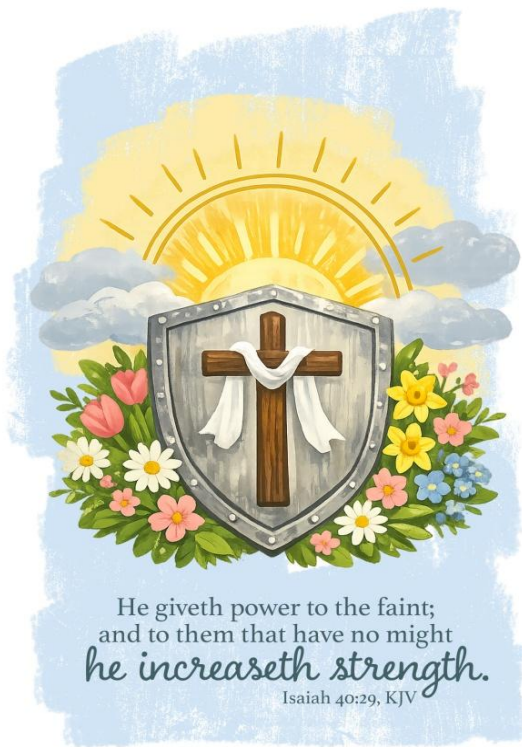


**BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

820 West Leesport Road

Leesport, PA 19533

*Address Service Requested*



He giveth power to the faint;  
and to them that have no might  
*he increaseth strength.*  
Isaiah 40:29, KJV



### **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/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 April Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes is sponsored by Rich Myers.

### **Council Meeting Highlights**

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>:

- Our current Constitution will be reviewed to see what changes/updates are needed in order to comply with the most recent language required by the ELCA.
- West Berks Mission District (WBMD) Spring Assembly will be held on April 23. Chris and Annette Becker will be representing Bern Lutheran Church.

**The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Sunday School**

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

### **Holy Week Lenten Services**

**Maundy Thursday, April 2 • 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

Bethany Evangelical Congregational Church  
308 Main Street, Leesport

**Good Friday, April 3 • 7:00 p.m.**

Salem Belleman's Church  
3540 Bellemans Church Road, Mohrsville

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Articles for the May *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

### **No April Social Hour**

There will not be a Social Hour in April because we will be worshipping at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity on Sunday, April 26, at 10:00 a.m.

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*Easter is the time to celebrate the power of the risen Christ.*

## Epler's UCC Food & Faith

Join along with members of Epler's UCC on **Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** at 6 p.m. (meal) and 7 p.m. (worship). Although the theme for the April 10th (note date change due to Good Friday) is not decided yet, Epler's organist, Brian Gibson, will be our special music. Pastor Gary will also be blessing the elements of Communion through a version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah. All are welcome to join them for this meal and worship time in April.

## 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 April

We are in need of a Bulletin sponsor for Sunday, April 12. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor this date. Thank you!

## Spring Clothing Drive

As we welcome the spring season, 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 in **beginning Sunday, April 12**, and will run until Sunday, June 7. Look for the cardboard box in the narthex soon. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



## NEW Church Lending Library – Now Collecting Books!

We are excited to announce the launch of our Church Lending Library! This ministry is designed to encourage spiritual growth, support families, and provide Christ-centered resources for all ages. We are currently collecting gently used or new books to include in our library.



If you have books you would like to donate, please bring them to the church office. Thank you for helping us build a resource that will bless our church family and community for years to come!



(\* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Kristen Schera
- 1 Zoe Westmeyer
- 2 Tracey Leh
- 3 Gwyneth Kneeream
- 4 Ruth Blecher
- 4 Richard Miller
- 4 Lori Schlottman
- 7 Shawn Hissinger
- 17 Wendy Miller
- 19 Michael Braucher
- 20 Stephen Kneeream
- 20 Dianne Leininger
- 21 Cheryl Knabb
- 22 Anne Spieker
- 25 Jeffrey Reichart
- 28 Aidan Slusser



- 19 Andrew and Wendy Miller (46 years)
- 25 Kenneth and Donna Marks (28 years)
- 29 Stephen and Janna Kneeream (9 years)



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.)*

**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DIANE**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A recurring theme in the Bible is **hospitality**, specifically God's hospitality: what God desires and what Jesus models for us.

We see it early in the Old Testament when Abraham and Sarah welcome three strangers for a meal [Genesis 18:2-11], and we see that God wants people to be fed before they embark on the Exodus from slavery in Egypt [Exodus 12], that we have energy for life's journey.

We see it repeatedly in the gospels when Jesus engages in table fellowship: for example, he feeds the five thousand instead of sending them to fend for themselves, he eats with Pharisees [Luke 7 and 14], he eats at the home of Zacchaeus [Luke 19:1-10], he eats at the home of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary [John 12:1-8].

Most notably, there is the Passover meal Jesus desires to eat with the Twelve in the night in which he was betrayed [Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22], when he passes the bread and wine around the

table to all who are with him, even to the one he knows is going to betray him! And he declares that this meal is to help us remember that ***we are forgiven by what Jesus does for us, and, therefore, welcome in God's presence***, even though we have sinned against God and against all of God's creation.

After Jesus had been executed by crucifixion and then raised from death to eternal life, the disciples understood that this remembrance meal needed to be a regular part of their coming together in worship: God's tangible evidence of hospitality... the holy meal. Our worship services, especially on Sundays are meant to give us a tangible experience of God's hospitality.

If we were invited to someone's house, especially around the dinner hour, wouldn't we expect to have a meal or at least be offered *something* to eat and drink? When we invite someone to our home, wouldn't we offer something to eat...even if just cookies, cheese and crackers, a cup of coffee, or at least a glass of water?

This past month children from all three congregations in our Shared Ministry have prepared to finally be welcomed at the Lord's Table and be fed with tangible evidence of Jesus' love and forgiveness: the ultimate hospitality in the House of the Lord. Whereas adults used to believe this was only for adults, we recall that Jesus told the disciples not to keep children away from him, rather to let them come Mathew 19:14, Mark 10:14, Luke 18:16! If we had folks over for a family meal, we wouldn't deny the children to be fed, would we!

This is why the Sacrament of Holy Communion is an integral part of our regular worship experience... and why it is intended ***for all***. Regardless of age, regardless of "membership," regardless of who they are. The Holy Communion is God's hug for us that our soul longs to feel.

The truth is that we need the ***continuing regular reminder*** that Jesus welcomes us to share this meal with him and to experience God's hospitality. Hospitality and forgiveness that is possible only because Jesus has given his body for us, shed his blood for us.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Pastor Diane LaFauci

# Thank You

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Northern Berks Emergency Medical Services, we extend our sincere gratitude for your generous donation to our 501(c)(3) organization. Your support helps ease the financial burden of our operations and will be used to purchase new medical bags, enhancing the care we provide to our community.

We recently took delivery of a new ambulance, which we have dedicated in memory of Mr. Timothy Moyer. As you know, Tim played a vital role in both our organization and yours, and we are honored to recognize his legacy in this way.

We are truly grateful not only for your financial support, but also for the spirit of fellowship and faith that continues to strengthen the bond between our organizations.

God bless,

*Stephen Bobella*

Executive Director

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and Wheelchair Van Drivers, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of \$250.

Your kindness and support are deeply appreciated. Contributions like yours help Western Berks Ambulance continue its mission to provide high-quality pre-hospital care to the communities we serve. The funds will be used toward the purchase of essential equipment that enables our team to respond effectively and safely.

Thank you once again for your generosity and commitment to supporting our lifesaving work.

With sincere appreciation,

*Anthony Tucci*

Executive Director

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Greetings and God bless,

We all here at the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Inc. wish to express our sincere appreciation for your very generous donations of \$312 from your

Souper Bowl event and \$84 from your plate offering on Ash Wednesday to our food pantry.

With the support of churches like yours is what makes it possible to do the work we do, providing food inequities to families throughout Leesport, Shoemakersville, and surrounding communities.

Thank you and God Bless,

*Samuel J. Reimert*

President and Treasurer

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support and donation from the Cookie and Candy sale of \$140.

Mary's Shelter relies on individual and business support to continue our services to at-risk youth in our community. Our Maternity Home Program helps expectant young women prepare for the awesome responsibilities of motherhood. Our YESS Program helps homeless and run-away kids between the ages of 14-17 address their immediate concern of sleeping on the streets. Our Strong Program offers a longer-term housing option to youth ages 16-21 by providing safe and stable housing as they finish high school.

Together we can change lives and shape the future for generations to come. Your support makes all this possible.

Thank you,

*Jodi Tucci*

Bookkeeping Specialist

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Dear Bern Members,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful contribution to St. Francis Home in the amount of \$140. We rely on the generosity of individuals like you to continue our mission of providing compassionate end-of-life care. Your support is truly invaluable to us and to the families we serve. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our cause. Please stop in. Our doors are always open.

Sincerely,

*Brian J. Quinn*

President

## EPLER'S UCC UPCOMING EVENTS

### HERE COMES THE EASTER BUNNY! EPLER'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 4, 2026**, at noon, Epler's Sunday School will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt, rain or shine. All children up to and including 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate. Bring your Easter basket! The event is open to the community.

### SPRING BAKE-OFF & BASKET RAFFLE

Epler's UCC Youth Group will be hosting a Spring Bake-off on **Saturday, April 11th**. This is their fourth annual bake-off; it's a fun time and one of the largest church fundraisers every year.

The categories will be:

- cookies
- bar cookies, brownies, and bars
- cakes
- pies
- candy and fudge
- breads, muffins, and pastry

We hope you will plan to attend on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Make a monetary donation of any size and taste all of the desserts to vote for your favorites. Please help to support the Youth Group at the Spring Bake-off.

### DOWNSIZING AND DECLUTTERING WORKSHOP

**Saturday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m.**

Join Epler's for an informative presentation about "Where and How to Clear Your Home of Unneeded Items." Starting at 9:00 a.m., the program will provide speakers and local vendors with information on how to select items for their final destination—charity, resale, trash or a new location—who handles each phase, what are the costs and the processes. The program, coordinated by the Care Corps Team, will be held in the lower-level Social Hall. Light refreshments will be served. No registration required.

## BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Diane will be holding a Bible Study on Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28, and May 5 and 12, at 10:30 a.m. at Bern Lutheran Church, and also at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. The theme will be "The Holy Spirit: A Study of the Third Person of the Trinity."

The schedule is as follows:

- Week 1 – WHO is the Spirit, and what does the Spirit do?
- Week 2 – Giver of Faith
- Week 3 – The Sanctifier
- Week 4 – Equipped for Building Up the Body of Christ
- Week 5 – Discerning God's Will...and Accountability as a Christian

Contact Pastor Diane for more information.

## BERN CHURCH T-SHIRTS

We are now taking orders for Bern Church T-shirts. They are being made by students at Fleetwood High School. If you would like a shirt, please sign up on the sheet in the Sunday School hallway or contact the church office at 610-374-4343. Sizes S – XL are \$12.00 each. 2X and 3X are \$15.00 each. **The last day to order is Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.**



## 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:

April 5 – Easter Flowers  
 April 12 – Barbara Auchenbach  
 April 19 – Sally Koch

### Bulletin Sponsors:

April 5 – The Reichart Family  
 April 12 – *sponsor needed*  
 April 19 – Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher

### Newsletter Sponsor:

Rich Myers

### Church Openers:

April 5 – Christopher Becker  
 April 12 – Christopher Becker  
 April 19 – Christopher Becker

### Church Greeters:

April 5 – Barbara Auchenbach  
 April 12 – Barbara Auchenbach  
 April 19 – Barbara Speicher

### Lectors:

April 5 – Richard Gruber  
 April 12 – Rich Myers  
 April 19 – Tracey Leh

### Communion Assistants:

April 5 – Dianne Leininger  
 April 12 – Rich Myers  
 April 19 – Tracey Leh

### Supply Pastor Schedule:

April 5 – Pastor William Fryer  
 April 12 – Pastor Virginia Biniek  
 April 19 – Pastor Kenneth Gould  
**April 26 – Worship at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity at 9:00 a.m.**



## INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2/01/2026	\$ 1,477.00	42
2/08/2026	\$ 1,950.00	34
2/15/2026	\$ 880.00	38
2/22/2026	\$ 580.00	31

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

### Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$ 9,711.00	\$ 17,285.00
Congregational Fundraising	.00	522.00
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>\$ 9,711.00</u>	<u>\$ 17,807.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$ 8,942.00	\$ 16,024.00
Non-Budgeted Income	769.00	1,783.00
Budgeted Expenses	12,310.00	22,434.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1,396.00	3,625.00
Benevolence to be Paid	282.00	359.00
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-4,277.00</b>	<b>-8,611.00</b>

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2026 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$146.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	71.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	71.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	71.00	600.00
Other	312.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$100.00	\$ 205.00
Interest	79.50	167.15
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		<b>\$49,866.94</b>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ .00	\$ 137.00
Interest	.00	1,299.75
Expenses	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		<b>\$287,890.44</b>

**KAUFFMAN'S BBQ CHICKEN & SYCAMORE  
FARMS APPLE DUMPLING SALE  
Thursday, May 21, 2026**

We are kicking off our BBQ Chicken Dinner and Apple Dumpling sale. Check out the flyer for more details.

# APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 1:00 and 7:00pm- Maundy Thursday Worship Service, Bethany Congregational Church, Leesport	3 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group) 7:00pm-Good Friday Worship Service, Salem Belleman’s, Mohrsville	4 12:00pm-Epler’s UCC Easter Egg Hunt (rain or shine)
5 Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School  Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Richard Gruber Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Dianne Leininger	6 12:00pm-Lunch Bunch	7	8 6:00m-Hawk Mountain Roundtable Meeting (Social Hall use)	9	10 6:00pm-Food & Faith Meal, Epler’s UCC 7:00pm-Food & Faith Worship, Epler’s UCC 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	11 1:00-4:30pm-Epler’s UCC Spring Bake-off and Basket Raffle
12 First Sunday of Easter 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School -Spring Clothing Drive Starts  Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Rich Myers	13	14 10:30am-Bible Study 7:00pm-Bible Study on Zoom	15  <b>TAX DAY</b>	16	17 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	18 9:00am-Epler’s UCC Downsizing & Decluttering Seminar
19 Second Sunday of Easter 10:00am-Worship -Easter Flower Orders Due  Opener: Christopher Becker Lector: Tracey Leh Greeter: Barbara Speicher Comm. Asst.: Tracey Leh	20 7:00pm-Council Meeting  Newsletter Deadline	21 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall Reserved) 10:30am-Bible Study 7:00pm-Bible Study on Zoom	22	23	24 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)	25
26 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00am-Worship at Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport  NO Social Hour	27	28 4:00pm-Berks Festival of Faith (Social Hall Reserved) 10:30am-Bible Study 7:00pm-Bible Study on Zoom	29	30		



**&**  
**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

🕊️🔥 **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.*



*To those who left  
To those who cried  
To those who fought  
To those who tried  
To those who gave  
their very lives  
We remember*

-Anonymous

With the approaching of Memorial Day, we would like to honor those of our members who served in the military and are no longer with us. If you can think of anyone, please write their name(s) below and give this paper to Korinne. Thank you!

These are the members we have so far.

Ken Beissel, Sr.  
David Braucher  
Sandy Ensinger  
Robert Frey  
William Kerns  
Jack Kochan

Paul Leininger  
Warren Lengel, Sr.  
Warren Lengel, Jr.  
Elwood Speicher  
Norman Straus

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