

**BERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533

Address Service Requested





BERN BUGLE'S

Joyful Notes

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533

October 2026



WEBSITE:
www.bernchurch.org



EMAIL:
bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com



PHONE:
(610) 374-4343



WORSHIP:

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

MINISTERS:

ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:

Pastor Diane LaFauci, Phone: 484-794-5503 (cell)

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

Richard Greener

Matthew Kasisky

Linda Lash

Beverly Moyer

Rich Myers

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's Newsletter Sponsor

The October *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is sponsored in recognition and appreciation of our pastors during Clergy Appreciation month.

Council Meeting Highlights

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, September 21st:

- Reviewed proposed updates to our congregational constitution.
- Passed proposed 2027 budget.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday School

All children are invited to attend Sunday School after the worship service.

Safe Berks Meal

The Ladies Lunch Group will be preparing a meal for the residents of Safe Berks on **Thursday, October 1, beginning at 2:00 p.m.**

Epler's UCC Food & Faith

Join along with the members of Epler's Church on **Friday, October 2, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.** for a special Interfaith Conversation with our Muslim brothers and sisters during our meal and worship time. The overall theme will be "peace" but with a focus on concern and support for and with our Muslim friends. We will have our worship service without Communion, but we will have three guest speakers including: Dr. Moro Usmanou, Director of the Islamic Society of Berks County; Hasna Bahar, Campus Minister for Abrahamic Faith and Culture from Alvernia University; and Imam Al Sayed Ashour, from Islamic Center of Reading. Let us all learn together about the Islamic faith and find out how we can support one another in our commonalities of the love of all of God's children.

World-Wide Communion Sunday

Join us for World-Wide Communion Sunday on **October 4, 2026**. Our congregation will join millions of Christians across the globe to celebrate communion together. This special day reminds us that even though we span different countries, languages, and cultures, we are all connected as one body at Christ's table.



Sandtart Cookie Time

We will be baking sandtarts again this year.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted on **October 4th** for orders of 1 lb. or 1/4 lb. containers, with or without nuts.

Orders will be taken up to November 1st.

Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse Fall Clothing Drive

As the cooler weather approaches, we're coming together to support the men, women and children served by **Hope Rescue Mission and Lighthouse Women's & Children's Center**. Our drive will run from **October 4 through November 22**. We will be collecting new or gently used items.

Items especially needed include:

- Coats and jackets
- Sweaters and sweatshirts
- Shirts and pants
- Socks, hats, and gloves
- Blankets and other warm clothing

Your generosity can make a meaningful difference for a man, woman, or child preparing for the colder months. Thank you for helping us share warmth, comfort, and hope with families in our community!

October Lunch Bunch

The ladies will be meeting on Monday, **October 5, at 12 noon** for their monthly fellowship luncheon in the Social Hall. Come join us!

Pastor Gary Vacation

Our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick, will be on vacation from **Wednesday, October 7, through Tuesday, October 13**.

Secretary Korinne Vacation

Korinne will be on vacation the **week of October 12th**. She will return to the office on Tuesday, October 20th. Emails and phone messages will be

checked regularly. If you would need immediate assistance, please contact Brenda Reichart at 610-926-6772.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the November *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* are due by **Tuesday, October 20th**.



HARVEST HOME Service

Mark your calendars to join us on **Sunday, October 11, at our 10:00 a.m. worship service** when we will celebrate our Harvest Home service. We will have a bountiful harvest display in the sanctuary to remind us all to be thankful of the goodness God bestows upon us.

Our special offering for the day will go to **Safe Berks**.

Reformation Sunday Worship

We will be joining together with our sisters and brothers from Trinity, Leesport, and Trinity, Gouglersville, on **Sunday, October 25, at 9:00 a.m. at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 102 Apple Street, Leesport**, in one worship, with a joint choir, special music, and leadership from all three congregations. Would you like to be a part of the choir that Sunday? Let Jane know. We hope to see everyone there!

October Social Hour

After the worship service on **Sunday, October 25**, at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport, we will all join together for some fellowship time. All three congregations will be providing refreshments. If you would like to bake or provide something else, please let Secretary Korinne know.

All Saints Sunday – November 1st

All Saints Sunday is a special observance on the calendar of the church in which we remember with thanksgiving all the faithful departed.

We invite everyone to submit the name(s) of loved ones who have died since last All Saints Day in November 2025 by filling out the section below and placing it in the offering plate. Photographs (framed and unframed) may also be brought to the church prior to or on All Saints Sunday. These pictures will remind us that we are constantly surrounded by the love of all the saints. All photographs may be reclaimed after the **10:00 a.m.service on Sunday, November 1st** or on the following Sunday.

Submitted names, as well as members of our congregation who have died in the past year, will be read during the prayers and a bell will toll following the reading of each name.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Name(s) of Deceased: _____

Your Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Please return this slip by Sunday, October 25th

Veterans Day

In our November newsletter and at our worship service on **Sunday, November 8**, we will be recognizing and honoring Bern Church's veterans and those currently serving in the military.

Army

Jay Field
Donald Greenwood
E. Berry Hey, Jr.

Air Force

Gary Drobnick
David Haas
Judy Haas

Robert Hissinger
C. Jacob Stricker

Shawn Hissinger
Harry Yocum, Jr.

Navy

Craig Myers
Gerald Pawlyk

Marines

Christopher Becker

Air National Guard

Dennis Egan

We would like to make sure to include everyone and have correct information, so if you are a veteran and we have missed including your information, please let us know. Fill out the form below with your name, branch of military, years served, and location of service, and return to Korinne in the office or place in the offering plate. Thank you!

VETERANS DAY LIST

Name: _____

Branch of Military: _____

Years Served: _____

Location of Service: _____

Thank Offering Sunday – November 22

This year, our special offering will support World Hunger. With our donations, we help to provide food and hope to people facing hunger and food insecurity around the world. As we gather on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we invite everyone to consider making a special gift to support World Hunger.

Congregational Meeting

Please make a note that our Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 22**, immediately following our worship service. During this meeting we will be voting on the 2027 Proposed Budget and electing new members to council.

Sign-up Sheets for October

We are in need of a Bulletin sponsor for Sunday, October 18th. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor this date. Thank you!

Pastor Appreciation: Grateful for Faithful Leadership

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and this gives us a special opportunity to thank the pastors who teach, encourage, pray and care for our congregation: Pastor William Fryer, Pastor Kenneth Gould, Pastor Diane LaFauci, and Pastor Gary Rarick. May we honor their faithful service, support them with our prayers and remind them that their ministry makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

Berks Heim Sunday Worship Help Needed

Berks Heim offers worship services for residents on Sunday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Help is needed to transport patients to and from the service. If you are able to assist with transport on **Sunday, October 18, or Sunday, November 15**, please sign up on the sheet on the Outreach bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Our Potluck Luncheon/
Holiday Kick-Off**

will be held on **Sunday, November 29**,
immediately following the worship service.

We will also have our **Angel Tree**
available with the names of children
in need of Christmas gifts.

Watch for more details as we get closer to this
special event. We hope you'll join us for
*good food, fellowship, and the
beginning of the Christmas season!*

“Autumn teaches us patience: the results of work ripen when the time is right.”

-Unknown



ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Altar Guild Committee is looking for a few more helping hands! We invite anyone who would enjoy serving our church in a meaningful way to consider becoming part of the Altar Guild.

The Altar Guild helps prepare and care for our altar and sanctuary, creating a welcoming and beautiful space for worship. No special experience is needed—just a willing heart and a desire to serve.

*If you are interested in volunteering
or would like to learn more,
please see Annette Becker.
We would love to have you join us!*

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS: Nancy Malandra, Arlene Ensinger, 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: Deaconness Deborah Graf, Peter Graf, Family of Thomas Egan, Pastor Wayne Heintzelman, Katie, Pastor Althea Albright, Pastor Virginia Biniek, Noel, Harvey Lengel, John Mountz, Jessica Keller, Joel Koch, Kathy, 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, 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 \$40.00/week, Bulletins for \$20.00/week, or our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

October 4 – The Reicharts
October 11 – The Hartmans
October 18 – Tina and Bob Hissinger
October 25 – Joint Worship @ LCHT

Bulletin Sponsors:

October 4 – Lois Ondik
October 11 – sponsored
October 18 – *sponsor needed*
October 25 – Joint Worship @ LCHT

Newsletter Sponsor:

sponsored

Church Openers:

October 4 – Jane Battaglieri
October 11 – Richard Gruber
October 18 – Linda Lash
October 25 – Joint Worship @ LCHT

Church Greeters:

October 4 – Barbara Auchenbach
October 11 – *volunteer needed*
October 18 – *volunteer needed*
October 25 – Joint Worship @ LCHT

Lectors:

October 4 – Tracey Leh
October 11 – Brenda Reichart
October 18 – Rich Myers
October 25 – Richard Gruber

Communion Assistants:

October 4 – Tracey Leh
October 11 – Rich Myers
October 18 – Hannah Lash
October 25 – Linda Lash

Supply Pastor Schedule:

October 4 – Pastor William Fryer
October 11 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
October 18 – Pastor William Fryer
October 25 – Joint Worship @ LCHT

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE August 2026

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
8/02/2026	\$ 1,610.00	43
8/09/2026	\$ 1,880.00	41
8/16/2026	\$ 1,440.00	63
		(Joint w/LCHT)
8/23/2026	\$ 1,765.00	37
8/30/2026	\$ 1,175.00	45

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$19,820.00	\$108,985.00
Cong. Fundraising	(Redner's) 142.04	4,738.00
	(\$3,217 Chicken BBQ, \$675 Redner's S-A-T, \$846 Lunch Bunch)	
Total Funds	<u>\$19,962.00</u>	<u>\$113,723.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$17,131.00	\$82,165.00
Non-Budgeted Income	2,832.00	23,024.00
Budgeted Expenses	11,036.00	92,986.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	974.00	20,737.00
Benevolence to be Paid	1,033.00	1,033.00
Surplus/Deficit	+6,920.00	-9,568.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2026 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$644.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	747.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	904.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	401.00	600.00
Other	1,332.00	

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,315.00
Interest	91.00	607.03
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$51,507.82

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 1,132.00
Interest	.00	5,355.26
Expenses (Move to FofF Acct.)	.00	<u>-3,890.55</u>
		\$289,541.40



October Birthdays

(* Denotes 80 years young)

4 Brenda Reichart	15 Abigail Angstadt
5 David Haas	17 Callie Schlottman
9 Kate Schuler	19 Nancy Schoener *
11 Andrew Lash	22 Emily Starr
12 Evelyn Drobnick *	24 Bonnie Eiche
12 YuYun Greener *	27 Christine Gruber
12 Michael Knabb	31 Janet Leh *



October Anniversaries

- 14 Mark and Tara Lash (31 years)
- 15 Julie and Jason Riker (15 years)
- 17 Pastor Kenneth and Carol Ann Gould (23 years)
- 17 Michael and Cheryl Knabb (40 years)
- 18 David and Dianna Greenwood (40 years)
- 20 Kenneth and Debra Beissel (47 years)
- 23 Richard and Lisa Miller (16 years)
- 23 Chris and Kristen Schera (27 years)



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

As the leaves begin to change and autumn settles in, it's time to **fall back!** Daylight Saving Time ends at **2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1st**, when clocks are turned back one hour.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, October 31!

🍁 Enjoy that extra hour of sleep! 🍁

“And all the lives we ever lived
and all the lives to be are full of
trees and changing leaves...”

-Virginia Woolf

5th Annual Jesus, Jammies & Joy



November 1 – November 30, 2026

NEW winter pajamas for children
Please select **children sizes** newborn - XXL 18
(one piece or a two-piece sets – no pajama pants without tops)

Pajamas will be distributed through:
Lighthouse Women & Children's Center,
Mary's Shelter, Opportunity House,
Safe Berks, and Schuylkill Hope Center

Monetary donations can be sent to Zions Lutheran Church,
354 Zions Church Road, Shoemakersville, PA 19555 and
marked "Jesus, Jammies & Joy" in the memo.

**Thank-you for helping to bring joy to the children this
Christmas and keep them warm & cozy throughout the winter!**

For more information contact Zion's Lutheran Church (610) 562-3112



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A few weeks ago I attended the Farewell and Godspeed service for outgoing Bishop Christopher deForest, a service to give thanks for his service and to wish him well in his continuing journey in ministry. In the process of reviewing Bishop de Forest's work among us over the past six years, the statement was made that there are currently 80 called (active, not retired) pastors on our synod territory. **Only 80 to serve the 235 congregations in the Northeastern PA Synod!!** That was stunning to hear! It means an *average of three congregations per active pastor!* That is why our congregations are so dependent on retired pastors who are still willing and able to fill our pulpits and on the even fewer who are willing and able to serve as Transition Pastor to guide the day-to-day ministry needs.

Bishop deForest was acutely aware of the prevailing situation, which led to the establishment of what he called "6261": multiple congregations collaborating in one parish served by at least one pastor and a trained and licensed lay leader (with potential for 2 pastors and/or a deacon also serving were possible). The role of the called pastor obviously changes to coordinate the workings of multiple congregations.

Hence the Licensed Lay Minister training program was initiated. Two of our congregations in our three-church parish currently have people in the LLM training program. So, what exactly is an LLM?

- † Trained in basic level courses in preaching, learning ministry, etc.
- † Serves under the guidance and oversight of the called parish pastor
- † Member of the ministry team (not a stand-alone position or in place of a pastor)
- † Serves only in the congregation(s) assigned by the Bishop
- † Assists with worship, learning, service, etc., as local need indicates
- † Assists with visitation, funerals, etc., as available
- † Keeps abreast of parish business
- † Covers worship when the pastor is away (or ill, for example).
- † May preside at the table in absence of the pastor by agreement of the Bishop
- † A "part-time" position – stipend or hourly compensation (a supplement to the LLM's employment outside the church)

The church is forever "reforming" itself to meet the needs of the worshipping community. So we trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance as we continue to develop our ministry teams where God has planted us!

Your Sister in Christ,

† Pastor Diane LaFauci



Special Celebration!!

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25, 2026

When Martin Luther nailed the *95 Theses* to the chapel door at Wittenberg Castle on October 31, 1517, it was the message that could not be ignored! The Church needed to be reformed! Luther and other faith-filled theologians and biblical scholars were increasingly aware of corrupt practices coming from Rome, and doctrines with no basis in God's Word. Luther understood that God's will and grace were meant to bring "comfort for our terrified souls," not fear and oppressive demands.

The Reformation was upon us!



SOLA SCRIPTURA
SOLA GRATIA
SOLA FIDE
SOLI DEO GLORIA

Reformation Sunday is always the last Sunday in October –
this year **October 25th**.



We join with our sisters and brothers from Trinity, Leesport and Trinity, Gouglersville, in one worship, with a joint choir, special music, and leadership from all three congregations.

*Would you like to be part of the choir?
Let Jane know.*



Worship at 9:00 a.m. at LCHT,
with fellowship to follow worship.
Sunday, October 25th



All three congregations are providing refreshments—if you'd like to bake or provide something else, let the church office know.



OCTOBER 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Appreciation Month				1 2:00pm-Safe Berks Meal Preparation 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	2 6:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith Fellowship Meal and Worship Service 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	3
4 <u>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -World Communion Sunday -Pastor William Fryer -Fall Clothing Drive Begins 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Jane Battaglieri Greeter: Barb Auchenbach Lector: Tracey Leh Comm Asst: Tracey Leh	5 12:00pm-Ladies Lunch Bunch	6 10:30am-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study 7:00pm-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study on ZOOM	7 Pastor Gary Rarick – Vacation	8 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal Pastor Gary Rarick – Vacation	9 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group) Pastor Gary Rarick – Vacation	10
11 <u>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor Kenneth Gould -Harvest Home Service -Safe Berks Collection 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Jane Battaglieri Greeter: Lector: Brenda Reichart Comm Asst: Hannah Lash	12 Pastor Gary Rarick – Vacation Secretary Korinne – Vacation Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day	13 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild (Social Hall reserved) 10:30am-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study 7:00pm-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study on ZOOM Pastor Gary Rarick – Vacation Secretary Korinne - Vacation	14 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Council (Social Hall reserved) Secretary Korinne - Vacation	15 8:00am-12:00pm-Heartland Herb Society (Social Hall reserved) 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal Secretary Korinne - Vacation	16 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group) Secretary Korinne - Vacation	17
18 <u>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship -Pastor William Fryer 11:00am-Sunday School 2:30pm-Berks Heim Worship Help Opener: Rich Myers Greeter: Lector: Rich Myers Comm Asst: Rich Myers	19 7:00pm-Council Meeting (Library reserved)	20 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild (Social Hall reserved) Newsletter Deadline	21	22 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	23 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	24
25 <u>Reformation Sunday</u> 9:00am-Joint Worship @ Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport -Pastor Diane LaFauci -Reformation Sunday -Holy Communion -Social Hour after worship Lector: Richard Gruber Comm. Asst.: Linda Lash	26	27 10:30am-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall reserved) 7:00pm-Pastor Diane's Fall Bible Study on ZOOM	28	29 4:00pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:00pm-Choir Rehearsal	30 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	31

