

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.berchurch.org
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Bern-Lutheran-Church-100081398742915/>

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
Dianne Leininger, Asst. Financial Secretary
Christopher Becker Beverly Moyer
Richard Greener Rich Myers
Matthew Kasisky Erin Readinger
Linda Lash

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 May *Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes* is proudly sponsored by Phil and JoAnn Ketz in celebration of the courage, dedication, and service of all first responders and military personnel.

Council Meeting Highlights

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

- Decision to switch from Berkshire Mechanical to Xtreme Mechanical for maintenance of heating/cooling system.
- May council meeting is being rescheduled to May 11 and will include acolyte training for council members.
- Established set temperature and sound system settings for Sunday worship.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m. Please note the change of date.

Sunday School

All children are invited to join us for Sunday School after the worship service from 11:00-11:30 a.m.

The last Sunday School class will be on Sunday, May 17th, and will resume again in the fall.

Pastor Gary Rarick Sabbatical

Our Designated Pastor, Gary Rarick, will be on sabbatical from Monday, April 27, until Monday, July 20. If you have any questions or are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Diane LaFauci at 484-794-5503. If your call goes to voicemail, please leave your name, call-back number, and a message. Pastor Diane will return your call as soon as possible.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the June *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, May 19th.**

May Social Hour

Plan to join us for a special Social Hour on Sunday, May 31, after our worship service.

Epler's UCC Food & Faith

During Pastor Gary's sabbatical, there will not be any Food and Faith services until Friday, August 7, when there will be an outdoor worship and potluck meal.

Altar Flower, Bulletin, and Newsletter Sponsors

Sign-up sheets for 2026 are on the bulletin board in the hallway. Prices will remain the same for Bulletins at \$20.00/week and the Newsletter at \$40.00/month. **Please note that the price for the Altar Flowers has increased to \$40.00.** If you would only want to sponsor one vase, you can see if another member would like to sponsor the other one. You are welcome to sponsor these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or to the Glory of God. You may also contact Korinne in the church office to sponsor any of these items.

Sign-up Sheets for May

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for Sunday, May 17; Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, May 10 and 17; and Greeters for Sunday, May 17 and 31. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor any of these dates. Thank you!



Spring Clothing Drive

Our Spring Clothing Drive is in full swing. We are partnering with Hope Rescue Mission/Lighthouse to help provide clothing for individuals and families in need within our community. We are collecting gently used men's, women's, and children's clothing such as light jackets, sweaters, jeans, pants, shirts, new socks and undergarments (preferred), and shoes in good condition. Donations may be brought into church and placed in the big cardboard box in the narthex. **Our drive will run until Sunday, June 7.** Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Baked Lima Beans for Sale

The Lunch Bunch will be making baked lima beans to sell at the Chicken BBQ on Thursday, May 21st. If you would like to order some to enjoy with your dinner, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway or contact the church office. They will set them aside for you. We also plan to make extra to have for sale to the public that day. Price is \$5.00/pint. **Orders are due Sunday, May 10th.**

Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner & Sycamore Farms Apple Dumpling Sale

We will be holding our annual Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner and Sycamore Farm's Apple Dumpling sale this year on **Thursday, May 21, 2026.** Pick up for your dinners and dumplings will be between 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Prices for the chicken dinners will be \$12.00 and apple dumplings will be \$6.00.

You can place your orders by calling the church office at 610-374-4343, emailing the church at bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com, or go to our website at www.berchurch.org to click on a link for the order form.

We will also be holding a flower sale featuring a wide assortment of geraniums, logs, porch planters, hanging baskets, and more.

Are You or Someone You Know Graduating? We Want to Help You Celebrate!

With graduation season right around the corner, we'd love to recognize this achievement in our next month's newsletter.

If you (or someone in your household) are graduating this year—whether from high school, college, or another program—please share your exciting news with us! You can include details like your name, school, degree or program, and any future plans you'd like to highlight.

Submit your information to the church office by Monday, May 18th.

Trash to Treasure Indoor Yard Sale

On **Saturday, June 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Bern Church will be hosting a Trash to Treasure Indoor Yard Sale. We need your help to make this event a success! Please consider donating any gently used or unused items you no longer need. You may begin bringing in your contributions beginning on Sunday, June 7th.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our August Social Hour is getting a sweet twist—we're hosting an Ice Cream Social!

Join us on **Sunday, August 30**, for a relaxed gathering with delicious ice cream and plenty of toppings. A cool treat to beat the summer heat. It's a great chance to connect, unwind, and enjoy a classic summer favorite together.

**Vacation Bible School
(joint with Epler's United Church of Christ)**

We are thinking ahead and getting ready for VBS this year. It will be held from **Sunday, July 26, through Thursday, July 30, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** at Bern Lutheran Church. So get ready for an adventure like no other! Join us for this year's Vacation Bible School as we head *In the Wild*, where kids will discover that no matter where life takes them, God is always with them!

See the registration form in this newsletter to sign up today or click [HERE](#).

A Message from Pastor Diane

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are three months into this Shared Ministry with our three congregations and now beginning the fourth month of working together. So how does this work with only one pastor and such limited time during the week? Needless to say, it is a bit of a juggling act! I will say that I have had to adjust to and accept the fact that I cannot be pastor to three congregations as I was to one before retirement or when serving one congregation in an interim period. This is breaking new ground!

In order to make the most of the 20 non-worship hours, I have to plan the week according to what absolutely must be done "on site" and what can be done effectively working from home. My experience serving two times as Transition Pastor in congregations after my retirement in the fall of 2015 has proven most helpful in discerning how to plan the time. If anything helpful came out of the COVID shutdown and years following, it was how to take advantage of technology...with both my laptop and my "smart" phone! I suspect a lot of us had to learn new work routines during that time!

During Lent I worked in person with children from all three congregations preparing them to receive Holy Communion. We had a session in each of the church buildings, with attention to different ways of distribution—an added element in the prep time. All children were invited to participate. There will be future sessions for those who couldn't make Lenten sessions. By the way, there is no right age to be welcomed at the Lord's Table! Many years ago I heard about a man who had taken his two-year-old son to worship, after which the little boy asked, "Daddy, why can't I have breakfast with

Jesus?" That young child understood something very important about time with Jesus in a tangible way! (And Jesus didn't turn children away because they weren't "old enough" to experience God's love!)

Currently, there are folks from all three congregations participating in the Pastor's Study. For those who prefer daytime, the sessions are on-site (currently at Bern because most of the daytime people are members at Bern). For those who work during the day or do not drive at night, ZOOM sessions meet in the evening. All my planning and study for each session is done at home, where I have resources to consult. Even though I have led a study in the past, I need refresher time, and I invariably gain new insights to share.

Worship planning for each congregation begins with drafts emailed from church offices and any edits being emailed or discussed by phone. I attend Council meetings in each congregation. Administrative issues can often be handled from home. (Actual sermon preparation time is not counted in the non-worship hours – that is on my personal time!)

I make hospital and home-communion visits as needed. In the case of home-communion visits over the years, I have always planned visits according to proximity to each other and on-the-road time. Limited non-worship hours do not permit the regular visiting I used to do, but I am available by phone to respond to needs for in-person time.

Time management in pastoral ministry has always been a challenge for folks to fully understand because it is not an 8-hour-a-day or 40-hour-a-week position or job. Issues of concern pop up unexpectedly, and previously planned time can change in a heartbeat. Together with the commitment of the leaders of your congregations, we are breaking new ground in ministry, and we are not the only places where this is happening!

Jesus said, in speaking of the Holy Spirit, "The wind blows where it will, and you hear the sound of it...So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" [John 3.8].

Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Diane LaFauci



&
SYCAMORE FARMS
APPLE DUMPLING SALE

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026
3:00 PM TO 6:30 PM

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH
820 WEST LEESPORT ROAD,
LEESPORT, PA 19533

BBQ CHICKEN
ONLY \$12



APPLE
DUMPLINGS
ONLY \$6

CHICKEN DINNER INCLUDES:

- ½ CHICKEN
- BAKED POTATO
- APPLESAUCE
- BOTTLE OF WATER

To order, call 610.374.4343 or email at
bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com
You can also order on our website
at bernchurch.org

Trash ^{to} **TREASURE**
INDOOR YARD

SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

8 AM TO 2 PM

BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

We will be collecting gently used items for our upcoming indoor yard sale. Donations will be accepted starting on Sunday, June 7th. You may place your donations under the coat rack in the narthex. Proceeds benefit the Outreach Ministries of Bern Church. Thank you for helping turn your unused items into meaningful support for our church and community.



VBS REGISTRATION FORM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Theme: "In the Wild"
at Bern Lutheran Church
along with Epler's UCC

Sunday, July 26th to Thursday, July 30th
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Grade Completed _____ Age _____

(2- to 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/Jtfy91JQUBUuTTKe8>

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

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS: 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: Noel, Harvey Lengel, Catherine Chilcoat, John Mountz, Jessica Keller, Joel Koch, Kathy, Sheila Becker, 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, 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.)

**MEMORIAL DAY
Remember and Honor**

As we approach Memorial Day, we pause as a church family to remember and honor those who gave so much in service to our country. At our **Sunday, May 31**, worship service, we will lift up the memory of the veterans from our own congregation who have since passed away.

These faithful individuals not only served our nation with courage and sacrifice, but also enriched our church community with their presence, wisdom, and devotion. Their lives were a testament to both duty and faith, and their legacy continues to shape who we are today.

Let us remember the following members with gratitude and hold their legacy in our hearts.

Ken Beissel, Sr.	Warren Lengel, Jr.
David Braucher	Gene Malandra
Gary Drobnick	Russell Roth
Sandy Ensinger	Walter Scheipe
Robert Frey	Richard Shoener
William Kerns	Donald Shurr
Jack Kochan	Elwood Speicher
Paul Leininger	Norman Straus
Warren Lengel, Sr.	Robert Werley



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Beth Braucher
- 2 Gabe Mondoro
- 6 Tina Hissinger
- 6 Hunter Mountz
- 9 Patricia Yocum
- 13 Gregory Knabb
- 17 Tara Lash
- 18 Tabitha Angstadt
- 19 Dale Egan
- 20 Calvin Gardner
- 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



- 6 Richard and Donna Giles (32 years)
- 9 Walter and Lori Schlottman (33 years)
- 13 Matthew and Rowbee'C Kasisky (20 years)
- 20 Dennis and Charlene Egan (48 years)
- 23 Carl and Linda Lash (34 years)
- 30 Brent and Kate Schuler (11 years)



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:

May 3 – Carl and Linda Lash
 May 10 – Harry Yocum
 May 17 – *sponsor needed*
 May 24 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
 May 31 – Jen Miller

Bulletin Sponsors:

May 3 – Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher
 May 10 – *sponsor needed*
 May 17 – *sponsor needed*
 May 24 – Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher
 May 31 – Sponsored

Newsletter Sponsor:

Philip and JoAnn Ketz

Church Openers:

May 3 – Christopher Becker
 May 10 – Richard Gruber
 May 17 – Brenda Reichart
 May 24 – Richard Gruber
 May 31 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

May 3 – Barbara Auchenbach
 May 10 – Beverly Moyer
 May 17 – *volunteer needed*
 May 24 – Barbara Auchenbach
 May 31 – *volunteer needed*

Lectors:

May 3 – Rich Myers
 May 10 – Kate Schuler
 May 17 – Tracey Leh
 May 24 – Beth Hartman
 May 31 – Jay Field

Communion Assistants:

May 3 – Rich Myers
 May 10 – Hannah Lash
 May 17 – Tracey Leh
 May 24 – Linda Lash
 May 31 – Rich Myers

Supply Pastor Schedule:

May 3 – Pastor William Fryer
 May 10 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
 May 17 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
 May 24 – Pastor Diane LaFauci
 May 31 – Pastor William Fryer

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
3/01/2026	\$ 3,900.00	36
3/08/2026	\$ 3,779.00	41
3/15/2026	\$ 1,518.00	47
3/22/2026	\$ 1,262.00	47
3/29/2026	\$ 1,477.00	90

(joint worship)

*\$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	\$18,725.00	\$36,011.00
Congregational Fundraising	.00	522.00
Total Funds	\$18,725.00	\$36,533.00

Actual Income / Expenses	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$13,573.00	\$25,598.00
Non-Budgeted Income	5,152.00	6,935.00
Budgeted Expenses	9,087.00	31,520.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	4,529.00	8,154.00
Benevolence to be Paid	.00	.00
Surplus/Deficit	+5,110.00	-3,141.00

Benevolence	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2026 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$251.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	376.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	266.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	116.00	600.00
Other		
-St. Francis Home (\$140)	} \$1,064.00	.00
-Mary's Shelter (\$140)		
-SV Food Pantry (\$784)		

Capital Improvement Acct.	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$135.00	\$ 340.00
Interest	8.34	255.49
Expense	.00	.00
		\$50,090.28

Savings Account	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 510.00
Interest	.00	1,981.88
Expenses (transfer to Festival of Faith)	.00	-3,890.55
		\$285,185.02

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	2
3 <u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am- Worship 11:00-11:30am-Sunday School Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Rich Myers	4 12:00pm-Lunch Bunch	5	6 7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting	7	8 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	9
10 <u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u> 10:00am- Worship 11:00-11:30am-Sunday School -Temple Talk (Kate Alley) -BBQ Chicken Dinner Orders Due -Baked Lima Bean Orders Due Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Hannah Lash	11 7:00pm-Council Meeting	12 10:30am-Bible Study 7:00pm-Bible Study on Zoom	13 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Roundtable Meeting (Social Hall use) Pastor Diane Vacation until May 20	14	15 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	16
17 <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u> 8:30am-Outreach Committee Mtg. 10:00am- Worship 11:00-11:30am-Last Sunday School Opener: Brenda Reichart Lector: Tracey Leh Greeter: <i>volunteer needed</i> Comm. Asst.: Tracey Leh	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall Reserved)	20 8:00am-4:00pm-Lunch Bunch Kitchen Use	21 3:00-6:30pm-Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner & Sycamore Farms Apple Dumping Sale	22 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	23 Tentative Social Hall Rental
24 <u>Day of Pentecost</u> 10:00am- Worship -Joint Worship Service with LCHT Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm. Asst.: Linda Lash	25 Memorial Day	26 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall Reserved)	27	28	29	30
31 <u>The Holy Trinity</u> 10:00am- Worship -Special Social Hour Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Jay Field Greeter: <i>volunteer needed</i>						

🕊️🔥 **PENTECOST GERANIUMS** 🔥🕊️

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” – Acts 2

We will be joining together for a joint worship service at Bern Lutheran Church to celebrate Pentecost Sunday on **Sunday, May 24, at 10:00 a.m.**

You can celebrate the joy of Pentecost by helping decorate the sanctuary with red geraniums, a symbol of the Holy Spirit’s presence. This year we will have 2 sizes to choose from. You may sponsor a plant in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Please complete the order form below and return it with payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

ORDER DEADLINE: Sunday, May 10, 2026



Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

Plant Selection:

4” Geranium @ \$3.50 each Quantity: _____ Total: _____

6” Geranium @ \$6.50 each Quantity: _____ Total: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Plants may be taken home following the Pentecost service.