryer*

Dear Bern Church Members, I thank you for the kind and generous Christmas gift. I appreciate you remembering me. I believe that the end of January I will be supplying three years at the church. I have always enjoyed leading worship here and celebrating Holy Communion every Sunday, and I will do my very best to continue doing so as long as I am needed. Bern Church is a treasure from God, and as I thank you for the opportunity to be here, I assuredly thank Him. May God continue to bless us all with His gifts. – Sincerely in Christ, *Pastor Kenneth Gould*

I wanted to thank everyone in the congregation for the generous gift for Christmas. It is always a great recognition of my connection and ministry with all of you when I am given this gift at the end of the year. Thank you all again for your generosity and for our continued work in ministry and the love of Christ through the season of Christmas and all year long. - Blessings, *Rev. Gary Rarick*, Designated Pastor, Bern Lutheran Church

Dear Bern Church, thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. You are all so kind. I love to play and make music for you here! And you all make me feel very much at home. Thank you again and I wish you all a Happy New Year! – *Jane Battaglieri*

To My Bern Lutheran Church Family, I can't begin to express my appreciation for your overwhelming kindness to me. Thank you all for your cards, gifts, goodies, and surprises this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness means so much to me. New Year blessings to you all! – *Korinne Hotzman*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We wish for all of you the blessings of Christmas. It was touching to receive the beautiful cards from you—to feel included in the church in spite of being housebound. We hope you will have a new year filled with blessings. – *Dr. Hey and Margaret Hey*

### **Lutheran Disaster Response Hygiene Kits**

As we are all well aware, disasters have been happening all over our country. Areas have been devastated by extreme weather and fires. So many people have lost so much. Bern will be joining Advent Lutheran Church, West Lawn, in the collection of items needed for hygiene kits that are distributed to areas of need through Lutheran Disaster Response. Items requested include:

- toothbrushes
- toothpaste (any size)
- deodorant sticks (travel size or larger)
- shampoo (travel size or larger)
- small washcloths

Please place your donations in the collection basket in the hallway. We will be collecting items through Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

### **Inclement Weather**

I know no one wants to think about it, but we have already entered that season of snowy, wintry weather. From time to time the weather may affect our scheduled worship services and activities at church. If there would be inclement weather, particularly on a Sunday morning, tune into WFMZ-TV69 for any information on delays and/or closings. Any decision to cancel the worship service will be made through consultation with the Council President by 7:00 a.m.

"Love is something eternal; the aspect may change, but not the essence." - Vincent van Gogh

## IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

### **MEMBERS:**

Ann Myers, Peggy Reagan, Family and friends of William D. Kerns, Sr., 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 Berks Festival of Faith on the loss of one of their valued volunteers Randy Schlegel, Family and friends of Rev. Fred Foerster, Anne, Dick and Janet, Jean, Mary, Charles Trophe, Delores Kistler, Kathy Sutphin, Heather Baum, Debra Kennedy, Eddie Kissling, Bill Manus, Terri Hine, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, 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.)*

### **SV Food Pantry "SOUPeR" Bowl Collection**

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry on **Sunday, February 9th**. You can also make monetary donations. They can be placed in the large soup pots located in the narthex. The pots will have images of the two teams and you may place your donation in the pot showing the team you think (or hope) will win.





## 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:

February 2 – *sponsor needed*  
February 9 – *sponsor needed*  
February 16 – *sponsor needed*  
February 23 – *sponsor needed*

### Bulletin Sponsors:

February 2 – *sponsor needed*  
February 9 – *sponsor needed*  
February 16 – Korinne Hotzman  
February 23 – *sponsor needed*

### Newsletter Sponsor:

Rich Myers

### Church Openers:

February 2 – Erin Readinger  
February 9 – Matthew Kasisky  
February 16 – Theresa Shurr  
February 23 – Richard Gruber

### Church Greeters:

February 2 – Barbara Auchenbach  
February 9 – Beverly Moyer  
February 16 – Barbara Speicher  
February 23 – Nancy Malandra

### Lectors:

February 2 – Beth Hartman  
February 9 – Rich Myers  
February 16 – Barbara Braucher  
February 23 – Richard Gruber

### Communion Assistants:

February 2 – Dianne Leininger  
February 9 – Theresa Shurr  
February 16 – Linda Lash

### Supply Pastor Schedule:

February 2 – Pastor Kenneth Gould  
February 9 – Pastor Kenneth Gould  
February 16 – Pastor William Fryer  
February 23 – Pastor David Kistler



(\* Denotes 80 years young)

5 Joslyn Spieker  
7 Josh Riker  
12 Tanner Mountz  
14 Isla Westmeyer  
20 Julia Greenwood  
20 Margaret Spieker  
21 Nancy Rickenbach \*  
21 Jacob Riker  
22 Debra Beissel  
22 Laura Berger  
22 Stacey Reifsnyder  
24 Sandra Schucker  
25 Michael Leh  
25 Shawn Slusser  
28 Donna Giles



None this month.

## Christmas Eve Coat Swap



Does this coat look familiar to you? This coat was left behind after our Christmas Eve worship service. At our Christmas Eve service, a member's coat was taken by mistake and the coat to the

left was left behind (this coat is red and black). The coat that is missing is green with an orange lining. If you attended our Christmas Eve worship service, could you please confirm that you have the right coat and also check with any guests that may have attended with you. Thank you!

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

—Maya Angelou

## INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
12/01/2024	\$5,013.50	46
12/08/2024	\$4,057.00	37
12/15/2024	\$1,795.00	46
12/22/2024	\$1,535.00	36
12/24/2024	\$1,158.00	93
12/29/2024	\$1,633.80	37

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

### Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$17,554.00	\$142,840.00
Congregational		
Fundraising (Redners)	338.88	3,566.00
Total Funds	<u>\$17,893.00</u>	<u>\$146,406.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$14,163.00	\$130,043.00
Non-Budgeted Income	3,730.00	35,128.00
Budgeted Expenses	17,939.00	108,981.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	2,883.00	14,982.00
Benevolence to be Paid	.00	.00
Surplus/Deficit	-2,929.00	41,208.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2024 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	1,500.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	1,306.50	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	669.00	600.00
Other	2,619.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$125.00	\$1,520.00
Interest	98.58	1,036.00
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$46,907.75</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ .00	\$1,205.00
Interest	.00	8,070.00
Expenses (\$1,000.00 Festival of Faith Transfer)	.00	<u>1,000.00</u>
		<u>\$271,339.22</u>

## Plastic Bag Recycling Project

Doug Myers and Gail Landis, who are both members of the West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club, are collecting soft plastic for a community environmental project. The collected plastic is recycled and after 1,000 lbs. of plastic is collected, the Rotary Club will receive a Trex bench (see picture below) which will be donated to a community project. The types of soft plastic that is being collected is:

- grocery bags
- bread bags
- bubble wrap
- dry cleaning bags
- newspaper sleeves
- ice bags
- plastic shipping envelopes
- Ziploc and other reclosable food storage bags
- cereal bags
- case overwrap
- salt bags
- pallet wrap
- wood pellet bags
- produce bags



No “hard” plastic such as plastic bottles, cups, etc. is eligible. Look for the bin underneath the coat rack in the narthex to place your bags. Thank you for your support!

## THANK YOU

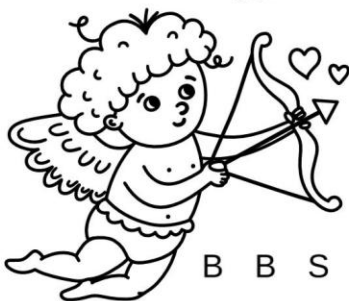
Dear Members and Friends of Bern Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Foerster/Eichner families, thank you for your cards, thoughts and prayers for Rev. Fred Foerster who passed away on December 31, 2024 and is now at Peace and Rest. His “Celebration of Life” Service was held Saturday (1/11/25) at his last parish, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Emmaus. Fred always had a smile on his face when he heard about “Bern.”

Thank you and Blessings to you all,  
Carol F. Eichner

# VALENTINE'S DAY

## Wordsearch



B B S D E C O R A T E L T T U S Q L R T  
 G I R L F R I E N D V Y H O L R E N F C  
 X A W P F L O W E R S Q A J S O W S V L  
 A J S B N D J A T E D D Y H L K Y N O H  
 Z Y B D O Y R O M A N C E E N P R P W R  
 M M M E I B B O U Q U E T I U S A E C Y  
 N H M I T I V E N S R L P V J E U F K P  
 A K K C C E T A R B E L E C U L R B I O  
 U W E R E E G T L J D T C Z R I B K S E  
 H O L U F Y D B R E R P J A N M E L S M  
 F S X S F I S J E A N Y D T N S F G Y G  
 H O E H A H C V E N E T R B E D O D Q I  
 N O U Q P A D H J W J H I B I E Y N V F  
 L F Y R N N R C O E Z I T N E R K E R T  
 P O A Y T A A U U C N V P E E C C I E A  
 J W V W V E C L E P O I J T E Z T R R A  
 T O G E T H E R P V I L M V O W N F I P  
 E C V V Q K S N J H F D A E U H S Y M W  
 R M E P P T I F T I M J K T B R T O D B  
 W M P V G T V U R H L H W B E I W B A H

### WORD LIST


ADMIRER  
 AFFECTION  
 BE MINE  
 BOUQUET  
 BOYFRIEND  
 CANDY  
 CARD  
 CELEBRATE

CHOCOLATE  
 CRUSH  
 CUPID  
 DECORATE  
 FEBRUARY  
 FLOWERS  
 FOURTEENTH  
 GIFT

GIRLFRIEND  
 HEART  
 KISS  
 LOVE  
 PINK  
 POEM  
 RED  
 ROMANCE

ROSE  
 SMILE  
 SWEETHEART  
 TEDDY  
 TOGETHER  
 VALENTINE

# FEBRUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p><u>Presentation of Our Lord</u>  <b>10:00am</b>-Worship  <b>11:00-11:30am</b>-Sunday School</p> <p>Opener: Erin Readinger  Lector: Beth Hartman  Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach  Comm Asst: Dianne Leininger</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>12:00pm</b>-Ladies Fellowship Luncheon in the Social Hall</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>6:00pm</b>-Epler's UCC Food &amp; Faith meal and worship service</p> <p><b>6:00-8:00pm</b> – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>8:30am-3:30pm</b>-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts Training Meeting (Social Hall reserved)</p>
<p>9</p> <p><u>Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</u>  <b>10:00am</b>-Worship  -Souper Bowl Food Collection  <b>11:00-11:30am</b>-Sunday School</p> <p>Opener: Matthew Kasisky  Lector: Rich Myers  Greeter: Beverly Moyer  Comm Asst: Theresa Shurr</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>6:00-8:30pm</b> – Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>6:00-8:00pm</b> – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p> <p></p>	<p>15</p> <p><b>8:00am</b>-Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Distribution, Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport</p>
<p>16</p> <p><u>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</u>  <b>10:00am</b>-Worship  <b>11:00-11:30am</b>-Sunday School</p> <p>Opener: Theresa Shurr  Lector: Barbara Braucher  Greeter: Barbara Speicher  Comm Asst: Linda Lash</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>7:00pm</b>-Council Meeting</p> <p></p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>9:00am</b>-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall reserved)</p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>6:00-8:00pm</b> – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p><u>Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</u>  <b>10:00am</b>-Worship  -Congregational Meeting after worship  -Social Hour after meeting</p> <p>Opener: Richard Gruber  Lector: Richard Gruber  Greeter: Nancy Malandra</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>4:00pm</b>-Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall reserved)</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>6:00-8:00pm</b> – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p>	<p><b>Lutheran Disaster Response Hygiene Kits Collection through Sunday, February 9th</b></p>