

BERN BUGLE'S

June 2022



JOYFUL NOTES

Volume 25, Issue 6

MAILING ADDRESS:

Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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
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
Terri Shurr, Secretary
Pat Yocum, Financial Secretary
David Hartman, Treasurer
Jane Battaglieri
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 this month is given to the Glory of God in memory of Elwood Speicher by Barbara Speicher, Tim and Beverly Moyer.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following discussions took place and decisions made at our council meeting on Monday, May 16th:

- A correction was made to last month's minutes. A motion was made to appoint Linda Lash to council until the end of the year. Linda will be officially elected to council at our Congregational Meeting in November.
- A motion was made to appoint Christopher Becker to council until the end of the year. We welcome Christopher and he will also be officially elected to council at our Congregational Meeting in November.
- A Zoom meeting was held with Pastor Rachael Dietz to get an update on how things are proceeding with the pastor call.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the July *Bern Bugle* are due by
Tuesday, June 21st.

CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR MEMBERS

Our organist, Jane Battaglieri, is going to be starting up Choir and Bell Choir beginning in the fall. If you are interested in being part of either choir, please see or contact Jane at 610-370-0965.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON BREAK UNTIL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Thanks to all who participated in Sunday School over these past few months. Our last class before our summer break was held on Sunday, May 22nd. Classes for the fall will resume on Sunday, September 11th. We hope to see you all back this fall, and feel free to bring friends.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Gladys Krick who passed away on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

SUGGESTION BOX

You may have noticed a box on the round table in the narthex. Council is asking for your input. If you have any comments, questions, and/or suggestions and would like to remain anonymous, this is the perfect opportunity. There are papers on the table. Just jot down anything that is on your mind and drop it in the box. The papers that are in the box are picked up and reviewed at our council meetings.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



Members have expressed interest in holding a first Communion Class. If you have a child that you feel is ready to receive this sacrament, please contact Brenda Reichart by calling 610-926-6772 or emailing bsr1958@yahoo.com.

Classes will be scheduled based on availability of those interested.

HAT SUNDAY – June 12, 2022

Attention Ladies! Sunday, June 12, is Hat Sunday. So put on your best chapeau and join us for church (gloves and parasols are optional).



BERKS FESTIVAL OF FAITH VBS

The title/theme is "Incredible Faith," and we will be looking at the incredible faith of Joshua when he fought the battle of Jericho, David when he was up against Goliath, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego when they were sent into the fiery furnace, and Daniel when he was thrown into the lions' den. **VBS dates are Monday, June 27th through Thursday, June 30th from 5:30 to 7:00 each evening.**



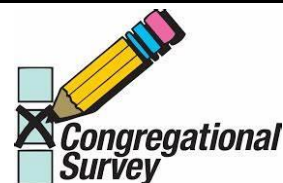
**INCREDIBLE
FAITH**

On **Tuesday, June 28**, which is the fourth Tuesday and our new regular gathering night, we will meet at our regular **4:30 p.m. time for a meal beforehand**. Our VBS is for individuals with intellectual and developmental challenges ages 12–adult. To register people, you should contact Sally Schlegel by June 15th at 484-333-2083 or rlssrsplus6@yahoo.com.

If any members from the congregation would like to help, you are more than welcome to stop by at any time. If you would have any questions, contact Sally Schlegel at 484-333-2083.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are planning to join forces with Epler's UCC in order to hold in-person VBS again this summer. It will be held from **Sunday, July 24th to Thursday, July 28th from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** We will only be able to make this happen if we have enough volunteers to staff the program areas. If you are willing to join us for a week of fun and excitement, please contact Brenda Reichart at 610-926-6772. We will be scheduling a planning meeting once we have a team assembled. Stay tuned!



CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY SURVEY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS FORMS

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out and return your surveys and reflection questions. Your input helps greatly in preparing for the next step in the call pastor process. Your survey answers have been entered in and will be generated into a report by the Synod office. Another step in the call pastor process is creating a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which has also been completed and forwarded to the Northeastern PA Synod office. Thank you all for your participation in these important steps needed for the future of Bern Church.

"Courage is fueled by the motivation to take the first step into the unknown." – Cheryl Nielsen



As we continue with the process of calling a new pastor to Bern Lutheran Church, we are now looking for members of the congregation to form a Call Committee. A Call Committee usually consists of six voting members of the congregation. The purpose of the Call Committee is to represent the congregation in the process of finding and selecting a pastoral candidate.

If you would be interested in volunteering to be on the Call Committee, please speak to our Council President, Mike Braucher, or see any member of council. Thank you!

THE CHURCH HIVE

Bees live in a cooperative way described as “eusociality,” or good relations. Each bee contributes a specific skill to the colony,



synchronizing its efforts for the benefit of all. Likewise, a church’s health depends on all members fulfilling their responsibility to the organism as a whole. Descriptions of hive life mirror Paul’s words about

the body of Christ, with members having different gifts “but the same Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:4).

According to R. S. Beal, Jr., who was both a pastor and a zoology professor, a beehive is the perfect “living illustration of how to walk in unity.” He wrote, “Those of us who have believed in Jesus belong to one another just as much as we belong to Christ. We cannot live independently of one another anymore than we can live independently of Christ. Like the bees, we must learn to practice the sacrifice, labor, sharing, and submission of love that together we ‘may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ’” (Ephesians 4:15, KJV). How are you using your own spiritual gifts to build up your church “hive”?

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

BULLETIN, NEWSLETTER, AND ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

You can be a Bulletin sponsor for only \$20.00/week. You can also sponsor our monthly Newsletter for \$40.00/month, or you can help by sponsoring Altar Flowers for 35.00/week. 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.

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 for June:

June 5 – Phil and JoAnn Ketz
June 12 – *sponsor needed*
June 19 – David and Beth Hartman
June 26 – *sponsor needed*

Bulletin sponsors for June:

June 5 – Nancy Malandra
June 12 – Dianne Leininger
June 19 – Dianne Leininger
June 26 – *sponsor needed*

Church Openers for June:

June 5 – Pat Yocum
June 12 – Terri Shurr
June 19 – Pat Yocum
June 26 – Rick Gruber

Church Greeters for June:

June 5 – Barbara Auchenbach
June 12 – Nancy Malandra
June 19 – Barbara Auchenbach
June 26 – Nancy Malandra

Lectors for June:

June 5 – Brenda Reichart
June 12 – Kate Schuler
June 19 – *open*
June 26 – *open*

Supply Pastor Schedule:

June 5 – Pastor Will Lockhart
June 12 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
June 19 – Pastor Kenneth Gould
June 26 – Pastor David Kistler

If you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers, Bulletins, or the Newsletter, please check the sign-up sheets for any open dates. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

Michael Braucher, c/o Bern Lutheran Church, on behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your donation to benefit St. Francis Home in the amount of \$500.00. Your donation will allow us to continue our mission. – Sincerely, *Mary J. Bonner, President and the Board of Directors*

Dear Friends of Bern Lutheran Church, I am writing to thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 to Safe Berks. With your help, we continue our mission of serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Berks County. Despite the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 health crisis, Safe Berks has continued to provide our free, lifesaving services 24 hours each day. Your donation helps us to deal with these new issues and continue to provide shelter, counseling, legal assistance, and medical advocacy. Please know we are extremely grateful for your support. While we face many challenges, your generosity strengthens our resolve to continue our mission. – Sincerely, *Mindy McIntosh, Director of Development*

Dear Members of Bern Lutheran Church, as this holiday season has come to an end, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your donation towards our 2022 Christmas Program. Twenty-one children received wonderful gifts because of your generosity! The caseworkers delivered the gifts and later visited the families, and this is what some of the caseworkers shared with me:

Azrael and Jayden – both mothers shared that their sons loved everything they received and play with it all the time.

Mickala and Jennifer – the girls really enjoyed the art supplies.

Leelee, Antonio, Sarai, and Hannah – the girls loved the LOL dolls and the kids listened to the musical Christmas ornament over and over. They absolutely loved it!

Zoe, Brenna, Lucas, and Emma – the kids loved all the art supplies. They were excited to see what each of them got and share with one another. Emma really liked the baking stuff and the makeup.

Arcelia – she loved the baby dolls.

Francisco, Josue, Maryuri, and Franyelin – the parents were very grateful and expressed that this was the first Christmas the children were able to receive such beautiful gifts.

Thank you again for making it possible to bring joy to these families. We hope that you continue to be supportive of our children for the next holiday season and may your 2022 be filled with happiness and good health! – With much appreciation and thanks, Jessica Sweeney, Christmas Program Coordinator

Bern Lutheran Church, thank you for your very generous donations; one for \$500.00 and one for \$201.00 to the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry. Your donations allow us to provide a very needed ministry in our local community; providing those in need with food assistance. Everyone also wishes to thank you for your recognition of the work that is completed, it is very much appreciated. – Thank you and God bless, *Samuel Reimert, Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry Treasurer*

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.

GLOSSY MAGAZINE RECYCLING PROGRAM for Ronald McDonald House

We continue to collect glossy magazines. You will find a black bin under the coat racks to place your magazines. Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. processes the recycled magazines and sells them to a paper mill who turns the discarded paper into new magazine paper. A portion of the proceeds from each ton of paper collected goes directly to the Ronald McDonald House.



Sunday, June 19, 2022

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

MEMBERS:

Tim Moyer, Jane Schaeffer, Myra Bernhart, Bob Frey, Ruth Keeney, and the Family and friends of Gladys Krick

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Joan Carpenter, Arthur W. Zimmerman, Natalie, Linda M., Grace Reeser, Charles Trophe, Michael and Troy, Bob Stoner, Ashley, Philip Triantis, Mike, Peggy Deemer, Joe and Karen Young, Ryder Knechtle and family, Brian, Jamie Hey, Glenn Jones, Kailey, Renee Fullmer, Patrick, Susan, Owen Hey, Joyce, Rev. Fred Foerster, Brenda Frey, and Lesley Wegman

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God's giving the Law to the Israelites 50 days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt.

Just days after the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, his (Jewish) disciples gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. But God transformed the occasion by giving them the Holy Spirit, as he'd promised. The disciples saw something like flames among and on them, heard a rushing wind and began speaking in many languages.



The pilgrims in Jerusalem heard about Jesus in their native tongues (see Acts 2:1-12).

In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit's power. Worship services sometimes include hymns, prayers and Scriptures in various tongues. To simulate the original Pentecost experience, congregations may say the Lord's Prayer in several languages at once.

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*

We will be decorating our sanctuary with **red** geraniums to celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 5th. We are hoping that everyone has a little something red in the wardrobe that they can wear on this particular Sunday.



(* Denotes 80 years young)

- 2 Sonja Starr
- 3 Stephanie Wagner
- 4 Judy Haas
- 6 Christopher Becker
- 8 William Kerns *
- 9 Brian Eiche
- 12 Madyson Riegel
- 14 Dolores Gruver
- 15 Carolyn Preston
- 17 Dylan Slusser
- 17 Sierra Starr
- 19 Elizabeth Borkey
- 23 June Kochan *
- 23 Jean Ziegler *
- 24 Ellie Wagner
- 26 Judy Scheipe *
- 28 Beth Hartman
- 28 Franklin Reifsnnyder III



- 2 Jeremy and Marlies Goetz (21 years)
- 4 Gary and Ruth Bleacher (8 years)
- 4 Robert and Jennifer Noecker (23 years)
- 20 David and Judy Haas (41 years)
- 20 Ted and Rachel Mountz (24 years)
- 21 Ryan and Stephanie Wagner (8 years)
- 25 David and Beth Hartman (39 years)

I've learned that heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences. —Source unknown

FLAG DAY

One of the greatest heroes of the early days of our country was John Paul Jones. He was a naval officer and to him went the honor of displaying on his ship, for the first time, the national flag of the United States.

Some people may not realize that Francis Scott Key, the author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," composed four stanzas for what became our national anthem. The last stanza is as follows:

O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,
Between their loved home and the war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-
rescued land,
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a
nation.

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, - "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

The national anthem in totality may be found in
Hugh Graham, Great American Stories, Poems and Essays.

-Reprinted from *The Newsletter Newsletter*



Bible Quiz

Jesus was known for using a certain type of speech in his teaching. What was it?

- A. soliloquy
- B. parable
- C. lecture
- D. riddle



Answer: B (See Mark 4:33-34.)

INCOME AND ATTENDANCE

<u>For the Week Ending</u>	<u>Income toward Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
05/01/22	\$ 4,195.00	42
05/08/22	1,491.00	49
05/15/22	1,446.00	43
05/22/22	1,935.00	44
05/29/22	1,860.00	50

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

Budget Report – Year to Date

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$15,213.00	\$55,367.00
Congregational		
Fund Raising	<u>945.00</u>	<u>1,171.00</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$16,158.00</u>	<u>\$56,538.00</u>

<u>Actual Income / Expenses</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Income	\$13,282.00	\$56,458.00
Non-Budgeted Income	2,876.00	18,968.00
Budgeted Expenses	9,084.00	50,028.00
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1,701.00	8,260.00
Benevolence to be Paid	392.00	898.00
Surplus / (Deficit)	4,981.00	16,240.00

<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2022 Pledge</u>
Synod and ELCA	\$710.00	\$3,000.00
World Hunger	164.00	1,500.00
Mission Field	159.00	1,300.00
W.B.M.D.	158.00	600.00
Other	301.00	.00

(Includes \$1,500.00 Endowment Outreach)

<u>Capital Improvement Acct.</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Member Contributions	\$130.00	\$ 495.00
Interest	.68	4.75
Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>\$41,472.21</u>

<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$.00
Interest	3.16
Expenses	<u>.00</u>
	<u>\$132,642.19</u>



Some popcorn plus a little heat makes a big change.

What you need:

- 2 Tbsp. popcorn kernels
- 2 tsp. oil
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- Brown paper lunch bag

What you do:

1. Add popcorn kernels, oil and sugar to the bag.
2. Fold the bag's top down about half an inch. Repeat two more times. Gently shake to mix ingredients.
3. Microwave for 1½ or 2 minutes (or use the Popcorn setting). Allow bag to cool before removing and opening it.
4. As you share popcorn with family and friends, discuss the change in the kernels. Read Acts 2 together. What changes did the disciples experience? What was the source of their power?



A powerful CALLING

Before his ascension, Jesus tells the disciples they will receive a gift and carry out a job.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

	□	○	△
✝	R	H	L
✠	S	P	W
✠	O	A	I
✠	T	N	E



“But you will receive _____ when the
 Holy _____ comes on you; and you
 will be my _____ in Jerusalem,
 and in all Judea and Samaria,
 and to the ends of the _____.”
 ACTS 1:8, NIV

Answer: power, Spirit, witnesses, earth

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



Gaining Strength: Stronger Together

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you...” [Isaiah 43:2] This is the promise God made to the people of Israel, in a time when the whole nation was suffering the consequences of their turning away from their primary mission: to love God and love neighbor – especially, neighbors with the least advantages, status and resources. For our time, our church, and our synod, one of our most troubling issues is the sin of racism. Isaiah goes on to say: “Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears!” [Is. 43:8] This speaks to the first step to take into those troubled waters: opening our eyes and ears to see and listen – with minds and hearts willing to go beneath the smooth surface and stir up the stories and truths that, though troubling, will clear the way for God “to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” [Is. 43:19]

+ Bishop Christopher deForest

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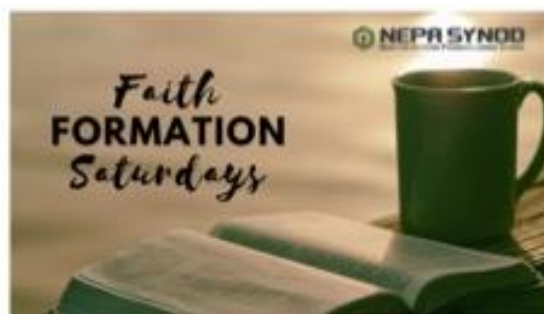
On May 22, 2021, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod hosted a virtual conference called “Trouble the Water,” an inaugural day of racial justice worship and workshops. The goal of this event was to help our congregations to be more welcoming to Black, indigenous, and people of color; and to focus on racial justice and reconciliation within our churches, communities, and synod.

Participants were welcomed with a brief introduction to what we hoped to accomplish, and a request for participants to join us in that troubled water – to be willing to experience the discomfort caused by the ripples, and to plan to ride the waves of change and progress that we hoped to create. The organizers started with a land acknowledgment, acknowledged our shared national history of racism and discrimination, and explained that such historical acknowledgment was not about blaming us as individuals today, but about understanding how we came to be where we are in order to understand how to move forward together.

Next, we all worshiped together with song, prayer, and a sermon by Rev. Dr. James Thomas on “The Sins of Racism.” Following worship, The Reverend CeCee Mills delivered an incredibly powerful keynote address, and after that two sets of concurrent workshops were offered. The first set of workshop options included Understanding Microaggressions, Trauma-Informed Neighborhood Engagement, Understanding Implicit Bias, and a presentation on the community organizing group POWER Northeast. The second set of workshops included Seeing and Disrupting Racism; Understanding White Privilege; and Church Together (led by ELCA Director of Racial Justice Jennifer De Leon).



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The “Trouble the Water” event provided important space for honest, difficult conversation: wrestling with systemic racism and naming our complicity in a broken, inequitable system. Your gifts cultivate a Synod culture that listens to the stories of all people and actively works towards reflecting the Kingdom of God. Our ELCA has a mission of encountering 1 million new, young, and diverse people with the Good News in Jesus Christ. Thank you for your faithful, generous, and consistent giving to Mission Support. It makes a difference as we endeavor to live out that mission. + Rev. Rachael Dietz



**Join us on the 2nd
Saturday of every month!**
(more information on our website)

JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	4 Social Hall Rental Rivera Baby Shower 2:00-9:00 pm
5 <u>Day of Pentecost</u> 10:00 am – Worship Supply Pastor: Will Lockhart Opener: Pat Yocum Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Lector: Brenda Reichart	6	7	8 6:00 pm-Boy Scouts	9	10 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	11
12 The Holy Trinity 10:00 am – Worship with Holy Communion Supply Pastor: Kenneth Gould Opener: Terri Shurr Greeter: Nancy Malandra Lector: Kate Schuler	13 1:00 pm – Senior Berners	14 	15	16	17 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	18
19 <u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am – Worship with Holy Communion Supply Pastor: Kenneth Gould Opener: Pat Yocum Greeter: Barbara Auchenbach Lector: open Father's Day	20 7:00 pm – Council Meeting	21 3:30 pm-Berks Quilters Guild  Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 6:00-8:00 pm – Frog Pond	25
26 <u>Third Sunday after Pentecost</u> 10:00 am – Worship Supply Pastor: David Kistler Opener: Rick Gruber Greeter: Nancy Malandra Lector: open	27 5:30-7:00 pm-Berks Festival of Faith VBS	28 4:30-7:00 pm-Berks Festival of Faith VBS (with meal beforehand)	29 5:30-7:00 pm-Berks Festival of Faith VBS	30 5:30-7:00 pm-Berks Festival of Faith VBS		