



## **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:**

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 June is sponsored in memory of Elwood Speicher by Barbara Speicher, Tim and Beverly Moyer.

## **COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, May 15th:

- A motion was made to nominate Abigail Angstadt, Spencer Mountz, and Cerina Readinger for Confirmation.
- Erin Readinger and her daughter, Cerina Readinger, have agreed to assist with the coordination activities for VBS this year.
- David Hartman and Christopher Becker are working on the sinkhole that formed.
- During our worship service, the Peace will now be shared however members feel comfortable.

**OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING** will be on **Monday, June 19th at 7:00 p.m.**

## **JUNE SIGN-UP SHEETS**

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for June 18 and Bulletin sponsors for June 18 and 25. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring these items. Thank you!

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Articles for the July *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, June 20th.**

## **CONFIRMATION**

Congratulations to Abigail Angstadt, Spencer Mountz, and Cerina Readinger who were confirmed on Sunday, May 21st.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Erin Readinger and her daughter, Cerina Readinger, have agreed to assist with the coordination of activities for VBS this year with Epler's UCC. We thank them for volunteering their time.

VBS will be held July 23-27, 2023. More details to follow.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023

This year's Synod Assembly will be held June 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos. The theme for this year is "Going Beyond 2023." The Synod Assembly will be aired live on YouTube for those who cannot attend. Links for viewing the Synod Assembly as well as important information about the assembly can be found by clicking the ASSEMBLY 2023 tab on the Northeastern PA Synod website at <https://nepasynod.org>.

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

On November 1, 2023 we will be celebrating 25 years as Bern Lutheran Church. An anniversary worship service will take place on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. with a coffee fellowship time following worship. Momentos to commemorate the occasion are in the works, and information about how to order will be coming shortly. Stay tuned!

## PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Don't forget, we are still collecting used toner and printer cartridges for recycling. You can place your used cartridges in the box in the narthex. Thank you!



**BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME**  
**Anniversary Day**

1863 Bethany Rd. Womelsdorf, PA 19567

RAFFLE • LIVE MUSIC • CARNIVAL GAMES  
FOOD • RIDES • TRIBUTE LIGHTING

**\$5 per car**

FEATURING

12-2:00PM Jeff Krick Jr: Elvis Tribute  
3:00-5:00PM The Celtic Martins  
6:30-8:30PM Grease Band

**August 19, 2023**  
GATES OPEN 11AM-9PM

ALL CONCERTS HELD AT  
BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME

Lawn seating only- bring your favorite blanket or chair!  
Weapons, pets, tobacco and alcohol are prohibited on  
Bethany property.

## INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
04/30/2023	\$1,968.00	47
05/07/2023	\$4,305.00	65
05/14/2023	\$2,567.00	47
05/21/2023	\$4,655.00	85

*\$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	\$16,880.94	\$66,728.00
Congregational Fund Raising	.00	174.00
Total Funds	<u>\$16,880.94</u>	<u>\$66,902.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$14,378.00	\$45,967.00
Non-Budgeted Income	2,502.00	20,934.00
Budgeted Expenses	11,318.00	32,573.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	800.00	3,689.00
Benevolence to be Paid	493.00	753.00
Surplus/Deficit	4,269.00	29,886.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2023 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$383.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	236.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	339.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	100.00	600.00
Other	999.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$125.00	\$490.00
Interest	70.46	81.32
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$42,904.40</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 585.00
Interest	380.44
Expenses	<u>.00</u>
	<u>\$233,386.21</u>

"Rest is not idle, is not wasteful. Sometimes rest is the most productive thing you can do for body and soul."  
—Erica Layne

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**MEMBERS:**

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

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Mary Ann, Ziomara, Patricia, the family, friends, and neighbors of R. M. Palmer, Ginny and Nelson Eyrich, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, 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.)*

**FINDING FREEDOM**

Juneteenth, America's newest federal holiday, marks the official end of slavery in the nation. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Applying only to the states in the Confederacy, it declared "that all persons held as slaves are, and henceforward shall be free." But news of freedom didn't reach Galveston, Texas, until June 19, 1865, when 2,000 Union troops arrived to enforce the decree. The U.S. Constitution's 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which bans slavery, was ratified a few months later.

Just as freedom and justice came in fits and starts to the Israelites, so it comes to our own country and around the world, where the pursuit for justice continues.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



**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:**

June 4 – Arlene Ensinger  
June 11 – Richard Gruber  
June 18 – *sponsor needed*  
June 25 – David and Beth Hartman

**Bulletin Sponsors:**

June 4 – Dianne Leininger  
June 11 – Dianne Leininger  
June 18 – *sponsor needed*  
June 25 – *sponsor needed*

**Newsletter Sponsor:**

Barbara Speicher, Tim and Beverly Moyer

**Church Openers:**

June 4 – Jane Battaglieri  
June 11 – Richard Gruber  
June 18 – Linda Lash  
June 25 – Dianne Leininger

**Church Greeters:**

June 4 – Barbara Auchenbach  
June 11 – Nancy Malandra  
June 18 – Barbara Auchenbach  
June 25 – Nancy Malandra

**Lectors:**

June 4 – Brenda Reichart  
June 11 – Richard Gruber  
June 18 – Barbara Braucher  
June 25 – David Greenwood

**Supply Pastor Schedule:**

June 4 – Pastor William Fryer  
June 11 – Pastor Kenneth Gould  
June 18 – Pastor Kenneth Gould  
June 25 – Pastor David Kistler

"Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine."  
—Lord Byron



(\* Denotes 80 years young)

- 2 Sonja Starr
- 3 Stephanie Wagner
- 4 Judy Haas
- 6 Christopher Becker
- 8 William Kerns \*
- 9 Brian Eiche
- 12 Madyson Riegel
- 14 Dolores Gruver
- 15 Carolyn Preston \*
- 16 Emma Mondoro
- 17 Dylan Slusser
- 17 Sierra Starr
- 19 Elizabeth Borkey
- 23 June Kochan \*
- 23 Jean Ziegler \*
- 24 Ellie Wagner
- 26 Judy Scheipe \*
- 28 Beth Hartman
- 28 Franklin Reifsnyder III



- 2 Jeremy and Marlies Goetz (22 years)
- 4 Robert and Jennifer Noecker (24 years)
- 20 David and Judy Haas (42 years)
- 20 Ted and Rachel Mountz (25 years)
- 21 Ryan and Stephanie Wagner (9 years)
- 25 David and Beth Hartman (40 years)



Dear Brenda and members of Bern Lutheran Church,

As this holiday season has come to an end, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your donation towards our 2022 Christmas Program. Twenty (20) children received wonderful gifts because of your generosity! Some of the caseworkers shared comments from the families. This is what they had to say:

Aiden and Jayden - A very big thank you and much appreciation.

Kezia'a, Kaire'e, and Kingabon- The children were very thankful to have gotten something for the holiday as they said their mother did not have money to get them some of the things they wanted.

Preston and Kingston – THEY LOVED IT! The family was struggling financially and didn't know how they were going to make Christmas "feel" like Christmas but this program helped so MUCH! The children were happy and their mother was so thankful for the gifts for the children!

Thank you again for making it possible to bring joy to these families. We hope that you continue to be supportive of our children for the next holiday season and may your 2023 be filled with happiness and good health! With much appreciation and thanks, Jessica Sweeney, Christmas Program Coordinator, County of Berks Children & Youth Services

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Dear Bern Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your donation to benefit St. Francis Home. Your donation will allow us to continue our mission: St. Francis Home is dedicated to providing comfort and compassionate care with dignity to people with a terminal illness in a loving, faith-based family environment, regardless of the ability to pay. Sincerely, Mary J. Bonner, President and the Board of Directors

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"The [person] who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones."

—Confucius

## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR BODILY HEALTH

Paul writes, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

- 2 Corinthians 6:19

God has given each of us a physical body that, like an automobile, is a masterfully engineered, complex vehicle that carries us along our road of life. Like our cars, our bodies need attention and care to function optimally and bring us smoothly down the road of life.

Of course, many of us have health problems for factors beyond our control, such as genetics, environment and misfortune. With so many variables over which we have *no control*, we need to do our best with the variables we *can* control. For June, dedicate yourselves to being a better steward of your body. Here are some ideas:

- **Get a physical.** A doctor can evaluate you and advise you on optimizing your health.
- **Move it!** Even small amounts of exercise improve health and wellbeing. Ask your doctor how to get going.
- **Diet.** Not just eating to lose weight, but also eating for healthy living. Learn about the nutritional value of the foods you now eat, and explore choices that are more healthful.
- **Stop smoking.** The number one preventable health risk, smoking causes cancers, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc. Enough said.
- **Sleep.** Eight hours of shuteye does wonders for body and mind.
- **Pray and meditate.** Spiritual disciplines lower your stress, which improves physical health, too. God gave us wonderful bodies to carry us through our life's journey of discipleship. The better we care for it, the more fruitful our journey will be.

-Rob Blezard

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## SUMMER SOLACE

The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and



God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature. As long as this exists, and it certainly always will, I know that then there will always be comfort for every sorrow, whatever the circumstances may be. And I firmly believe that nature brings solace in all troubles.

—Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*

## WHAT MAKES A DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew his masterpiece was complete,  
And so, he called it ... Dad



## A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



### What you need:

- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

### What you do:

1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
3. Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
4. Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.

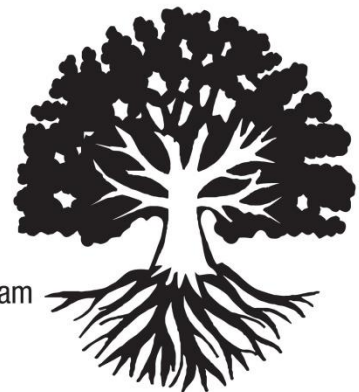


## JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

*Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.*

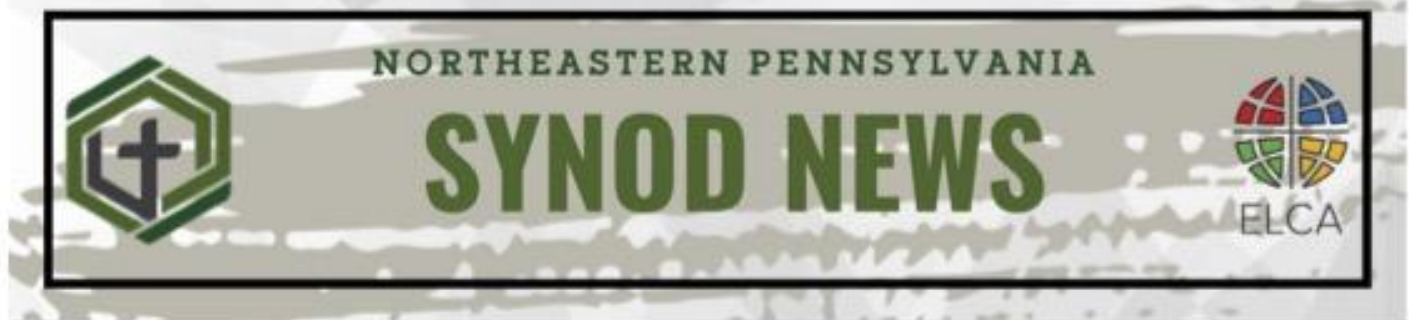
- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



**How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Answer: FOURTEEN



## **WE MATTER TO THE WHOLE CHURCH: A STORY FROM OUR SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD**

Being a member of a congregation council is significant in the life of a disciple. Serving as a leader in a congregation is rewarding, terrifying, awe-inspiring and messy. You are among friends, family and your community of believers, and are chosen to lead in your congregation. It's just a few times a month, but as Barbara Nugent, a synod vice president, shares, "Then life happens, and you find out the reporting required. Situations occur; personalities clash; decisions need to be made. Who do you go to for direction?"

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod provided that direction in February when it offered training to 70 congregational lay leaders that strengthened each person's skills and faith. From evangelism to the ELCA constitution and bylaws, they gathered to meet the passions and needs, offering workshops with special breakouts for presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers that covered such topics as worship and music, communications, advocacy, stewardship and social justice/anti-racism. The day started with Bishop Kurt Kusserow encouraging these valued leaders to keep the focus on our purpose:

“Your leadership in the life of your congregation ought always to bear in mind that your congregation finds its fulfillment in the universal church, and that the universal church exists in and through congregations such as yours. I think this means addressing local questions and concerns in the life of your congregation as if they matter to the whole church (because they do).”

Everyone was hungry to gather ideas, consider future steps but also have an opportunity to connect, be empowered, feel valued and cared for and remember the excitement of being church. Rev. Melissa Stoller, director for evangelical mission, said it this way: “The day was a very visible yet not necessarily quantifiable force that we are church together. Wandering but not alone. Feeling worry, power, uncertainty, and joy as one.” Central to this gathering was living into the mission of this synod “to serve, connect and equip congregations of the SWPA synod to tell the story of Jesus.”

Everyone knew that the synod was there for the congregations with staff, volunteers and greater church support, not only this day but in the days to come, and synod staff are supported through the generous mission support of congregations allowing them to be there for our leaders. One leading Scripture for the day reminded each leader of their value: “Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word” (Acts 6:3-4).

Hoping each of our synods are seeking ways that work for them to encourage and empower congregational leaders. Knowing that we are church together, church that supports each other across the whole church prayerfully, financially, emotionally and with a hope for renewal.



## Our Synod has PRIDE



**June is Pride Month** which celebrates LGBTQIA+ folx and their many achievements.

Although injustices and prejudices still exist within our society, we have made great strides since the Stonewall Riots in 1969, attaining marriage equality. However, as previously mentioned, we still have a long way to go in the struggle for equal rights. By learning about LGBTQ Pride/History Month, congregational members are more likely to have an understanding and acceptance for all individuals, no matter what they look like, what gender they do or don't identify as, and who they love. Consider celebrating PRIDE in your congregation!



# JUNE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				Synod Assembly	6:00pm-Food and Faith Worship Service, Epler's UCC  Synod Assembly  6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	Synod Assembly
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<u>The Holy Trinity</u> 10:00 am–Worship  Opener: Jane Battaglieri Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Barb Auchenbach			6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts (Social Hall)		6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am–Worship  Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Nancy Malandra					6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<u>Third Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am–Worship  FATHER'S DAY  Opener: Linda Lash Lector: Barbara Braucher Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	7:00pm-Council Meeting  	9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild (All-day Workshop - Social Hall)  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE			6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<u>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am–Worship  Opener: Dianne Leininger Lector: David Greenwood Greeter: Nancy Malandra	5:30-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	4:00-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	5:30-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	5:30-7:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith	6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	