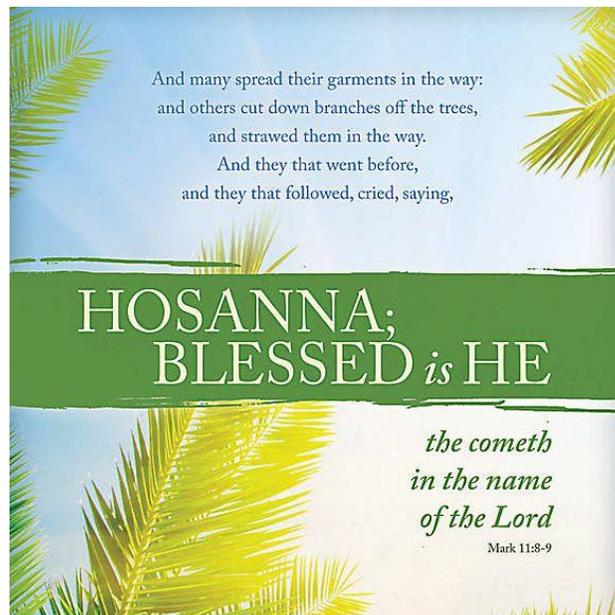


BERN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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/Bern-Lutheran-Church-103625754955228>

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 March Bern Bugle's Joyful Notes is sponsored by Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher in memory of Verna Speicher.

Council Meeting Highlights

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our Council Meeting on Monday, February 16th:

- Endowment Fund allocation of \$1,000 to be used for Outreach will be used to support Northern Berks EMS, Western Berks EMS, Muhlenberg Fire Department and Mount Pleasant Fire Department. \$250 will be sent to each.
- Approved installation of a lending library outside the front door of the church. Chris Becker has constructed and donated the structure. It will also display a QR code that will link to our church website.
- Approved installation of a sign to announce upcoming worship services. It will include a QR code that will link to the worship schedule.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, March 16th 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.

Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the April *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, March 17th.**

SV Food Pantry "SOUPer" Bowl Donation Collection

Thank you to all who donated to the SV Food Pantry for the "Soup-er" Bowl collection. A total of \$312.00 was collected. \$116 for the Patriots and \$196 for the Seahawks.

Epler's Food & Faith – United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Join along with members of Epler's UCC on **Friday, March 6th** at 6 p.m. (meal) and 7 p.m. (worship) as we reflect on the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals to be realized by the year 2030. Join Pastor Gary as he discusses the faithfulness of the goals that were not decided based on the Christian Faith, but have very similar ideas to that of Jesus and how we believe in caring for our neighbors and the “least of these.”

Midweek Lenten Services

Bern Lutheran Church will be hosting two Midweek Lenten services. On **Wednesday, March 11, at 12:00 p.m.**, we will have soup and sandwiches prior to the service and then move to the sanctuary for worship. **Volunteers will be needed to assist with preparing and serving the meal. Please see the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for opportunities to assist.** Any help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Brenda Reichart at 610-926-6772 with any questions.

Then on Wednesday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. we will have our evening Lenten worship. The Lenten theme will be “The Passion of Christ According to the Gospel of Matthew.” The service will be followed by a time of fellowship and light refreshments.

Easter Candy

The Ladies Lunch Bunch is once again making Easter candy. We will be making peanut butter, coconut, and buttercream eggs. You can choose milk or dark chocolate coating. You can purchase a pound for \$12 or half pound for \$6. **Place your order by Sunday, March 15**, on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Candy will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, March 22nd.

Easter Flowers

Help us beautify our sanctuary for our Easter service on April 5th. We will have daffodils, lilies, and an assortment of different color tulips to pick from. Please see the order form in this newsletter to place your order. **Orders will be due by Sunday, March 22nd.** Thank you!

March Social Hour

We will be holding a Social Hour on **Sunday, March 29th**. Please plan to stay and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. We will need a host and contributors. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you would like to help.

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 March

We are in need of an Altar Flower sponsor for Sunday, March 15, and Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, March 1, 8, and 29. Please sign up if you would like to sponsor any of these items and dates. Thank you!

Inclement Weather

From time to time wintry weather may affect our scheduled worship services and activities at church. If there would be any inclement weather, tune into WFMZ-TV69 (we are listed as BERN ELC-Leesport), check our website and/or Facebook page, or call the church office for any information on delays and/or closings. Any decision to cancel the worship service will be made by the Executive Committee of council at least 3 hours (7:00 a.m.) prior to the scheduled worship service or event.

Suggestion Box

There is a suggestion box on the round table in the narthex. If you have an idea for something that you would like us to do, change, etc., please submit your idea and it will be addressed at the next council meeting.

Emergency Forms

Those members that have submitted emergency forms will be given the opportunity to review and update them as needed. Those that do not have a form on file can complete one and put it in the Parish Nurse mailbox. Forms and envelopes are on the round table in the narthex. These forms are kept in the sealed envelope which would only be opened in the case of a medical emergency while at church and contain information to assist EMS workers as well as an emergency contact number of who should be notified.

“Spring is God’s way of showing us how beautiful new things can be.”

thank you

Dear Members of Bern Lutheran Church, I thank you for your kindness and generosity in remembering me with the monetary Christmas gift. I greatly appreciate it and your support over the years I have been serving as supply pastor at Bern Church. I have come to the point of learning many of your names and have enjoyed coming to know you better as the time goes by, and I look forward to what the future brings. May God bless and keep you always. In Christ Our Lord, *Pastor Kenneth Gould*

A Message from Pastor Diane

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

These first weeks of this new Shared Ministry among Trinity (Gouglersville), Bern (Leesport), and Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity (Leesport) have been a whirlwind of Sunday visiting to introduce myself, getting to know staff and facilities, beginning to do some scheduling, and planning the joint Ash Wednesday worship. You all have welcomed me and helped me to begin serving as Transition Pastor. Thank you!

The process for your three congregations began over a year ago and gradually progressed to a vision for the first year. I entered the process in late fall and came officially on board in January. My role in this first year is to develop a plan to meet pastoral and administrative needs among the three congregations. This will lead to the congregations being able to interview and call a pastor with confidence, adequately reflecting the needs of the Shared Ministry.

As I am available for Sunday preaching two Sundays a month, a plan has been established by congregation leaders for one Sunday a month at Trinity (Gouglersville) and one joint monthly service between Bern and LCHT. In addition, there is an average of 20 non-worship hours per week for administration and pastoral ministry for the three congregations. As you can imagine, I'm having to pay close attention to time management, working both from home and on-site.

As I said when I introduced myself in each congregation on February 1st, I had the blessing of walking through the development of a shared ministry in my first transition position after

retirement. I will use what I experienced in that process as I get to know everyone and discern what can benefit our unique situation. In addition, what I experienced in transition positions I have held since retirement has given me a good idea of what can reasonably be accomplished in an average 20-hour week, plus two Sundays. Will it be a balancing act? Most certainly! But with God's guidance and the support of leaders, members, and staff, it will happen!

My husband Doug and our children Jon and Amanda moved to Berks County 40 years ago. I had taught French and English on the secondary level in West Virginia, where we lived for 16 years. I studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and was ordained in 1993. I was Assoc. Pastor at St. John's, Kutztown, until serving as Pastor at Faith, Mount Penn, until retirement at the end of September 2015.

Both our children are now married with their own families. Our son and his wife have two boys, ages 6 and 3, and our daughter and her husband live in New Hampshire with their 9-year-old son. Doug and I love every minute we have with family and can't get enough time with our absolutely adorable grandsons (I always love to show their pictures!).

Doug and I live in Exeter Township near the Daniel Boone Homestead and are members at Friedens Lutheran, Oley, where Doug often serves as worship assistant.

My contact information is provided in bulletins and newsletters, and I return calls as soon as possible, if your call goes to voicemail. I will visit folks in hospitals, and I plan to make periodic home-communion visits. If you are aware of someone in the hospital or would like the Pastor to visit, please let me know! I look forward to serving Christ with you!

Blessings always,

Pastor Diane LaFauci





(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 7 Millie Schuler
- 11 Adam Schuler
- 12 Gerald Pawlyk
- 14 Jay Field
- 14 Linda Heck *
- 21 D. Barry Shurr
- 22 Jean Lash *
- 23 Cerina Readinger
- 24 Barbara Braucher *
- 29 Michael Reichart
- 30 Linda Lash
- 30 Derian Readinger
- 31 Dennis Egan



- 6 Robert and Tina Hissinger (56 years)
- 8 Gary and Evelyn Drobnick (23 years)
- 17 Rich and Lisa Myers (31 years)

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. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

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:

Harvey Lengel, Catherine Chilcoat, Maryann Keck, 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.)

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 or place them in the designated collection area. Thank you for helping us build a resource that will bless our church family and community for years to come!



LENTEN Schedule

MIDWEEK MIDDAY ASH WEDNESDAY, LENT and HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

2nd Week of Lent, March 4 ▪ 12 noon (lunch)
St. John's Gernant's Church
13 Gernants Church Road, Leesport

3rd Week of Lent, March 11 ▪ 12 noon (lunch)
Bern Lutheran Church
820 West Leesport Road, Leesport

4th Week of Lent, March 18 ▪ 12 noon (lunch)
Bern UCC
3195 Bernville Road, Leesport

5th Week of Lent, March 25 ▪ 12 noon (lunch)
Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
102 Apple Street, Leesport

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

MIDWEEK EVENING ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT SCHEDULE:

All midweek services will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a time of fellowship and light refreshments.

Wednesday, March 4 ▪ 7:00 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
33 S. Church Street, Mohnton

Wednesday, March 11 ▪ 7:00 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
4125 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring

Wednesday, March 18 ▪ 7:00 p.m.
Bern Lutheran Church
820 W. Leesport Road, Leesport

Wednesday, March 25 ▪ 7:00 p.m.
Advent Lutheran Church
16 Telford Avenue, West Lawn



SV FOOD PANTRY

For the month of February, we collected the following items for the SV Food Pantry. Thank you for your continued support and donations!

Cereal – 1 box	Spam - 5
Pasta – 25 boxes	Fruit – 14 cans
Mac & Cheese – 59 boxes	Soup – 9 cans
Spaghetti – 36 boxes	Chicken – 15 cans
Vegetables – 13 cans	Tuna – 51 cans
Peanut Butter – 4 jars	Pasta Sauce – 2 cans

TOTAL – 234 food items

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:

March 1 – David and Beth Hartman
 March 8 – Michael and Brenda Reichart
 March 15 – *sponsor needed*
 March 22 – Carl and Linda Lash
 March 29 – The Braucher Family

Bulletin Sponsors:

March 1 – *sponsor needed*
 March 8 – *sponsor needed*
 March 15 – Theresa Shurr
 March 22 – The Braucher Family
 March 29 – *sponsor needed*

Newsletter Sponsor:

Beverly Moyer and Barbara Speicher

Church Openers:

March 1 – Jane Battaglieri
 March 8 – Matthew Kasisky
 March 15 – Linda Lash
 March 22 – Linda Lash
 March 29 – Richard Gruber

Church Greeters:

March 1 – Barbara Auchenbach
 March 8 – Barbara Auchenbach
 March 15 – Beverly Moyer
 March 22 – Barbara Auchenbach
 March 29 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors:

March 1 – Rich Myers
 March 8 – Brenda Reichart
 March 15 – Beth Hartman
 March 22 – Tracey Leh
 March 29 – Kate Schuler

Communion Assistants:

March 1 – Rich Myers
 March 8 – Linda Lash
 March 15 – Hannah Lash
 March 22 – Tracey Leh
 March 29 – Dianne Leininger

Supply Pastor Schedule:

March 1 – Pastor William Fryer
 March 8 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
 March 15 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
 March 22 – Pastor Virginia Biniek
 March 29 – Pastor Diane LaFauci

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1/04/2026	\$4,816.19	40
1/11/2026	\$2,046.00	42
1/18/2026	worship cancelled	
1/25/2026	worship cancelled	

***\$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	\$7,574.00	\$7,574.00
Congregational Fundraising		
-Redner's Sav-a-Tape	318.00	318.00
-Cookie and Candy Sale	204.00	204.00
Total Funds	<u>\$8,096.00</u>	<u>\$8,096.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$ 7,082.00	\$ 7,082.00
Non-Budgeted Income	1,014.00	1,014.00
Budgeted Expenses	10,124.00	10,124.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	2,229.00	2,229.00
Benevolence to be Paid	77.00	77.00
Surplus/Deficit	-4,334.00	-4,334.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2026 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$38.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	13.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	13.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	13.00	600.00
Other	.00	.00

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$105.00	\$ 105.00
Interest	87.65	87.65
Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$49,687.44

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00	\$ 60.00
Interest	.00	682.11
Expenses	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
		\$287,195.80

“I alone cannot change the world, but I
 can cast a stone across the waters to
 create many ripples.” – Mother Teresa

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School</p> <p>Opener: Jane Battaglieri Lector: Rich Myers Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Rich Myers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00pm-Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00pm-Midweek Lenten, St. John's Gernant's, Leesport 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten, St. John's, Mohnton</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00pm-Food & Faith Meal, Epler's UCC 7:00pm-Food & Faith Worship, Epler's UCC 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p><u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School</p> <p>Opener: Matthew Kasisky Lector: Brenda Reichart Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm Asst: Linda Lash</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm-Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00pm-Midweek Lenten, Bern Lutheran, Leesport 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Roundtable Meeting (Social Hall use) 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten, St. John's Lutheran, Sinking Spring</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p><u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School</p> <p>Opener: Linda Lash Lector: Beth Hartman Greeter: Beverly Moyer Comm Asst: Hannah Lash</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lunch Bunch (Easter Candy) 7:00pm-Council Meeting Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lunch Bunch (Easter Candy) 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall Reserved) St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00pm-Midweek Lenten, Bern UCC, Leesport 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten, Bern Lutheran, Leesport</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30am-12:00pm-Heartland Herb Society (Social Hall use)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p><u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> 10:00am-Worship -Easter Flower Orders Due</p> <p>Opener: Linda Lash Lector: Tracey Leh Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Comm. Asst.: Dianne Leininger</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00pm-Festival of Faith (Social Hall Reserved)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:00pm-Midweek Lenten, Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Leesport 7:00pm-Midweek Lenten, Advent, West Lawn</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA Group)</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><u>Passion of Our Lord/Palm Sunday</u> 10:00am-Worship -Social Hour after Meeting</p> <p>Opener: Richard Gruber Lector: Kate Schuler Greeter: Nancy Malandra Comm. Asst.: Dianne Leininger</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				



Easter Flower Order Form

We will be adorning our sanctuary with beautiful flowers for Easter Sunday on April 5th. Please make your selection below and return your order form with payment to the church office or offering plate by **Sunday, March 22nd**.

PLEASE NOTE: We need 25 lilies to fill the Lily Cross.

	<u>Qty.</u>		<u>Cost</u>		<u>Total</u>
White Lily (5-7 blooms)	_____	X	\$8.00	=	_____
8" Daffodil	_____	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	=	_____
6" Purple Tulip	_____	X	\$7.00	=	_____

Total Amount Due: _____

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

DEDICATIONS (*In Honor of, In Memory of, or To the Glory of God*):
