



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.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:

Michael Braucher, President
Richard Gruber, Vice President
Theresa Shurr, Secretary
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Jane Battaglieri
Christopher Becker
Matthew Kasisky
Linda Lash
Dianne Leininger
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 NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

The *Bern Bugle* for May is sponsored in honor of grandchildren, Marcy and Nathan, by their grandmother, Carol.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, April 17th:

- A discussion took place on Benevolence and how the money is separated on the offering envelopes and where the money goes.
- Offering envelopes were discussed. A decision was made to continue with the same company, McDaniel Envelope Company, for next year's order.
- Brenda Reichart will run the Confirmation class next year.
- We currently have 2 bids on the sound system. More information is needed before making a decision.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, May 15th at 7:00 p.m.**

MAY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Bulletin sponsors for May 14th and 28th. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring these items. Thank you!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the June *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, May 16th.**

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to those members who helped out at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry distribution on Saturday, April 15th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

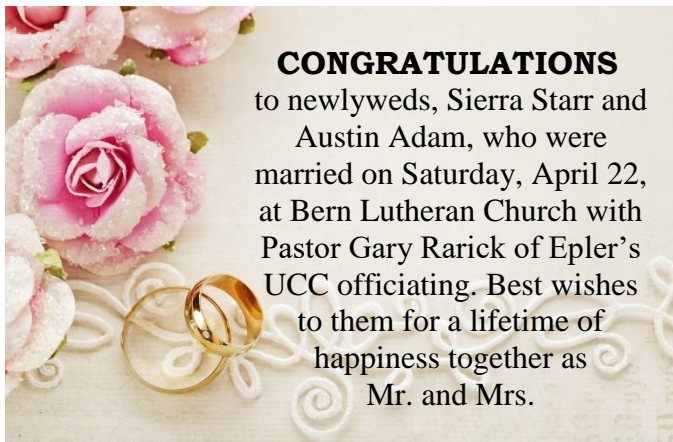
The last class will be on Sunday, May 14th. Sunday School classes will resume in the fall on Sunday, September 10, 2023.

CONFIRMATION

This month three of our youth are going to be confirmed. Abigail Angstadt, Spencer Mountz, and Cerina Readinger will be presenting their Faith Statements on Sunday, May 7th and will be confirmed on Sunday, May 21st. A time of fellowship will take place after the worship service on May 21st to congratulate these young people of our congregation.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR VBS

If anyone is interested in being the Program Coordinator for this year's joint VBS program, please contact Brenda Reichart at 610-926-6772. program. This year's program is scheduled to be held from **Sunday, July 23 through Thursday, July 27**. Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS
to newlyweds, Sierra Starr and Austin Adam, who were married on Saturday, April 22, at Bern Lutheran Church with Pastor Gary Rarick of Epler's UCC officiating. Best wishes to them for a lifetime of happiness together as Mr. and Mrs.

HAT SUNDAY – May 28th

Attention Ladies! Sunday, May 28, is Hat Sunday. So put on your best chapeau and join us for church (gloves and parasols are optional).



We are also asking all of our members to wear red, white and blue on this Sunday in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



MEMORAL DAY – May 29, 2023

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
04/02/23	\$3,988.00	49
04/09/23	4,529.00	67
04/16/23	3,161.00	52
04/23/23	1,357.00	38

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$13,854.00	\$35,641.00
Congregational Fund Raising		
(Sound System)	4,205.00	14,205.00
(Redner's)	174.00	174.00
Total Funds	<u>\$18,233.00</u>	<u>\$50,020.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$12,503.00	\$31,589.00
Non-Budgeted Income	5,730.00	18,432.00
Budgeted Expenses	6,641.00	21,255.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	0.00	2,889.00
Benevolence to be Paid	479.00	814.00
Surplus/Deficit	11,113.00	25,063.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2023 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$319.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	176.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	236.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	83.00	600.00
Other	750.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$120.00	\$365.00
Interest	9.99	10.86
Expense	0.00	0.00
		<u>\$42,708.94</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 371.00
Interest	9.81
Expenses	.00
	<u>\$232,801.58</u>

KAUFFMAN'S BBQ CHICKEN DINNER, SYCAMORE FARMS APPLE DUMPLING, AND FLOWER SALE

We will be holding a BBQ chicken dinner, apple dumpling, and flower sale this year on **Thursday, May 25th**. Pick up will be between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Prices for the chicken dinners will be \$11.00 and apple dumplings will be \$5.50. If you haven't ordered your chicken dinners yet, there's still time. You can place your orders by calling the church office at 610-374-4343, Phil Ketz at 610-678-5954, emailing the church at bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com, or order on our church website at www.bernchurch.org.



and
**Sycamore Farm's
APPLE DUMPLING SALE**

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH
820 West Leesport Road
Leesport, PA 19533
Phone: 610.374.4343
(2 blocks off Route 183, just 2 miles north of the Reading Airport)

Thursday, May 25, 2023
3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Walk-in Pick-up (dinners not picked up by 6:30 p.m. will be sold)



Apple Dumpling
Tickets are \$5.50

Call to order at
610.374.4343 or
610.678.5954. You
can also order online
on our website at
www.bernchurch.org

Chicken Dinner
Tickets are \$11.00
Dinner includes:
• 1/2 Chicken
• Baked Potato
• Apple Sauce
• Bottled Water

A mother has ears that listen,
Arms that always hold,
A love that's never-ending,
And a heart that's made of gold!

H A P P Y
MOTHER'S
day

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. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway with your name and dedication next to the date(s) you want to sponsor.

If you wish to sponsor Altar Flowers, but don't want to pay the cost for both vases, you can split the cost with another member. Each vase would cost \$17.50 and each sponsor could still include a dedication in the bulletin. Thank you!

Altar Flower Sponsors:

May 7 – Carl and Linda Lash
May 14 – Harry and Patricia Yocum
May 21 – Tim and Beverly Moyer
May 28 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz

Bulletin Sponsors:

May 7 – Harry Yocum
May 14 – *sponsor needed*
May 21 – Barbara Speicher
May 28 – Dianne Leininger

Newsletter Sponsor:

Caroline Eichner

Church Openers:

May 7 – Erin Readinger
May 14 – Dianne Leininger
May 21 – Richard Gruber
May 28 – Patricia Yocum

Church Greeters:

May 7 – Barbara Auchenbach
May 14 – Nancy Malandra
May 21 – Barbara Auchenbach
May 28 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

May 7 – Kate Schuler
May 14 – Richard Gruber
May 21 – Brenda Reichart
May 28 – Beth Hartman

Supply Pastor Schedule:

May 7 – Pastor William Fryer
May 14 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
May 21 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
May 28 – Pastor David Kistler



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Beth Braucher
- 2 Gabe Mondoro
- 3 Austin Beissel
- 5 Ronald Stonefelt *
- 6 Tina Hissinger
- 6 Timothy Mogford
- 6 Hunter Mountz
- 7 Hannah Mogford
- 9 Patricia Yocum
- 13 Gregory Knabb
- 16 Sharon Janiszewski
- 17 Tara Lash
- 18 Tabitha Angstadt
- 19 Dale Egan
- 20 Ruth Keeney *
- 21 Jacob Braucher
- 21 Luke Braucher
- 21 Kimberly Shank
- 24 Julie Riker
- 28 Jennifer Miller
- 29 Gary Drobnick
- 29 Marian Zimmermann
- 31 Katherine Koch
- 31 Renee Mease



- 6 Richard and Donna Giles (29 years)
- 9 Walter and Lori Schlottman (30 years)
- 13 Matthew and Rowbee'C Kasisky (17 years)
- 15 April Riegel and Tammi Shiller (8 years)
- 16 Randall and Bonnie Schlappich (36 years)
- 20 Andrew and Maggie Pawlyk (7 years)
- 23 Carl and Linda Lash (31 years)
- 28 Dennis and Charlene Egan (45 years)
- 30 Brent and Kate Schuler (8 years)

THE POWER OF (GOD'S) LIGHT

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer?

Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression—and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). Darkness isn’t bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharoah and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

-Heidi Hyland Mann

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



I would like to thank all Bern Church members for their prayers and concerns this past year. I am so glad my husband, Jim, and I chose Bern Church to transfer to. We loved the privilege of worshiping in such a beautiful place. I’m almost sorry to move to Lebanon near my daughter, Marie. I’m sure I’ll miss you all. I hope to visit much! I think I’ll keep my membership with Bern, but might find another Lutheran Church in Lebanon to go to. Love and God Bless, *Myra Bernhart*

Dear Bern Lutheran Church, thank you so much for your continued support to the Hope Rescue Mission. Your donations are wonderful!! We would love for you to visit our Mission some time. We hope to see you soon. – Blessings, *Diane Schenk*

“If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way mom told you to in the beginning.” 😊
—Unknown

THANK GOD FOR OUR FAMILIES

[Jesus was dying on the cross.] When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” - **John 19:26-27**

This month we celebrate the mothers and mother figures, and then in June we celebrate our fathers and father figures. What a wonderful opportunity to honor the strong bond between parents and children. How strong? The first use of the word “love” in the Bible, Genesis 22:2, describes the connection between Abraham and his son, Isaac.

Family is a cherished gift from God that we are entrusted to treasure, love and nourish. As parents, we are responsible for raising children to become healthy adults. And as children, we are responsible for caring for our aging parents.

As Jesus indicates in the passage above, there need not be a blood connection for a parent-child relationship. In Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus redefines family, saying that all who love and follow him are mothers, brothers, sisters, fathers. So, all of us are parent, child and sibling to one another. Now THAT’S some family!

As we honor the mother and father figures this spring, we can also challenge ourselves to be better stewards of the family bonds God has given us. We can explore how we can support families in our personal circles, our congregation and community – especially families that are troubled by great need, crises or dysfunction.

God ordained families to be the fundamental unit of human life. We can be good stewards of family relationships by caring for one another and helping everyone to grow into the faith family God intends.

-Rob Blezard

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FAMILY
is
EVERYTHING

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Jake Braucher, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Tina Hissinger, George Schaeffer, Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Ziomara, Patricia, the family, friends, and neighbors of R. M. Palmer, Ginny and Nelson Eyrich, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Katelyn Hotzman, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Bishop Christopher deForest, Eleanor, Ann Skinner, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Marcia Stoudt, Pastor Joyce Seip, Peter and wife, Bill and Joan Carpenter, Arthur W. Zimmerman, Natalie, Bob Stoner, Ashley Rizzuto, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, and Lesley Wegman

(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.)



The next worship opportunity will be on **Friday, May 5, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at Epler’s UCC, 1151 West Leesport Road. The topic of the worship service and sermon will be A. I. Technology and Faith. Fellowship meal served at 6:00 p.m. followed by an informal worship service at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL (DRIVE-THRU)

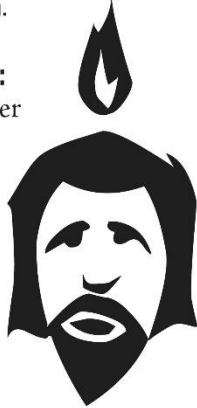
Salem Belleman’s Church, 3540 Belleman’s Church Road, Mohrsville, will be holding a free community meal on **Tuesday, May 23, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** at the Fellowship Hall. This will be a drive-thru event.

Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



What you do:

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

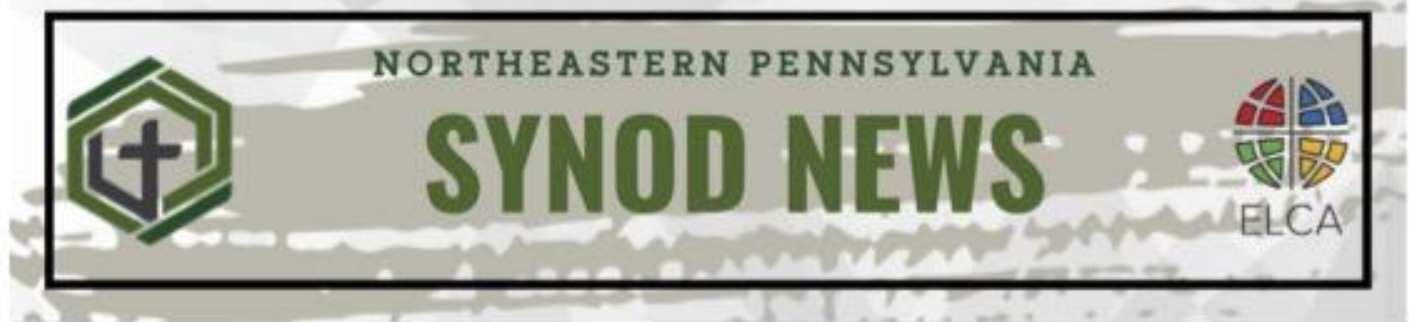
1. HEAV	6. OGETHE
2. ABLE	7. ES
3. AY OF PENTECOS	8. ONGUE
4. ONGUE	9. A
5. PIRI	10. IND



“When the _____ came, they were all _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



Wednesday may be a slump day for some, but at the La Crosse LuMin Lutheran Campus it's all about grace through free cookie Wednesday. Want a cookie? Take a cookie! They just give out cookies to make folks' day better – no strings attached. As he's giving out the cookies, it's not unusual for Pastor Ben Morris to be asked, "Where do the cookies come from?" The answer is Lutheran grandmas up in the bluffs and hills made them with real butter and real love. Each week congregations throughout the La Crosse Area Synod drop off 500 cookies to be given away. Pastor Ben says, "It's like manna in the wilderness; there always seems to be enough," and these cookies taste better.

LuMin La Crosse is a place to gather in worship, connect to study, grab a cup of coffee, share a family-style meal, sit in prayer, make bread for the women's shelter, take walks together, and explore places afar in service to others. They advocate for others, share space with multicultural student groups, proudly display the pride flag, and mostly reconnect with humanity and each other. Oh, and give out cookies! Like all ELCA LuMin campus ministry sites across our synods, this ministry happens because congregations share food – yes, cookies – and also through Mission Support that is shared with our synods and churchwide organization to support these vital, transformative, grace-filled ministries with students. Mission Support is just one way campus ministry is funded, so learn more, and pray for local campus ministry by checking out luminelca.org/.

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?



**JUNE 1-3 2023 AT
KALAHARI RESORT**

The Ministry Share Faire. Over 20 ministry teams and partners are scheduled to be present with interactive displays and lots of opportunities to share ideas and make connections. In addition – you will have a planned area where you can meet other voting members with similar interests and struggles, to work on solutions to common problems and build new networks of support.

The Important Elections, Deliberations, and Voting. At this Assembly meeting, we will be nominating and voting for our Synod's next Secretary and Vice President. The office of Secretary can be filled by a lay person or rostered minister (clergy). The office of Vice President chairs our Synod Council and is the highest office in a synod for a layperson to hold. Find out more about these elections and offices at our Synod website

www.godslove.org. We have also set aside more than 90 minutes in the agenda to address resolutions and motions at this meeting – more than any meeting before – with additional time we can make available as needed. **Come as Voting Member from your congregation and make your voice heard.**

The Inspiring Worship and Music. Our talented worship team has been 6 months in the planning for all elements of worship and music at this event – with more in store for this Assembly than ever. Music will be led by the celebrated group "Chasing Daylight," with added highlights from David Scherer (known nationally as "AGAPE"). Also featured will be works of art, dance, poetry, lights and colors, and sights, and sounds to move and uplift from floor to ceiling!

The Speakers, Preachers & Presenters. **Never before have we been able to offer such an impressive line-up** for learning and bringing back ideas and inspirations for you and your congregations: A wide range of hands-on workshops led by local and churchwide experts.

- Joe Davis and David Scherer – nationally acclaimed speakers, recording artists and educators; and featured performers at ELCA Youth Gatherings. They plan to power up our workshops AND main sessions (AKA plenaries) – getting us on our feet, interacting, and understanding better some of the biggest challenges we face today: including engaging with young people; finding new energy in worship and ministry; and having conversations around tough topics, especially racism. T
- Bishop Michael Girlinghouse – author of the new book: *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past*. Drawing on more than 30 years of research and experience – Bishop Girlinghouse will show us how we and our congregations can work through our collective grief without forgetting or devaluing our past. He will offer a practical, step-by-step process for engaging and embracing God's future for each congregation.
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:00-8:00am-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts (Social Hall)	4 National Day of Prayer	5 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond (AA) 6:00-8:00pm-Epler's UCC Food & Faith	6
7 <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship -Confirmation-Faith Statements 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Erin Readinger Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach	8	9	10 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts	11	12 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond (AA)	13
14 <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Last Sunday School Opener: Dianne Leininger Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Nancy Malandra Mother's Day	15 7:00pm-Council Meeting	16 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild 3:30pm-Berks Quilters Guild Evening Meeting Newsletter Deadline	17	18 Ascension Day	19 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond (AA)	20 Armed Forces Day
21 <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am-Worship -Confirmation Day Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach	22	23 4:00-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith 5:30-6:30pm-Free Community Meal, Salem Belleman's Church, Mohrsville	24	25 3:00-6:30pm-Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner and Sycamore Farms Apple Dumpling Sale	26 6:00-8:00pm-Frog Pond (AA)	27
28 <u>Day of Pentecost</u> 10:00am-Worship Opener: Patricia Yocum Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Nancy Malandra	29 	30	31			