

BERN BUGLE'S

JOYFUL NOTES

January 2024

Volume 27, Issue 1



MAILING ADDRESS:

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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
Richard Greener
Linda Lash
Erin Readinger
Brenda Reichart

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 January is given to the Glory of God and in memory of The Rev. David N. Eichner by the David Eichner family.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, December 18th:

- A total of \$518.00 was raised from the Thank-offering taken on November 5, 12, and 19 for underprivileged children in Berks County.
- The next Endowment Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024.
- It was voted on and approved to permit the Township of Bern to use Bern Church's Social Hall for their meetings during the months of June, July, and August while their building is being renovated.
- Deacon Travis Woodfield from the Synod office will be leading our worship service on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

OUR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING will be on **Monday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m.**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the February *Bern Bugle* are due by **Tuesday, January 16th.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS AND ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule for our Confirmation classes and the acolytes scheduled for the month of January:

	<u>Acolyte</u>
January 7 – Class	Aidan Slusser
January 14 – Class	Hannah Lash
January 21 – Class	Jameson Kasisky
January 28 – Class	Hannah Lash

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

COUNCIL MEMBER INSTALLATION

At our worship service on **Sunday, January 7**, our council members will be installed. Let us pray for their service to Bern Lutheran Church throughout the year.

END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your end-of-year contribution statements should be arriving in your mailbox by the end of January. Please check them over carefully and notify Korinne in the church office if you notice any discrepancies.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

It is time to begin thinking about and preparing the Committee reports to be included in our 2023 Annual Report. Please have your reports submitted to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 14**, so that they can be assembled and available for members prior to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 18, 2024. Thank you!

NATIVITY PRESENTATION

A big thank you to the Catechetical Class and other children and youth from Bern for the fabulous job they did with their Nativity Presentation. It was truly enjoyable!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

I know no one wants to think about it, but we are entering that season of snowy, wintry weather. From time to time the weather may affect our scheduled worship services and activities at church. If there would be inclement weather, particularly on a Sunday morning, tune into WFMZ-TV69 for any information on delays and/or closings. Any decision to cancel the worship service will be made through consultation with the Council President by 5:15 a.m.

ALTAR FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIPS

Sign-up sheets for 2024 are now available on the bulletin board in the hallway. Prices remain the same as last year with Altar Flowers costing \$35.00/week, Bulletins for \$20.00/week, and the 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 a loved one, or to the Glory of God. You may also contact Korinne in the church office to sponsor any of these items.

JANUARY SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Altar Flower sponsors for Sunday, January 14, 21, and 28, and Bulletin sponsors for Sunday, January 7 and 14, 2024. Please sign up on the sheets in the hallway if you are able to sponsor any of these dates. Thank you!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry collection. There was a total of 256 food items which included 14 boxes of cereal, 34 packages of pasta and rice, 6 boxes of crackers, 50 cans of soup, 22 cans/jars of protein (tuna/chicken/peanut butter), 103 cans of vegetables, 11 cans/jars of fruit, and 16 miscellaneous items. The food pantry served an average of 93 households per month in 2023 and this food will replenish the pantry to start off the new year. Thank you Bern Lutheran church and God bless you! – *Doug Myers*



Bern Lutheran is scheduled to help with the food pantry on March 16th and September 21, 2024 so we will be looking for volunteers.

REDNER'S GROCERY RECEIPTS

Thank you to everyone who brings in Redner's receipts. When you shop at Redner's with a rewards card, bring your receipts to church and place them in the box in the hallway near the guest book. Those small pieces of paper turn into dollars for our congregation. Thank you all!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Just a reminder to consider designating your "Choice Dollars" to Bern Lutheran Church. This program continues to benefit our church through your quarterly designations. Thrivent's phone number is 800-847-4836. When you hear the menu of options, simply say "Choice Dollars" and you will be connected to an operator to conduct the transaction. To make your designation by email, go to www.Thrivent.com and fill in the necessary information. Thank you!

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Don't forget that you can bring in your used ink cartridges to be recycled. Look for the box in the narthex.

FOOD & FAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

Epler's UCC will be holding their Food & Faith worship service on **Friday, January 5**, with a fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m. The meal will be hot dogs and potato soup. The worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. The topic for this evening is New Year's Resolutions. Special music will be performed by Kathryn Mogel. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Dress is casual and membership is not required to attend. Come out for an evening of worship and fellowship.



Dear members of Bern Lutheran Church, the gift bag delivered by Pastor Rarick was such a nice surprise! Filled with Christmas joy and greetings, it was greatly appreciated. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. May Christmas and the New Year bring peace and blessings for all of us! – With love, *Carol Eichner*



I would like to take the opportunity to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. I am blessed to continue to work with the people of Bern Lutheran and I enjoy our working together. Please accept my thanks for the Christmas gift. I continue to pray that you will find pastoral leadership for your congregation, but I am happy to continue to help in any way that I can. – Blessings, *Pastor Gary Rarick, Epler's UCC*



Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift from this wonderful congregation. It is very much appreciated and reminds me of all the love you give to everyone on every day of the year! May you all have a blessed New Year! And thank you again. – *Jane Battaglieri*



To the members of Bern Lutheran Church, I would like to thank everyone for their thoughtful and generous Christmas gift. You have such kind and warm hearts that you share with everyone. This means so much to me. Thank you! – *Korinne Hotzman*

Congregation at Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church, thank you so much for sponsoring eight families this holiday season at 10th and Penn Elementary. Your contribution has made such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. We hope you have a great holiday and Happy New Year! – *Sara Golden and Danielle Greene*

The congregation has truly made a difference for many families this holiday season. Thank you! – *Rowbee 'C Kasisky*

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Tina Hissinger, Gail Landis, Lucy Moyer, Jane Battaglieri, Brooke Noecker, Evelyn Drobnick, Robert Hissinger, Donna Marks, Pauline Shuman, Lisa Miller, Tim Moyer, Myra Bernhart, and Ruth Keeney

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Jim Michalowski, Thomas Ottey, Sherry Lockhart, Eva Fox, Kelly Cockrum, Terri Hine, Ziomara, Ginny and Nelson Eyrich, Nick Odagis, Lara Pappas, Danielle Roberts, Alex Vasquez, Paul, Sheri Mafeo, Eleanor, Glenva, Warren, Courtney Davis, Giselle Davis, Joanne King, Tim Brown, Robin Brown, Matt DeLeon, Pastor Joyce Seip, Natalie, Bob Stoner, Ashley Rizzuto, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Joyce, and Rev. Fred Foerster

(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.)





(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 1 Jamie Wismer
- 2 Charles Lash
- 10 Hattie Schuler
- 13 Richard Greener *
- 14 David Hartman
- 20 Asher Kneeream
- 26 Robert Hissinger *
- 27 Barry Eiche
- 27 Pauline Shuman *
- 27 G. Michael Zimmermann
- 28 Jane Battaglieri
- 28 Hannah Lash



None this month.

PERSUE JESUS — AND YOUR PASSIONS

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.

As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year!

—Janna Firestone

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

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:

- January 7 – Kathy LaRue
- January 14 – *sponsor needed*
- January 21 – *sponsor needed*
- January 28 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin Sponsors:

- January 7 – *sponsor needed*
- January 14 – *sponsor needed*
- January 21 – Nancy Malandra
- January 28 – Barry and Terri Shurr

Newsletter Sponsor:

Caroline Eichner

Church Openers:

- January 7 – Linda Lash
- January 14 – Theresa Shurr
- January 21 – Richard Gruber
- January 28 – Brenda Reichart

Church Greeters:

- January 7 – Barbara Auchenbach
- January 14 – Nancy Malandra
- January 21 – Barbara Auchenbach
- January 28 – Nancy Malandra

Acolytes:

- January 7 – Aidan Slusser
- January 14 – Hannah Lash
- January 21 – Jameson Kasisky
- January 28 – Hannah Lash

Lectors:

- January 7 – Kate Schuler
- January 14 – Beth Hartman
- January 21 – Brenda Reichart
- January 28 – Jay Field

With a new year comes new hopes, new ideas, and new opportunities to make our lives the best they can be.



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.


Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ
14	saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is
21	he	again	through	earth	made	while
28	new	if	and	creation		

- The second Monday _____
- The last Monday __
- The 16th _____
- One day before the 20th __
- The day before the first Friday __
- The last weekday of the second week _____
- The day after the 20th __
- The day after 18th __
- The first day of the second weekend __
- The last Sunday __
- The last day of the month _____

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5 6:00pm-Food and Faith Worship Service, Epler's UCC 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA)	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00am-Worship -Council Member Installation 11:00am-Sunday School	8	9	10 6:00pm-Hawk Mountain Boy Scouts (Social Hall use)	11	12 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA)	13
14 <u>Second Sunday in Advent</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School	15 7:00pm-Council Meeting	16 9:00am-Berks Quilters Guild All-day Workshop (Social Hall use) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17	18 7:00pm-Endowment Committee Meeting	19 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA)	20
21 <u>Third Sunday in Advent</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School	22	23 4:00-7:00pm–Berks Festival of Faith	24	25 6:30-9:30am-Hawk Mountain Council Boy Scouts Annual Meeting (Social Hall use)	26 6:00-8:00pm – Frog Pond (AA)	27
28 <u>Fourth Sunday in Advent</u> 9:00am-Confirmation Class 10:00am-Worship 11:00am-Sunday School	29	30	31			