### **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.bernchurch.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 March is given to the Glory of God in memory of Verna Speicher by Barbara Speicher, Tim and Beverly Moyer.

# ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were covered at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 19th:

- All the computers have been updated.
- The sinkhole work has been completed.
- The hot water heater was replaced.
- A motion was made to pre-approve up to \$30,000 for the sound system.
- A motion was made to approve the necessary work that was completed.

If you were not able to attend the Annual Meeting and would like to receive of copy of the 2022 Annual Report, please contact Korinne in the office.

# COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, February 20th:

- Confirmation will be held on May 21st.
- Bids are being obtained for the sound system.
- A Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Dinner / Apple Dumping / Flower Sale has been scheduled for Thursday, May 25th.

**OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING** will be on **Monday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m.** 

# ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

In order to provide high quality weekly bulletins and cover mailing costs, we invite you to become an Altar Flower sponsor for \$35.00/week or a Bulletin sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month. You are welcome to sponsor any of these items in honor of important birthdays/anniversaries, in honor of or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. Sign-up sheets for 2023 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway.

### MARCH SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Bulletin sponsors for March 12 and 26. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are interested in sponsoring these items. Thank you!

# **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Articles for the April *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, March 21st.** 

### EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

We are planning to beautify our sanctuary with flowers and decorating the Lily Cross on Easter Sunday (we will need 28 white lilies to fill the Easter Cross). Please see the order form included with this newsletter. Orders are due by **Sunday, March 26th**. Thank you!





# HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE

Our clothing drive to benefit the Hope Rescue Mission is underway. We are currently collecting men's, women's, and children's clothing, shoes, purses, socks, hats, gloves, coats, sheets, and towels. Our collection will

run until Sunday, April 9th. Look for the large cardboard box in the narthex.



We are going to be starting up the printer cartridge recycling program again. If you have any used cartridges at home, you may now bring them into church and place them in the box in the narthex. Korinne, our secretary, will take them to Staples and they will be applied to the rewards program to help purchase paper and other supplies for the office. Thank you!

Where we tend to see hopelessness in the world, O God, give us vision to see what you are doing—and to join your life-giving work.



## EPLER'S UCC: FOOD & FAITH

Do you struggle to get ready for worship on a Sunday morning? Are you looking for worship that is not as liturgical or traditional, but you still want to have an opportunity to worship and receive Communion? Join along with the congregation of Epler's UCC for fellowship and worship with a relaxed feel on **Friday**, **March 3**, **2023** and be lifted up by the Spirit. A fellowship meal will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. Each month is a different theme and special music. Dress is casual and membership is not required to attend. Children are welcome; and they may benefit from the more informal format of these services. Check out Epler's UCC website at <a href="https://www.eplerschurch.org">www.eplerschurch.org</a>.



# BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH'S DESIGNATED PASTOR

Pastor Gary Rarick of Epler's UCC in Leesport has agreed to be our Designated Pastor. What this means is Pastor Rarick will be available for homebound visits and communion, funerals and weddings, and other pastoral care needs. Feel free to contact him at 610-401-1545 or email at <a href="mailto:pastorrarick@gmail.com">pastorrarick@gmail.com</a>.

If anyone would like to receive home communion, please contact Korinne in the office and arrangements can be made.



# DO YOU NEED TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION?

Has your address changed? Did you drop your landline phone? Changed email providers? Do you notice something wrong in the directory? Please click on the link below to update your information or contact Korinne in the church office to make any changes to your personal information. Thank you!





Members of Bern Lutheran Church are invited this year to worship together with local churches for a Midweek Lenten Luncheon and Holy Week services. It will be a light lunch with an informal worship service and prayer time. The schedule is listed below:

March 1	Midweek Lenten Worship (meal) St. John's Gernant's Church, 12 noon
March 8	Midweek Lenten Worship (meal) Salem Belleman's Church, 12 noon
March 15	Midweek Lenten Worship (meal) Bern UCC, 12 noon
March 22	Midweek Lenten Worship (meal) Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, 12 noon
March 29	Midweek Lenten Worship (meal)

Bethany Evangelical, 12 noon

April 6 Maundy Thursday
St. John's Gernant's Church, 7:00 p.m.
(no meal)

April 7 Good Friday
Salem Belleman's Church, 7:00 p.m.
(no meal)

# INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

For the Week Ending	Income toward Budget Expenses	<b>Attendance</b>	
02/05/23	\$3,705.40	59	
02/12/23	2,383.17	52	
02/19/23	1,777.00	42	
02/26/23	936.00	47	

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

# **Budget Report - Year to Date**

		_
	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$12,107.17	\$12,107.17
Congregational		
Fund Raising	00.	
Total Funds	<u>\$12,107.17</u>	<u>\$12,107.17</u>
A .4 .11	т	VED
Actual Income / Expenses	January	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$10,458.87	\$ 10,458.87
Non-Budgeted Income	1,648.30	1,648.30
Budgeted Expenses	5,997.82	5,997.82
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1,999.00	1,999.00
(Altar Flower bill for 20)		
Benevolence to be Paid	229.00	229.00
Surplus/Deficit	+3,881.35	+3,881.35
Benevolence	VTD	2022 Dladas
	<u>YTD</u>	2023 Pledge
Synod and ELCA	\$84.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	42.50	1,500.00
Mission Field	67.50	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	35.00	600.00
Other	.00	.00
Capital Improvement Acct	January	YTD
Member Contributions	\$145.00	\$145.00
Interest	.36	.36
Expense	0.00	0.00
Пирепос		
		<u>\$42,478.44</u>
Savings Account		YTD
Thrivent Choice Dollars		\$ 56.00
Interest		3.27
Expenses		.00
1		
		<u>\$132,480.04</u>

# EPLER'S UCC Pot Pie Supper Saturday, March 18th

Please join us for our pot pie supper on Saturday, March 18th. You can preorder take-out quarts by clicking <a href="here">here</a> or by calling Judy at 610-926-1753. You will be able to pick up your take-out orders from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. We will then be hosting a buffet dinner from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. No pre-orders necessary. Come and join us for a meal and fellowship. The cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children ages 6-12.

# sympathy sympathy



It is with deepest sympathy that we announce that Sandsabar "Sandy" L. Ensinger, 83, passed away on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 surrounded by family. He was the loving husband of Arlene H. (House) Ensinger with whom he shared 35 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, he is

survived by a daughter, Lori A. Dugan-Doll, two sons, Scott T. Dugan, and Todd C. Dugan; a brother, Thomas Butting; three grandchildren, James Dugan, Eric Dugan, and Brianna Dugan; and a great-granddaughter, Sadie Dugan. He was preceded by a brother, William Butting. Sandy worked at Carpenter Steel for 29 years, retiring in 2001. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1958-1962. A service was held on Wednesday, February 8, at Lamm and Witman Funeral Home, Wernersville, with Rev. Gary Rarick officiating. Sandy is buried in St. John's Hain's Church Cemetery.



A warm fuzzy thank you for your welcoming hospitality. It was a pleasure to work with you to get our scout training event planned. I just want to share gratitude on behalf of the entire Training Committee for all you and your dedicated volunteers did to provide such a great spot for us to gather. We were able to provide leader training for many adults and several youth leaders, too. Your kindness made it all very easy! Sincere thanks! — Mancy Gross, Training Chair, Hawk Mountain Council BSA

\* \* \* \* \* \*

Greetings! Please express to your members our sincere appreciation for your church's support to S.V. Food Pantry, Inc. whether it's through assisting with distribution, working on the committee, or through financial support. It is with support provided by churches like yours, that makes it possible for us to provide needed assistance to families throughout our community. Thank you! Continue to be safe! God bless! – Samuel J. Reimert, President-Treasurer, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Inc.

# PADDLING THROUGH LENT—AND LIFE

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright. That isn't a bad image for Lent or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

# 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. Thank you!

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.

# **Altar Flower Sponsors:**

March 5 – Brent and Kate Schuler

March 12 – Brent and Kate Schuler

March 19 – Michael and Beth Braucher

March 26 – Carl and Linda Lash

# **Bulletin Sponsors:**

March 5 – David and Beth Hartman

March 12 – *sponsor needed* 

March 19 - Terri Shurr

March 26 – sponsor needed

# **Newsletter Sponsor:**

Barbara Speicher, Tim and Beverly Moyer

# **Church Openers:**

March 5 – Patricia Yocum

March 12 – Erin Readinger

March 19 – Jane Battaglieri

March 26 – Christopher Becker

# **Church Greeters:**

March 5 – Barbara Auchenbach

March 12 – Nancy Malandra

March 19 – Barbara Auchenbach

March 26 - Nancy Malandra

### **Lectors:**

March 5 – Donna Marks

March 12 – Brenda Reichart

March 19 – Beth Hartman

March 26 - David Greenwood

# **Supply Pastor Schedule:**

March 5 – Pastor William Fryer

March 12 – Pastor Kenneth Gould

March 19 - Pastor Kenneth Gould

March 26 – Pastor David Kistler



# (\* Denotes 80 years young)

- 7 Christopher Knabb
- 7 Nicole Knabb
- 7 Millie Schuler
- 9 Phyllis Stonefelt \*
- 11 Adam Schuler
- 12 Gerald Pawlyk
- 13 C. Jacob Stricker \*
- 14 Patricia Brown
- 14 Jay Field
- 14 Linda Heck \*
- 20 George Zimmermann
- 21 Emily Goetz
- 21 D. Barry Shurr
- 22 Jean Lash \*
- 23 Cerina Readinger
- 24 Barbara Braucher \*
- 27 Cassandra Cote
- 29 Michael Reichart
- 30 Linda Lash
- 30 Derian Readinger
- 31 Dennis Egan



- 6 Robert and Tina Hissinger (53 years)
- 7 Clayton and Patricia Brown (16 years)
- 8 Gary and Evelyn Drobnick (20 years)
- 24 C. Jacob and June Stricker (72 years)

What does the Lord require
of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and
to walk humbly with your God?
-Micah 6:8

### CONSIDER PERCENTAGE-BASIS GIVING

No matter how or what amount you give to your congregation, thank you! Your offerings sustain important ministries, and there is no such thing as an inappropriate or inadequate offering.

But if you are among the many who give regularly on a "lump sum" basis, consider giving on a percentage basis instead.

The "lump sum" basis is when donors give a fixed amount – say, \$50 a week – to the church, regardless of what percentage it represents in their annual income. The advantage of lump sum giving is that it's simple to calculate and keep track of. But lump sum giving reveals little about the generosity behind the gift. For a poorer family, \$50 a week may be significant, whereas it could be a pittance for a wealthy family.

Since the Bible lifts up the principles of sacrificial giving as well as tithing, giving by percentage provides a better measure for giving. Once a family has calculated their gift as a percentage of income, it's easier to track it and, over time, build up to a tithe. Here's how to get started with percentage giving:

- Calculate your regular offering over the course of the year.
- Divide the total yearly offering by your total annual income. This will give you a figure.
- Multiply that figure by 100 to determine your percentage giving.

When planning your offering, consider increasing it by 1 percent a year. If you do, in less than 10 years you will be tithing. However you give, thank you for supporting God's ministries.

--Rob Blezard

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### A GOD WITH SCARS

If anyone has ever asked you why a loving God allows suffering, you've probably developed a theodicy. That's a fancy word for defending belief in divine goodness despite evil's

existence. Theologians who tackle this profound mystery note that God himself wasn't spared from pain. Despite his sinlessness as true God, Jesus endured crucifixion as true man.

As proof of that sacrifice, his body was scarred.

Those marks feature in a poem by English pastor Edward Shillito. Seeing wounded combatants return from World War I, he wondered how the Gospel could seem like goods news to them. When Shillito realized that Christianity alone features a God who suffered, he wrote "Jesus of the Scars" to offer comfort and hope. The poem concludes:

The other gods were strong; but thou wast weak; They rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne; But to our wounds only God's wounds speak; And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter* 



### **MEMBERS:**

Doug Myers, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Tina Hissinger, George Schaeffer, Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

# **FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Ginny and Nelson Eyrich, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Katelyn Hotzman, Jim Maurer, 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.)

# Newsletter Newsletter

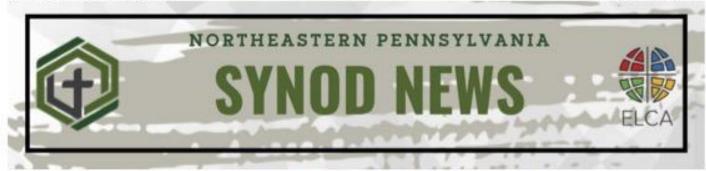
# MARCH 2023 ACTIVITIES



- 1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
- 2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
- 3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
- 4. Add the tomato as a head.
- 5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
- 6. Making different-shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!

PUZZLE 7
A seasonal reminder Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.
Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.
plants grow here  to coil and jump (also a season of the year)  to expand and get bigger  seeds are planted in this  when watered, these make plants another word for seedling
For as the makes the
come up and a causes
to *, so the
Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise up before all nations.
ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring



# Love for the Least

The Global Missions Team at the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, PA, led an advent appeal this past holiday season to support the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania, which was established by ELCA medical missionary Dr. Mark Jacobson, and also had the opportunity to lead the church's worship services on their annual Global Missions Sunday, held this year on January 22, 2023, to share about this ministry with those in attendance.

When a baby is born prematurely in Tanzania, it is considered as good as dead. Premature babies there are often referred to as 'stillbirths.' This was not acceptable to the staff of Arusha Lutheran Medical Center. Fifteen years ago they began to offer neonatal intensive care, and pediatrician Dr. Steve Swanson joined the program in 2011. Initially they were only able to save 4% of the babies. Today they serve almost 400 babies annually, and the survival rate in 2022 was 92%.

The care at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU is the best in Tanzania, and in most of East Africa. No baby is turned away because of inability to pay or insurance status. The five doctors and 26 nurses who staff the NICU do not just care for the tiny infants, but for the parents as well. A hospital bed and meals are provided to every mother with a baby in the NICU and both parents are encouraged and coached on how to interact with their babies.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit raised \$3,785 from their Love for the Least appeal to be directed to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center NICU in Tanzania, and 175 preemie knit or crochet hats were lovingly crafted for the NICU infants, which they hope to send to Tanzania. These hats can save lives by helping to keep the babies warm.

Charlotte Gross, Co-Coordinator



# ATTENTION ALL CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Now is the time to figure out who will be your voting members at the synod assembly! Don't worry, it will be well worth their time and yours! Let's have a record turnout, as we gather together (in person) as a synod for the first time since the Great Disruption of 2020. If you have any questions contact the synod office, and together we'll figure it out together!

# IMPORTANT STEP YOUR CONGREGATION CAN TAKE TO BE THE COMMUNITY CHRIST CALLS YOU TO BE!

Become a Reconciling in Christ congregation! Reach out to Stacey Burke in the synod office (stacey@nepsynod.org) for more information.



FOR THE MOST UP-TODATE NEWS AND STORIES
FOLLOW US ON ALL
SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS OR VISIT US
AT GODSLOVE.ORG



8" Daffodil

# Easter Flower Order Form

We will be adorning our sanctuary with beautiful flowers for Easter Sunday. Please make your selection below and return your order form with payment to the church office or offering plate by **Sunday**, **March 26th**.

Qty.

Cost

X \$7.00 =

Tota1

**PLEASE NOTE**: We need 28 lilies to fill the Lily Cross.

	White Lily (5-7 blooms)		X	\$7.00 =	
	6" Pink Tulip		X	\$7.00 =	
	6" Red Tulip		X	\$7.00 =	
	6" Yellow Tulip		X	\$7.00 =	
	6" Orange Tulip		X	\$7.00 =	
		Total .	Am	ount Due:	
Name: _					_
	Tumber:				_
Envelof	PE #:				_
DEDICAT	TIONS (In Honor of, In Mem	ory of, or	т То	the Glory of God):	

# **MARCH 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
HOPE RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE Collection ongoing until April 9th			1 12:00pm-Community Midweek Lenten Worship Service, St. John's Gernant's Church, Leesport (meal)	2	3 6:00pm-Food and Faith Worship Service, Epler's UCC 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	4		
Second Sunday in Lent NO Confirmation Class 10:00 am—Worship 11:00am-Sunday School Opener: Patricia Yocum Lector: Donna Marks Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	6	7	8 12:00pm-Community Midweek Lenten Worship Service, Salem Belleman's Church, Mohrsville (meal) 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts	9	10 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	11		
Third Sunday in Lent 9:00am—Confirmation Class 10:00 am—Worship 11:00 am—Sunday School Opener: Erin Readinger Lector: Brenda Reichart	13	14	15 12:00pm-Community Midweek Lenten Worship Service, Bern UCC, Leesport (meal)	16	17 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond Happy St. Patrick's Day	18		
Greeter: Nancy Malandra  19 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:00am—Confirmation Class 10:00 am—Worship 11:00am—Sunday School  Opener: Jane Battaglieri Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Barb Auchenbach	7:00pm-Council Meeting SPRING ALL RIGHT UND RAWTED THE FLUWER 7:	21 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall use)  Newsletter Deadline	22 12:00pm-Community Midweek Lenten Worship Service, Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport (meal)	23	24 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	25 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild Workshop (Social Hall)  Annunciation of Our Lord		
Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00am—Confirmation Class 10:00 am—Worship 11:00am—Sunday School • Easter Flower Order Deadline Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: David Greenwood Greeter: Nancy Malandra	27	4:00-7:00pm—Berks Festival of Faith	12:00pm-Community Midweek Lenten Worship Service, Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Leesport (meal)					

Bern Lutheran Church ■ 820 West Leesport Road, Leesport, PA 19533 ■ Phone: 610.374.4343 ■ Email: bernlutheranchurch@gmail.com